

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year is celebrated around the world. In China, New Year celebrations are elaborate. The New Year is spent with family and friends over food and gift giving. The New Year is celebrated with fireworks and the traditional "lion dance".

Traditionally, red envelopes or red packets are passed out during the Chinese New Year's celebrations, from married couples or the elderly to unmarried juniors. It is common for adults to give red packets to children.

Red packets almost always contain money, usually varying from a couple of dollars to several hundred. The amount of money in the red packets should be of even numbers, as odd numbers are associated with cash given during funerals.. Since the number 4 is considered bad luck, the word for four is a homophone for death, money in the red envelopes never adds up to \$4. However, the number 8 is considered lucky (for its homophone for "wealth"), and \$8 is commonly found in the red envelopes. Sometimes chocolate coins are found in the red packets.

In the Chinese Zodiac, 2009 is the Year of the Ox. The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. This powerful sign is a born leader, being quite dependable and possessing an innate ability to achieve great things. As one might guess, such people are dependable, calm, and modest. Like their animal namesake, the Ox is unswervingly patient, tireless in their work, and capable of enduring any amount of hardship without complaint.

The Ox works hard, patiently, and methodically, with original intelligence and reflective thought. These people enjoy helping others. Behind this tenacious, laboring, and self-sacrificing exterior lies an active mind.

The Ox is not extravagant, and the thought of living off credit cards or being in debt makes them nervous. The possibility of taking a serious risk could cause the Ox sleepless nights. (Wikipedia)

We probably should all practice some of the qualities of the Year of the Ox.

We are also starting the second half of the year for ITC. It is a time for each one of us to review our ITC goals. Maybe you need to reach that extra level in accreditation or give a presentation at a higher level of ITC. We will discuss these goals at the January 2009 meeting.

We are also looking for officers in club, council and region. Consider how you can take a leadership role at a level of ITC. At the January 17, 2009 Council 2 meeting there will a short morning business meeting to nominate officers for Council 2.

At our next January 2009 Council 2 meeting it will be a joint meeting with Council 1. It is also a time to invite guests to a meeting that is designed for the public. If ITC is to survive, we need to get our name and what we have to offer out to the public.

The annual writing and speech contest is coming up and Valley Communicators will need to discuss their participation.

Best Wishes for a wonderful 2009!

