

- Notes from our December 3rd meeting, starts on page 2
- NEXT MEETING, SATURDAY, JAN. 14TH 10AM AT THE LIBRARY!
- CONTACT LIST & KIDS PAGE INCLUDED!

Our first FCC-Helena Newsletter!

Well, here it is! Thank you to those that contributed, and I am certainly looking forward to greater collaboration in the future. Just as the group belongs to all of our families, our newsletter should too.

We need your input, creativity, and enthusiasm to help make this a great communication tool. So, while this first effort is not really big, I hope it is the start of something great... for all our families, and for those who will join us in the future. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is looking forward to a fun and festive Chinese New Year celebration.

Many blessings to all of you in 2006,

Chris Haughee



January 29th is Chinese New Year... this year upcoming will be the Year of the Dog!

5 Questions: The Haughee Family

Borrowing a format from the Independent Record, we introduce "5 Questions," which will hopefully get around to introducing all our wonderful families. For this first attempt, Chris and Kim Haughee serve as our "guinea pigs!"

1. Who comprises the Haughee household?

Chris and Kim Haughee (last name pronounced "Hoy"), are 30-somethings, both grads

of Central Washington University, and hope to add a child from China in 2006.

2. What motivated you to adopt internationally?

We had some poor experiences with a domestic adoption agency, and a foster-adopt situation where the child went back to his biological family.

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Insert: Current Contact list for FCC-Helena & Kids Page!

Report from Dec. 3rd meeting at CR Anderson Middle School

(Thanks to Dave Highness/Patty Hartman for sending out this report!)—Our FCC meeting December 3rd was very productive...we covered many topics and got the ball rolling on some great ideas. The following is a summary. We will meet again on **Saturday, January 14th at the Lewis and Clark Library, 10:00am** to finalize our Chinese New Year plans and follow up on other projects.)

On naming the group... The general consensus is that, for now, we'll use the name **Families with Children from China** (looking at the FCC website, the standard name format is FCC-Helena). This will be an informal group, no board of directors, no bylaws. The national FCC organization allows informal groups to use the FCC name and will list our contact information on their website. **Although our focus will be on Chinese adoptions, we will welcome any families that are interested in our programs, and we will advertise meetings/speaking engagements that are pertinent to all adoptive families or international adoptive families.** Being an informal group, we can be flexible, changing and developing as needed. (Randi, don't give up on *The Congee Club!* ...We may have a "name our club" contest later???)

On our **Chinese New Year** Celebration... **Chinese New Year is January 29th.** The tentative plan is to have a potluck either Saturday the 28th or Sunday the 29th. Randi Triem is looking into reserving the

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meeting facilities at the Helena Alliance Church. Does anyone have ideas for children's activities? If so, let's start e-mailing ideas to one another, so that we are ready to discuss them at the next planning meeting, January 14th at the Library, 10 AM.

On Meetings... We have not yet set a regular schedule for meetings/speaking engagements, although several families expressed interest in establishing a set time (e.g. meet the 3rd Saturday of each month, schedule semi-annual meetings specifically for waiting families, etc). For now, meetings will be impromptu...if you have

an idea, feel free to make arrangements. We're *really* hoping to put together some great gatherings to help all of our families. Topics could include the adjustment period for new families, Q&A for prospective and waiting families, book exchanges, teen issues. Margaret O'Connor suggested a brainstorming session for topics, so come to the next meeting prepared with your suggestions. We'd like the meeting *after* Chinese New Year to focus on waiting families' needs, since there are several families in our Helena group who are getting close to that wonderful day! As with meetings, playgroups and Mah Jongg games are on an impromptu basis at this time.

On our **Newsletter...** Chris and Kim Haughee generously offered to start a newsletter for our organization. This will be a wonderful communication tool that could include a schedule of upcoming events, contact information for new families, discussion topics, travel tips, kids' original artwork, etc. Ellen Dodds and Margaret O'Connor have some great ideas from past newsletter experiences. Please send ideas or submit articles to chrishaughee@juno.com. (article continues on page 3)

December 3rd Meeting report (continued)...

We can also provide the newsletter to Montana adoption/homestudy agencies to help reach new families.

On a **Website...** Dave Highness offered to design a website to be used in conjunction with the newsletter and as a way for new families to find our group. Emily Currier pointed out that we could list our site on the Lewis and Clark Library's community database to help reach interested families.

On the **Family database...** Homestudy and adoption agencies in Montana currently use Nita Murphy in Billings as the FCC contact. Patty Hartman will work on becoming

our local contact and will maintain a database of Helena families (see the insert in this newsletter). This database may also eventually include a list of professional contacts (agencies, Secretary of State's office, guest speakers, etc.) and a list of all adoptive families interested in our programs.

On those in Attendance...
Thanks to all who came and made this such a successful meeting!

- Darl Chan, Margaret O'Connor, Emmalea, Fuli
- Emily & Coburn Currier, Ella and friend Meriwether

- Ellen Dodds & Ann
- Kim & Chris Haughee
- Dave Highness, Patty Hartman, Emmi
- Randi Triem, Randi's Mom (Carol was it?), Robin
- Sara Wakefield

Again, the next meeting will be January 14th at the Lewis & Clark Library, beginning at 10 AM.

Lewis & Clark Library Books on Adoption & China... Questions? Call us! 447-1690 or visit www.lewisandclarklibrary.org

Library Call No.	Author's Name	Title
CHILDREN - PICTURE BOOK	Friedrich, Molly	You're not my real mother!
CHILDREN - PICTURE BOOK	Okimoto, Jean Davies	White Swan express : a story about adoption
CHILDREN - PICTURE BOOK	Thomas, Eliza	The red blanket
Q 306 M	McMahon, Patricia	Just add one Chinese sister
362.734 A	Alperson, Myra	Dim sum, bagels, and grits : a sourcebook for multicultural families
362.734 F	Foli, Karen J.	The post-adoption blues : overcoming the unforeseen challenges of adoption
362.734 W	Weiss, Ann E.,	Adoptions today : questions and controversies
649.145 K	Keck, Gregory C.	Parenting the hurt child : helping adoptive families heal and grow
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951 S	Schroeder, Holly	China ABCs : a book about the people and places of China
Q 951.056 Z	Zhang, Ange.	Red land, Yellow River : a story from the Cultural Revolution
951.058 F	Faison, Seth	South of the clouds : exploring the hidden realms of China
951.15 B	Barber, Nicola	Beijing



Check out these web resources!
Yahoo group: [fcc_helena_mt](#)
and [www.geocities.com/fcc_helena_mt](#)

5 Questions... continued from Page 1

These were hard on us. International adoption provided us the chance to have our forever family without the risk of losing a child we love. We are also looking forward to the added diversity and newness of incorporating another culture and its traditions into our home.

3. What are some of your favorite family activities?

Playing games, watching movies, hanging out with our friends, reading or working on crossword puzzles together. We also enjoy being with the youth at First Presbyterian, where Chris is a pastor.

4. What are three words you would use to describe the members of your family?

For Chris: Teaser, "A big kid," and musical

For Kim: Calm, protective, and hard-working

5. What is your family hoping to get out of being a part of FCC-Helena?

We are looking forward to having a group of people who can share stories of frustration and success, and a resource for us as we seek to be our child's parent and advocate. It will be good to network with families with similar life experiences. We think it will make our lives richer and add something we wouldn't have if we just tried to do it "on our own."

Interested in being our next "5 Questions" family? Please contact Chris at 449-5592 or chrishaughee@juno.com



FCC-Helena Just for Kids Page

Paper Lanterns

A fun paper lantern to decorate your home for Chinese New Year. Make many lanterns of different colors or decorations and hang them around your home.

This project is rated EASY to do.

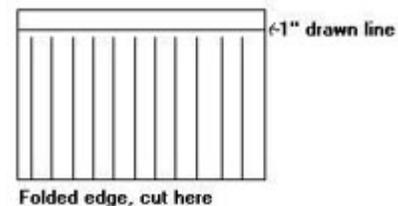
What You Need

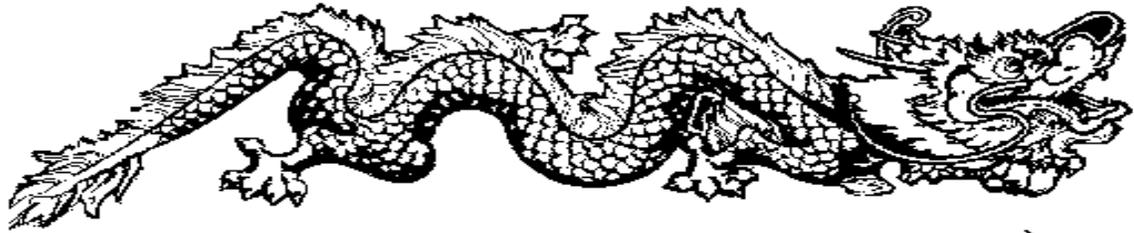
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stapler
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Glue, glitter, sequins, if desired to decorate your lantern



How To Make It

1. Use your ruler to measure and cut 1" off the short end of your paper. Set aside to use as the handle.
2. Fold your paper in half lengthwise.
3. Draw a line 1" from the end of the long edge of the paper opposite the folded edge. This will be the line where you *stop* cutting.
4. Measure and mark lines 1" apart starting at the folded edge and moving towards the "stop cutting" line. (see photo)
5. Cut on the marked lines up to the "stop cutting" line.
6. Unfold the paper.
7. Re-crease the paper in the opposite direction. This will hide any pencil marks.
8. Match the long edges together on the lantern and use tape to hold it in place.
9. Staple the handle to the top of the lantern. (see photo)
10. Make as many lanterns as you wish and display them around your home.
11. If you wish, add glue, glitter, sequins or other things to decorate your lanterns.





Dragon Dot-to-Dot

Can you count to 37? If so, you can complete this New Year's Dragon and color him in! Good luck!



In China, the dragon is believed to be a sacred and beneficent animal. Legend has it that it hibernates in the ocean in the autumn but it ascends to the sky in the spring, bringing beneficial rains onto the dry earth. The Dragon Dance is done at the Chinese New Year celebration to frighten away evil spirits and to ensure a good and prosperous new year. Some dragons in parades are animated by over 100 people!