



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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**COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN CELEBRATES FIRST LUNAR NEW  
YEAR RECOGNIZED BY NYC SCHOOLS**

**Holiday celebrated by approximately 15 percent of NYC public school students is added to  
the calendar of the largest public school system in the nation**

CHINATOWN – Council Member Margaret Chin (D-Lower Manhattan) on Monday celebrated the beginning of the Lunar New Year with a slate of new and traditional activities made all the more special by the addition of this important holiday to the school calendar.

“This year’s celebration is even more extraordinary because, for the first time in our City’s history, all of our public schools are recognizing Lunar New Year,” said Council Member Chin. “Finally, students of Asian descent will not be forced to choose between observing the most important day of the year and missing important academic work. I thank Mayor de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Fariña for making this important recognition a reality.”

Council Member Chin was the sponsor [Resolution 48-2015](#) in the Council, which called Lunar New Year to be added as a holiday to the school calendar.

Celebrated by approximately 15 percent of city public schoolchildren, Lunar New Year is an important holiday for many East and Southeast Asian cultures. After years of legislative efforts to recognize the holiday, Mayor de Blasio [announced last June](#) that Lunar New Year would be added to the school calendar.

Inaugurating the beginning of the Year of the Monkey, Council Member Chin spoke Monday morning at a Lunar New Year celebration at the Javits Center, organized by the U.S.-China Cultural Institute and the Committee of 100 for city schoolchildren.

Council Member Chin also participated in the Annual Firecracker Celebration in Sara D. Roosevelt Park, and presented a Council proclamation to the Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association for their decades of work on behalf the Chinese community throughout New York City.

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