

TIMES-CALL

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FOCUS ON SCHOOLS



Joshua Buck / Times-Call

Silver Creek High School's Leadership Academy student Maddie Toretto works with Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont volunteer Celia Ho on Monday on a Chinese paper-cutting project, part of the Chinese New Year celebration the groups are planning for Saturday.

Students celebrate Chinese New Year

If you go

What: Longmont Chinese New Year celebration

When: 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday

Where: Silver Creek High School, 4901 Nelson Road, Longmont

Activities: Chinese lion dance, kung fu demonstration, dance performances, violin and piano music, three-person tai chi and tai chi fan demonstrations, Silver Creek High School's drumline and displays in origami, paper cutting, Chinese name translation, red envelopes, chopsticks and Asian pop culture.

More info: Go to www.a-pal.org.

Silver Creek group to help host festivities Saturday

BY MAGDALENA WEGRZYN
LONGMONT TIMES-CALL

LONGMONT — One? Got it. Two? Not so much.

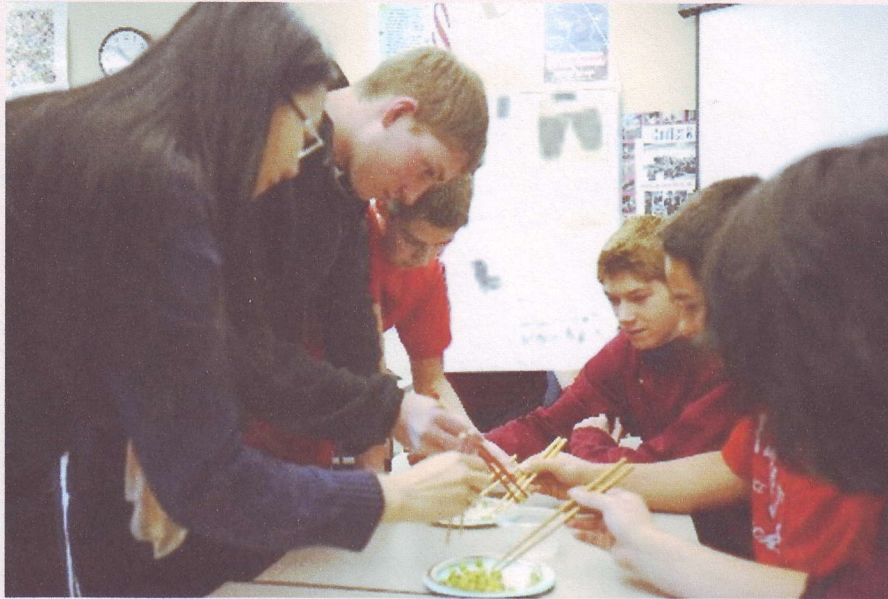
That was the consensus after Monday's chopstick lessons.

"I'm not doing very good," said Silver Creek High School sophomore Dalton Haase, moments after a wasabi pea escaped from his chopsticks. "I can pick up one. Now I just need to learn how to pick up two."

Sophomores in Silver Creek's Leadership Academy learned origami, paper cutting and chopstick handling on Monday when they met with volunteers from the Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont. On Saturday, students will join A-PAL and the Longmont Multicultural Action Committee in hosting a Chinese New Year celebration.

Chinese New Year, which is called the

Please see **NEW YEAR**, on A5



Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont volunteer Lu Zhang, left, teaches Silver Creek High School's Leadership Academy students, from left to right, Dalton Haase, Alex Bart, Erik Sargent, Jimmy Fuhrman and Charles Sigwarth, how to use chop sticks Monday. The groups are planning a Chinese New Year celebration at the school Saturday. (JOSHUA BUCK)

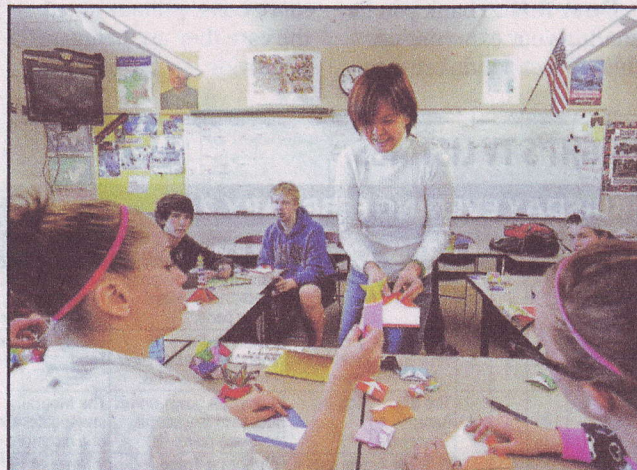
Spring Festival in China, is a 15-day celebration that marks the end of winter. This year, the Year of the Dragon, started Jan. 23.

Saturday's event at Silver Creek High School will include dance performances, violin and piano music and demonstrations in kung fu and tai chi. Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Malay food will be available. The event is free and open to the public.

Partnering with the academy provides a way for A-PAL volunteers to interact with the community, said Rita Liu, founder of A-PAL and chairwoman of the Longmont Multicultural Action Committee.

This will be A-PAL's second Chinese New Year celebration in Longmont. More than 300 people attended last year's event at the Longmont Senior Center.

"We celebrate together not just for Asians, but for all Americans," Liu said.



Joshua Buck / Times-Call

Silver Creek High School's Leadership Academy students work with Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont volunteer Vivian Chien on Monday on origami projects, which will be part of the Chinese New Year celebration at the school on Saturday.

The Leadership Academy is a focus program at Silver Creek that started in fall 2010. Students learn critical thinking, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills through retreats, in-

ternships, capstone projects and creating portfolios.

Sophomores in the program take a semester-long class on global and cultural leadership that teaches them to be respectful of other cul-

tures.

"We're just giving them little parts of what leaders need in bite-size pieces," said Leadership Academy coordinator Carrie Adams.

Back in the classroom at the paper cutting table, Celia Ho led a group of students in tracing patterns onto folded pieces of red paper, much like cutting an intricate paper snowflake. At the celebrations, people can cut along the lines to make 3-D Chinese characters that mean "good luck" or "spring."

Sophomore Maddie Toretto, 15, chatted with Ho about tens of thousands of Chinese characters and said she was amazed at how many there are.

"It's really cool to have an opportunity to interact with the community instead of doing bookwork, which is boring," said Toretto.

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