**8年级（上）英语第55课时（第14周）**

**《语中有“法”知多少（下）》学程拓展**

**Chinese New Year Celebrations**

Chinese New Year falls on a different date every year. Chinese calendar is a combination of solar and lunar calendar. Chinese New Year falls on second new moon after the winter solstice(冬至). Chinese calendar has a 12-year cycle and each year is named after animal. Chinese believe that every person resembles an animal and this reflects their traits. Year 2006 was the Year of the Dog. People born on this date are said to be very loyal and trustworthy.

Lot of excitement can be seen in the last 15 days of New Year celebrations. Every day has a special importance to it. Chinese ritualize and celebrate each day in a customary manner. Given below are the line wise celebrations of the New Year in China：

　　Day1: People began their day by offering prayers and welcome the gods of heaven and earth. Most of the people stay away from meat to ensure healthy living.

　　Day 2:Successively, prayers are offer to their ancestors and other gods.Chinese are strict care-taker of dogs and feed them well. This is day is considered to be the birthday of all dogs.

　　Day3 and 4: These are very important days for the families to keep up their relations. It calls for every son-in-law to pay respect to their parents-in-law.

　　Day5: According to the traditions, nobody visits friends and relatives houses as it would bring bad omen. They stay back home to worship the God of wealth. The day is called Po Woo.

　　Day6: On this day, people freely meet their near and dear ones and even visit nearby temples to pray for their well being and high spirits.

　　Day 7: This is Chinese farmers' day. They display their backbreaking produce. They also prepare a drink from seven different types of vegetables. On this day, everybody eats noodles which is a symbol of long life and fish representing success.

　　Day8: It's an other day to be celebrated with the family and friends. They also offer midnight prayers to Tian Gong, the God of Heaven.

　　Day 9: Prayers are offered to Jade Emperor.

　　Days 10 to 13: From 10 to 12, people celebrate the days by having sumptuous dinner with the loved ones and the 13th day is left for a very light dinner to cleanse the system.

　　Day 14: People start preparing for the celebration of Lantern Festival to be held on next day.

　　Day 15: Since it is the first night to see full moon, people hang out colorful lanterns, eat glutinous rice balls and enjoy the day with their families.