

## Chinese New Year

From Judy Szabo of Meadowood Jubilee District (shared with the 31st Guides of Brigadier Harvey District)

Our meeting is 1 hr and 30 minutes and we had 4 stations set up.

- 1) Eating Chinese food with chopsticks and drinking Chinese tea. Following with a fortune cookie. We talked about different foods and their symbols to the Chinese etc.
- 2) Girls folded origami paper into a sheep (because of the year of the sheep). We talked about all the symbols of the sheep and birth years etc.
- 3) Chinese skipping, Chinese tops and hoops etc
- 4) Last, learn how to write "Happy New Year" in Chinese characters.

After practicing, the girls painted on a pot and then planted one bamboo shoot in gravel to take home.

We all came back in a large group and talked about Chinese dancing.

Gave each girl a red envelope with an ice cream coupon and a Chinese Hong Kong Dollar.

Our Pathfinder unit followed her ideas and had a great meeting.

We started with an explanation of the 15-day celebration, talked about some of the taboos and superstitions (from internet sites)

We learned how to write the year of the monkey and handed out the Year of the Monkey Canadian postage stamps.

We enjoyed some Chinese food,

Tried the Chinese skipping

We painted tall cylindrical jars with Chinese symbols for our lucky bamboo.

We made decorative fortune cookies - write a fortune on a 1/4-inch x 3 1/2-inch piece of white paper, cut beige felt in a three inch circle, fold circle in half, put fortune in along fold line so that some of each end are sticking out, glue with white glue around the outside edge of circle. Pat dry to ensure that it sticks. Glue along folded edge and join edges, just like a fortune cookie. Hold until glue dries.

Our other idea was Chinese tangram puzzles.

The meeting included some information/discussion plus crafts plus physical activity plus food, which equals fun.

Thanks for the idea.

Teresa Henderson

