Capstone Project Description

Liu Ya

**Event:** Chinese New Year Celebration

**Location:** cafeteria, Buxton Center Elementary School

**Time:** 6:00-8:00 pm, February 8, 2019

**Preparations:**

1 met with my mentor Audrey Smith and Li Jing to decide what activites we wanted

2 met with Buxton Center Elementary School PTO to get their support, such as a fund up to $200, volunteers and supplies from last year

3 ordered two books from Amazon (The Year of the Pig and Chinese Zodiac Animals)

4 taught my students to sing “Happy New Year” in Chinese

5 shared the origin the Chinese New Year, also known as the Legend of the Monster Nian, with my students

6 did some crafts related to Chinese New Year (paper cutting, 3D paper cutting the character “春” spring, etc.)

7 wrote instructions to crafts

**Description:**

We divided the cafeteria into 6 ares.

Two ping pong tables were set up in the sports area.

In the crafts area, there were altogether 4 different activities going on at the same time: cutting window decorations “剪窗花”, 3D paper cutting character 剪 “春”字, making piggy pencil holders with toilet paper rolls and making paper piggy lanterns. Several students volunteered to help since they already knew how to do these crafts.

In the Culture Experience area, people learned to use chopsticks and practiced by picking up pom poms. Also, visitors tried Chinese calligraphy, writing “春” (spring) and “福” (luck, fortune) on a special fabric and then on red paper in ink which they took home. We also prepared some Lunar New Year Pictures (“年画”) for younger kids to color.

On the stage, my students sang the song “新年好” (Happy New Year) and read the two books to visitors. Next to the stage, visitors got piggy key chains made by 3D printers.

We also had Food Court and dumplings were served.

Last but not least, there was a gift shop where people didn’t need money to buy stuff. Instead, visitors coming with 2 crafts could choose one red envelope (“红包”), 3 or more could choose two red envelopes, inside of which there were different vouchers. People used these vouches to exchange gifts such as stuffed pandas, postcards or bookmarks I brought from China.

**Reflection:**

I started to prepare my students for this celebration a month before the event so that some of them can be volunteers on that night to help me out, which turned out to be a good idea. The kids enjoyed showing people what they had learned in my class.

One thing I would have done differently would be the welcome speech. As the organizers, both Li Jing and I forgot about this. I didn’t make a speech until I introduced my students who were going to sing on the stage. So that’s a bummer.

Anyway, students from all grades came with their parents or grandparents. They had so much fun. I was more than pleased when people came to me, shook hands with me and told me they liked what we did or their kids liked my class, which meant a lot to me.