Art Activity

Create your own paper plate dragon

Celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year by creating your own paper plate dragon! The dragon is a powerful legend in Chinese mythology and folklore symbolizing luck, power, and nobility. Long ago, these mythological creatures were associated with emperors in Ancient China; people outside of royalty were not allowed to wear any dragon imagery. Ancient Chinese dragons have long snake-like bodies with 4 legs and sharp claws and are often associated with water; they could be found in seas, rivers, lakes, and are thought to have control over the water and rain to assist with droughts and the harvest.

Create your own dragon following the steps shared below!

Materials:

- Paper plate
- Markers
- Scissors
- Dragon template
- String
- Tape, glue, or glue dots
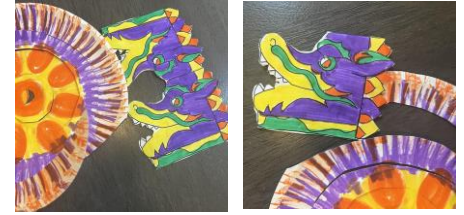- Hole puncher

Instructions:

1. Use the markers to design and color your paper plate. This will become the body of your dragon.

2. Download and print the dragon template or use a pencil to draw your own dragon head, tail, and legs. Use markers to color your dragon template.

3. Use scissors to cut out the legs and head on the dragon template. Be mindful not to cut on the dotted line of the head or tail of the dragon; this line will be folded.

4. Fold your dragon head and tail along the dotted line.

5. Starting at one edge of the plate, cut in a circular pattern creating a large spiral towards the center to make the body of your dragon.

6. Use glue to attach the dragon head to the paper plate, so that the beginning of the spiral is in between the folded dragon head.

7. Use glue to attach 4 legs to the body of your dragon.

8. Use a hole puncher to create a hole in the center of the plate at the top of the spiral, as seen here in the image to the right.

9. Loop a piece of string through the punched hole. Make a loop and tie a knot.

10. Display your dragon nearby water to bring about good fortune!

Share a picture with us of your creation using #VMFAFamilyDay