Imagine That Parades:

Dueling Dragons

Students will work together to create a collaborative dragon sculpture based on these legendary creatures of Chinese mythology. During Imagination Festival your class will have a scheduled time to participate in the Dueling Dragons Parade, so that the whole Festival can enjoy their unique creations and enthusiasm.

OBJECTIVE - Part 1

The Presence of the dragon within Chinese Culture dates back several thousand years and is most commonly represented as a snake-like creature with four legs. These dragons traditionally symbolize power and strength and are believed to have control over nature. In China these dragons are respected and feared because of this association with the weather. Different elements of the dragon represent different aspects of nature. Their eyes are associated with lightning, their wings caused the wind, their breath the rain, and when China experienced a drought it was because the dragon was hibernating deep beneath the ocean waves. This year, Imagine That Parade will encourage the children to dive into a new and interesting culture by making a parading dragon sculpture.

OBJECTIVE - PART 2

Classrooms will choose influences from Chinese Artists or decorative motifs found in poetry, clothing etc to inspire the detail, appearance, and interpretation of their dragon. The selected artist or motif should influence the appearance and outcome of the dragon.

For example: Classroom X chooses traditional Chinese blue and white porcelain decor to inspire their project. The dragon would be decorated with shades of blue and white and covered with various patterns (see page 5 for examples). We encourage research on your artist OR motif - including - methods, materials, subject matter, color, texture, etc. One or all of these influences should be reflected in your dragon.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Be exposed to Chinese tradition and culture.
- Be challenged to create their own interpretation of the dragon inspired by a Chinese Artist or decorative motif of their choice.
- Create a dragon sculpture using their original thinking, problem solving, materials and methods.
- Participate in the Imagine That Parade.

TEACHERS WILL:

- Help students research and select a Chinese Artist or motif that will inspire the sculpture.
- Talk about the tradition of Chinese Culture and the importance and influence of the dragon.
- Schedule a time for the children to design and create their dragons.
Dueling Dragons

BASE STRUCTURE MATERIALS :: Paper plates, rope, glue, wooden dowels or sturdy sticks and scissors. These materials are needed to create the basic structure of the dragon on which addition decorative elements should be added.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Cardboard, fabric, felt, yarn, string, paint, markers, glue, scissors, paper, newspaper, eaves, bark, sticks, dried flowers, fabric flowers, glue, various kinds of ribbon, feathers, glitter, sequins, fake fur, oil pastels, sand, foil, card stock, pebbles, tissue paper, crayons, markers, buttons, fringe, tassels, elastic, bubble wrap, styrofoam, and anything thing else you can think of.

Suggested Method for creating your dragon. Please reference the link below for visuals

http://arteascuola.com/2013/03/collaborative-dragon/

Step One
Each child will be given a paper plate to paint//decorate according to the selected Chinese Artist. Please do not feel limited to only using paint, other decorative materials can be added. We are suggesting that your students add elements unique to the Chinese Artist of your choosing.
**Step Two**
Distribute a second paper plate to each student. Students will trim the plate until the ruffled edges have been removed. This smaller plate is for stability but will still need to be decorated. Glue the smaller plate in the center of the larger one.

![Image of paper plates with Chinese characters]

**Step Three**
Create decorative appendages to be attached the plates. The example attaches petals to the outside edge creating a flower shape but we suggested thinking outside of the box and getting creative with this step. The example also encourages everyone to do the same design but again we suggest letting your student do individual work based on the Chinese Artist theme.

![Image of colorful paper plates with petals]

**Step Four**
Create dragon head // hands and feet: All created with paper plates or other paper materials. Attach the hands and feet to a paper plate. Examples below.

![Image of paper plate dragon heads and feet]
**Step Four Continued**

![Hands and feet attached to plate](image)

**Step Five**
After the students have competed their section of the dragon you will insert a light weight rope through each of the plates to create a snake like chain. Don't forget to insert your hands and feet --distanced with the proper spacing.

**Step Six**
To make it possible to parade your dragon around the park you will need to make something for the kids to hold onto. Our suggestion is to attached string to the center- structural rope. In the images below they have attached string to the core of the dragon so it can be hung from the ceiling. We are suggesting a similar method. Instead of attaching these stings to the ceiling you will tie them to one end of a wooden dowel. One will be attached at the head - one in the middle - and one at the end. This will allow three students to be responsible for carrying the dragon. If you have an alternate method for how to parade your dragon that is better suited for you and your classroom please feel free. To explore

**Completed Dragon**

![Completed Dragon](image)
Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), was one of the best-known and most prodigious Chinese artists of the twentieth century. He is also regarded by many art experts as one of the most gifted master forgers of the twentieth century. He excelled at all types of paintings, and is especially famous for lotus painting.

Chinese ceramic ware is an art form that has been developing since the dynastic periods. The first types of ceramics were made about ten to eleven thousand years ago. While styles of decorative motif and vessel shape changed with the ascension to the throne of each new Ming emperor, the quality of Ming blue and whites are indisputably superior to that of any other time period.