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## Chinese lions dance as Year of the Tiger pounces

BY JENNIFER BRADSHAW • EDUCATION WRITER • FEBRUARY 13, 2010

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Her purpose is not uncommon; many of the school's older students have assumed unofficial roles as cultural teachers to younger classmates, Principal Austin Huang said.

"They feel it's their responsibility," he said.

Kimberly Chow, coordinator for the off-campus performances, said the school welcomes the enthusiasm and creativity of the older students, who make a difference.

"It's hard to recruit professional teachers, because we don't pay a lot," she said.

Eric Wu, a former principal of the school, said the school does more than teach language and dance — it serves as a community for much of the Asian community in Marlboro.

"This is more than a Chinese school. It's our community center," he said.

Students come to the school and meet others from a similar walk of life, he said. And through the school, which has heavy parental volunteer involvement, family traditions and culture can be properly passed down to a younger generation, Wu said.

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"We want to give our children an embodiment of that," he said.

Huang expressed a similar view.

"We want to be out in the community we live in," he said. "We want to share our culture."

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