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Chinese New Year's celebration showcases students' skills

BY **JENNIFER BRADSHAW** • EDUCATION WRITER • FEBRUARY 19, 2010

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MARLBORO — It was New Year's Day all over again Friday for students in three Marlboro schools, as students from the Fidelity Chinese School showcased their skills in Chinese arts.

Each year, the nonprofit school presents a Chinese New Year's performance, featuring the dances and skills that they practice during their classes. On Friday, the students toured three schools in the district — Marlboro Memorial Middle School, Defino Central Elementary School and Marlboro Middle School — giving a 45-minute performance at each one.

At Marlboro Middle School, the final performance of the day, students clad in bright, festive costumes danced the dragon, chopstick and drum dances, moved together in kung fu, and gave an impressive Chinese yo-yo performance that looked less like tricks and more like a dance.

Austin Huang, principal of the Fidelity Chinese School, said many of the performers were performing for their friends. Of Fidelity's 173 students, half attend Marlboro public schools.

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Students in the auditorium cheered loudly for their peers, and an audible groan of disappointment was heard when the program concluded. However, Fidelity will give a longer performance at 2 p.m. today in the Marlboro Middle School auditorium.

"This is the best reaction we've had all day," performance coordinator Kimberly Chow said.

After the performance, assistant principal James McCann addressed the students, and praised the show.

"Every year, it's better than the year before," he said.

For more information on Fidelity Chinese School, visit www.njfcs.org.



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Megan Lau, 12, of Marlboro, touches up her makeup before performing Friday for students at Marlboro Middle School. (STAFF PHOTO: KEITH J. WOODS)

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