

Hello parents! This is a summary of the materials we have introduced today. We wish you to keep this because you are the most important source of information for your children. So we want to equip you with a substantial amount of knowledge on the Chinese Culture, and become a reliable source for your children.

## **I. Calligraphy**

The Chinese characters for calligraphy is *Shūfǎ* 書法. The tools used for calligraphy are called the Four Treasures of the Study (文房四宝, *Wénfángsìbǎo*), which are brush, ink, paper, and inkstone (笔、墨、纸、砚, *Bǐ, mò, zhǐ, yàn*).

The oldest Chinese script discovered was called JiaGuWen (甲骨文), or Oracle Bone Script. This script was carved on turtles' shells and ox scapula, which were used for divination ceremonies. Eventually, the Chinese script evolved into Bronze-ware script, or *Jīnwén* (金文), and Large Seal Script, or *Dàzhuàn* (大篆). The script that is still in use today is the Traditional Regular Script, or *Kǎishū* (楷书).

## **II. Dragon Boat Festival**

Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional holiday in China and in some other East Asian countries. In Mandarin, its name is Duanwu Jie(端午节). It takes place on the fifth day of the fifth moon on the lunar calendar. When converted to the Western calendar, it is usually around May or June.

During the Dragon Boat Festival, there are celebrations in memory of the ancient and very popular poet named Qu Yuan. Three of the most common activities during this festival are eating (and preparing) rice dumpling (zong zi), drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.

Other popular activities include hanging up icons of Zhong Kui (a mythic guardian figure), hanging mugwort and calamus, taking long walks, and wearing perfumed medicine bags. All of these activities, together with the drinking of realgar wine, were regarded by the ancients as effective in preventing disease or evil, and promoting health and well-being.