



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SPONGE TO OFFER TWO FREE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES IN FEBRUARY
CELEBRATING THE CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL**

**Sponge's Seattle location to feature performances from
the Seattle Chinese Community Girls Drill Team**

WHAT: *Sponge invites families to two free cultural events in February at its centers in Seattle and Issaquah, celebrating the Chinese Lantern Festival. Signifying the end of the Chinese New Year, the festival is celebrated with people lighting lanterns all over the country, setting the scene for dragon and lion dances, parades and other festivities. Children often carry animal-shaped lanterns with riddles on them and families eat yuanxiao, or tangyuan, dumplings (glutinous rice balls).*

The celebration in Issaquah on Saturday, Feb. 6 will feature will feature an array of arts and crafts projects, including a chance for kids to make and decorate their own paper lanterns, and an opportunity for families to sample tasty dumplings. As well, native-speaking teachers from Sponge will offer New Year-themed mini language classes in Mandarin, Spanish, French and Japanese.

At the Lantern Festival celebration in Seattle on Sunday, Feb. 7, the Seattle Chinese Community Girls Drill Team will entertain the audience with a variety of Chinese cultural dances. This colorful, award-winning unit has performed in every major parade in the Pacific Northwest, as well as in Taiwan.

WHERE: *Sponge, Issaquah Sponge, Seattle*
375 N.W. Gilman Blvd. 3107 S. Day St.
Issaquah, WA 98027 Seattle, WA 98144

WHEN: *Sponge, Issaquah Saturday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. - noon*
Sponge, Seattle Sunday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. - noon

CONTACT: *RSVPs are recommended; please call 206-227-7138 or email events@spongeschool.com. For more information about Sponge, visit www.spongeschool.com.*

BACKGROUND: *Sponge is a leader in children's language education, offering classes in Spanish, Mandarin, French and Japanese in its own centers and in before- and after-school programs throughout the greater Seattle area. Focused on children from birth through elementary school, native-speaking teachers teach language and culture through activities, stories, music, art and movement. For more information, visit www.spongeschool.com.*

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