## RENREN CHINESE 人人中文





### A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

## American singer's Lei Feng (雷锋 Léi Fēng)

Lei Feng, a young soldier, became known as a role model of selfless dedication because he devoted almost all of his spare time and money to helping the needy. In 1963, Chairman Mao Zedong launched a campaign, calling on the nation to learn from Lei's example. March 5 each year was later designated "Lei Feng's Day."



Mark Levine performs in honor of Lei Feng on the annual "Learn from Lei Feng Day", Mar 5, 2012.

The term "活雷锋 Huó Léi Fēng" (literally "living Lei Feng") has become a noun (or adjective) for anyone who is seen as selfless, or anyone who goes out of their way to help others. This year, the country will mark the 50th anniversary of his death. Yet, the lessons offered by this guardian of morality are arguably more important today than ever.

---- Excerpt from China Daily

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The year of 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of Ray Chinese School. The celebration will be held on May 19, 2012. RCS is calling for works from all students, parents & teachers, to be published in the RCS 20th Anniversary Album. The theme is "Ray Chinese School & Me". Formats include both literary and art works. All participants will be awarded.

Awarding Prizes: First, Second, Third, and Excellence prizes will be awarded respectively for each work type and age group.

Please share us your stories and your talents. Let us wish a bright future of the school.

For more details, please visit www.raychineseschool.org

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# hat's in a Chinese Character What's in a Chinese Character



Word of the Month

xiū



Written character

休息: rest or relax

This is a refreshing character for any person ( $\bigwedge$ ) working near a shady tree ( $\bigstar$ ). It literally mans "rest" and pictures a person (人) leaning against a tree (木). Of the tree the Chinese proverb laments: "One generation plants the trees under whose shade another generation takes its ease."



Practice Chinese Characters here:

## RCS Calendar and Holidays

March 2012

April 2012

日		_	三	四	五	六
				I	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Women's Day	9	10
П	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 No School
25 No School	26	27	28	29	30	31 No School

日	_	<u>=</u>	三	四	五	六
l No School	2	3	4	5Qingming Festival	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## **International Women's Day**

三八妇女节sān bā fù nǚ jié

Originally called International Working Women's Day, is marked on March 8 every year. In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements. In many regions, the original political and human rights theme designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner.

In many countries, International Women's Day is an occasion to honor and praise women for their accomplishments. Since October 1, 1949 the state council of P.R. China proclaimed that March 8 would be made an official holiday for women in China. By observing it as a national holiday, all women are given a half-day off. The UN theme for International Women's Day 2012 is **Empower Women – End Hunger and Poverty.** 



This is an emotional and graphic picture of seeing a friend off standing on the Tower of Yellow Crane amid the spring willow downs. The poet thinks of the old legend in which the divine being flew away on the crane adding a touch of consolation to the sad farewell. The first two lines depict the time, place and people of bidding farewell and have been long regarded as the most beautiful and eternal lines in Chinese literature. The next two lines portray the flowing water and the sailing boat as the friend is going down the River and vanishing into the blue waters and the boundless expanses of sky and land.

## 黄鹤楼送孟浩然之广陵 -李白

Bidding Meng Farewell to Guang ling - Li Bai

gù rén xī cí huáng hè lóu, 故人西辞黄鹤楼, yān huā sān yuè xià yáng zhōu。 烟花三月下扬州。 gū fān yuǎn yǐng bì kōng jìn, 孤帆远影碧空尽, wéi jiàn cháng jiāng tiān jì liú。 唯见长江天际流。 I bade my friend farewell at Yellow Crane Tower,

Heading east to Yang-zhou amid March mist & flowers.

The distant shadow of a lonely sail now melts into the blue,

And I can see yonder only a mighty river idly flows.