Dōngzhì is the Chinese Winter Festival, celebrated every year during the Winter solstice. “Dong” means winter, and “Zhi” means arrival. The cold days of winter start on this day according to the Chinese lunar calendar.

Dōngzhì is a day for family reunions, a day to worship ancestors, and a day to make and eat special foods. In the north, where it is very cold, people eat dumplings and lamb soup to keep warm through winter. In the south, people will eat sticky rice balls and red bean sticky rice.

During Dōngzhì people start counting down to spring. The days after Dōngzhì are divided into nine sections, each nine days long. “JiuJiu XiaoHan Tu” (“counting nines by painting”) is an artistic way to countdown to spring. People draw a peach blossom branch with 9 flowers. Each flower has 9 petals, and one petal will be colored per day.*

To learn more about Dōngzhì and China:

On our Student Research page use keywords such as “China”, "Chinese Festivals”, "Chinese New Year," in various databases and "Dongzhi" in the Newspaper Source database.

You will need a Redwood City Public Library card.

http://www.redwoodcity.org/studentresearch

*Liao, Cilion. Personal interview. 30 Nov 2020