

## 國旗下的講話

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主題：重陽節

Principal Mr. Wan, vice principals, assistant principals, teachers and students,

Good morning! I am honored to have the opportunity to share the speech under the flag.

Before I begin, let me share a lovely poem I recently discovered. Listen closely and try to guess the topic of my talk.

“On the ninth day of the ninth, spirits high,  
We climb mountains, reaching for the sky.  
With filial piety our hearts beat strong,  
Family ties cherished all day long.”

This poem beautifully captures the essence of the Chung Yeung Festival, a cherished Chinese tradition celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month. It's a time for families and friends to gather, climb mountains, and relish the beauty of autumn.

But why do we climb mountains on this day? There are various explanations for this custom. Legend has it that during the Eastern Han dynasty, a devastating plague was claiming many lives. A young man named Wun King got advice of a wise elder who suggested that his family could escape the plague by scaling a tall mountain on the ninth day of the ninth month. They followed this guidance, and miraculously, they were the sole survivors. Thus, the Chung Yeung Festival began as a way to honor this tale and safeguard against harm.

Apart from mountain climbs, families also seize this opportunity to come together and worship their ancestors during what is known as "Autumn Worship." This tradition underscores the deep-seated Chinese values of filial piety and respect for parents, elders, and ancestors. I believe most of them have heard of the Chinese saying, “Of all virtues, filial piety comes first.” By honoring and remembering our family members during this physical and spiritual journey, we demonstrate our dedication to maintaining family bonds and express gratitude for the contributions of our ancestors. This is why climbing mountains and showing respect to our ancestors are integral parts of the Chung Yeung Festival.

It's the Chung Yeung Festival this Friday. In my family, we gather around, especially with the elders, on this holiday. We present bouquets and money to the seniors in our family as a blessing, as the double-nine also symbolizes longevity in Chinese culture. Do take this opportunity to practice filial piety!

In essence, what does the Chung Yeung Festival teach us? It emphasizes the importance of family connections and the value of honoring our roots. On this special occasion, cherish moments with your loved ones and embody the spirit of filial piety.

Thank you.