

Mindy Kim and The Lunar New Year Parade

By Lyla Lee

My name is Mindy Kim.

I'm almost eight years old, or at least, that's how old I am in the United States. In Korea, though, I'm nine! That's what Dad told me as he drove me to school.

"Korean people calculate age differently," he said. "You're already one year old when you're born, and then you get one year older on New Year's Day, instead of getting older on your birthday."

I got really excited, since it's been eight years since I was born. One plus eight is nine, and nine years old was *definitely* old enough to get a puppy. And better yet, Lunar New Year was this Saturday!

"Does this mean that I'll turn ten this weekend?" I asked, throwing my backpack in the back seat.

Dad laughed. "No, silly. People only age up on the first of January *or* on Lunar New Year, not both." I sat back into my seat with a big huff. "What's the point of two New Years if you can only age up on one?"