



Born at the stroke of midnight on Monday, these three babies were the first born here in the Year of the Dragon.

Above: Tristan Chen, with his parents Vincent Chen and Yvonne Loh, and sister Natalie.



Left: Louise Tan with her mother Nguyen Thi Thanh, father Tan Chiang Seng and brother Lucas.

Below: Jamie Kao with her parents Ang Jo Anne and Kao Nern Hoong.

ST PHOTOS: MUGILAN RAJASEGERAN

## Enter the first Dragon babies

BY JENNANI DURAI

THREE babies were born at the stroke of midnight on Monday, making them the first born here in the Year of the Dragon.

Newborn babies Jamie Kao, Tristan Chen and Louise Tan were born at Gleneagles, Mount Alvernia and Parkway East hospitals respectively.

They clinched the honour by a matter of seconds – following closely on their heels were two babies born at Mount Alvernia Hospital and KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, at two and three seconds after midnight.

The parents of the three babies received the monetary award given by giftmaker Risis annually to the first baby or babies born in the new lunar year.

This year, the gift of \$8,888 was given for the first time in the form of a cash award, instead of an education investment plan that would be available for withdrawal only when the child turns 18.

The sum was shared among the three children.

Jamie was born to 28-year-old doctors Kao Nern Hoong and Ang Jo Anne. She is a planned Dragon baby who ended up arriving three weeks early.

Dr Ang said Jamie had been due on Feb 13, but she had a few medical problems.

She went to the hospital with her husband on Sunday, planning to induce labour, but found to her surprise that an epidural started her contractions, and her labour moved along swiftly.

“I had told my whole family to go home, because the earliest the baby would arrive would be the next morning,” recalled Dr Ang with a laugh. “Near midnight we had to ask them all to come back.” Jamie is the couple’s first child.

Dr Kao said the thought of having the first Dragon baby had not even crossed their minds when labour began.

“If not, my wife would have brought some makeup,” he joked.

Unlike Jamie, Tristan’s parents were not aiming in particular for a Dragon baby – but he will continue a tradition of Dragons in the family, said his father Vincent Chen, 37, who works in the banking industry.

Tristan’s mother Yvonne Loh, 36, who works in the automotive industry, was born in a Dragon year, as was his paternal grandfather. Tristan has an older sister Natalie, 18 months.

Meanwhile, Louise was born to Singaporean Tan Chiang Seng, 47, and his Vietnamese wife Nguyen Thi Thanh, 32, a housewife.

The couple, who already have a four-year-old son called Lucas, said they were thrilled with Louise’s birth in a Dragon year. Said her father, a supervisor: “When she was born, she smiled at me three times. I think that’s very lucky.”

