

JANUARY 11, 2026 NEW YEAR CELEBRATION IN REVIEW



Year of the Horse



Fifty-six people came to celebrate the New Year in the Psi Ote Upper Pavilion in Northside Park! It was a great time to make new friends and catch up with old friends. Of course, there was FOOD- yummy food.



While waiting for food, the children were invited to “Pin the tail on the Horse”, with prizes.



After the mealtime, Elaina Robbins entertained us with some beautiful Japanese songs. (Her voice is fabulous!)

After sitting so long, Skylar Scharrer led us in Radio Taisou exercises – a common activity for Japanese schools and businesses. →



We had several group activities. The first was the “Paper Plate Drawing on the Head” game, in which each person put a plate on his/her head and drew parts of the face as the leader mentioned them. The finished drawings were judged and the best ones got prizes.



The Ninin Baori game was hilarious! Two people share the same coat, with the back person acting as the hands of the front person but being unable to see what is happening. The back person tries to feed the front person or perhaps apply make-up. Most of the children stood in line to try this. →



Another group activity was the “Unwrap the gift while wearing oven mitts” game. One person tries to roll doubles with dice while the next person tries to tear off the paper from a gift while wearing oven mitts. Once doubles is rolled, the gift and oven mitts get passed to the next person to try to open it while a new person rolls the dice. Whoever succeeds in completely tearing off the paper gets to keep the gift. This was a fun and noisy game!



Our final game was the ever-popular Bingo, played until all our prizes were awarded.

We are very grateful for all the help we received when it was time to clean up. It was a wonderful community gathering.

-Michele Yamanaka