

Japanese American Community Picnic

Sept. 7

While it was a cooler day, and very windy, still 41 people joined for a good time from 2 pm to 5 pm.

We enjoyed a good variety of Japanese food, including sushi from Pho Shi, spam onigiri, beef curry, somen, daifuku from Fuwa Fuwa Bakery and more. Many thanks to SEAVAC for providing yakisoba on site. Mr. Imoto cooked regular yakisoba, curry yakisoba and even vegan yakisoba. (We think he should open his own restaurant!)

We also had American food. Many thanks to the Takaoka Committee of Fort Wayne Sister Cities, which supplied 30 hot dogs and buns. We faced a challenge to get the grill hot because of the wind, but Jim Mendenhall and Vesta Mauch succeeded. Nakao Mauch tended the grill until Ryan Feedback took over and made the hot dog lovers happy.

The Sno-cone machine was very popular too. Vesta Mauch was kept busy!



Mrs. Imoto prepared the balloons and hooks for the YO-YO water game, a very popular festival game in Japan for children. All the children at the picnic got to catch at least one balloon.



Other activities included:

- The ever-popular MELON SMASH – Melons supplied by Terry O’Brien.
- Putt-Putt contest for children and adults (Who can get the ball in the cup with one stroke?) Carol Wilhelms oversaw this. There were a lot of winners.
- Bingo for everyone. Aaron Clark & Misato ran this event, and everyone eventually won a prize.

There was also time to just sit and visit with old friends or make new ones. People came from various parts of Indiana, and even Chicago, Illinois.

Thank you everyone who came and shared in food, fun and fellowship!

