

By: Zach Grimm

Sit down for some Udon with Japanese Club

Twice a month on Tuesdays, within the confines of **Mrs. Chikako Pierson's** room was the annual Japanese Club. The board members

included: **Woorie Cho, 12, Matthew Weller, 11, Shannon Powell, 11, Anjali Alm-Basu, 11, Caroline Ibbotson, 10, and Alexander Hayden, 10.** They hoped the club would be as successful as it has been in years past. The first meeting was on Tuesday, September 12, and brought 28 new club members and board members.

"I hope the number will increase. Many people signed up and paid already but could not come. We hope to see them later in the year," said **Pierson**.

With food and new faces, everyone introduced themselves and talked about what had inspired them to join Japanese Club. The club attracted many people who came with many different interests and personalities. They all came for one unifying thing: a good Japanese experience. Some Japanese Club events included: Anime Day, Movie Day, DDR Day, a traditional tea ceremony, and Udon Day.

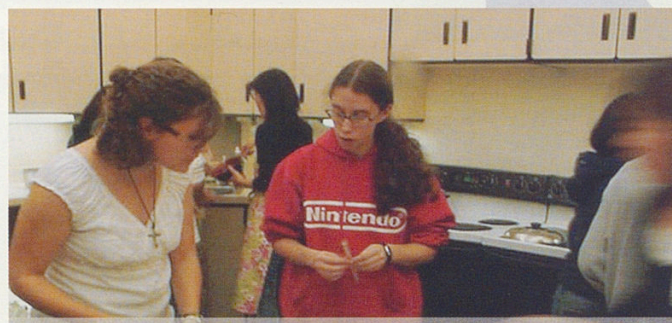
On Udon Noodle Day, students enjoyed eating with chopsticks. However, at times it was a little tricky. The udon noodle dish was widely enjoyed by club participants. Students prepared other dishes to sample during the meetings.

One of the highlights of Japanese Club was the traditional tea ceremony. This ceremony immersed the students in Japanese culture. Along with partaking in various cultural traditions, members also got to participate in Japanese games, origami, and dining out at unique Japanese restaurants.

All members are required to have had at least one year of the language as part of their everyday curriculum.



Jacqueline Miranda-Klein, 9, and Anjali Alm-Basu, 11, admire a Japanese umbrella during a club meeting. The two girls were in awe of the intricacy of the dragon on the umbrella. "It reminds me of those smaller umbrellas they put in drinks," said Alm-Basu.



Cathryn Niehaus, 12, prepares her udon noodles with Rachel Greenberg, 11. The two girls had a fun time making the noodles but had a hard time eating them. "I wasn't used to the chopsticks so it was a little difficult eating the udon," said Niehaus.

Spanish Club chows down on Chipotle

As the year progressed, various clubs looked to offer something new. Spanish club had one thing on its side: Chipotle Day. On the 29th of September, Spanish Club held its annual Chipotle Day for Chipotle lovers. For anyone who wants to participate, all they needed to do was first pay their \$5 dues to **Ms. Renee Hevia** to become a part of Spanish Club.

"We're hoping that all of the kids who came to the first informational meeting can stay active in Spanish Club, and not just leave after Chipotle Day," said **Ellen Farr, 11.**

After paying the \$5 dues, students just needed to order their food and come on the Chipotle day and eat, eat, eat!

"Spanish Club looks more appealing this year, especially with Chipotle Day," said **Jennifer Baum, 11.**

On October 19, Spanish Club held a salsa dancing lesson after school. **Linda Mendez, 12,** took charge of leading the unskilled dancers.

"I was really bad at first, but then I got used to it," said **Joseph Alemagno, 11.**

On Thursday, December 7, Spanish Club held a scavenger hunt for all members to. Normal items were placed around the school; however the clues were written in Spanish.

"We thought if we made things a little more fun and student-involved, we would get more attendance and participation. I guess it paid off because the scavenger hunt was a success," said **Ellen Farr, 11.** The hunt proved to be both educational as well as fun for those who participated.



Faisal Rahman, 11, salsa dances with Joey Alemagno 11. "He was stealing all of my moves," said Alemagno. Rahman and Alemagno were the most improved dancers of the day. "Those two were goofing off a lot," said Linda Mendez, 12, salsa dancing instructor.



Meghan Harley, 12, salsas with her new instructor, Linda Mendez, 12. "She was my best student," said Mendez of Harley. The two girls had a really fun time learning and teaching salsa dancing. Mendez enjoyed sharing her culture with the Spanish Club members.