

Jodi's Fun at Festivals

Recently, I have been enjoying going to many Japanese festivals. I have had a lot of fun walking around with my friends and have had many great experiences. I found some of the traditions very interesting and think that having such a strong cultural history is really cool.

My favourite moment was when I went to watch the Nada Kenka Matsuri. My friend and I didn't know that you had to reserve a seat to watch the fighting and so we had to move from where we were sitting. However, we were really lucky because we met a really nice Japanese family who could speak English well. They invited us to sit with them and so we did. We ended up spending all afternoon with them, talking and enjoying the festival. Afterwards the grandma and grandpa took us to their temple to show us around. The dried flower in the photo below was given to us by them. I learned that it is called a Tsukubane flower (*Buckleya lanceolata*) and I think it is very cute. It was such a lovely day and I was glad to make new friends.

I also really enjoyed going to the festival in Aboshi. There, I saw many students who were enjoying themselves and ate a lot of delicious food. I think that it is great that so many people can gather together, have fun and relax. I hope that while I am in Japan I can go to many more festivals in the future.

~ Jodi

