

DANCING FOR THE KIDS



Dance Marathon leadership holds up signs of the total amount raised as the event ends Jan. 22. "Having families share their stories can really make an impact on the student body and reminds everyone of our common goal: supporting the kiddos and families fighting at the hospital," Caroline Young '19 said.

FTK! What? FTK! What? FTK! That's the sound of over 250 energetic dancers with neon glow sticks who are shouting their support for kids fighting a life-threatening illness. With the release of 100 colorful balloons, the sixth and final hour of the fundraiser has begun. "It's so special to see a big group of people all passionate about the same thing," said Kara Wagenknecht '19, silent auction leader. "I love seeing everyone on the dance floor having the time of their lives." That the community

comes together to support an important cause has inspired Deniz Ince '19, who has attended the event all four years at West. "It's a cause that's worth all of our time," Ince said. "In the end, it's very humbling to know that I've been able to make a difference and help them, however small the financial contribution may be in the long run." Planning actually gets under way in May of the prior year, and continues until the day

Abbey Turnbull '19, Catie Miller '20 and Avery Carneol '19 show off their moves during power hour Jan. 22.



CONFETTI TIME Seniors Lauren Dreusicke, Kristin Asa and Haley Miller dance with balloons during power hour.

of Dance Marathon. "We are basically all student-run, so just staying organized and having good communication through the whole year can be difficult," Allie Schmitt-Morris '19 said. "My favorite part is when I see our miracle kiddos, like Otto, having a good time." Overseeing the whole operation are morale captains Caroline Young '19 and Molly Klutts '19. "The stories that (the kids) and their families share are incredibly impactful," Young said. "I feel as though helping out with Dance Marathon is

the least I can do to repay them for the amazing lessons they've taught me." Power hour, from 5 to 6 p.m., captures the peak energy of the dancers. "Everyone goes crazy dancing, because we are all so tired but so excited," Raginya Handoo '19 said. "We throw glow sticks and balloons out to everyone and reveal how much money we raised. It's just a very emotional but rewarding time." The dancers raised \$28,519.22 for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. — Sidney Kout

"DANCE MARATHON HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIG PART OF MY LIFE. I ENJOY DOING EVERYTHING FOR THE KIDS, INTERACTING AND MAKING NEW RELATIONSHIPS."
MOLLY KLUTTS '19



HALLELUJAH Leadership continues the tradition of singing Hallelujah at the end of Hour 6. "The stories that (the kids) and their families share are incredibly impactful," Caroline Young said.



ALL EYES ON DRUM LINE Keshawn Shaw '19 and Grace Schneider '20 videotape the drum line at the beginning of power hour.

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