

All for the kids, proud teachers and alumni reveal a grand total of \$67,837 in the last minutes of WHSDM in the Cafeteria Jan. 18. "It was a great experience for students to see how their hard work pays off," teacher Kay Nigg said.



# WIN THE DAY

Laughing. Crying. Cheering. Aching. All of these emotions were felt while dancing for five hours straight. Feeding off the energy of friends and "kiddos" in battle, the dancers raised \$67,837 on Jan. 18 to help families suffering with pediatric cancer.

"While the money is important, it's not about how much we raised," biology teacher Jen Secrist said. "It's about how much stronger we are together and how much more we can do together."

Through year-round fundraising, dancer fees and special events, the West High Mini Dance Marathon was a record donor for the University of Iowa's Dance Marathon.

"WHSDM really brought West together," Daniel Machlab '15 said, "and I couldn't be prouder to be a part of such a collaborative effort for a great cause."

Those students invested endless hours in making sure the final minutes of the event had the impact they hoped for.

Activities from henna tattoos to a treadmill marathon offered a diversion from constant dancing.

## Mini Dance Marathon raises \$67,837 FTK on Jan. 18, when students dance 5 straight hours

"Everyone at dance marathon has a blast," Annie Peterson '16 said. "There are so many activities going on that it's really hard not to."

Because freshman Austin "Flash" Schroeder was diagnosed with T-Lymphoblastic Lymphoma, stage 3 cancer, the cause seemed to hit home.

"It was so great to see everyone at the event supporting Austin and all the other kids," Belle Parker '18 said.

Schroeder's current treatment prevented him from attending the Big Event, but by FaceTime, WHSDM came to him.

"Flash has made everyone realize that what we deal with in our day to day lives is nothing compared to what some people go through," Dillon Doyle '18 said.

Dance Marathon offers financial help to families, as well as strength and support.

"Every time someone reaches out to Austin," Carter Johnson '18 said, "it reminds him that he has so many people's support and that he is not fighting alone."

—By Avery Kout

ALL PHOTOS BY AVERY KOUT



### Morale dance

Changing tomorrow, by dancing today. Morale captains perform their hourly dance on stage to pump up the crowd. "We knew the dance pretty well from seeing it at the U of I, but some of us learned it the week before," Nidhi Patel '15 said.



### Student performers

Candy man, candy man! Piper Wenzel '16, Leela Bassuk '16, Kate Vander Leest '17 and Annika Johannsen '15 sing Christina Aguilera's "Candy Man" as entertainment during the event.



### Dance, dance, dance

With no sitting, sleeping or caffeine for five hours, sophomores Aubrey Sowers and Sofia Perez dance for the kids to keep up the energy and stay on their feet. "I loved the dancing—who wouldn't?" Perez asked.

### Families' stories

Honoring those who have suffered and celebrating those who survived, McKenna Harris '16 and her younger cousin, a cancer survivor, listen to a family speaker. "I will continue to dance for her and the other strong kiddos fighting cancer," Harris said.



### Fun with friends

Dancing with each other, Molly Howes '15 and Jenny Pigge '15 enjoy music played by a DJ and the lighting effects that accompanied it.



### Fun with accessories

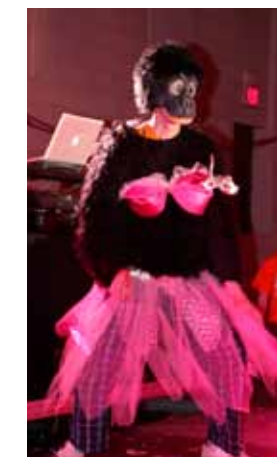
Sunglasses, sweatbands, tattoos and tutus. Paige Brazina '16 and Taylor Kass '16 dance on stage as part of their morale captain duties. "I dance for those who are dancing in my heart," Brazina said.

### Maintaining morale

Under the sea, seniors Daniel Machlab and Allye Boardman sport floaties and goggles as part of their Team 11 theme. "Daniel and I kept our energy up and had fun the whole time," Boardman said.



Facetiming with Flash, teacher Jen Secrist pans the room as she checks in with Austin Schroeder, 14, who was unable to attend due to his treatments.



### Foolish for 100 seconds

Raising money for the kids with some humiliation, Schuyler Cantrell '15 was nominated by a friend to dance for 100 seconds in a gorilla in a tutu suit.

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