

## Blog 32 -Dance parties

There were two NIS (Nanjing International School) dance parties the last two Fridays. One was for PYP (Primary Years Program, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) in the theme of "Cruising into School". The other party was called "Tropical Dance" that was for middle/high school students (MYP). My mom is a member of the PTA and dance party coordinator. Weeks before the parties, she was super busy with all the party decorations, food arrangements and music bands' gathering. I'm part of the 6th grade rock band invited to perform on stage for the elementary students. So, we both had a busy, jam-packed two weeks full of errands to run, decorations to put up and definitely a lot of fun.



The Elementary school party had just begun for not a long time and already people started filling up the colossal auditorium. I noticed many little lower grade girls dressed up in sparkling summer dresses and bright little high heel shoes. Almost all of them were wearing thick layers of glossy lipgloss and sparkling silver eyeshadow. Their hair looked as if they had it done at a professional hair dressing salon. In contrast, boys were wearing casual gym shorts, sporting shoes and plain T-shirts as if they were attending a baseball game! The crowd gradually gathers before the stage while the lights in the auditorium grow dim. It's time for us to perform. That night, we performed "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson. As the song gradually got to the chorus, the whole auditorium seemed to explode! The boys played their imaginary electric guitars, girls were singing along. Everyone was trying to imitate the most modern and popular dance moves and movie stars. As the song came to an end, the whole crowd went quiet. The last note was played and then everyone suddenly clapped their hands giving us a loud round of applause!!! Standing there on stage at that moment was my favorite, most thrilling experience with that band!



Another week whizzed by without much realization, the MYP dance party was here as well. This year, I'm in 6th grade. Every 6th grader was excited for their first MYP dance! The girls were all chatting about what to wear and how to do their hair while boys were going off about what kinds of food were going to be served! :) Loud music bursts in the speakers; the 10th grade DJ does his thing with his complicated remix music kit. The 8, 9 and 10th grade bands also performed at the dance, but their equipment is way over the top! I perform with a grand piano, but the boy in the 10th grade band was "wearing" the coolest electronic keyboard ever! It was strapped across the front of his shirt and he played it upside down with all the keys lighting up bright blue as he pressed them. Suddenly, a song I've never even heard of plays and every teenage girl in high school jumps up and screams at the top of their lungs like a pack of wild hyena's howling to the moon! (I think they were trying to sing, but it was too loud.) I guess that must've been the most hippest, "coolest" song of the year, but most of my 6th grade classmates looked as if they were lost in the woods (Including me). Then the music stops, the DJ jumps off his stage and a slow dance song drifts through the speakers on the wall. I watched as the DJ got together with his girl classmate and they hugged each other like they couldn't let go. To us 6th graders, that was just plain boring. Whenever a slow song plays, we would exit the auditorium and enjoy a mouth watering slice of Margarita pizza. :) Yum!!!



In Florida, schools rarely have dance parties. It was really interesting to note the differences in behavior and boys & girls in this kind of event. There are 2 more MYP dance parties in the year. My mom is already planning the theme for the next one and I'm more than happy to help her..