

CUTE AS A CUPCAKE.

During the event, Avery Brooke (6) and Blake Devitt (6) enjoy a delicious snack. "I had so much fun at the dance. It was my first one. There were so many fun activities, and I just went with a bunch of my friend," Brooke said. She also shared that the cupcake she ate was the best one she had ever had, and she had four of them.



IT'S A DATE. Taylor Roman (8) and Estella Olson (8) spend time together at the dance. "I had a lot of fun going with him. It was just fun to spend time together, and I got to dress up with him, which was also fun," Olson said.

HANDS UP. Audience member Luci Knoper (7) cheers on a singer during karaoke. It was one of her favorite socials of the year. "It was really fun to just sing with my friends. Everyone was waving their hands in the air because they were playing Party in the USA," Knoper said.

SING IT. Attendee Sydney Campbell (8) sings her heart out with her friends Kylie Zufall (8), Danica Barela (8), and Alexis Giles (8). She was scared to sing in front of everyone but ended up having a great night. "I spent time with my friends, and it was super fun because we were all in a big group. The dance was also fun because we were jumping around and singing," Campbell said.



CHECKING IN. Reya Gonzales (7) enters the dance with Grace Dillon (7) and Tenly Fenton (7). "I hung out with my friends and their boyfriends. I really like being able to see them outside of school, and then we went home and had a sleepover," Gonzales said. **NICE SHOOTIN', TEX.** Eighth grader Thaddeus Evans (8) blasts theatre teacher Mrs. Laurel Wicke with Silly String. "That was a long hour, sitting there covered in Silly String. It smells really horrible, but I think the kids had a great time," Wicke said.



**"THE VALENTINE'S DANCE WAS A TOP TIER MEMORY, FOR SURE."
-ALEXIS GILES (8)**

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Leadership plans a first-time Valentine's Semi-Formal event that proves to be a hit with student body. Story by Bailey Chiappetta

Love to sing? Love to dance? Love to silly string your favorite teacher? The Drake Valentine's Semi-Formal had it all. Months of planning went into developing activities that created memories that would stick forever. "Planning the social was a lot to do in a little amount of time and it was really stressful having to put things out before and taking things down after the social," Clara Smith (8) said.

2024 was the first year that Drake hosted a Valentine's Semi-Formal. "The reason we chose to do a Valentines Social was so that we could have an event every trimester, and we thought it would be fun to give kids a taste of what things will be like at high school events," leadership teacher Miss Michelle Johnson said.

All students were able to attend, as long as they had less than 2 F's, and the event was a big hit. "I loved the dance just because of the entire vibe. There was just so much happiness, and there wasn't any complaining. I also just had a really good time," Owen Adams (6) said.

Part of what made it so popular was the number of activities to enjoy with friends like karaoke, the chance to silly

string a teacher, a dance, games in the library, and a selfie-station. An activity that stood out was the "Silly String a Teacher" station where students paid two dollars for a can of Silly String and used it to spray the teacher of their choice. Keaton Ahrendt (7) bought eight cans of string to silly string to douse theatre and yearbook teacher Mrs. Laurel Wicke.

"I definitely targeted Mrs. Wicke because we have a good relationship. It was probably more fun for me than her, but it was also just fun to just have the power for once," Ahrendt said.

Approximately 350 students attended the dance with the break down by grades of 142 sixth graders, 152 seventh graders, and 56 eighth graders. "I think the reason so few eighth graders attended is because it was a semi-formal, and I also think people thought it was more for couples and not really to go with friends," Hannah Berlin (8) said.

The event was a safe and fun place for kids to come and simply hang out with their friends. "My favorite part of the Valentine's semi-formal was that this guy gave me a chocolate rose. I also thought the karaoke was really fun," Jailynn Jeffery (7) said.



FROM MY POV

Caleb Dixon (7) shares his experience at the Valentine's Semi Formal from beginning to end.

"Before the dance I got ready, and I was really excited. My friends and I had pizza before we left because we were so hungry when we got home. On the way there it was really fun because we were blasting music really loud, and my friends and I were all singing. When I got to the dance, I partied and had lots of fun with my friends. I especially had a lot of fun during the karaoke with Adam Tate (7). I had a ton of candy and food, and I got to silly string Mr. Conway, and that was really fun because he is my favorite teacher. After the dance was over, I said bye to all of my friends, and then I went home and ate dinner with my family. Then I went to sleep because I was really tired. I had a long day and so much fun at the dance," Dixon said.

THE BEST PART OF V-DAY IS...



"I hang out with all of my friends and call it 'gal-entines.' We do a bunch of fun things, and I look forward to it every year."
-Faith McMahon (7)

THE BEST PART OF V-DAY IS...



"My favorite part of Valentines Day is passing out after eating 20 pounds of chocolate because it's fun, satisfying, and tastes good."
-Caleb Miller (7)

IT'S EVERYTHING.