



## Having a Ball

**Program Overview:** The *Having a Ball (HAB)* Ballroom Dance Intensive Program is a 20-week dance intensive curricular program that teaches five International style ballroom dances to fifth graders. HAB is run by the Office of Arts Education and the Office of Teaching and Learning for Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and is the official ballroom program of the district. Through the leadership of former Board President Michael Scott, HAB was created in 2005 and since that time has been redeveloped to be a program unique to Chicago.

**Background:** Funded by the Office of Arts Education and the U.S. Department of Education, *Having a Ball* concentrates on 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who learn the International Style of ballroom dance. The program not only provides physical exercise and the opportunity to experience global dance forms such as the *Cha-Cha*, *Waltz*, *Tango*, *Paso Doble* and *Jive*, it also introduces a different way to learn about history, geography and culture. In 2009-2010, approximately 1000 students participated from 15 schools across the district.

**Mission:** Through participation in HAB students have the opportunity to develop confidence and self esteem as well as the cultivation of important skills such as communication, teamwork, goal setting, leadership, posture, coordination and musicality.

Having a Ball hopes to continue to impact schools, teachers and students as the program further develops. Future plans call for working with partners and funders to expand the program to more schools and students throughout the district.

**Activities:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who participate in the HAB program benefit from:

- ✓ Three fifty minute periods per week delivered via professional dance instructors with the support of classroom teachers.
- ✓ A 4<sup>th</sup> period of classroom instruction that focuses on related subject areas including, dance history, fitness, nutrition, socio-emotional skills and cultural connections.
- ✓ The HAB School Partnership Program-via pen pals and a partner social event.
- ✓ The opportunity to participate in the Having a Ball Final Competition, Summer Dance Boot Camp and are invited to audition for the Elementary Dance Scholarship Program.

**Audience:** The 2010-11 HAB program will impact 11 schools, 25 teachers, and 638 students. Cleveland Elementary, Oriole Park, Thorp Scholastic Academy, Agassiz Elementary, Alcott Elementary, Hefferan Elementary, Saucedo Scholastic Academy, Attucks Elementary, Edwards Elementary, New Sullivan Elementary, and Perez Elementary.



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