

BSU dance team

time to let loose

By: Christine Meier



Deshea Willis, 9, is one of the many girls who contributes to the Black Student Union dance team. Willis summed up the experience as "off the hook." Willis was a big part in making the team a success.

The Black Student Union dance team was formed in the beginning of November. Many people were interested in joining, making it a big team.

"It is always a good time hanging out with my friends during BSU practices," said Kyle Battle, 11.

Practices were held every Tuesday in the teachers' lounge. There was a \$5 fee for being on this team.

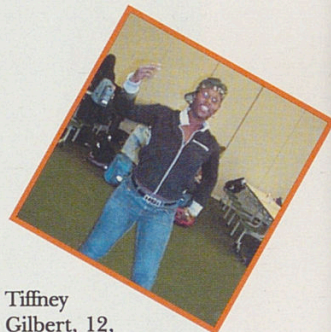
"I see it as a way to get more African American students involved," said Tiffney Gilbert, 12.

The choreographer was Joe King and he was present at each practice. A stereo with music was always a must as well.

"Dancing is fun with the BSU dance team. It's a time to let loose and show what you got," said Shon Bell, 11.

The team danced mostly to hip hop songs. All of the members agreed that the team had a lot of fun. They were able to perform at a pep rally and compete in some competitions.

"I loved practicing with the BSU dance team. All the people are so nice and welcoming. I love dancing and I love meeting new people so it was an awesome experience," said Brittney Martin, 12.

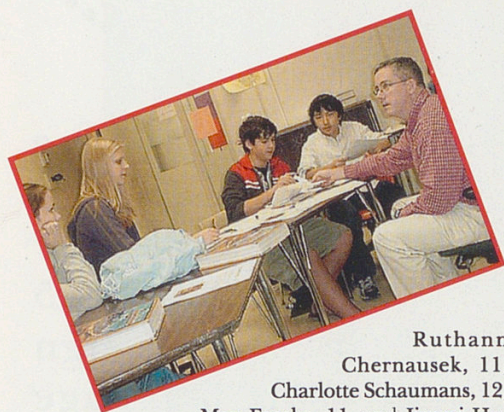


Tiffney Gilbert, 12, shows her skills at lunch. When music started, she was always up dancing, trying to get others to join her. Gilbert always held high spirits during BSU events.

451 Book Club

no book unopened, no page unturned

By: Kelsey Kiley



Ruthann Chernausek, 11, Charlotte Schaumans, 12, Max Frecka, 11, and Jinwei Hu, 11, chat easily with each other on many books over the course of the year.

Having a discussion group, gently led by the marvelous Mr. Breen Reardon, after reading a book really helped with the understanding and appreciation of what has been read. At the very least, 451 Book Club was a great place to get ideas for good books out there.

Reading for school was not usually considered "fun." However, 451 Book Club put a whole new spin on things.

Sponsored by Mr. Breen Reardon, and led by two peppy co-presidents, Charlotte Schaumans, 12, and Daniel Grosser, 12, 451 Book Club was the place to be on Tuesdays. The club met roughly once a month at 2:30 p.m. in Room 109.

Obviously, the members in this club treasured books and everything they stood for. After all, the club was named for *Fahrenheit 451*, a futuristic story of censorship by Ray Bradbury.

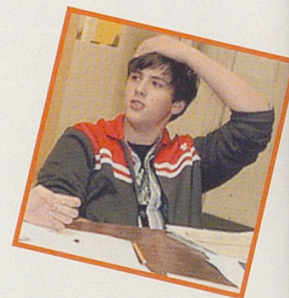
"Books allow us to stretch our imaginations and force us to confront realities different than our own. They inspire, motivate, awe, and entertain. 451 provides a place for the many readers in our school to discuss books in a

non-academic setting," said Mr. Reardon.

At each meeting, after the previous book was discussed, a new list of books was put on the board. These suggestions were given by the members, and then there was a vote. "For me, when I finish a book, I know I have thoughts and questions about it, and it is great to be able to see other people's views on the same book," said Grosser.

451 Book Club was all about embracing different cultures in the books they read, and their selections were wide-ranging. The club opened with *Memoirs of a Geisha*, by Arthur Golden, and their next choice was a French thriller, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, by Patrick Suskind.

Not everybody liked to read, but 451 Book Club was out there, a reminder that reading could be both voluntary and interesting.



Don't be confused! Max Frecka, 11, had an epiphany at a 451 Book Club discussion. "I do like reading, and this is a really great way to find out about books I never would have even heard of," said Frecka.