

## **The Daily Times-Farmington**

### **One, two, three, four ...everybody dance now**

FARMINTON- Dozens of third and fourth graders stood at the front of the Animas Elementary School lunchroom in bright colored shirts, ready to perform for their peers.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Kylie Aguilar, 9, a third-grader, about dancing in front of her peers. “We had a fun teacher and learned new things.”

Aguilar and her peers spent all of last week learning dance moves including “the hitchhiker,” how to “monkey around” as well as “shake it high, shake it low.” All of the new moves were a part of the performances they gave to fellow students and parents Friday afternoon and evening.

The performance was part of the National Dance Institute’s residency for students all over New Mexico.

“These kids were great to work with,” said Emily Lowman, associate resident director. “They were a wonderful group and very excited to learn and perform.”

“I find it hard to calm myself even when I get excited,” said Lowman. “But we try to teach them that in order to be a good team you need to work with one another and work together, not let the excitement take over.”

The third- and fourth-grade pupils not only practiced the moves and performed them with their peers, they also competed against one another in groups and boys versus girls with the audience as the judge.

“We did our best,” said Corvelle Benally, 9, a third grader who competed in the boys versus girls contest.

Lowman said it wasn’t hard to tell which received more screams allowing for ties and the students to continue to perform their moves.

“I couldn’t tell,” she said during the performance. “That sounded like a “9” too. I think these guys need to do it again.”

The students were divided into four groups to coincide with their classes throughout the day. All third graders were taught the same routines, while fourth graders were taught different ones. Every student participating in the week-long workshop performed Friday.

Lowman and the National Dance Institute will next travel to Bluffview Elementary School to teach third and fourth graders there.