

The STA community gathered in the Goppert Center for a surprise assembly to honor the school's 150th anniversary Jan. 4. The students did not know that the administration had planned a dance party for the entire school, DJ and all.

Packed in the Goppert Center beside her classmates and teachers, sophomore Anna Louise Sih anxiously awaited the start of the mystery assembly.

"I had heard crazy rumors, like Justin Bieber was coming, but I didn't believe those," Sih said. "I was really just expecting the assembly to be some teachers outlining new additions to the handbook or something."

Senior Payton Seever also did not expect an impromptu dance party at the assembly.

"I thought we would have notable alumni come speak because we, as women of St. Teresa's, have some incredibly accomplished women who have done amazing things," Seever said.

According to president Nan Bone, she realized that the staff had yet to celebrate the students in the anniversary, so she decided to put the event together over the course of several weeks.

"[Administration] had to secure the DJ and then after New Years Day we went around to all the Party Warehouses to buy leftover 2016 items," Bone said. "We also bought birthday hats and ordered 600 star cookies before [Christmas] vacation."

Bone claimed that keeping the party a secret was the most difficult part of the planning process, but junior Gabby Ayala was glad that faculty did.

"It was really fun to be in class that day," Ayala said. "All of my teachers would tease us about them knowing what was going on and how we didn't. Since they kept talking about how great it was going to be, it made all the students antsy to see what the assembly would be."

Junior Tess Rellihan agreed, saying that she liked that the faculty kept the dance party a secret because it was more fun for both students and teachers that way.

Once the DJ was revealed, the shocked students quickly rushed down to the dance floor with their friends.

"I remember thinking 'this is hilarious' and running down to the floor with [my friends]," Sih said. "[The dance party] was totally something STA would do, which I love that the administration can be serious, but also have a good sense of humor at the same time."

Ayala claimed that she thought the surprise dance party was a joke at first, but then once she realized the administration was serious, she sprinted straight toward the dance floor.

"I was super excited [when the dance party was announced] because I knew something fun was bound to happen," Rellihan said. "STA always finds a way to let the students have fun, which helps build the sisterhood."

Bone was glad students enjoyed the surprise assembly, claiming it was the perfect example of the unique sisterhood bond that students at STA harbor and why the students of the past, present and future have made STA the best school in Kansas City.

"[The assembly] showed me the true sisterhood of St. Teresa's," freshman Jane Kincaid said. "Sisterhood was one of the many reasons I chose STA, I just loved the idea of being one big family."

The administration's goal of the event was to include students all grade levels in the anniversary celebration and senior Jewell Allen believes that was achieved.

"I think STA is doing a great job of including everyone, not just the seniors, because everyone at STA is a part of the celebration," Allen said.

According to Bone, she is proud to lead such a wonderful school and plans to hold many more anniversary events that will appeal to students of the course of 2016.

"It was so fun to spend the last period of the day with my friends dancing," Sih said. "I definitely won't forget this as long as I'm at STA."