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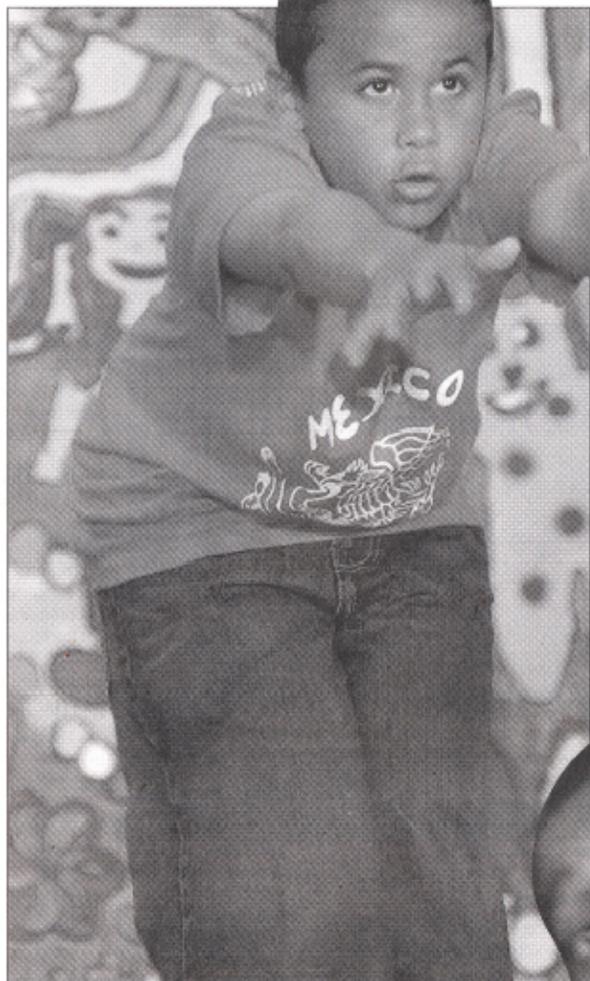
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I just wanna dance!!

Student from PS 105 busts a move in honor of Mexico's culture during special event last week. See more on Pages 12-13. Photo by Gaby Barnuevo





"They're superexcited and very proud. You can see it from the smiles on their faces," said PS 105 Assistant Principal Evelyn Alier. Her words were personified by these students at left.



Students used their jazz hands (above) in one of their dances. And worked in some dance fighting techniques (below) during a dance to represent the battles fought by the Incas and other native people of Mexico against the Spanish invaders. In addition to creating their own dances for the event, the students also made and wore their own specially-designed T-shirts.



Mexico, with jazz hands



PS 105 students honor a culture with dance moves

BY TANYANIKA SAMUELS

A RAINBOW of colors spilled across the stage at Public School 105 in Morris Park as students celebrated Mexican culture in two special dance performances last week.

Wearing vibrant, student-designed T-shirts, students from 10 fourth-grade classes dazzled teachers, family members and friends with skits and dances illustrating the story of Mexico.

"They're superexcited and very proud," said Assistant Principal Evelyn Alier. "You can see it from the smiles on their faces."

The performances were part of the nonprofit National Dance Institute's in-school program, in which students citywide spend the year combining dance with classroom learning. In past programs, students have tackled Shakespeare and the African continent.

This year, with the help of dance institute staffers and PS 105 teachers, the students studied Mexican history and culture from the Aztecs to modern-day issues such as immigration. Students also rehearsed choreographed, high-energy dance moves.

For the special performance, each class took on a different chapter in Mexico's history.

The event, however, was about more than just pulling off the right moves on stage, said Principal Christopher Eustace.

"Learning dance moves is great," he said, "but the students also learned about working together and teamwork, all of the things that go into fully educating a child."

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Fourth-graders created colorful backdrops for the auditorium at PS 105, where they performed skits and dances to celebrate the culture of Mexico. The National Dance Institute's in-school program worked with the students throughout the year to create dances (r.).