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The 4th Annual Purim Masquerade Ball was yet again another big success. Greeted at the door by beads, a stilt walker, and music that pounds your ears, many students came out to the annual event and danced the night away. Whether it was coming in big groups or riding solo, all the attendees Thursday night were having a blast and enjoying themselves.

There were many different favorites of the night. For some, like Hope Crawford and her friends, it was the food: Traditional New Orleans cuisine such as beignets, a chocolate fountain with many fruits to cover, and many more. For others, it was the photo booth and all of the little extras, such as henna tattoos, a DJ, a cartoonist, and much more.

Caroline Verscharen, a student attending the ball, said, "The food was the best part. Hanging out with my friends was pretty nice too."

The Annual Purim Masquerade Ball has great reviews from its guests and a very good reputation for a night filled with food, fun, and friends.

The holiday of Purim celebrates the bravery of Esther and Mordechai and the deliverance of the Jewish people from the cruelty of oppression. Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. The holiday begins with dressing up in costume. Some people choose to dress as characters from the Purim story and others dress in non-Purim-related costumes. Purim traditions include giving money gifts to at least two poor people, sending gifts of two kinds of food to at least one person, and a festive Purim feast, which often includes wine or other intoxicating beverages. You can say "*Chag Purim Sameach!*" to wish someone a happy Purim.