



Emmy Marcus '26

"The Texas theme was cool because it was at the same time as the State Fair. They even had some of the same food at Fun Day that they have at the fair."



“Fun Day is the **PERFECT** name FOR THE CARNIVAL BECAUSE I HAD so much fun. ”

Top: Grooving on the makeshift dance stage, third grader Amalia Evans chats with a middle schooler after requesting her favorite song. The DJ played popular music that kept the girls and boys dancing for almost the full three hours. "Fun day is a really fun place to make friends with girls in other grades," Evans said. Middle: Concentrating on the task ahead, primer Audrey Zambrano shot for the target after waiting in line for 20 minutes at her favorite carnival game. "I won five different prizes," Zambrano said. Left: First grader Emily McElroy aimed to win a prize at another shooting game. She went home with two bags filled to the brim with candy, prizes and snacks. "We got to help each other at the games and [my friend] Leila helped me," McElroy said.



Photos by Talia Meidan

As laughter echoed across the Hockaday campus, Primer student Maya Menon slid on her cowboy boots, ready for an afternoon of adventure. Fun Day had arrived. After munching on a hot dog and lassoing cattle for a prize, Menon sprinted across the

field during a water gun shoot-out and busted a move in the makeshift county jail.

This year, Fun Day, which was held on Friday, Oct. 24, coincided with the Texas State Fair. To commemorate this annual event, Hockaday parents chose the "Go Big, Go Fun" Texas theme. They covered from Penson Circle, to the Lower School Playground, to the athletic fields in Texas themed decor.

Sixth grader Sophia Foster attended the festivities with all her friends from Hockaday and St. Mark's. "The themes have never really been that big in the past years that I've been to Fun Day but this year it was really fun. The Texas decorations and T-shirts were perfect for State Fair season," Foster said.

The theme was also interactive for the younger students. First grader Courtney Buford said, "I liked all the Texas themed things like the rodeo lassoing game and the Texas trick or treat."

Each year, because Fun Day falls near Halloween, the parents create a makeshift trick-or-treat "street" for the kids to collect candy. This year, however, with a Texas flag back clutched in hand and a smile on her face, each student walked through a row of barns, horse stalls and grain silos to retrieve their candy.

As Menon participated in the activities, she saw that the theme was incorporated into many of the events. "The rock climbing wall had a Texas flag at the top and there were decorations for the theme at all the rides and games," she said.

Due to the parent's work, creativity and diligence, Fun Day attracted crowds of students. "This year was a perfect ending to all my years going to Fun Day," Foster said.



Clockwise from top: First grader Winnie Young swings through the air on the monkey bars after playing a rodeo game. Unlike previous years, the festivities stretched all the way from the fields to Penson Circle. Third grader Avery Jackson stood in line to dive through inflatable rings. "I beat all the boys on the races," Jackson said. Fourth grader Sydney Slay played a ticket to dance in the county jail for five minutes with her friends. "It felt like I was really in jail," Slay said. After reaching the top of the rock wall six times, kindergartner Lily Roberts befriended the belayer. "The rock wall is always my favorite part of Fun Day," Roberts said. Masked as a butterfly primer Mary Elise Estes munched on her third bag of candy. "The older girls did the face paint for us this year which was really fun," Estes said.

