

In T.O., kids get in step with dance moves

By Rachel McGrath

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Adam Bay energizes students with dance moves during a free workshop presented by More Zap Productions at the Los Cerritos Boys & Girls Club in Thousand Oaks.

Seven-year-old Samantha Pister was having a blast at a free dance workshop Saturday in Thousand Oaks.

Samantha was one of 32 children taking part in the event at the Boys & Girls Club on the Los Cerritos Middle School campus, and she showed she had all the right moves as she followed along song after song.

"She's having a really good time and she's trying hard," her proud dad, Rick Pister, said as he watched along with his wife, Becky, and younger daughter

Kate, 6. "She's always dancing in the house and singing. It's a lot of fun watching her doing something she's never done before and really getting into it and just getting really consumed in the music and the dancing."

At the end of the two-hour workshop, Samantha, who's a second-grader at Lang Ranch Elementary School in Thousand Oaks, said she really enjoyed the experience.

"I like to make different moves and stuff," she said.

The workshop was the idea of Michelle Zeitlin, who lives in Thousand Oaks and runs a talent and production company in Los Angeles called More Zap Productions. Her son Alec, 10, and daughter Devin, 13, attend the Boys & Girls Club after school.

"I just wanted to give something and give back because I think it's an amazing organization," she said.

Zeitlin brought two of her clients to help run the workshop: 15-year-old Kelli Berglund from Moorpark, who just got her first Disney TV series, "Lab Rats," which will air in February, and Adam Bay from the San Fernando Valley, who declined to give his age and has had parts in a couple of Disney Channel TV shows.

Kelli said she's been dancing for 11 years and was happy to come and share her passion with youngsters at the club.

"I love it so much, and I just loved the idea of teaching dance to kids and showing the craft to everyone and having a good workout. They did awesome, and I am really impressed with them," she said.

Cora Martinez, 12, takes dance classes three times a week and said the workshop had taught her to smile and be confident.

"This is really fun," said Cora, who attends Redwood Middle School in Thousand Oaks. "I like to dance a lot, and I want to be a choreographer when I am an older, so this really helps.

"I just love dancing so much, and when I hear music, it just inspires me."

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/nov/19/in-to-kids-get-in-step-with-dance-moves/>

Erika Szaldobagyi, 13, who attends Los Cerritos Middle School, comes to the Boys & Girls Club every day and said she really enjoyed having the chance to spend Saturday morning doing something fun.

"I just love dancing, so everything was really fun for me and learning some different things, too," she said.

Karen Brogan brought along her son Daniel, 12, and daughter Samantha, 10.

"I am loving watching all of the kids," she said. "It's absolutely great."



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