

Colorful lights hung and Psy's "Gangnam Style" played in the background of Room 114 as freshman Ellie Roberts walked in on Feb. 21.

The bell signaling the start of class rang; it was Mardi Gras party time.

"I liked the Mardi Gras party," Roberts said. "It was fun and there wasn't really a dull moment. I think it was good to have a break in the middle of the week."

Freshman Mallory O'Neal agreed and thought experiencing Mardi Gras helped her understand French more.

"We're getting to learn a little bit about Mardi Gras [because of the party] and learning about French culture helps appreciate the language better," O'Neal said.

"You guys are good to get stuff," French teacher William Espeset told his class, encouraging them to get king cake and Kool-Aid Jammers left over from previous hours.

Most of the class rushed to the counter and pushed desks around to get first dibs on the food. Junior Luigi Muscadin attempted to spray whipped cream in Robert's mouth. He missed and got whipped cream all over the desks and the floor.

"I called it," Roberts said. "I didn't trust him, and I didn't trust my gut. It got all over my hand, but little things like that with friends are always fun. I forgave him and ate the whipped cream."

The people who brought crepe batter got the first crepes. O'Neal was one of them.

"I was pretty excited [to be one of the first to get a crepe]," O'Neal said. "Those crepes were so good."

Roberts was another student who brought crepe batter. While everyone else was getting their crepes, she was cleaning up her second whipped cream mess. This time was her fault. She put Nutella and whipped cream on her crepe and missed.

Most people broke off into groups with their friends, celebrating in their own ways.

"It was very fun," Roberts said. "I have a lot of good friends in that class. They always make it fun, but it's more fun when we're celebrating and laughing. We had fun with the things that we had. Overall, it was pretty enjoyable."

Toward the end of the party, everyone was doing their own things. Some people played on their phones while one group listened to Disney music.

"I always thought it was kind of weird that I'm a freshman in high school and I'm obsessed with Disney," O'Neal said. "All of us kind of share that weird love for children's movies. I think it's just really fun to be able to listen to Disney music and jam out."

Espeset put up a slideshow of Mardi Gras photos from New Orleans with music playing in the background, while O'Neal's group created their own fun.

"Do you need me to mute the music," Espeset asked the group of girls. "Is it ruining your mood?"

The group of girls laughed and turned their music down. A few minutes later, the party came to an end.

"The lights were turned back on," Roberts said. "It was kind of a different feeling. It was a little bit sad. We just continued to talk, have fun and listen to music on our own phones."

After the party, it was back to work for Espeset and the students.

"I do the parties for the kids," Espeset said. "I try to give them a little break in the middle of third quarter. We're kind of in the grind right now, so I try to lighten it up a little bit and give my students what they want at least once a year."