

The Town Crier

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and Magnet Center

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They're Double the Trouble, Twice the Fun

Some of Revere's twins talk about the ups and downs of the duo experience.

By ISABELLA AGUILAR

Identical twin sixth-graders Wallace and Slater Copen used to go to Mar Vista Elementary School, and on the last day of school in fifth-grade, they pulled a prank on their teachers. "For the entire school year," Wallace said, "this teacher who didn't have either of us, Ms. Paige, wanted us to switch places and was pressuring us to do it in a funny way. So, on the last day of school we decided to just do it. My teacher, Ms. McCowan, figured it out immediately, but Slater's teacher, Ms. Cad, did not at first. Slater's teacher finally figured it out because everyone started laughing, and Ms. Paige asked to talk to Wallace, and Ms. Cad started laughing and getting mad in a funny way. Then, Ms. Paige led me from her room to my room. And every room I went past, the kids started laughing because they knew what happened."

Slater and Wallace are just one of 46 sets of twins on Revere's campus. Whether they talk everyday or have pulled a twin prank, twins just have a



Sixth-grader Slater Copen gets his photo taken while his twin, Wallace Copen, waits for his turn.

special relationship. "Our relationship is a love-hate relationship," said Slater. "I think this is because we fight a lot but we always come back to being good brothers to each other." Seventh-graders Maslowe and Hutchens Larson have a different relationship. "We hang out when we are at parties or watching a family movie or family activities, and we hang out in the same friend group," said Hutchens, "but we don't really talk too much now that we're older. We have shared some great memories in the past, though."

Eighth-graders Maddy and Hudson Mirzadeh are fraternal twins. Hudson was born on Aug. 15 at 11:59 p.m. and Maddy was born on August 16 at 12 a.m. "My twin brother and I have a great relationship," said Maddy. "He's always there for me, and I love having him because we can study together, talk about school drama, and if anything happens, I know who I can trust."

Charlie and Jack Balabat have a similar relationship. "We don't do much alone," Jack remarks. "We have some of the same teachers in different periods, so we can help each other with the homework." In fact, the two eighth-graders have never been away from each other for

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Mr. Iannucci is all pumped up for his upcoming fundraiser. Page 6



Mr. Slavin and his family hit the ski slopes at Mammoth. Page 11



Leila Reyes and Chelsea Sargent decorate for Valentine's Day. Page 12



Leonard Maksimovic sets up for a header on the soccer field. Page 13

more than a day.

Being a twin can have some disadvantages. Seventh-grader Roqeia Ismael, the twin sister of Rashida, said, "It's fun to joke around when we look similar, but it can be annoying when people mix us up. But, if I had the choice I would stay a twin"

Charlie Balabat agrees that being a twin has some disadvantages. "The most annoying thing about being a twin is sharing items, and not having them when I want them," he said. "But, as my mom says, the best part is that I will always have a friend."

Like Wallace and Slater did in their prank, some twins used to try to dress similarly. "When we were younger," Jack said, "we used to get the same haircuts from the same barber so we looked enough alike that most strangers couldn't tell us apart. When we got older we wanted different haircuts; he wanted one style and I wanted another one. My hair is usually longer than his." Charlie agrees that they try to have a separate look, "When we go shopping together," he said, "we split up and look now for different clothes that we want. He might go check out shoes and T-shirts, while I look at hoodies." Eighth-grade fraternal twin Paul Lunkewitz said, "When Carl and I were around five, we used to dress the same, but now we have our own look."

No matter how similar they look, twins have different personalities and interests, but some things may overlap. Wallace Copen said, "One obvious way we are similar is in our looks because we are identical twins. Also, we are both talkative." But as Slater adds, "I have more freckles than him and his face typically looks more angry than mine, not because I'm mean to him. It's actually the reverse. He should be nice to me because I'm older than him by 52 seconds. Also, we try to dress differently, usually, that means he wears red, and I wear blue."

Eighth-grade twins Saniah and Dillon Varnado have some shared interests. "I am competitive with running but not as much as my sister," said Dillon. "I am more competitive with things like video games or other games like tag." Another pair of twins are eighth-graders Lili

Carl (left) and Paul Lunkewitz



Saniah and Dillon Varnado



Hudson and Maddy Mirzadeh



and Ella Gilyard. According to Ella, the two challenge each other a lot. "I am pretty competitive with my twin. It has gotten better because we mostly do different sports, but with grades and tests I think we are pretty competitive, especially because we had all of the same teachers last year. This year is a little better because we have mostly different teachers but we are still a bit competitive revolving test scores and amounts of studying."

Unlike twins Lili and Ella, eighth-graders Maddy and Hudson have separate interests and aren't competitive. "We don't agree on everything, but we agree on most things," said Hudson. "For example, I'm more into sports and video games, and Maddy does her own thing. But, we do hang out a lot because we have a lot of the same friends."

In addition to twins, Revere also has a set of triplets, seventh-graders Sebastian, Justin and Ethan Funk. As Sebastian said, "I'm an open guy, not as nervous, and I'm more of a people person. My brother Justin is shier and Ethan is really nice to talk to. We have a good relationship. Sometimes we get in stupid arguments, but we are good most of the time and love each other."

As they grow older, Revere's twins reminisce about the past. Eighth-grader Dillon Varnado said, "A happy memory I had with my twin was when we went to Knott's Berry Farm and rode the Supreme Scream. She saw me make an unforgettable face and we laughed to the point where we were almost crying and gasping for air."

Dillon's sister, Saniah, shares, "We used to sing together and have dance parties in our room. I miss those good old days."

Slater Copen has another story about his twinship. "When we were together in a pre-K classroom all the kids stopped listening to the teachers and started listening to us. So the teachers split us up and put us in separate rooms." But even that move wasn't enough to keep the boys apart. "Eventually, we found this gap in the wall that was big enough to fit paper," said Slater, "so we'd write notes and exchange them through the wall."

That was just another case of double the trouble, twice the fun.



Ella (left) and Lili Gilyard



Hutchens and Maslowe Larson

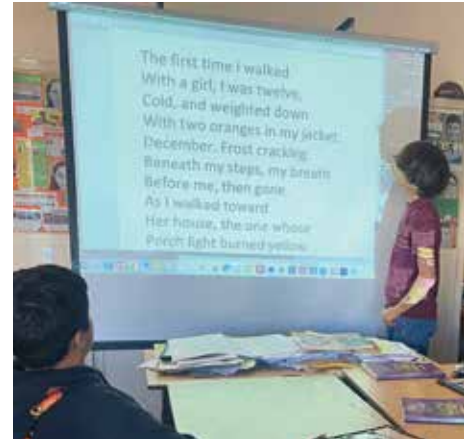


Roqia (left) and Rashida Ismael





Yanice, Denssel, Taj and Munir eat lunch and chat during the winter break acceleration days.



Jack Balatbat reads a Gary Soto poem in E5.

Time to Accelerate!

LAUSD students get two extra days of learning for enrichment and to catch up on their studies.

By WILLA LIBAW

Before winter break many students had questions about acceleration days, which happened on December 19 and 20 (though there will be two more days on April 3 and 4). ‘What were they?’ and ‘Do we have to go?’

Acceleration days are essentially a chance for students to catch up on missing work in school with teachers. They are completely optional but can be useful for students who need to catch up on school work or need the help of a teacher. For students who are not missing work and don’t need to improve their grades there was extra enrichment activities. The acceleration days start and end at the same time as regular school days.

Most teachers allowed students to work independently on missing work but others cre-

ated material just for acceleration days.

Mr. Wechsler, a seventh-grade English, journalism and yearbook teacher, had students perform a sensory exercise where they could smell and taste a marshmallow, then described it and write about an experience it reminded them of. “One of my students from Emerson wrote a beautiful narrative,” said Mr. Wechsler. “She wrote about the time she remembered her mom making s’mores over their gas stove. She had a great story to tell and I was so impressed.” His class also read a Gary Soto poem and did a Kahoot about it.

Mr. Hamanishi was also at school for both acceleration days. “On the first day most students did work from their math teachers on IXL,” he reported. “Because there were a lot of my regular students in my class, they worked on their history mystery



Mr. Hamanishi helps his seventh-graders get a head start with their Marco Polo slideshows.

labs on Marco Polo on the second day.”

The seventh-grade history teacher added, “I thought the acceleration days were okay, but I was expecting students from Emerson but none of them showed up for my class. Also, we didn’t get any information about them or how they were taught.”

Mr. Hamanishi would also like to give a shoutout to Ms. Stewart for helping him figure out IXL for his students.

Because there were only 9-10 students per classroom, students were able to get more one-on-one time with teachers. “Because there are fewer people in each class there are less distractions and more time to interact with the teacher,” said eighth-grader Jack Balatbat.

“I think middle schoolers should sign up for acceleration days in the spring because they can improve their grades and finish overdue assignments,” agreed eighth grader Daniel Martinez.

Mrs. Butler, who helped coordinate and organize acceleration day schedules, said, “I would say it ran smoothly for the most part. I was going in with a lot of questions but everything ended up working out.” She estimated that there were sixty to seventy students in total who participated.



Daniel, Caleb, Benicio, Charlie, Parsa, Jack, Mako and Justin join together for a group pic.

About a month after Russia invaded my country, I had no plans to leave Ukraine. I was not ready when my father told my mom and me that we were headed to his sister's apartment in Spain. I understood that it would be safer, but I wanted to stay in my village at least until May. I really liked being there.

As I rode with mom and dad to take stuff from home and go to the railway station, I saw a river, bridge and the rest of the city one last time. There were a lot of people at the station who were also moving. Dad managed to take a spot in a long queue. We finally got on the train to Lviv and then used a bus going to Krakovets in Poland in the refugee center where we stayed for two days. Volunteers helped everyone and were kind. Then we spent the whole night driving through Poland and then to Germany. The trip was long, and in the morning when I woke up we were already at the France's border and drove up to Spain. The mountains, red clay instead of earth, different buildings, and plants all let me know that I was in a completely new country.

By March 29, we covered this long journey. People were waiting near the bus stop, and among them were my aunt and uncle. We had not seen each other for 9 years, and I was glad to see them. Then we drove home together, and I met my cousin and my uncle's mother. Valencia is a bustling city where people are cheerful and sociable. So it took me a while to get used to the environment. I was still studying on Zoom and Google Classroom from Ukrainian school and after a bit I went to the Spanish school too.

When I was in the office with my aunt, I asked if there was anyone who understands Russian or Ukrainian at the school. I could only speak a little English. Then a boy who spoke Ukrainian came to me. He helped me a lot. The first lesson we had was crafts and I sat next to him and his friends. At first we did not communicate much, and I tried to understand the topic of the lesson and what we will do. I still remember how our class was then treated to marshmallows. At the end of the lesson, quite a lot of classmates approached me. We communicated through a translator.

I loved my new class and teachers. When I had lunch at school, I got to know three girls, and we are friends to this day. We got along well with my classmates, trying to speak English and Spanish.

I also met several people who were also from Ukraine and were there for the same reason as we were. I was very pleased to be with people who understood me and we could communicate without problems. Mostly in Spain, I did distance learning, which took me a lot of time and was a lot of pressure, because I was trying to understand the Spanish. It was hard to concentrate on a lot of things.

What can I say about my experience in Spain? In two months, I saw a lot of beautiful and new things for myself. Yet my heart was heavy and I could cry and miss Ukraine and everything that happened there. Before leaving Ukraine, I did not feel sad, because I thought that I would return and the war would end quickly, but I was very mistaken and did not know what awaited me. It was hard for my mother and me to leave my home for the second time much farther into an unknown place.

What was I thinking when I was there? Basically, comments about the war from TV news and ordinary people sometimes offended me and I began to think about it. I also really missed my family, my cats, friends and moments there. I also had positive thoughts. I loved to enjoy the sky and the view of the street, the sea and nature. Also I was thinking of ideas to make some animations with plot and draw characters. It's another thing that makes me happy. I also loved to invent different stories and adventures. It all keeps me off from bad thoughts.

But here at the end of May, my mother's sister invited us to America. She has been there for a long time and was ready to help us along with my uncle. I was very surprised, because there could be success. I had not seen my aunt since I was 4 years old, and I wanted to meet her again. Inspired by beautiful buildings, interesting people, and a place where a lot of celebrities and other famous people, I agreed to fly there.

So on June 10, we packed our things and at 3 a.m. my aunt and uncle helped us get to the airport. We flew to Frankfurt in Germany, so that later we could fly to Los Angeles. I was really looking forward to the flight. It was very unusual, but I saw the beautiful sky. This beauty is difficult to describe. I also flew over the Alps high and snow-capped mountains

We arrived in Germany and soon flew from Frankfurt to Iceland, Greenland, Canada, and across almost the whole of America. At the airport in Los Angeles after a long check of documents, we left to go to my aunt and uncle's home to meet them. By now it was already dark and chilly, and almost all the buildings were glowing.

When we got to my aunt and uncle's place, we were very happy to see each other.

With their help, we learned something new every day and visited different places in the city. But I began to miss home even more. I often remember all the wonderful people that I met and realize I probably will never see them again. My best friend Sofia is one of those I really miss. Even before leaving Ukraine, I moved to another street much farther from where she lived, and our communication gradually stopped. We once had a very good friendship, and we often came to visit each other and to walk together. She, like other valuable people to me, gave me a lot of memories.

Last summer I visited many places, studied English and prepared for school. I went for an orientation week at Revere. I was very interested in what an American school looks like, because I only saw it in movies. I felt joy and interest in a new, completely different school compared to the Ukrainian and Spanish schools. At the same time, I thought that it would be difficult and I would not be able to find anybody with whom I could talk. I fortunately found some friends who speak the same language as me and who moved here recently. I also have friends who speak English. I met a good friend named Diana, who is also from Ukraine. We always have a lot of things to talk about.

By October, I was already used to studying at Revere. First, I had to go in seventh grade because I would not be able to pass eighth grade in the U.S. After some time I discussed with my uncle, aunt and mom about moving to eighth

grade. I was so happy when it happened. I didn't even expect that I would study well in a foreign school. Eighth grade is much harder, but after time I got used to it. Between the three schools, I like studying in America the most. Here the children are friendly and the teachers are kind. It was the same in Spain, but it was very difficult for me to understand Spanish. At the Ukrainian school, I didn't have very good relations with my classmates. I still miss Ukraine, but I now have dreams for my future job related to art and will try to do what I like.

I want to thank my family and Revere teachers for their help! *Slava Ukraini!*

MY STORY

Third in a Series



Eighth-grader Daria Sierova shares more details about her long journey from Ukraine to America.



Revere's Robotics Team Represents

Recently, Revere's three rookie robotics teams have qualified for the VEX IQ Middle School State Championship. The teams were awarded with trophies for Design, Teamwork, and Excellence at Fairfax High School. The competition was fierce. "One student, from Mark Twain Middle, scared us a lot because his robots had a lot of things we didn't understand," said sixth-grader Slater Cohen. But then Slater found out they would be competing in a team with Twain, so some of the pressure was off. Copen's team came in 11th place, working very hard on their robots. Another tournament Slater and his team went to was in the valley. "Usually we are used to teams that get around 100 points, but these schools were averaging a 230 in their score," Slater states. "We were really scared and very worried about our rates



Team members come together for a practice run. —Brooks Franco

of winning." Both teams managed to get in 2nd and 3rd place, entering the championship, a great job by the creative team of engineers at Revere. Slater says he loves robotics "because it's all a mystery. The adults don't tell us what to do. We have to figure it out."



A Surprise Blast from the Past

Mr. Hyman invited his mother-in-law, Anita Hoffman, to come to his class and talk to them about her experiences growing up in Bucharest, the capital of Romania during World War II. Little did she know that her son-in-law was surprising her with an old friend. Flashback to 13 years ago, Mr. Hyman had brought Anita to come and speak to his class before, when one of his students began speaking Romanian with his mother-in-law. Coincidentally her name was also Anita and she was also Romanian. Fast forward back to present day, Mr. Hyman invited Anita Hoffman to visit again and talk to his new class about her experiences. There was a knock at the door and Mr. Hyman opened it to reveal his old student Anita Grigore who is now 23 years old. Mr. Hyman says, "She reminded his mother-in-law of who she is and they instantly hugged each other." They then told the class the story of how they first became friends. —Avery Kawejsza

Principal Runs for Bumble & Friends

Mr. Iannucci has a doggone good event coming up that is about to earn him another round of ap-paws. "Once again, this March I will be running in the Los Angeles Marathons Charity Challenge to raise money for Angel City Pit Bulls," Revere's principal announced.

Angel City Pit Bulls started as a group of like-minded pit bull fans doing independent rescue work and has grown into a collaborative and supportive community, dedicated to being a resource for the pit bulls of L.A., the "City of Angels."

Mr. Iannucci and other dog lovers will be running a partial marathon on Mar. 18 and 19. "This year will be my fifth year running to support the great work Angel City Pit Bulls does by giving these dogs a second chance in life, like our current foster dog Bumbleleion. Bumble came to us in very poor shape, suffering from a malady of health is-

suues. Today I am happy to say thanks to the care of ACPB, Bumble is a happy guy. All he wants to do is sleep in the sun and have his head scratched. Remember no donation is too small."

As of Feb. 3, over \$2,300 has been raised on Mr. Iannucci's fundraising page, thanks to generous donors, including a number of Revere teachers and parents. In 2023, Team ACPB's goal is to raise \$150,000 for the Angel City Pit Bulls. Anyone can help by donating to Mr. Iannucci's fundraising page seen below.

—Charlotte Robley



<https://donate.angelcitypits.org/fundraiser/4259232>



From left, Mika Khani, Quinn Jones, Mila Humby and Audrey Grufts.

Bouncing Battle Brings Out the Best

Ms. Walker and Ms. Chen hosted a fiery jump rope contest that took place near the handball courts at lunch. Jumpers who dropped their ropes were eliminated. In addition to regular jump roping, the challenges included two people with one rope jumping, pretzel jumping and much more. Mila and Audrey won the difficult challenge of having two people jump with one rope. Belinda Ponciano Getella took first place for pretzel jumping. Mika Khani was the overall best with an amazing 700 consecutive jumps. Record breakers won gift cards for having the most jumps in a category. Good thing the winners didn't "skip" the competition. —Jack Dorfman



Belinda Ponciano Getella has herself twisted up as a pretzel on her way to victory.

Has Elon Musk Lost His Elon Touch?

By KIANA SARAF

Due to one of the most risky and controversial investments of his career— the buying and revamp of Twitter—Elon Musk has recently gone down in the ranks of the world’s richest people.

Originally intended as a platform for anyone needing an outlet for the opinions bubbling in their head— hence the symbolism of a tweeting bird—Twitter has settled in its position as a major social media platform. After investing in the company’s shares for years, Musk finally got spurred to a full purchase by the continuous occurrence of what is seen by some as “unfair content censorship.”

As in the guidelines of almost every social media’s initial terms of agreement, Twitter states that users must follow a code of conduct to keep information appropriate and credible for viewers. While this system could already be fundamentally seen as flawed, it is in the light of recent events that people are now speaking out about the abuse of this policy by its very enforcers. The banning of conservatives’ accounts like Donald Trump’s has struck a chord with right wing supporters, and even civil rights activists, as a violation of the First Amendment’s “freedom of speech.” While many claims of the Republican party may be seen as invalid or even outrageous to some, Musk is justifiably bothered by Twitter’s previous use of the company’s own rules for a political advantage. Some believe that “cancel culture” may be a strategy to limit the conservative voice in current day media, so our new and future generations can grow up with a primarily liberal environment. If such plans continue, we may see the rise of a purely single-minded America.

In the aftermath of Musk’s purchase, a series of documents called the ‘Twitter Files’ have been released on Musk’s social media accounts, in which he releases posts from the past that had recently been “content blocked.” These files are still being released to this day. Musk, though, is being seen by many as the villain. Besides arguing against his supposed freedom of speech, they disapprove of his Twitter reconstruction methods. He has recently fired 4,000 employees, including some prime figures of Twitter; without notice. While the methods of his revamp may be disrespectful to his previous workers, I still believe that his initial intentions were pure.

In my, and many others’ opinion, freedom of speech should be granted to all. While opinions and predictions in general may be labeled by non-supporters as ‘incorrect,’ the whole purpose of apps like Twitter is to allow a mass spread of information. In fact, I believe that the restriction of individual ideas is a breach in users’ rights. A user should be exposed to as many opinions as possible; they can use their judgment to decide if something is true or untrue.

While content appropriation should stay on as a precaution to child exposure to “adult” posts, there is an explicit difference between protection and constriction. If people say something offensive? They should be given the right to face the response of the public of whatever they put out with their own consent. Even cancel-culture, a byproduct of what some would call an overly ‘woke’ generation, could do good in retribution for hurtful words. Even if the original intentions of user guidelines were fine themselves, a change is required in moving forward. Elon Musk should be congratulated, not condemned, for leading the way.

TALKING HEADS

Do you think it is okay for middle schoolers to date?

Most Patriots asked this question were in favor of dating by students with others in the 11-14 year age range.

“I think middle schoolers can date because at this age, you know enough from what’s right and what’s wrong. Honestly, I think it is okay to date at any age because as you grow older, you could get more experience and will know what’s right for later on in life.” —Atticus McElwee, Grade 7



“I think it depends because some people are more mature than others. It’s a personal choice whether or not you want to date in middle school and I think it’s up to each person what they feel okay with.” — Beatrice Hudson, Grade 8

“I think it is okay for middle schoolers to start dating because it will help us in the future. We will be able to know the ways to act, and we could get practice at a young age and be ready for the future.” —Griffin Cosman, Grade 7



“If you just want to be in a relationship for the attention but have no feelings for the other person, then don’t. Also, your type can change any time so be careful deciding whom to go out with. I used to like blonds but now I’m like ‘Ewww, blonds!’” —Maddie Mirzadeh, Grade 8

“I think dating is okay because they are gaining maturity as they grow. Middle schoolers are pretty mature enough to know the right decisions. Plus you don’t want to grow old single. Who knows if your middle school relationship lasts forever?” —Chelsea Sargent, Grade 8



“At a young age, you will be able to get practice for whoever you may end up later with in life. Also, if you end up staying with someone for a long time, you could have a nice future together. Dating at a young age lets you have experience for when you find the right relationship.” —Constantine Gureghian, Grade 7

“I think it’s okay for middle school kids to start dating and figure out who they match well with, which is an important skill to have in life! Dating gives you a chance to figure out who you are as a person as relationships offer lots of experience with making decisions, resolving issues, and communication.” — Mr. Contreras, History



Interviews and layout by Bella Madrideo

Entertainment



Collage:
Beckett
Dreyfus

Music Makers Make Things Merry

Holiday concerts spread cheer throughout Revere with their annual series of performances.

By **CHARLOTTE ROBLEY**

All fall semester long choir, orchestra and band students worked hard to put together a spectacular winter-themed performance, and finally they got to show it off! On Monday, Dec. 12 students gathered in the auditorium to watch the show. The show featured many classic holiday songs, like “Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel” by the Revere Singers, and “All I Want for Christmas Is You” by Show Choir. A couple band songs were “Seven Nation Army,” performed by a combined group of

intro and senior players, and the Jazz band played “Frankenstein.” The chamber orchestra performed “Sleigh Ride,” and both chamber orchestra and advanced orchestra played “Sounds of the Season.”

This spectacular concert ended with a show-stopping finale of “Counting Stars” by OneRepublic performed by all three groups left the audience in awe. “I think it went well,” said Dr. Tautkus. “The students rise to the occasion every time they have a performance.”

Throughout the rest of the week, the mu-

sicians and singers also put on separate after school performances for parents, teachers and friends. On Dec. 13 the choir concert performed, the 14th was the orchestra concert, and the 15th was the band concert.

“Thank you for sharing this special evening with us,” Ms. Cronin, the choir instructor, said at the end of the after school concert. “You’ve been a wonderful audience and I thank you and our administration for your continued support of the excellence in the music that we strive for here at Paul Revere.”

It's the Rom Dot Com

The *Town Crier* critics review popular romantic comedies, also known as rom-coms. Layout by NOAH TROST and AVERY KAWEJSZA



The movie **“Valentine’s Day”** follows the lives of different couples through a holiday of ups and downs in their relationships. The characters’ stories are all interconnected and together they experience first dates, highschool crushes, and commitments. However, it also shows heartbreak. The acting is amazing and I wish the movie didn’t have to end. With an award-winning cast like Julia Roberts, Bradley Cooper, Anne Hathaway and more, the movie is definitely a rom-com done well. Taylor Swift also made an appearance in this film and I was very surprised by her acting skills. Throughout the film the characters and situations they get themselves into are hilarious, so it guarantees you will get a good laugh. —Avery Kawejsza

I really enjoyed **“My Best Friend’s Wedding”** because of Julia Roberts’ phenomenal acting. The actors didn’t fail to make the movie realistic by going off script and actually incorporating emotions into heartfelt scenes. A New York City food critic Julian Potter (Julia Roberts), 27, got a call from her longtime friend, Michael O’Neal (Dermot Mulroney). In college, they decided that they would marry each other if neither of them were married by the age of 28. Three weeks before Julian Potters’ 28th birthday, Michael announced his engagement to a girl named Kimmy Wallace (Cameron Diaz) and told her that he was getting married in four days. She realizes that she is in love with Michael, and heads to Chicago, with an intent on sabotaging his wedding. —Noah Trost

MY BEST FRIEND'S *wedding*



As an Adam Sandler fan I loved watching **“50 First Dates”** and it is definitely one of his better films. Also, co-starring Drew Barrymore, the two had great chemistry on screen. The plot follows the two characters meeting in Hawaii and falling in love within one day, but Lucy (Drew Barrymore) has short-term memory loss and does not remember anything that happened before she woke up. Henry (Adam Sandler) doesn’t find this out until later in the movie and is challenged to make her remember him and keep their relationship alive. The humor is truly original and the movie has a surprising emotional grasp over you. This rom-com is definitely at the top on my list of favorites. —Avery Kawejsza

Here, we see Steve Carell, Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling in an unexpectedly hilarious movie. The amount of love triangles and funny arguments make up why this is one of my favorite movies. In **“Crazy, Stupid, Love”** Cal Weaver (Steve Carell) is living the American dream; good job, a beautiful house, great children and a beautiful wife. This all unravels after a struggle in his marriage causes a divorce. We get to live through multiple people’s unexpected lives and how most of their romance is connected to other people they know. The acting was very serious, but they were able to incorporate comedy very well. All in all the movie was well accomplished and I always enjoy watching it. —Noah Trost



Astrid Villatoro

Why I Hate The Holiday Of Love



Sometimes in my little black heart I will remember the time in elementary school when I was ten. I had begged my mom to let me use my allowance. We went to the dollar store, and everything ‘Valentine’s Day’ edition was in the cart. I showed up to school, basket in hand full of snacks. I went up to the once-very special guy and asked if he could be my Valentine. He took the basket and left me standing there with the words, “I already have a Valentine, thanks anyways.”

It’s no surprise, then, that the day I despise the most is Feb. 14. Couples walking around, people with gifts in their hands, smiling happily, on the day of love. If there’s anything I hate more than math homework, it has to be Valentine’s Day and the happiness that comes with it. I started asking around Revere to see what other dark souls agree with me. Jack Dorfman came up to me and said, “Valentine’s Day sucks. It’s a way for companies to make money. You should celebrate your loved one every day, not just one day a year.” I think he’s absolutely right. Companies are scammers.

On my investigation to see how many other cupid haters there are, I discovered that the majority of Revere loves Valentine’s Day. They love walking around with significant others holding hands, giving their friends gifts and being happy. I could picture this disgusting sight occurring right before my eyes. I will admit that the only perk of a Valentine’s Day loving world is the free candy. It’s like Halloween but filled with disgusting love instead of lovely chaos. Now that we’re getting older the candy becomes less important and more about being with the people you love. Disgusting. For me it’s all about candy. Most of the time on the night of the 14th I’ll take out the trash and look in the huge garbage bins to see if I could find flower bouquets, unopened chocolates and candies.

It’s funny driving around seeing people crying on the streets because they got rejected. This year I came to terms with the fact that even if you get something from someone you don’t like, say a heartfelt thank you and appreciate it. Don’t just throw it away.

Lifestyle

8 Revere students each try and rate a cookies and cream flavored treat.



Crazy for COOKIES and CREAM

By JOSIE VAN WAGENEN

“Cookies and Cream” is one of the most popular flavors seen in products lately. After being invented in 1979, cookies and cream (or creme) has now reached classic flavor status. So *The Town Crier* assembled a group of eight taste testers to evaluate some samples that can be found on local store shelves.

The first product evaluated was the Cookies and Cream Pop Tarts. Eighth-grader Evan Dardashti rates this treat a 6.5/10. He says it was “very sweet and had an artificial taste.”

The Cookies & Cream Chex Mix was an unliked item. Seventh-grader Dylan Moran rated this a 2/10. “There was barely any taste and it tasted like rice. It wasn’t sweet.”

The Cookies and Cream Hershey’s Popcorn had more mixed reaction. Seventh-grader Maslowe Larson said, “The cream tasted

horrible, and the texture of it mixed with the popcorn was weird in my mouth.” She rated it a 4/10.

Since Cookies and Cream Ice Cream is a pretty common and liked flavor, it was a favorite. Seventh-grader Zelda Browne rated it an 8/10. “It had a tasty Oreo crumble and it was super creamy,” she stated. “But it didn’t taste like cookies and cream enough.”

The Starbucks Cookies and Cream Frappuccino was one of the best tasting items.



Seventh-grader Sophie Govindraj says, “The cream tasted very yummy, and it had a tasty Oreo touch. It tasted too much like vanilla.” She rated it an 8/10.

The Cookies & Creme Twix was in the middle with ratings. Eighth-grader Payton Song rated it a 6/10. “It just tasted like a normal Twix but it was crunchy and tasted like caramel.”

The Cookies and Cream Hershey’s bar was a major letdown. Eighth-grader Donovan Lavender gave it a rating of 2/10. “It tasted like mint and not cookies and cream at all,” he reported.

Last and definitely most interesting was the Cookies ‘n’ Creme Rice Krispy Treat. Sixth-grader Ava Romero says, “It tastes a lot like cookies and cream but it also tastes like how a Bath and Body Works candle would taste like.” She rated it an 8/10.



Saffi stands in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.



Rashida and Roqea traveled to Turkey and visited the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque.



Ethan snowboards in Mammoth.



Helena snorkels in Maui.

Winter Wanderings

Patriots traveled far and near over the holiday break.

Layout by SOPHIA HARELIK



Charlotte rides Pebbles in Arizona.



Josie brought her heart to San Francisco.



Mr. Iannucci stayed close to home in Los Angeles for his baby nephew's christening.



Ayla visited Switzerland.



Arcei traveled to Texas for her family reunion.



Sasha played soccer in the Vegas Cup and won.



Emma and Alex saw the Pantheon in Europe with their family.

Revere ♥ Valentine's Day!

Collage: Beckett Dreyfus



Ms. Monica adds her lovely touch to the front office.

Eli Benyamini points out the grams.

Isabel Nafeh

Ms. Kollatz

Kiana Saraf

Charlotte Robley

Owen Ghaffari

Ms. Stewart's Blue

Ms. Palcan

Tiffany Jensen

Olivia Lewis

Charley Lesser

Josie Van Wagenen

DEAR PARSA

Eighth-grader Parsa Montazeri replies to some lovely students' messages.



Dear Parsa,

I want to buy my friend a Valentine's Day gift, but I don't have any money. What should I give them?

Sincerely, Broke

Dear Broke,

I know it sounds corny, but when it comes to your close friends and family it's usually the thought that counts. Maybe you can make them a really nice and well-decorated heart shaped card, listing the reasons why you like them. It really is the thought that counts. —Parsa

Dear Parsa,

I baked a beautifully-decorated orange cake and when I gave it to a girl I like, she threw it in my face. What should I get her for Valentine's Day?

From, Caked Companion

Dear Caked Companion,

Now I know this might be hard to hear, but if the girl you like really threw a cake at your face, they might not be worth your time. I mean, she threw a cake at your FACE!? I don't think you should give her anything for Valentine's. I think you should not talk to her again and get over her. She's not worth it if she's treating you badly.

—Parsa

Dear Parsa,

I have started dating, but my other friends are not ready to date. It is starting to seem that they are excluding me from our friend group for this difference. I want to keep dating, but also stay close with my friends. What should I do?

From, Dating Without Friends

Dear Dating Without Friends,

You should find time to hang out with your friends and stay close to them like always, but also find time to hang out with your girl/boyfriend. Balance is key. But make sure never to overlap them too much. If you're hanging out with your friends, give all your attention to them. And when you're with your girl/boyfriend, don't think about anyone but her/him. —Parsa

Bring your questions for Parsa to E-5.



Soccer fans in E-5 celebrate (or mourn) as Argentina beats the Netherlands in the World Cup quarter-finals.



Sasha Amiri holds up his championship trophy.

THE RISE OF SOCCER

The popularity of soccer has been going up for a lot of different Patriots throughout Paul Revere.

By SOREN COHEN

Soccer has been rapidly rising in popularity among Patriots in recent times, both in viewing and playing. A bunch of Patriots now play soccer competitively, with other Patriots even traveling to the World Cup last fall.

The FIFA World Cup is regarded as the ultimate contest of soccer. This was also the very first World Cup to occur in the fall, since this time of year is warmer in Qatar than in the

summer, when the World Cup is held usually. At least three Patriots were able to travel to Qatar, and witness 32 countries playing soccer for the ultimate glory.

Eighth-grader Andrew Hom, along with Jonathan, his seventh-grade brother, and third-grader Wesley went to all of the U.S.A. group stage games to support for his home country. Andrew comments, "I enjoyed the experience so much. It was exhilarating when U.S.A. won against Iran." His favorite food

from the event were the kabobs, which contained a mix of chicken and beef. Andrew was even featured in a Fox Sports commercial during the U.S.A. versus England game in the group stage.

Sofia Yashouafar also flew to Qatar to attend two high-profile matches: Iran's victory over Wales and Portugal's victory over Ghana. "We got great seats right behind the goal," said the seventh-grader. "It was great to see Ronaldo in his final World Cup."

Back in America, eighth-grader Beckett Dreyfus plays as a right back for Santa Monica Surf, which is a club team that plays all over the Los Angeles area. "I enjoy tournaments where I get to travel and stay at different hotels with my teammates," Beckett says. "Last year, my team won every single game in our league, which was great because we were in the middle of the teams the prior season, and to improve felt amazing." Beckett also plays for the Revere boys varsity soccer team.

Another soccer-loving Patriot is seventh-grader Sasha Amiri. He plays soccer all the time, and he was able to play in the North-

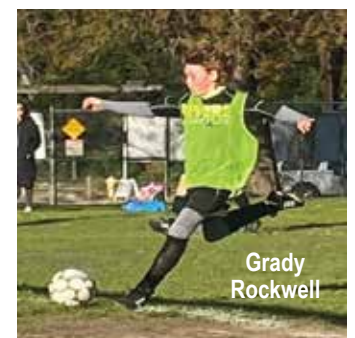
ern Ireland Championships last summer, where his team won the tournament. Also, Sasha plays for the Santa Monica Surf for additional conditioning and training, and the boys' varsity team at Revere. Over winter break, he played in the Vegas Cup and won (*see his other pic on page 11*).



Andrew Hom and his family proudly root for the USA at the World Cup. Photo: Fox Sports



Lauren Lam



Grady Rockwell

STUDENT SPORTS STARS

Paul Revere is known for challenging its students not only mentally but physically. However, some students are determined to take it to the next level by participating in extra-curricular activities.

Layout by **JONAH HOURIANI**



Zelda Browne loves to dance and perform with a passion. From the small age of 2, she was hoping to be in the history books. "Now I just dance for fun," Zelda states. She was helped by her sister

with her dancing early on, so it wasn't so hard. "My older sister inspired me to dance because I looked up to her and thought she was a really good dancer," the seventh-grader explains. While trying to practice, however, she had a few struggles. "Sometimes it's difficult to remember multiple dance routines but once you've been doing it for a long time it gets easier." Dancing for so long, Zelda has gone to many places to perform. This includes Disneyland, where she will continue to perform a dance routine every year. These performances are the high point of her dance year. When going to conventions, she is a competitive dancer against other studios. "I plan to keep dancing in high school, but be finished after college," she says.

—Brooks Franco



Zelda dances with her troupe at Pauley Pavilion.



Sam Schwartz is a volleyball star who plays for PAC6 volleyball team, on the 14u team. He plays as an outside hitter who averages ten to fifteen points per game, much more than other players on his team.

He also plays in a league with three of the top ten teams in the nation and has already scored multiple points against one of them. Sam Schwartz tries to make a difference on his volleyball team by coaching them and helping them out. When his team lost a set, he helped them push through mentally and win the second set coming through. A star is the least you could call Sam Schwartz.

—Jonah Houriani



Sam sets his sights on a powerful serve.



August throws a perfect pitch on the mound.

August Cohn is a pitching prodigy who plays for the Legacy Baseball Group 13u Black, which is widely known as an elite baseball team. He knows how to bring the ball to the game in baseball by giving the game his all, even when others have already given up, and he never loses his energy and charisma in a game even if the game seems lost. The most home runs he has hit in a game is two and they were amazingly back to back. He plays third base, pitcher and batter. He has an amazing and accurate pitch with excellent form as well, and has had two immaculate innings in a row. The highest throw speed he has so far is seventy two miles per hour and he usually averages seventy miles per hour. He has a strong swing, but unfortunately in his league the stats of swinging speed is not recorded. He is a great player overall with skills all-round and has also come very close to winning championships by placing second in some tournaments. With a little bit more help, August and his team can win.



—Jonah Houriani

McKenzie Hall is a professional dancer in the making. The sixth-grader has been dancing for eight years and currently she is in the dance studio Just Dance Company, where she dances almost every day. Although she is one of the youngest dancers in the entire studio, McKenzie is second-best. Recently she has been a part of a California state dance competition in which she won third place out of one-hundred people. McKenzie dances in the styles of hip-hop, lyrical, cultural dances, ballet, jazz and tap, yet her favorite is contemporary solo. Sometimes she expresses happy or bad emotions through dancing, a release for her. McKenzie has goals of pursuing dance as a career, maybe even in college.



—Jack Dorfman



McKenzie takes a bold stance for the judges.

Fun Zone

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES Can you find the all 8 of the changes in the two pictures below? Photoshopping: Mason Sugimoto



From left, Skylar, Noah, Gabriella, Rex, Maslowe, Gavin, Matyas and Donovan line up with their props to celebrate the upcoming Valentine's holiday.



IMAGINE IF . . . Yearbook artists use their Photoshop skills to create fantasies involving life on and off the Paul Revere campus.



. . . last month's rains continued. Ella Temer



. . . Levi met the GOAT at United Center. Levi Haloosim



. . . Griffin fought Terry Silver in a dojo. Griffin Cosman



. . . the east driveway got snow. Zoey Morris

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES: 1. Gavin's sweatshirt has no logo. 2. Noah's sign is "Sweet Heart" not "Sweet Heart". 3. Matyas' heart ears are pink not red. 4. Rex is wearing sunglasses instead of glasses. 5. The "O"s in OXOX are red rather than white. 6. Rex's Chocolate box has no logo. 7. Donovan's left sleeve is pink not navy blue. 8. Third girl from left's "Love" is white



Rod and Luke fight for the puck.



Teachers jot down complimentary words about their colleagues.

AROUND REVERE
By BECKETT DREYFUS



Riley gives Noah a flyer for Valentine's Day Grams.



Ava shows off her MLK Day dream.



Lior shows off his samurai helmet in E-4.



Eli, Zach and Oliver take notes as they work on their science project.



Students rush to the BSU sale at lunch to get their hands on chocolate bars.