

## TWINS

### Double the fun, or double the challenge?

BY KAYLA BAKER

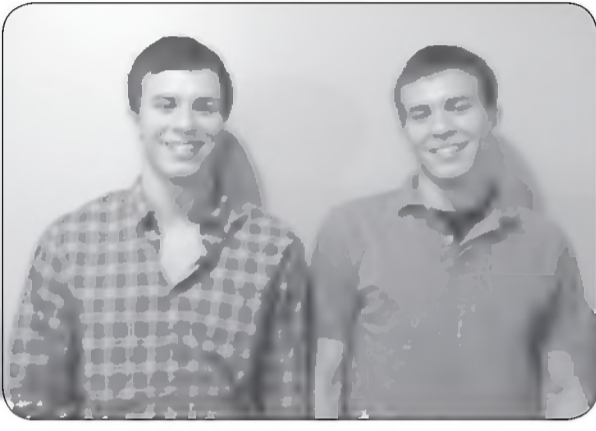
Ever thought about what it must be like to look at someone and see yourself as if you were looking in a mirror? Well, just like many others here at Roxboro Community School (RCS), I have a twin, and sometimes it's not all fun and games like some people think it is. I mean, think about it; you grow up in the same household, with the same face (if you're identical), you wear the same clothes, and have the same friends and, to

top it off, everybody calls you "twin" because they don't know which you are. So are twins double the fun, or double the challenge? There is no doubt that going through life can be tough on twins, dealing with issues such as peer pressure and the need to be seen as an individual yet also as a twin. Twin brother Paris Ahrens said, "I don't dislike my sibling, but I don't like being a twin."

Nevertheless, there are several distinct and important advantages to being a twin.

My twin sister Kourtney said, "Being a twin has its advantages and disadvantages; you get tired of people asking if you are twins or getting you two mixed up, but you never get bored." Many people have even joked that if you're going to be a teenager/pre-teen, it's best to do it with another person by your side. For example, as a teenager or pre-teen, would you ever go to the mall alone? No way. You wouldn't do it. You'd call every friend you had to see if one would go with you. With multiples, new and different social scenarios aren't nearly as frightening since we're often in it together. The benefit and comfort of two, whether hanging out at a friend's house or at the Friday night football game, sounds better than being a singleton having to do this alone any day. On the other hand, many teens and pre-teens would prefer to hang out with their own individual friends versus their twin, while others count their twin as a best friend. I know I do.

Many people think of twins as double the trouble, but I believe the two of us are double blessings; and although we both get on each other's nerves, life without her would be incomplete. Every teen needs someone to talk to, to disclose secrets to, both big and small. When you're a twin developing with a same-age sibling, you have someone who takes you seriously, or in some cases not so seriously, and understands what you're going through. While singletons turn to a close friend for this support, most twins have that special relationship already built in. The strength of the twin bond helps to ease and relieve many teenage growing pains. This one positive factor makes us forget all the other special challenges of being a twin. Many twins are great friends and take gratification in being in each other's company. Our pool of friends is usually larger than that of singletons, as we sometimes share many acquaintances. Perhaps it's this strength of companionship that draws others to us. In fact, studies reveal that being a preteen twin or teenage twin actually boosts a twin's popularity. I'd like to close with the statement that twins surpass singletons; that is a completely biased opinion - I love my twin sister.



Jordan and Josh Fields



Mackenzie and Scotty Bell



Kayla and Kourtney Baker



Paris and Sage Ahrens



TeNisha and TeShon Clayton



Roxboro Community School Student Council

## Student council with a twist

BY HARRISON JONES

Like most other schools, Roxboro Community School (RCS) has a student council, but unlike most other schools, the RCS Student Council is not based on direct elections. Instead, representatives are chosen through nominations made by the student body and staff members. All nominations must be approved by a staff member. RCS also has co-presidents Madeline Phillips and Jordan Capps heading the student council. This system is in stark contrast to most schools that hold elections for each position.

Many might wonder why the student council's appointment process at RCS is so different from other schools. Don Hill, the student council advisor, and former RCS principal Walter Finnigan felt that student council was becoming a popularity contest with less than stellar participation. Hill developed a plan that he felt would get those who truly

wanted to serve in the student council involved. This plan was based on nominations of students. This process allows the students to decide the officers, as long as a teacher will authorize the nomination. Those interested in participating can also nominate themselves through a teacher. Hill said since this plan was implemented this year participation in student council has tripled.

"The bigger the better," said Hill, who feels that with more participation the positive effect of the student council will be even greater.

Student council members took time out of their summer vacation this year to participate in a student council workshop at Mars Hill. Three non-presidential members went with Hill to the workshop. Due to their participation in the workshop, these students filled the three spots of treasurer, secretary and vice president.

The most puzzling part

is, "Why are there two presidents?"

Both presidents were nominated for the position at the end of the previous school year. Hill and Finnigan decided that the nominees would make a plan over the summer outlining what they would do as student council president. During the summer, the nominees presented their plans to Finnigan and Hill, who were impressed by each plan's ambition and detail. After seeing both plans, it was clear to Finnigan and Hill that the only solution was to have a dual presidency.

The goal of the student council is to have a junior as acting president every year so that person could be an advisor the next year, a plan that originated with the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO).

Mackenzie Boston, a current sophomore, will be the president for the 2012-13 year, and then will act as an advisor to the next president.



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## RCS rings in the holidays

BY HARRISON JONES AND KAYLA BAKER

The Roxboro Community School (RCS) Holiday Arts Show single showing on Dec. 2 showcased the school's dance, band and theater classes, and chorus club.

All members participated in the production, which counted as their mid-term grade. The participants had been working on the production for the last month in their individual classes.

The dances, songs, and play they worked on individually were combined for the very first time on Thursday, finally giv-

ing them a chance to work with their fellow performers from other classes.

This production was run completely by RCS students who managed everything from setup and publicity, to lights and sound. Moreover, the play was written by RCS's own Dylan Bonafair, who debuted his first production, *Angel in the Looking Glass*. His inspiration for this script was the World War I story his dad told Dylan when he was five. It has remained his favorite Christmas story.

For many of the students performing in the play portion of the show, it was their first time

on stage. All the students had to go through mock auditions to allow them the real experience. Many of the dancers also had never performed on stage before this experience, where they were able to showcase their talent in six different dances, including tap, a new addition this year.

The band performed traditional Christmas music, utilizing talent from the eighth-through 12th-grades.

Songs performed included *Baby, it's Cold Outside*, *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*, excerpts from the *Nut Cracker*, and *Bell Carol Rock*.