

Oreo game sweetens Rosa Parks students

By Payton Romans and Olivia Lighty

In fifth grade at Rosa Parks Elementary School, Valentine's Day is about smooches and Oreos. Yes, Oreos.

Valentine's Day has a new twist in **Shaun Pennington's** 5th grade class. The day is not centered around roses and chocolate but now includes a game of truth or dare. Oreo is a twisted game of rock, paper, scissors during recess. The winner forces the loser to ask out a person of the winner's choosing.

Each person playing Oreo is considered a wafer, and the person who loses gets "creamed," referring to the cookie's filling.

This game of ask-out or don't-ask-out has swept the 4th and 5th grade.

"It's made for tricking. Someone can be like, 'Hey you want an Oreo?'" is like saying 'Hey you want a boyfriend?'" says **Ayla Hubbard** with a smile surrounded by pink-banded braces.

Some students request their friends help them in their Oreo challenge by asking out the chosen boy or girl for them.

"I'm like, 'No, suck it up Buttercup. Go do it yourself,'" says 10-year-old **Gillian Revard**, crossing her legs, wrapped in leggings scattered with colorful butterflies.

Reagan Graves witnessed the game and describes it as "dumb" and "a trick."

Reagan doesn't need a trivial game of chance to find the man, um, boy of her dreams.

She has been going out with her sweetheart for three days and claims to be in love.

"We hold hands," she said triumphantly.

Reagan is happy with her current relationship, saying she talks to her



(Art by Sam Cook)

sweetie every day, or at least the three days they have been together.

"I don't have his number; we just talk on Instagram."

While some kids are happy with holding hands in the hallways on their bathroom breaks or during recess, other kids have no time for it.

"This is a school, not where you go dating," insists **Cole Peck**. "All you do is read, write, but dating in school is just weird. That's only in middle school and high school, not this school."

Aliyah Kehrt doesn't think Cole needs to be so serious.

"I mean, I guess it's okay right now because it really doesn't mean anything," she says. "It's like 'Oh my gosh I'm dating you,' but then it's like, 'Sorry we're over.'"

Emma Jones agrees, chiming in: "Ooey gooey love goes around like a rocket."

However, not every 5th grader wants a whirlwind romance. Cole says that on Valentine's Day he gets self-conscious.

"I get embarrassed because I'm just scared someone will walk up to me and ask 'Will you be my Valentine?'"

At 11, Aliyah worries about letting down smitten suitors on Feb. 14.

"Somebody will walk up to you and go, 'Will you be my Valentine?'" Aliyah says "And it's like 'Uhh...not really.' You don't want to break their heart though!"

Whether a student dreads the possibility of being asked out or not, there is a unanimous agreement that the candy and cards are the best part of Valentine's Day.

"I like when we go around the class and drop our candy and cards into people's white bags; I love the candy," says **Timara McCree**.

The other kids nodded in agreement, and voted that there is no



Fifth graders Aliyah Kehrt, Lydia Andrews, Cole Peck, and Keegan Flachman gather to discuss the "dating" game Oreo (Photo by Olivia Lighty).

true best Valentine's Day candy, but that a box of chocolates was the most romantic.

No matter how many games of Oreo they sneak on the blacktop at recess, the fifth graders say that Wednesday will really be for celebrating with family and those who need extra care during the colder months.

"Love means kindness and giving things out to people like the elderly in nursing homes who don't really have stuff," **Lydia Andrews** says, adding she also enjoys watching "Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown," and eating from the candy basket her mom gives her.

Some of the students remember their parents with some Valentine's Day goodies.

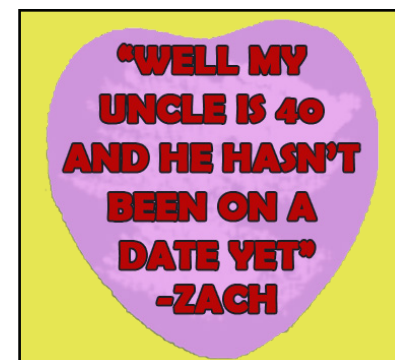
"Last year for Valentine's Day, I made my mom a chore coupon book; she hasn't used it yet," says **Keegan Flachman**. "Like 'Be a couch potato,' and all she has to do is cash it in and sit on the couch."

Rosa Parks students won't forget one another next week either.

Jackson Stevens and **Jethro Let** have a simple goal for Valentine's Day at school: "Building trust and relationships with your friends."



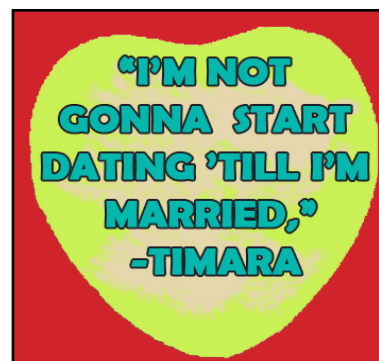
Ayla Hubbard



(Art by Adam Crozier)



(Art by Sam Cook)



(Art by Adam Crozier)



Jethro Let

