

# LIVIN' THE DREAM

## BMX PRO TELLS FMS STUDENTS TO KEEP THEIR HEADS UP



Jessica Boisclair/Daily Times

X-Games gold medalist and RI native Kevin Robinson shows students at Coventry's Feinstein Middle School he doesn't need pedals as he cruises around the school's gym in a rather unconventional manner yesterday, as he visited the school to help celebrate the life of late FMS student Jacob Aversa.

## Robinson: 'Celebrate life' to remember Jacob

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COVENTRY— In memory of eighth grader Jacob Aversa, the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School welcomed 10-time X Games medalist Kevin Robinson to their school Friday morning to perform stunts and give a motivational speech.

Jacob, a former student at the middle school, passed away suddenly in September and since his passing administration and students at the school have continued to remember him in many ways.

The 13-year-old loved BMX riding and scootering and because of that Robinson came to speak to the eighth grade students about

various topics including trust, friendship and following dreams.

Robinson, who's been a professional BMX rider for 23 years, participated in numerous X Games, taking home five gold medals. He also holds the world record for most height on a bike, reaching 55 feet off the ground at Central Park in New York.

"We're here to celebrate life; to celebrate Jacob's life. We're not going to celebrate Jacob's life by putting our heads down and pouting," he said to the students, after having them scream, "hello."

He explained to the students that the words he's lived by his entire life is "Dream your life and live your dream."

The first time he rode a bike as a young

child, he said, his brothers pushed him down the street without training wheels and he fell multiple times.

But once he learned how to ride, he said, "I fell in love with my bicycle."

"There will be tons of adversity and tons of setbacks and you'll fail over and over again," he said to the students. "But you cannot give up. You have to go after that dream until you succeed and it's the things you learn trying to do that, that count the most."

While Robinson spoke to the students he rode his bike around the gym doing different tricks for the students.

He performed one trick, called the

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# Robinson wows students at FMS

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boomerang, by standing on the bike while it was moving and walking around it until he was back in the sitting position.

"This trick is just like life; everything goes full circle," he said.

Although Robinson has made a living off BMX riding, one of his biggest fears is heights, he said.

Regardless, he told the students, "everybody has fears," and in order to reach a goal, those fears must be conquered.

"Because every single day I am on this earth I live my life to the fullest," he said.

"Everybody has fears and you want to

help people face their fears."

He told the students that on the day he broke the world record in New York, it took him eight tries before he landed; he crashed four of those times.

"I wasn't going to quit until I did it and sometimes it's hard — you have to keep fighting for it," he explained. "You can always have fear but you need to learn to turn that fear around. Give everything 100 percent of what you got."

Robinson explained that when he used to compete he taught himself a trick called the double flare. While learning the trick, he said, he broke his left wrist, had surgery on his right wrist and received two

concussions in the three years it took to learn it.

Everybody kept telling him the trick could not be done, yet during one of the X Games Robinson was able to land the trick, securing him a gold medal. To this day, he said, no other BMX rider has been able to land that trick.

Because he was at the middle school to commemorate Jacob's life, he told the students and administration that once his new indoor skate park opens up on East Greenwich Avenue in West Warwick he will be painting on of the ramps purple and naming it after Jacob.



LEFT: Kevin Robinson gets air over a quartet of teachers in the Feinstein gym yesterday.



RIGHT: Robinson smashes some concrete slabs with his bare hand as part of the presentation.

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