

Season's greetings

Winter

Festivities in the cold



Juniors Ally and Katie Lindauer were pictured while shoveling snow. "My mom, my sister and I were shoveling our front driveway so our dad didn't have to. Then our neighbors showed up and decided to join in!"

Photo by Ally Lindauer '22



The once colorful trees of fall were blanketed with snow as winter rolled around, but as the seasons changed, the effects of the virus unfortunately remained the same. The pandemic forced students and faculty to reconstruct their usual winter activities and festivities.

Students wrapped up the holiday season by reflecting on the eventful year of 2020 on New Year's Eve. Along with its many hardships, this year brought strength, creativity and excitement. Many were glad to see 2020 go and start anew in 2021. Just like the other holiday celebrations, New Year's Eve was celebrated differently than in years past. Some students bid goodbye to 2020 with friends at small gatherings on New Year's Eve, while others chose to end the year with family by their side.

Junior Claire Horsfield shared how she celebrated New Year: "I got together with a group of friends on New Year's Eve to celebrate. Though this year's celebration was different than in years past, it was still fun to watch the ball drop and go into the new year with a close group of friends."

Students were welcomed into the new year by lots of snow and freezing temperatures. They were not complaining, though, as there were several snow days for them to enjoy. The snowfall allowed students to get outside and get active, and many students capitalized on the snow days by going skiing, snowboarding and sledding with friends.

Freshman Otto Hofmann is a Midwest alpine skier and spent the winter participating in races: "Every winter, I travel to hills like Cascade in Wisconsin and Chestnut in Illinois. I look forward to camps in the off-season as well. I go to places like Mt. Hood in Oregon and Copper in Colorado. I enjoy skiing because it takes me to new places where I can meet other skiers."

Junior Will Fairman reflected on his winter activities: "This winter, I went sledding with my neighbors, enjoyed the holidays with my family I hadn't seen in forever and shoveled/salted my driveway nonstop."

Junior Brady Adams, who is an avid skier, detailed one of his favorite winter pastimes: "Every year, my family and I go out to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to ski. We are lucky enough to own a condo at the base of the mountain. Skiing there every year has always been a highlight and something I can look forward to. There's no skiing like that anywhere else in the world."

Junior Maya Maynard enjoyed the snowfall, as well: "I loved sledding with my friends. It took me back to when I was younger, and it was easy to social distance while doing it too."



"This winter I was able to spend time with loved ones and enjoy many indoor activities. I baked cookies for the holidays and spent a lot of time with my family."

- Muhan Basnet, '24

Relying on their own creativity due to COVID-19, students came up with several fun activities to do this winter season. Some students had winter photo shoots, while others participated in winter sports. Because this winter was especially snowy, many stayed in to avoid the cold.

Junior Sarah Kustes was one of the students who enjoyed staying in: "During winter, since there wasn't much to do outside, staying in was really the only option. I played games with my family, did art projects and watched movies. My family and I would play monopoly almost every night and try to come up with more fun things to do," she said. "I don't really enjoy the cold weather, so staying in and coming up with activities was the only thing to do."

Junior Ethan Kilcoin also got creative while staying in this winter: "I was inside a lot of the time, so I participated in various activities such as watching movies, playing music, listening to tunes and much more. While I was locked inside the house a lot because of the pandemic and the weather, I tried my best to keep myself busy."

Many students spent time with their loved ones over the course of the winter season. Senior Paulina Garza was one student who did so: "Some things I missed about past winters were ice skating, making gingerbread houses with friends and sleepovers. Although many of our traditions changed, we were still able to have fun as a family and be creative with different activities. My mom, sister and I always bake so we made sugar cookies and other treats. We also played board games and watched some Christmas movies altogether. It was a different experience this winter but I will always remember the fun we were able to have under stressful times."

Evidently, this winter season was quite unusual. However, as exemplified by these students, there were still lots of opportunities for them to enjoy the winter season. Students did not let the pandemic or the unforgiving weather dwindle their favorite winter pastimes. Whether it be through getting outside and getting active, or staying in from the cold weather and watching a movie, students got creative when it came to finding entertainment this winter.

If COVID-19 has revealed anything, it has been the value of spending time with loved ones. Students spent the winter safely participating in their favorite winter pastimes with friends and family.

There was certainly no shortage of fun over the course of the winter for students!

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