

# HOW THE COVID GRINCH TRIED TO STEAL CHRISTMAS

Though the school returned to full remote learning during the holidays, Drake found ways to make them bright.

By Makenzie Scurlock

Who knew it was so hard to be nice? Since a major purpose of the National Junior Honor Society is service, they reached out to the community looking to serve. "As the president, it was a little stressful because I was trying to organize this during COVID, and we had many places turn us down from donating to them," said Eliana DiManna (8).

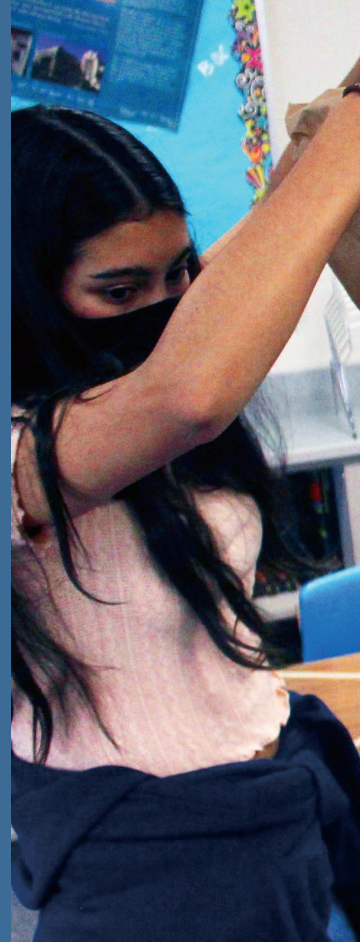
Even though it didn't go down as initially hoped, they still found a way to spread joy by giving back to the community during the holiday season. "Once we found A Precious Child, it was smooth sailing from there," said DiManna. A Precious Child is a non-profit organization out of Broomfield, CO that provides opportunities and resources to children in need. NJHS ran a toy drive to support their cause. "Lots of people donated and some people did not even go to Drake or have kids that go to Drake," said Anjalie Pasrich (8). "We filled up five cars with toys," said Kayla Grenwis (8).

Drake found ways to hang on to other holiday traditions as well, despite being full remote from

Thanksgiving into January. Unwilling to let go of the 28 year tradition, leadership class encouraged students to decorate doors at home instead of Advisement doors at school. Students then voted remotely for the doors they liked best.

Another kept tradition was a form of holiday concerts, though they looked very different this year. The concerts were held outside during class time, kicking off the holiday season in late October before it became too cold. Band students, however, said this didn't make up for the loss of the various holidays concerts. Lydia Mauger (8) said, "It was hard to hear each other, the weather would affect the way your instrument sounded. You didn't get to dress up, and we've never had the entire band together." Students from the audience overlooked all of that, though. Thea McWilliams (7) said, "It was very refreshing to hear them play."

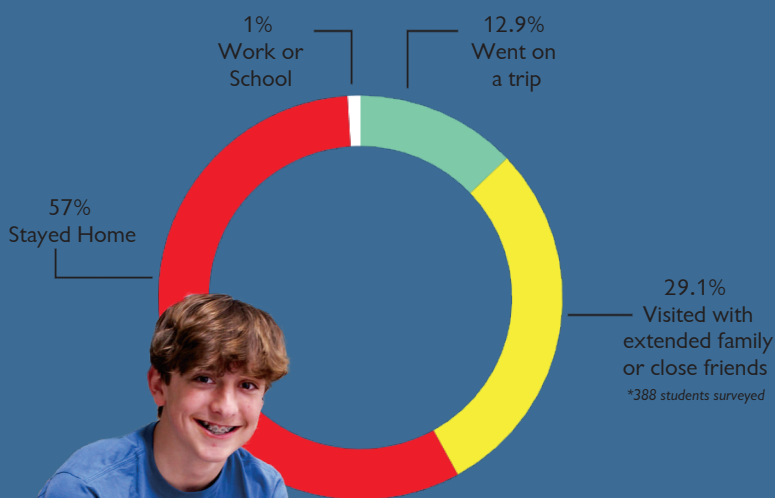
Even in the face of difficulties, students and staff pushed onward and found ways to make the holidays bright.



**BAGGIN' IT UP.** Eighth graders Anjalie Pasrich, Lilly Gustafson and NJHS advisor Susan Murnan pack toys into boxes for delivery. "It felt really nice to be a part of something that was going to bring joy to kids in Colorado whose family may not have had enough money at this time to get them a present," said Gustafson.

## BREAKIN' IT IN

### How students spent their Winter Break



"I spent the holidays having fun with my friends and family. Usually I have family that comes to visit, but they couldn't because my grandpa had COVID."

-Henry Brisson (7)

**BUILDING BOX.** Eliana DiManna (8) and Anjalie Pasrich (8) carry boxes of toys inside. "The toy drive was my first project with NJHS, and I was excited but also nervous because it is super different organizing these types of things during COVID-19," said Pasrich. **CURBSIDE SERVICE.** Emma Levy (8) receives toys from a woman in the community who graciously chose to donate though she had no children attending the school. "It was really fun to help kids who didn't have toys for Christmas," said Levy.







photo by kgrenwis



### Don't Knock It

Isabella Marquardt (7), first place winner for 7th grade door decorators said, "It took me an hour and a half to design my door, but I split it into two days." First, second, and third place was given at every grade level. Winners were decided by the popular vote of the student body. "I was inspired by this cooking show where they made a life size cake of Santa Claus stuck in a chimney," said Marquardt. "I took that inspiration and made a door with Santa Claus stuck in Christmas lights." There were a total of 28 contestants.



photo by kgrenwis



photo by tmcwilliams

**WELL NOTED.** Branden Lee (8) jams on the flute for a small audience of students. For him, band has been a reprieve this year. "I guess playing in band relieves some stress of other school work. There's a lot of great people in band, and I often make friends in that class," said Lee.



photo by tmcwilliams

### BLOW YOUR OWN HORN.

Carson Welling (8) plays the saxophone outside next to band director Kim Wilson as they perform their concert. "It was fun because we didn't know if we were having any concerts," said Welling (8). **PERFECT PERCUSSION.** Casey Sullivan (8) plays the xylophone for the eighth grade band. "Band is still a pretty fun class that I use to escape," said Sullivan.

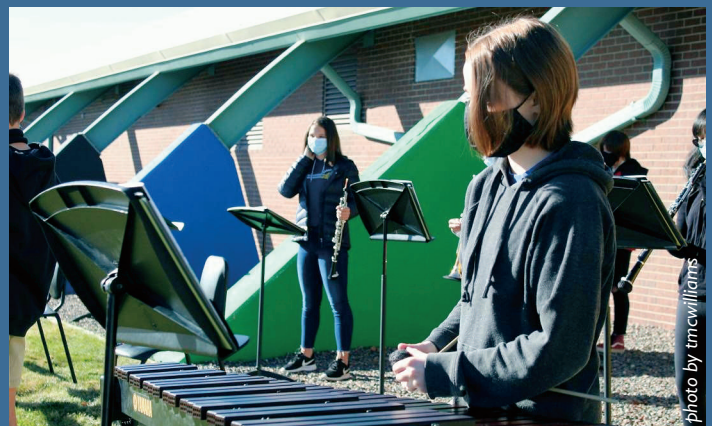


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