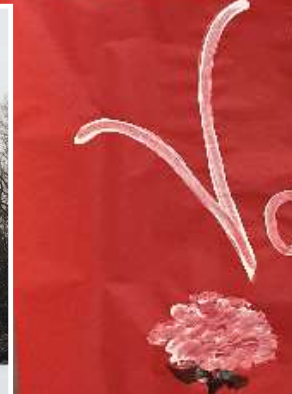


SMELLS LIKE

teen spirit

Imagine waking up early in the morning to get ready for school, and you peer out the window to see everything is white; the roads, the sidewalks, cars, and rooftops. You open up the school website and see right at the center of the page that it's officially a SNOW DAY! The roads may be in terrible condition, but these students have found some fun ways to spend their days off. Whether it's building a snowman, playing in the snow, sledding, tubing, or skiing, Vista students sure know how to make use of Colorado's unpredictable weather conditions.

1. Student Council sold Valentine's Grams during lunch, and delivered the grams and carnations on Valentine's Day.
2. *Lillian LeVake, 10*, went out and enjoyed the fresh snow, "The outdoors were calling my name. The 31 degree atmosphere was wooing me into its aura. As I ventured into the white wonderland, feelings of joy filled my head."



VALENTINE GRAMS

With love in the air, student council helps people show their love with Valentine grams. For Valentine's Day, STUCO delivered flower grams with a little note to and from various students.

Hunter Wortkoetter, 12, and Kennedy Larson, 12, work the booth for people to buy the grams. Hunter said, "The best part of the Valentines grams was seeing people's reactions and how happy they were to receive the grams. It was cool to see how much the student body got involved because we sold over 200 grams, and it's great to see the student body coming together and getting involved."

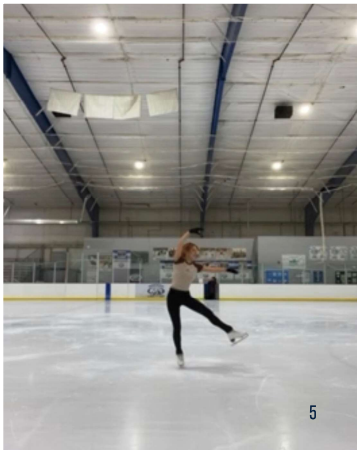


TEACHER'S WINTER FUN



Ms. Fenicle and Mrs. Csizmadi

These two teachers spent a part of their winter supporting Vista students at their hockey game. Mrs. Fenicle said, "Winter is my joy. Winter brings in the holiday season, sledding, hot chocolate and banana bread, and big, bulky sweaters. Who doesn't love comfy?"



5



6

3. *Charlie Marcantel, 11*, spent his snow day snow boarding, and said, "It was great getting to be a kid with all my friends and having a good time messing around."

4. *Aidan Erickson, 10*, is new to Colorado and the winter scene. He said, "The mountains already look like

they are straight out of a movie, but add snow to that, and it's even more unbelievable. I have always seen the pictures and videos but in person nothing beats a sunset or sunrise paired with snow on the mountain tops."

5. *Darcy Brydges, 12*, spins on the ice at an arena down town. She said, "I love ice skating because it makes me feel free and graceful."

6. *Abigail Lechuga, 9*, and her family took the snow opportunity to ride snow mobiles. She said, "I was so surprised when I saw what my family was doing, going out and interacting with activities and not just staying home all day. It really shows how you can make a day off really fun and entertaining and worth the needed break."

7. *Jace Phillips, 12*, went skiing at Breckenridge. He said, "It's really fun and I enjoy the cold weather and hanging out with friends while skiing. My favorite part would be meeting new people up there."



7

never GONNA GIVE YOU UP

The new phone policy was a big shock to many of the students mid school year. Going from having a phone just out on a desk, or available to text friends about lunch or plans after school became a norm for almost all students over the past few years. After many social media pages promoting student harassment popped up on Instagram during the month of December, the school enforced a ban on all cell phone use during the school day. This brought about complaints from the student body and several parents. Most teachers supported the new changes. 1. Students are finished with their lesson and have free time to work on missing work. Many teachers do allow phone use to check grades and work on assignments because computers are not readily available.

To some of our students, like *Lorena Hasenmaier, 11*, a strict phone policy isn't anything new. "It is definitely a lot less strict here. In my old school back in Germany, there was a very strict no phone policy. Teachers and staff would take your phones with no questions. Though it really depends on the school, my brothers school really encouraged phones. But here the teachers are really cool with it, and only enforce it when they're teaching their lessons."



advanced LEADERSHIP



Morgan Hampton, 12, said, "I found out about Leadership in the 8th grade from some administrator here, and I decided to join it because of the Christmas party that we do. I didn't know that we did anything else in leadership besides the Christmas party, but I joined because of the party. Passing out the Valentines candy grams was pretty fun, but stressful too."

LEADERSHIP



Brooke Hand, 11, said, "I was invited to join Leadership over the summer and so far I really like it. We learn a lot, and we did a Christmas party for domestic violence and abuse victims. That was really fun to plan and do. If you're invited to join I would definitely do it. It is worth it."



different opinions

Sara Mamei, 12, "So in Italy we are not allowed to be on are phones because its a very old school type of education, but we could use them because of Covid. We would use computers a lot more than our phones. It was weird not being able to use our phones after December, and I'm struggling, but in the end I know I got this."

Phillip Hoosier, 12, "I think that the phone policy is good and bad. It makes me focus more and makes me less distracted, but there is also the fact that I cant text my mom even if there an emer-gency I have to get approval to use my own belongings."

Mattie Junglas, 10, "I think that the phone policy is caused by anxiety and when you do the social media and texting you just want to be aware of what people are doing. Like, oh no, I'm going out with people caused by social media connections. Here is the issue."

Tristin Bendert, 10, "Phones help you socialize in person and keep you focused on school for some."

Dylan Bonvie, 10, "It's good because in real life it's funny to see the people faces but lame and not funny to look at phone faces."

Yunessa Rodriguez, 11, "The phone policy is something that seriously needs to be reconsidered as it hasn't been universally beneficial for all students. When it comes down to it, you never really know what anyone is going through, and it makes it harder for students to communicate to meet up during lunches and other things. It has become a useful tool in the classroom, and privileges should only be revoked to those who specifically abuse it."

phones are fun



Kimberly Dutton, 10

"Obviously I don't like it because I use my phone a lot. Even for class assignments that can be done much easier on my phone than on a computer."



Makayla Crispi, 9

"I don't really mind the no phone policy, I just think it's a little dramatic."



Darrian Douglas, 9

"It's not fun. It's not really fair because some students really need to check their messages. And I think teachers should give students more chances before just taking our phones."



Mattie Junglas, 10

"I think it's good and helps us to be social. Using phones makes you not want to be near people and can fuel anxiety."

ain't nothing gonna
**BREAK MY
STRIDE**

As spring approaches, so do the SATs! Students this year have different ways of preparing themselves for this test through either content outside of school, or the math class that Vista offers towards all juniors.



Thaddeus Gabel, 11,

talks about the SAT Prep math class that he takes every morning through Vista, and said, "We went over test taking strategies, I'm a little nervous. It's an important test, so it's important that I do good on it."



Alissa Iran, 11,

has several things she is doing in order to prepare for the SAT. She said, "I have a textbook at home of the previous tests, and I just do them at home and check my work. I do them in timed sessions so I can make sure I have time for each section. I'm using my scores for scholarships, and if I want to go out of state."



Jasmine McCain, 11,

discusses how nervous she is when it comes to the SAT, and said, "I feel like I'm not prepared enough... especially when it comes to math. I'm taking the class that I'm required to take, and I'm probably going to get some outside help as well. We took a practice SAT and now we're just reviewing any content that most of us got wrong."



totally not **VALET PARKING**

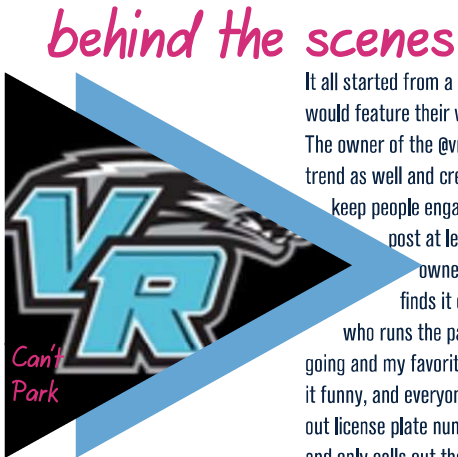
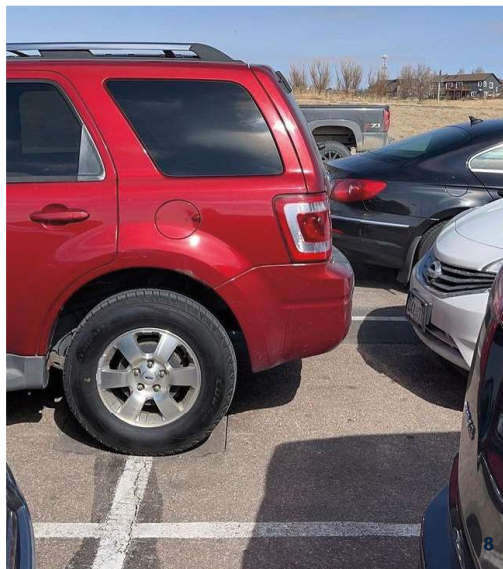
When it comes to parking lots, there is never a shortage of bad parking jobs and Vista Ridge students do not disappoint. Thanks to the Instagram page, @vrhscantpark, followers get to see the best of the worst parking jobs of the wolves. The page has 528 followers, and counting. While not everybody is proud of a bad parking job, some people are honored to be posted on this page. 1. *Javier Torres, 12*, jokingly said, "I feel like my car deserves more than one spot, it's a two spot kind of car."

It often seemed that bad parking was a result of a larger vehicle such as a truck or snow blocking the view of the lines in the parking lot. Some said they felt embarrassed or called out at first, but took it in stride as they compared their

parking to others. Other students were proud of their status as terrible parkers and flaunted it to their friends. Jack Mottern, 12, said, "One day I couldn't find a spot so I made my own at the end of the row in the ovals. I was proud when my car showed up on the can't park page."

All students featured in this article allowed the Ridgeline to use the photos posted on Instagram.

BAD PARKERS



2. *Charlie Marcantel, 11*, intentionally parks his worst and said, "I'm friends with the owner of the page and she said she would never post me, so I kept progressively parking worse and worse."
3. *Coby Gardner, 12*, quoted Vin Diesel and said, "I live my life a quarter mile at a time."
4. *Brayden Dorman, 11*, featured between his own imaginary lines said, "I think the parking page is funny and is a way to make sure people are on top of their parking jobs"
5. *Amelia Done, 11*, said, "I don't know I feel, honored, and yet so called out."
6. *Nicole Garcia, 11*, talks about how embarrassing it was for her at first being featured on the page, but then she said, "I just laughed it off because it made everyone else smile because it was funny."
7. *Owen Glasgow, 11*, said that "It felt embarrassing, but it was also pretty funny."
8. *Sage Hamilton, 12*, wasn't shocked when she saw herself on the page, and said, "Honestly I was like, 'I can't believe they just now put me on there.' But when you think about it, there's a lot worse parking on the page."

It all started from a simple tiktok trend where schools would feature their worst parking on an Instagram page. The owner of the @vrhscantpark page decided to hop on the trend as well and created a page dedicated to Vista. They keep people engaged through comments, and typically post at least once a week. To add to the fun, the owner likes to remain anonymous as well and finds it enjoyable that many people are unaware who runs the page. They said, "I decided to keep it going and my favorite part has gotta be that everyone finds it funny, and everyone knows about it." The owner blocks out license plate numbers to help students stay anonymous and only calls out those that know the page owner.