

**1. Exploration**

During winter break, junior *Ilona Zolotukhina* spent lots of time with her friends and family while traveling around the world! Zolotukhina tells, "during winter break, I spent lots of time with my family - I spent New Years with my family and our friends while the table was full of different dishes. Throughout my winter break, I even got to travel down to Costa Rica with my best friend and her family and explore different traditional foods and places!"

**2. Time with Family**

Spending time with the people you love is the best feeling, but to spend it with your grandparents is better.

Sophomore *Samantha Mabry* said, "over break my grandparents came from Texas and throughout our time off, we did puzzles, watched movies, and just spent quality time together. Since breaks are the only time I get to see my family and spend time with them, I really appreciate it."

**3. Holidays and Traditions**

As winter beings to approach, Raiders spend time with their loved ones. Junior *Kayla Chea*, "felt happy because I get to dress in my traditional cultural clothing and I get to do the traditions that we have for certain holidays."

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**4. Dashing through the Snow**

Freshman **Skylin Collins** visited the mountains with her family to celebrate the holidays, "we went snowmobiling because we went last year for New Years and it was fun just having a fire and watching fireworks. It was really fun, I've been doing it since I was a little kid. My favorite moment was being able to feel open and free. Hanging out with everyone just makes it a great time!"

**5. Winter Hunting**

**Trenton Carlson**, sophomore, went to Arizona during the holidays. Carlson details, "my favorite part of going to AZ was seeing my grandparents. They moved so I haven't seen them in a while. In that picture I was hunting with my dad. It was a lot of fun, cold, but fun."



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**6. Family Tradition**

As the holidays come around the corner it is important to make the most of the moment. Sophomore **Mason James** agrees, "my family and I spent time together making a Yule log and creating a lemon pig for the new year. We hung stockings, like Christmas, but instead of candy got gifts like ChapStick and puzzles, or fruits like a pomegranate and an orange. For gifts under the tree, we get socks and books. We read the books until midnight, or until we fell asleep. We ate stuffing, pies, and a vegan turkey. After making a new lemon pig, we would throw the old one in the fire, which symbolizes getting rid of the old year and make room for the new."

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# The Wonderful Times of *Winter* Break

Over Winter Break, many Raiders did a variety of activities and spent their time enjoying the holiday festivities.

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