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Issue #2 12/17/20

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The Vox Online



# A COVID Christmas

By: Jacob Shaffer @JacobShaffer\_18

It has almost been an entire year of COVID-19, and the virus has been relentless in its pursuit to make this year the worst of all time. Before December ends and the one year anniversary of COVID is not celebrated in January, the holidays are still being celebrated despite the ongoing pandemic. Throughout the year of the virus, people have adapted and learned to live with it, and two students are still celebrating with proper precautions and safety measures to ensure a healthy, safe, and happy holidays.

Samantha Steffen, senior, is planning on celebrating Christmas this year with her family, but with the virus nothing is guaranteed. Thanksgiving unfortunately had to be canceled and Christmas could follow suit at any point. "If anybody got sick, even just a cold, we would probably cancel," Steffen said. "We're mostly concerned about our grandparents; they already have health issues." Steffen is going down to her mom's parents for Christmas, and everybody in her family comes down as well with an estimated headcount of around twenty-five people. The plans for a big celebration warrants some precautions to be taken, especially with the health of the elderly in mind. "We will probably have to wear masks around people because the house is so small," Steffen said.

Unlike Steffen's plans for celebrating the holidays,

Zoey Wecker, Sophomore, is going on a vacation in December and probably wouldn't cancel even if virus cases continue to get worse. Wecker is traveling to Florida on December 11th and is taking the usual precautions of social distancing and wearing a mask to avoid catching the 'rona. Despite not being planned as a Christmas vacation, the trip will still take place during the height of holiday travel and the Universal Studios Amusement Park that Wecker and her family are planning on visiting is sure to be a potentially dangerous spot if not taken seriously. The importance of COVID safety measures are especially critical during the holiday season when travel and close contact is going to be at an all time high.

Steffen and her family have big plans that could fall through at any time thanks to the pandemic, but she still thinks the holidays should be celebrated this year even with the virus making things tough. "It should only be celebrated if it's around less people and everyone is being safe about it," Steffen said.



Zoey Wecker, '23, enjoying the magic of Harry Potter World during her vacation in Florida.

It's been a long year with terrible disheartening news almost everyday, but holiday cheer could just make everyone a little more jolly. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and whatever other religions/cultures celebrate during this time of year won't be put on hold because of one global pandemic; it's everyone versus COVID, and despite having to stay six feet apart, the holidays feel more united. People of all backgrounds come together for the holidays, and even if they can't physically be together, they're still determined to shut this virus down so the next holiday next year and the years after that will be normal again.

## What's going on around the school?



Jay Dunlavey, '24, works with fire during science.



Varsity cheerleaders cheer on the boys basketball players.



Garret Wagner, '21, plays basketball during a game.

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