



The Three Winners

Matthew Cunningham, 12

Natalie Medina, 12

Anna Hathaway, 12

"The reason why we do this is because we needed community outreach activities, and activities that students would be involved in, and mostly I think because students don't really know what PTSA does, so it is just kind of to get us working with some students."

Jocelyn Bennett, PTSA President



"I took different inspirations, like the snow on the roof and the front porch, from houses on Pinterest. I adore finding inspo for anything and everything on there. As for how it stuck together, I can only say it was a miracle. Every gingerbread house I have made in the past has fallen apart, so I would've just been happy if I could submit a house standing up."

Anna Hathaway, 12



"I got my inspiration from gingerbread houses online and on the example house on the box. I got my house to stick together using both frosting and Gorilla glue. I tried using frosting first but decided to just use the glue."

Nevaeh Dull, 10



"I knew that it was being hosted by the PTSA, and I'm not the best at making really fun designs, so I knew a very convincing way would be to make it like North. I just used cookie icing that I actually was trying to use last year for the gingerbread contest so it worked pretty well and as for how it stuck together. I actually used Super Glue just for the house, I'm sorry I just used a hot glue gun and it stuck very well."

Natalie Medina, 12



"I worked on the gingerbread house with my mom and we decided it would be fun to use the sprinkles as Christmas lights. Whenever I work on a project with my mom it's a little frustrating because we're both perfectionists. We both suck at baking and used hot glue to stick the walls and roof of the house together."

Anna Miesner, 11



Ryleigh Meade, 9



Matthew Cunningham, 12

gingerbread pickup party

PTSA gingerbread party moves online and sees growth in participation

The annual Gingerbread House Party, organized by the PTSA, went virtual in 2020. It was open to the community, anyone who wanted to participate was welcome. Gingerbread house kits were available for pick up from SM North on Dec. 10, and participants posted photos online or through email by Dec. 12.

The winners, who were announced on PTSA social media pages on Dec. 13, each won a \$20 QuikTrip gift card. The winners were seniors Natalie Medina, Anna Hathaway and Evan Whitaker, along with the Cunningham, Meade and Knoshaug families.

This was the second year the PTSA had hosted the Gingerbread House party, however unlike the previous year's party, an actual in-person party was not an option due to COVID-19 regulations.

"Last year we had an actual party because we could, but this year it's all virtual," PTSA member Jocelyn Bennet said. "And since people are doing it from their own home, instead of making them stick to a particular time we just let them do their houses whenever, and then they can post photos."

In spite of setbacks due to COVID-19, this year's event was still able to take place. The 2019 event attracted about 50 participants, while the 2020 PTSA had 70 kits available and passed out 65.

"This is pretty new, but so many people showed up last year that there was no way we weren't gonna do it again," Bennet said, "Nobody really knew what kind of events we were going to be able to have this year, so this event worked out pretty well virtually because you could take the kit home and build your house on your own time."

The 2019 party was originally a student's idea, to get the student body more included in events.

"So one of our student liaisons thought, hey, this would be a fun idea, and students would probably like to get involved because [at that time] we weren't doing a lot of activities that involved students," Bennet said, "so we went along with it."

Since having a party was not an option, PTSA hoped to put something fun together that students could participate in and would still enjoy.

"I think that you miss the social aspect, because having a party is a lot of fun, so we kind of tried to make up for that aspect just by having some fun on social media," Bennet said, "Like sharing what the houses looked like, and trying to joke and have fun and make it into a kind of party, when it really isn't a party since we can't all be together." *story by olivia robinson*