

// I BELIEVE YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE PATIENT, ESPECIALLY THROUGHOUT THESE CRAZY TIMES." STELLA COUNTER, 08



1. **AT LAKE DILLON**, Maya Delaney, 08, spends the day with her family and friend, Stella Counter, 08. Fishing only five times, Delaney enjoyed being on the water most. "We rented a boat at the lake. We released some fish and ate some. I didn't eat any; I'm a vegetarian," Delaney said. Through the pandemic, Delaney has learned, "the friends who stay around after you haven't seen them for awhile are your real friends." *photo courtesy of m. delaney* 2. **REELING 'EM IN**, Stella Counter, 08, catches a fish. "A life lesson that I learned during quarantine is that it was not a vacation. When we went on lockdown last year, I personally thought it was not going to be that long. I saw it as an extra two weeks of my Spring Break, but school ended early and we ended up doing online school. However, I saw past that. I realized that quarantine wasn't just a break from school for a week or two, but for a long time," Counter said. *photo courtesy of m. delaney* 3. **IN BRECKENRIDGE WITH HIS MOM**, Matthew Culton, 06, hikes the trails before going home. "From experiencing quarantine, I learned that spending too much time with your family can get annoying; however, I grew from quarantine because I realized that most people don't enjoy going to school. But when we can't go, we understand that we take it for granted. Online school is not fun when you can't see your friends," Culton said. *photo courtesy of m. culton* 4. **IN CANNON BEACH OVER THE SUMMER**, Mason Mitchell, 07, checks out the wildlife while in Oregon. "I think it is very important to spend time with the things and people that are important to you because we usually take that for granted. However, like during COVID, we realize that we need to take advantage of that time with family and doing the things you enjoy," Mitchell said. *photo courtesy of m. mitchell*



"THE TIME ALONE HELPED ME BECOME A **BETTER** VERSION OF MYSELF. DURING THE PANDEMIC I **SPENT** A LOT OF **TIME SOUL SEARCHING**. I **LEARNED** MORE ABOUT WHAT I REALLY **WANT** AND WHAT MY **GOALS** WERE. I **LEARNED** A LOT ABOUT WHAT I WANT TO DO. I **LOVED** STAYING **ORGANIZED** AND **BECOMING** THE **BEST** VERSION OF ME."
LEALA LARA, 08
photo by k. mcgarvey

3.



LESSONS WE LEARNED

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4. **IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY**, you'll see that everything in life is a lesson learned, a blessing in disguise along life's journey. Focusing on the negative or positive is a choice. For Pumas, living through a pandemic prompted a wide range of emotions, including "aha" moments about the importance of family, friends and perseverance. "When I was in quarantine, and not able to leave my house or hangout with my friends, I realized how important it is to spend time with friends," Kenley Yaworski, 06, said. "Now, I am really lucky to be able to spend time with my friends and I am also lucky I have them in my life."

Learning to adapt to change is a lifelong lesson that proved more important than ever. "Seeing a lot of people lose their jobs made me appreciate what my parents provide for me," Braden Sisler, 08, said. "I learned that I needed to improve a lot of things and that I needed to work on getting better as a person."

Still others learned to step out of their comfort zone. "I was more of an introvert before quarantine and then I noticed it would be better to have friends in my life," Greyden Wandry, 08, said. "I came out of quarantine a little more social and a bit happier."

PUMAS GAIN THE WISDOM TO KNOW WHAT MATTERS MOST

