

PANDEMIC PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO PERFECT ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS

GETTIN' CRAFTY

"MY SILVER LINING WAS TV BECAUSE I REALLY LOVE KOREAN SOAP OPERAS. IT'S BEEN HARD SINCE COVID STARTED. YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR FRIENDS; YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING. WHEN I WATCH TV, IT'S LIKE I'M IN A WHOLE OTHER WORLD. DURING MY COVID

EXPERIENCE, I BECAME A LOT MORE CRAFTY. I SEW A LOT MORE NOW, I DRAW, I CROCHET AND I WRITE POEMS A LOT MORE NOW."

photo by c. young

LUCY ROBY, 08



"I WAS ABLE TO EXPLORE NEW **PASSIONS** OF MINE. I KNOW THIS WILL SOUND LAME, BUT I TRULY **LOVE** SPENDING TIME ON A **PUZZLE**. I HAD NO IDEA THAT WAS SOMETHING I **ENJOYED**.

OBVIOUSLY MY **FAMILY** AND **FRIENDS** HAVE ALLOWED ME TO PERSEVERE THROUGH THESE **CHALLENGING TIMES**.

THE **LOVE** AND SUPPORT OF MY **WIFE** AND **CHILDREN** MADE THINGS DURING THE **PANDEMIC** NOT ALWAYS SEEM **SO BAD**.

MY **FAMILY** AND **FRIENDS** HAVE ALLOWED US TO GET THROUGH THE **CHAOS**

TOGETHER."

MR. ANDREW GENSON, 8TH SCIENCE

photo by a. morgan

COULDN'T BE BETTER

WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR OVERCOMING OBSTACLES?

"THE BEST ADVICE I have for overcoming obstacles is having positive friends and positive family members who can help you with homework and school in general. Friends are nice to have; they can lighten your mood," Daniel Ballas, 08, said.

photo by r. gomez

"MY ADVICE is just do it. And if it's hard, it will get better once you finish. My family has really helped me overcome hard times. They help me overcome a lot and are very sympathetic. They're always with me no matter what," Owen Persichetti, 08, said. *photo by c. pliszka*



MY SILVER LINING was being able to take a break from the real world and connect with my friends on my phone so that I'm not completely by myself. It's nice to have human interaction even though I actually can't be with my friends right now, but I can still be able to talk to them so I don't feel like an introvert." *photo by a. seavall*

KAYLA PACZKOWSKI, 08

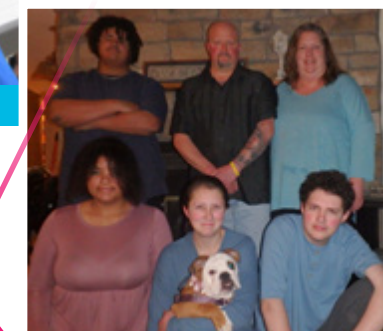


MY SILVER LINING

throughout the pandemic has been meeting new people and making new friends. This has made me less shy than I used to be."

BRODEY MEAD, 07 *photo by c. young*

WITH FAMILY, Mrs. Michelle Weber is at home with her husband Chris, sons, Tyshawn and Jace, and daughters, Izzy and Kylee. *photo courtesy of m. weber*



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COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19, Mrs. Michelle Weber, SPED teacher, endured a long road to recovery. After self-isolating at home for 12 days, Weber experienced trouble breathing and required hospitalization for five days. Suffering from pneumonia in both lungs, Weber improved with medication and was sent home on oxygen. The arduous recovery lasted three months. "I was really weak. I'm still doing physical therapy to build my strength and rebuild my stamina," Weber said.

Never one to focus on negativity, Weber believes the positives of the experience outweigh the negatives. "My silver lining was really getting to experience my friends, my co-workers and my family reaching out and

helping me and trying to care for me. That's was really encouraging to see that," Weber said. "I realized that even though I was going through this horrible thing, the doctors were going to be able to use the information, the data from my recovery and my treatment to help other people in the future. That was making a positive out of a negative thing. I was able to see that even though it was hard, some good will come out of it."

Weber is introspective about the life lessons learned. "I think I learned a lot: to appreciate my health a lot more and to do normal things. I also learned that I can overcome hardships in life," Weber said. "I feel like now I might be able to help other people who might have COVID."