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Residential Life Newsletter Nov. 2020

November in Maine is an interesting month in terms of weather and the transition of the seasons and the 2020 version did not disappoint. We have had stretches where we weather that teased us with a mimic of summer and the next day it was snowing. Like the weather, the activity varies in November. We have taken students on shopping trips in locations that are decorated and festive in anticipation of the upcoming holidays and we have continued taking hikes in the Maine woods. Two hikes in particular (Big Moose Mountain and "Hobbittland") were very popular. While the peak foliage has passed, and the barren trees hint that winter is just around the corner, there is still plenty for our students to see and do. We have been taking full advantage of what the area has to offer.

We have made the necessary adjustments to the realities of COVID-19 without having to completely close campus down. We are being thoughtful and careful with the trips we take off campus with safety as our top priority. We have had many activities on campus including game nights, volleyball and dodgeball tournaments, a campfire with smores, trivia nights, and our Thanksgiving sit down dinner.

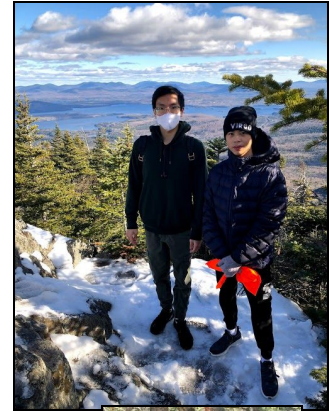
We have just concluded the first break of the year. While some students travelled home or stayed nearby with family and friends, we had over half of our students choose to stay on campus and in the dorms. Mr. Buys and Ms. Buys supervised for the week and planned a lot of recreational activities on campus, did some fun outings, and kept students safe as they relaxed during their down time. This is the first time we have kept our dorms open for a break and it was a great model for what we will provide in the upcoming breaks should the dorms need to remain open as an option for students and families. Activities that the

students did include a volleyball tournament, a trivia competition,

a baking night, a few small shopping trips off campus, and creating/decorating gingerbread houses.

December will be a short month with our winter break right around the corner but our students know that they need to focus on their school work leading up to the break so that they can enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation for the two week break.

Tom Bertrand - Dean of Student Life



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