

Snow Daze

Students rejoice, pines peaked with white

story by I. ummel

It's a Monday morning and disappointed students drift to school. They step out of their cars with an unusual smile on their faces. One question trends throughout the classrooms, "Why are we here?" A dull ping from the intercom hushes the building. Then Principal **Dan Noll** breaks the silence. "Due to inclement weather, school will release early today." Cheers and laughter from students and teachers erupted in each room, and by 10:30, only teachers and a few students remained in the halls.

School released early that morning, started at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, wasn't in session Wednesday and started late again on Thursday. This gave East Texas students a unique opportunity. Play with snow.

"I made a little snowman and had snowball fights," **Makenzie Hawthorne** [6] said. "My favorite thing was hanging out with my friends in the snow."

Students and faculty used the Wednesday off to relax, spend time with friends and play.

Some activities consisted of riding four-wheelers, building snow forts, making snow angels, waging snowball wars, making snow-ice cream and drinking hot chocolate.

"My favorite part was throwing snowballs

at my sister," **Austyn Noll** [K] said.

Many students also used the delayed starts and off-days to catch up on sleep.

"I loved it," **Maddie Thomsett** [11] said. "It put me in a much better mood and made it easier to learn things and get work done since classes were shorter."

Although snow falls in East Texas only once a year at best, when it does, people take advantage of the weather.

"If I lived in a place where it snowed, I would be happy because I could play in the snow all the time and build snowmen all the time," **Logan Damas** [1] said.

On the other hand, some tire of the glitz and glamour of it after a few days, even though they enjoy the snow and cold.

"I probably wouldn't want to live where it snows all the time because I like it more when it's sunny out," **Cade Wheat** [8] said. "Snow is only fun for a few days of the year."

The glory of it all may fade, but the memories and laughs shared will remain.

"My mom got out there and had fun with my little brother, so it was kind of awesome for her to get out there with us," **Courtney Andrews** [12] said. "I cherished the snow day I spent with my family."



Hands in the air, **Samantha Hughes** [11] smiles as snow falls from above. "My favorite part of the snow was just the beauty of it," Hughes said. "Seeing sheets of white cover the ground and all the houses looked so pretty. The trees were absolutely stunning." photo courtesy of s. hughes



Wrapped in warm clothing, **Kasey Carr** [10] and **Jacob Bly** [10] prepare to sled down a hill. "I told everyone that if it snowed, I would have a sledding party at my house," Carr said. "Jacob was the first one to show up. There ended up being around 40 people at my house." photo courtesy of k. carr



Smiles wide for a picture, **Cayman Sutton** [9] and **Madison Sigmon** [9] enjoy the snow day together. "We went to a friend's house and got pulled around on a tube," Sigmon said. "We would go fast around corners and down hills and almost fell off." photo courtesy of c. sutton



Sporting her state volleyball hoodie, **Allison Goll** [11] makes a snow angel. "I have woods behind my house, so on the snow day I took some of my friends back there to take pictures," Goll said. "It was my goal to make a snow angel and when I did, I was really happy." photo courtesy of a. goll



Before sledding down the hill, **Avery Moore** [10], **Jensen Chain** [10] and **Spencer Sallee** [10] take time to pose for the camera. It had been over five years since it snowed like this in White Oak. "We got pulled on the tube around Jensen's neighborhood and went to the big red hills and slid down them," Moore said. "We also had a friend pull us on the tube behind their four wheeler." photo courtesy of a. moore



Taking advantage of the snow day, **Byron Locke** [4] and sister **Annie Locke** [1] smile with their dog, George. "I played with my dad and dog and we had snowball fights with my neighbor," Byron said. "My sister froze her hands, but it was pretty awesome to play in the snow." photo courtesy of b. locke

Ready Set Snow

Community increases population of snow people



Ashley Nipper [12] **Meredith Hicks** [2]



Chloe Marsh [10]



Jacob Gibbs [5] **Makenna Gibbs** [9]



Destiny Morgan [8] **Lisa Potichko** [8]



Kayla Hunter [10] **Clay Hunter** [alum 13]



Laura Odom **Brian Odom** [alum 10]



Cade Carter [5] **Calee Carter** [3]



Kayla Pruitt [2]



Jordan Steele [7] **Travis Steele** [1]



Kelsey McFall [11] **Kadrienne Sanders** [12]