

# Winter



## TOP THIS

Tytrez Petty (11), in line behind Kate Thies (12) and Sara Shedd (12), look at the topping options in anticipation at the hot chocolate bar in the atrium on a cold winter morning. "It was pretty cool," Petty said. "[It was] a nice thing they were doing for Bloomington North."

Photo by Sofie Garcia

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## BURNING QUESTIONS

A fire truck pulls out of North's circle parking lot after the fire alarms were set off one of four times this school year.  
Photo by Kelton O'Connell

# FIRED Up

## STRING OF FIRE ALARM INCIDENCES

On February 7, near the end of the school day, fire alarms sounded, prompting the 1,600 individuals at North to evacuate into the parking lots around the school. Speculation surrounding the cause of the evacuation was quickly dispelled as a video instantly circulated among students; the video revealed a toilet paper dispenser in a boys' bathroom emitting smoke, with flames visible from the underside of the dispenser.

Blessing Gapare (12) was in the bathroom at the time the alarms sounded, and his shoes and voice were recorded in the video. He had just returned with his club, Black Student Union, from a field trip. He was walking down the hallway from the library to the 500s, when he saw smoke coming from the 500s bathroom.

"Out of curiosity, I ... walked into [the bathroom]," Gapare said. "I saw people walking in, I was like, 'man, if this many people are walking in, it's probably safe.'" While he didn't know who was responsible for the fire, he was questioned by North administrators.

Kaitleen St. Clair (12) entered

### SWEET MEMORIES

The hot chocolate bar was organized by senior class presidents Liv Bultman (12) and Ben Jaffe (12), and Maia Brumley (12) assisted in passing out the last remaining toppings to Keeahna Moore (10) and Jamie Kallner (9). *Photo by Sofie Garcia*



North with the same group of students. "The boys went in there to see what was going on," she said. "Then, one of them came running out and said, 'pull the fire alarm.'" So she did. Her friends went to notify teachers. No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

This was one of four incidents this school year in which North's fire alarms were activated, prompting an evacuation and emergency response from the fire department. The first incident, according to Principal Matthew Stark, was coincidentally during a band concert held in the evening, and a gust of wind blew smoke from a grill-out held around Hoosier Hills Career Center into the building, setting off the fire alarm. The second was during the Homecoming dance, when the DJ brought a smoke machine. "They did not have authorization to use the smoke machine," said Stark. "They used it anyway, and that set it off." The third incident occurred when fumes from a Hoosier Hills class set off the alarm around lunchtime.

"Most recently, we had a situation [where an] item was put in the bathroom that created a fire with the toilet paper holder," said Stark. "We have a vape issue going on in our school. ... When vapes are used when the battery's low sometimes they'll heat up. Somebody shoved a vape up into the bathroom toilet paper holder, which then caused the toilet paper to catch fire."

"All of [the incidents] were preventable," Stark continued. He expressed concern of North becoming a constant alarm. "[We] have a great deal of appreciation for the emergency services."

*Story by Kelton O'Connell*

What is your favorite thing about winter?

Snowman

Merrill Gibbs (9)

no school at break, and

Christmas Eileen Moellers (9)

having time off school

Audrey Moore (9)

The reminder of the infinite and endless marching of time

Chandler Nagy (9)

Christmas

Belle Ying (9)

Skating

Connor O'Leary (10)

Christmas

Nancy Patel (10)

birthday

Oscar Rigdon (10)

Playing in the Snow

Sophia Silwal (10)

Snow

Oakley Yoder (10)

Winter decorations

Igor Khomiakov (11)

I love Christmas lights

Grayson Kingsbury (11)

Hot Chocolate

Isa Muhammad (11)

My dog wears sweaters because she's too cold otherwise!

Anna Petro (11)

Hoodie

Sara Yousef (11)

Sledding

Owen Daley (12)

Christmas w/ family

Juliana Heiliger (12)

Hot cocoa

Jenny Hu (12)

The cold

Donovan Keith Reeves (12)

family

Ethan Silwal (12)