Happy New Year! I’d like to extend a sincere thank you to all employees who worked over the winter break. Your time and commitment are greatly appreciated. These are, indeed, difficult times given our country’s divisions and the continuing pandemic. In this week's email, President Hanlon wrote, "Now is the time we must come together in the best interest of the nation." Let’s work together to respect our differences, be kind to others, and recommit ourselves to apply safe health practices. Cheers!

**Skiway Conditions are Just Fine!**

While ski and snowboard conditions at the Dartmouth Skiway aren’t quite as perfect as shown in this photo, they’re pretty darn good! A few inches of fresh powder here and there, plus expert snowmaking by the Skiway’s professionals result in very nice conditions on Chivers and Herman's Highway, and the Skiway’s trail report says, "the skin tracks on MD are in great shape, even a few days after snowfall." A new Skiway communication called *News from the Ledges* reports that the Skiway’s "Thirty Trails Cafe is open, serving breakfast and lunch through the window on the deck of the lodge. You can order on-line and set a pick-up time before you leave the house." Now, that’s service!

So, come out and enjoy all the Skiway has to offer!

**New Employee COVID Website Details Testing Changes & More**

Human Resources has developed an expanded [Employee COVID-19 Resources website](http://employees.cas.vanderbilt.edu/coronavirus) to answer questions about employee COVID testing. There is a lot of helpful information on this site, so please take some time to read through it.

According to the asymptomatic testing section of this site, "there are now two employee testing categories (Big Green and Lone Pine) based on the frequency of an employee’s work on site. Employees who consistently report to work on-site 4 or more days each week have been assigned to the Big Green category and must get tested twice weekly. At least one test must be completed by the end of Wednesday and the second completed by the end of Friday. Each test should be scheduled with at least one day in-between."

Employees assigned to the Lone Pine group "work less than a consistent 4 days per week on site, and are required to test every-other day that they work on site, regardless of the time between visits."

Dining served 50+ students who remained on campus over the winter holiday, packaging hot meals, deli sandwiches, and special treats like snack packs and homemade gingerbread cookies to make the days a little brighter. Staff working the special meal pick-up days reported how appreciative the students were.

Currently, Dining is ramping up to serve the 1,600 +/- students expected to arrive soon with meal delivery to their residences for the first 3 days while awaiting their COVID test results. This is no easy undertaking, and while they executed a similar challenge for the fall opening, coordinating such an undertaking takes a lot of preparation. Says Plodzik, "I am lucky to work with such a dedicated, skilled team who make the difficult look easy to everyone".