

# The ISLAND

## Your Between the Lakes Family Connection!

### December

**Happy Holidays!** The finish line of our first semester is quickly approaching as the Holiday season is upon us. Some of us may become distracted by Sugar Plums and thoughts of Santa and it may be easy for us to lose focus. Yet, it is also important to balance work with some fun. Maybe some of the events and activities offered this month could be used as small incentives for completed assignments or projects? Whether your family takes time off to celebrate the holidays or finishes strong before they begin, I do hope everyone gets an opportunity to spend a little more time together as a family this month.

**Holiday Scavenger Hunt Challenge:** My daughters helped me create a simple Family Game we invite you to all play. This game is also open to families of teachers and staff as well as our Between the Lakes students and families. Below is a list of 5 activities to complete. Each activity is worth 100 points. The top 5 families with the most points will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 Walmart Gift Card! This challenge will be from **Monday December 7th - Wednesday December 23rd**. Good luck and have fun! I hope to get lots of great photos! With your permission, I may share some of them and maybe a few recipes at the end of December with you all. Below are the five activity challenges:

- 1. Family Tree Photo (100 points):** Take a family photo gathered around a tree. It could very well be your beautiful Christmas Tree, or just one outside in the yard. Send your photo to [cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us) and label it "Holiday Scavenger 1" and include your name and a mailing address in case you win the gift card.
- 2. Holiday Cookie Recipe Exchange (100 points):** Make your favorite holiday/Christmas cookie or treat. Take a picture your family with your yummy treat and include the recipe. Send them to [cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us) and label it "Holiday Scavenger 2". Again, include your name and a mailing address.
- 3. Light Show Fun (100 points):** Either attend a holiday light show, find a very well-decorated home, or create your own and take a picture of your family with the light show glowing in the background. Send your photo to [cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us) and label it "Holiday Scavenger 3". I think you get the idea about including your name.

4. **Santa Sightings (100 points):** Find a live Santa, picture, or statue, or even a big blow up one in someone's yard and take a picture with your family and Santa. I think you figured out where to send the photo to, and label it "Holiday Scavenger 4" naturally.
5. **Ugly Sweater/White Elephant Gift (100 points):** Take a picture of your family wearing their ugliest sweaters or displaying their worst White Elephant Gifts, or both. Please make sure the photo and items displayed are appropriate for all ages to view. Then yes, send the photo with the label "Holiday Scavenger 5".

**Tuesday Evening December 22nd Come for Cocoa and Holiday Cheer:** Meet us in Kiel outside the Kiel Community Center upper level **between 5-6 pm**. I will have a table set out with packets of hot cocoa, cups and mixing straws. Bring along your own thermos of hot water or milk and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa. Then, your family is welcome to stroll along Fremont Street enjoying the Holiday lights or visit with other families outside while social distancing.

**Let's change things up a bit for our kid's social zoom meet:** Our first kid's zoom call went okay last month, but I quickly realized it will work better to have our kids at different ages meet at different times. This meeting will be **Friday, December 18th**. I also realized I need to keep the meeting open the entire time, even if I am the only one there in case a new crowd decides to drop in toward the end. Thank you for your patience as I learn new things every month! As in the past, if you are interested in participating, please send me an email and I will send you the zoom link. This time we are going to try to the following schedule:

**6:30-6:58 Kindergarten- 2nd Grade** (It will work best if a parent or older sibling is nearby in case they have technical difficulties) (we can do show and tell)

**7:00-7:28 3rd Grade - 5th Grade** (send me some ideas of games to play)

**7:30-7:58 6th-8th Grade** (Send me some ideas of games to play)

When you send me the email, please include which time you would like to participate at so I can send you the correct link.

**How about Another Cup of Coffee?** Join me **Saturday 19th** from **8:00am-9:00 am** for "Mom's/Dad's Coffee Hour". If you are interested, please send me your email address requesting an invitation to join us for a zoom call. This meeting has no agenda except to give moms/dads a chance to connect. You are welcome to email me any questions or topics ahead of time, or just come hang out, share or listen, and enjoy the company. So far, we have had some great conversations!

**A few other fun ideas for families to try:** December typically has so many events and activities already scheduled I didn't include too many this month. If your family is looking for some fun activities to get out of the house try one of these listed below:

- **Winter Hike:** some of the parks and nature centers have scheduled winter hikes available. If they are too far away, just head out for a walk together to look at Christmas lights. Bundle up and enjoy the fresh air.
- **Light Shows:** find a light show near your community and either drive through or park and watch. So fill the van with popcorn, water bottles and maybe a candy cane or two and sing-along as you watch the dazzling twinkling lights!
- **Shop Local:** Yes, there may be great deals on-line, but if you are not afraid to venture out with your mask on, make a date to check out some of the local shops in your area. You may even be able to find that perfect gift you were looking for. If you call ahead, some places may even allow for a private visit, suggest a time that is less busy, or shop with you right over the phone.
- **Remember those who may be feeling lonely:** whatever activities your family decides to do, outdoors or inside, take some pictures or video chat to share your time and memories with those who cannot be with you. Even if you don't know anyone personally, please feel free to make or send cards to residents in nursing homes or hospitals in your community and sign them "from your neighbor and friend". For some, your communication could be the highlight of their season.

**More Ideas for Extracurriculars?** As the weather turns colder, it may not always be nice enough to play outside for P.E., and ideas in other subjects may be getting exhausted. If your family is interested, both Zielanis Elementary School and Kiel Middle School do allow students to join in person for specials like P.E., Art, Band, Choir and possibly other exploratory classes. If you are interested in any of these options, please contact Chad Ramminger [cramminger@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:cramminger@kiel.k12.wi.us) at Zielans or Deb Sixel [dsixel@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:dsixel@kiel.k12.wi.us) at Kiel Middle School. If that is not a good option I still have plenty of ideas I would love to share. And some of our Between the Lakes Families may have some great ideas too. Please feel free to email me, or reach out at a zoom meet or any of our activities if you have any questions or would like to share what your family does for extracurricular activities.

**Got any better ideas???** If you have any suggestions of fun places you and your family like to visit, please feel free to let me know and I can share with everyone.

**That's All For Now** With this close of this newsletter brings the end of our 2020 year! I do not want to end without wishing your family a most wonderful Holiday Season and Happy New Year. We have all had a very memorable past year and most of us are looking forward to all 2021 promises. May all your year end goals be completed and let your Holidays be fun, festive, healthy and happy. And most of all, as always, **Enjoy Your Family!**

Have a great month,  
Christine Clements  
Between the Lakes Specials Coordinator  
cclements@kiel.k12.wi.us