

The ISLAND

Your Between the Lakes Family Connection!

January

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2021! Our family always begins the new year by keeping a time-capsule. We spend each New Year's Day reflecting and writing down our accomplishments from the previous year and goals for the new year. We then take the paper we created and put it in a ziplock baggie and then a large resealable container, (our time-capsule) and store it away in our basement. Then, the following New Year's Eve, we enjoy opening the time-capsule and reading all the previous years' entries. This has become one of our family's favorite traditions and a fun way to observe our family as we grow and change. Even though New Years Day is over, this could still be a fun family project for January.

Does your family have goals for the new year? Are your students excited about finishing the semester and beginning fresh in just a few weeks? As we end the old and begin the new both with the year and with the new semester, we can all be excited for a fresh start. Hopefully semester finals go well for all our older kids and our younger ones finish strong too. If your family is feeling anxious or frustrated about any up-coming deadlines or future concerns I encourage you to reach out to our administration team; Katrina Pionek, Deb Sixel, and Chad Ramminger. They are very willing to help or connect you to the resources and people that can best meet your needs.

Holiday Scavenger Hunt Challenge Winner: As the Holiday season wrapped up, our Holiday Scavenger Challenge did have a family that shared some very beautiful pictures and won the \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Card. Thank you so much, and congratulations. Even though the challenge is over, all families are still welcome to share any holiday family photos with me and I will try to put together a fun photo video to share with everyone.

Hey Kids, let's Zoom again!: Our last zoom meeting went even better than the first as I learned how to play Scattergories! I am eager to try some other on-line games and have a few ideas of my own too. We will have all our kid's zoom meetings **Friday, January 15th**. As in the past, if you are interested in participating, please send me an email and I will send you the zoom link. Please include which time or times you would like to sign up for. Here is the 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 or I might have them “help me make cookies”)

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

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

Tropical Island Day: **Also Friday January 15th**, stay indoors, turn the thermostat up to 70 degrees and put on your favorite shorts and t-shirts. We can pretend it is a warm sunny day, (too hot to go out), and maybe even enjoy a slushie or popsicle! Feel free to have your tropical outfit on for our kid’s zoom calls too.

How about Another Cup of Coffee? Join me **Saturday 16th** 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. I missed you all last month but had a great conversation with one of our teachers!

Sunset Walk at Waack Park: **Wednesday, January 20th, 4-5 pm.** Bundle up and enjoy a nice walk along the bike-trail. There is also a parking lot, a playground, and even a near-by dog park. [click here for directions and info](#) Your family is welcome to enjoy meeting my family and others in conversation, or just do your own thing. As always, feel free to stay home if the weather is not cooperative.

Let’s Go Sledding! **Saturday Afternoon January 23rd 12:00-2:00 pm:** We are hoping for another good snow, and a chance to get out and slide down the hills! Bring your sleds and enjoy a couple hours of fun. Please feel free to invite friends along to this activity as it is open to both on-line and in-person families. We will be at the top of the hill by Karl’s Soccer Field. 15-17 Mueller Road, Kiel. [click here for directions](#)

Coming Up in February: I wanted to give you a head’s up about a few activities I have in mind for February that may take a little bit more time to plan. Please consider them and share any feedback or ideas you have about them with me. I am very open to suggestions.

- Visit to Sun Prairie on GroundHog Day to meet Jimmy the GroundHog. [click here for details](#)
- Valentine Exchange: Even though we don’t meet in-person, it may be fun to share some valentines through the mail. Anyone interested in participating can

send me an email including the names, gender, and ages of all in your family wishing to participate and an address to send them. I will compile a list to send to everyone interested in participating!

- Ice Skating: if we get a good cold spell, there is a great place in Plymouth that allows ice-skating for free!
- Open-gym time: at the Zielanis Elementary School as soon as the building is open to the public.
- Campfire and Cocoa: I am checking with local authorities on a good site to use our portable fire-pit where families could play and visit and warm up by a cozy fire. Families could bring their own chairs and mugs and I still have plenty of individual serving packets of cocoa. I could probably put together some smores kits too.

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 at Zielans or Deb Sixel 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 As we enter a new year with a fresh start, welcome new ideas and new goals. Even if the weather is cold, there are only a few more months of winter. If you love the coziness of winter like me, make the most of these short days with many adventures with your family both outdoors and inside through games and books. If you prefer the warmer seasons then start planning now, for all the fun you want to have once the warmer weather arrives. Indoors or outside, no matter the weather, there are many wonderful things our families can enjoy together!

Enjoy Your Family,
Christine Clements
Between the Lakes Specials Coordinator

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