



***Happy Holidays
From
Camp Belknap
2009***

Dear Belknap Family and Friends,

We hope this holiday season finds you all well and surrounded by the love and warmth of family and friends. Belknap awaits the winter snows in anticipation of your return for the summer of 2010. As you close your eyes and think of warm summer days under the great white pines also remember the quote that hangs on the wall by my desk at the Belknap office "No person whose heart is always here is ever away". God Bless all of you and until we meet again we send our love and best wishes~ Gene III, Caryn, Sean and Sam

Dear Belknappers, There is a great line from the film "Field of Dreams" where Shoeless Joe Jackson (or at least his ghost) asks Ray Kinsella (played by Kevin Costner) if the gorgeous ballpark surrounded by cornfields where they are playing baseball under the night sky is Heaven. Ray looks around and replies, "No...it's Iowa". When I used to sit on Conlon Lodge during those long hot summers and gaze out to Little Huck, I would often ask myself, "Is this heaven?" And each summer the answer was always the same, "Yes, it's where dreams come true." And this year, a lot of our Board's dreams have come true as well, with a lot of hard work. So, for the love of Belknap, may your holidays be filled with the hope of the coming year, where dreams come true, under the pines, on the shores of Lake Winniper. ~ Greg Whalen, Chair, Camp Belknap Board of Directors

This year it is a most difficult task to write a Holiday greeting (from just me). But, I do want to wish all Belknappers the merriest of Christmases and a wonderful New Year. Also, I want to thank all those who attended Gene Jr's "Celebration of Life" (Gene passed away at 82 years old), and we broke the record for church attendance at his service with over 300 people. Wow, what a tribute!!! John Friborg's homily, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You", and the great "Boomalacka" from Belknappers at the service was great. Much love, ~ Peg Clark

Dear Belknappers, From Southwest Connecticut on this Thanksgiving Eve go out to you our sincere best wishes for all the blessings of this holiday season: light, hope, beauty, love, kindness, generosity, friendship, home, and family. May we all be thankful for these gifts in our lives and the special gift that is Camp Belknap. As you celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas, take a moment to think of Belknap times, Belknap friends, and your "home away from home". And remember to keep in mind those so much less fortunate. Love to all, ~ Tom, Elaine, Ryan and Tyler Giggi

Barb and I wish all of you a happy holiday season, and stay safe and well until we meet under the pines again. Peace to all, ~ Chip

Dear Fellow Belknappers, Simo, Dacha, Sava and I send our warmest holiday greetings from Exeter, New Hampshire. After a colorful fall, we're bracing for a snowy winter and looking forward to the boys' first forays on snowboards. Dacha is loving second grade (well, kinda) and performed a wonderful violin concert here at Phillips Exeter Academy in October. (Search for "Thurber Violin" on YouTube for some highlights). Sava is enjoying being the oldest boy in preschool and will also have a solo performance in the coming months. Both boys have continued with gymnastics and now enjoy flexing contests to see who is more "ripped". Both have also started counting down the days until they can be Cadets.

Simo and I are working our hardest to keep the shoe lines straight and bring in the dry stuff from the back lines. During our free periods, we've enjoyed numerous visits from Belknap alums and current leaders and campers. I'm in the middle of my 11th year as school psychologist and as a side project, I continue to enjoy conducting workshops at camp conferences and creating Internet-based materials to educate camp staff worldwide. Many thanks to the Belknap campers, leaders, and parents who starred in video training modules. You help spread the Belknap spirit far and wide!

We hope this holiday season includes the warmth of family, friends, and home cooking to contrast with the crisp, cool, winter air. And speaking of air, here's hoping you get as much on the slopes as you did behind the ski boat this summer. Wasn't this camp season a blast?! We look forward to seeing you again soon, under the pines and along the shores of Winnepesaukee. Until we meet again, God Bless, Timi-Hi, and Happy Holidays,~ Chris, Simo, Dacha and Sava Thurber

Whether the weather is rainy, sunny, foggy, cloudy, hot or cold: each day is perfect at Camp Belknap during the summer. Just remember campers, leaders and staff... the best Christmas gift of all is to look forward to another summer "under the pines" where all Belknappers are your friends and brothers. Stay well and prosper,~ Pete (the oldest kitchen boy) Sluski

Happy Holidays to all Belknappers far and near! What a fantastic 2009 season! Looking forward to seeing everyone for the summer of 2010. Can you believe it is only 180 more days til we meet again.. Wishing Happy Holidays to all and remember to always Seek the Joy. Best to all, ~ Hippo (Cadet Lancer) & Karen Moore

Happy Holidays Belknap! Well, after four years of teaching I've returned to the other side of the classroom to be a student again. Graduate school life is treating me well, although I miss teaching and coaching, and looking forward to returning to Fenn next fall. Thanks to all the campers and leaders for another incredible summer under the pines in 2009. I always enjoy taking time over the holidays to remember how lucky we all are to have Belknap in our lives, and especially thankful for the strong bonds and lasting friendships that Belknap seems to naturally foster. I hope that some well-deserved time off from school will allow you the opportunity to reconnect with Belknappers in your neck of the woods and rekindle the fires of friendship from the summer. My best wishes to the entire Belknap family for a happy, healthy and joyful holiday season. I can't wait to see you all back up at camp in six short months. ~ Timi-Hi, ~Tally-Keeper Dave Irwin

Dear Friends, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a happy new year. I have been blessed with good health, a great school year teaching, and a house that is finally DONE. Please keep in touch and let me know if you're ever around the NH Seacoast. Timi-Hi, ~Chaw

To all Belknappers, I hope this holiday season brings much happiness as you gather with your families and friends. I hope 2010 is a happy, healthy year bringing whatever you are dreaming of. May God Bless you all. ~ Doris

Happy Holidays from Northome, Minneasota, may the year find you happy and healthy. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone. I had a great summer and hope to see you in 2010. Best Wishes, ~Lisa Schueller

Hello All Belknappers~ This last summer marked my 25th year at Camp Belknap. Every year just seems to get better and better. I am very fortunate to work for and with such great people. I hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year and an enjoyable winter. Hope to see you all next spring. ~ Maxine

To All Belknappers, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Hope to see you all in 2010. ~ Norma Hughes

Holiday Greetings from Wolfeboro! I hope you all have a great school year and a wonderful holiday season. Hope to see you all again this summer. ~Dick Swasey

This holiday season as you are surrounded by the ones you love, may you be granted miracles and blessings from above. Happy Holidays to All. ~ Debbi Santulli

Blessed Holidays to you and yours and a Happy New Year for all of you for 2010. ~ Ann & Bob Champagne

So, it's a few days before Thanksgiving and Austin is counting the days to the first day of camp and I would just rather be tie dying on the sun deck but we will just have to wait. During this time of year we are thinking about how thankful we are to be part of the Belknap family! Last summer was such a memorable one for me as I got my Timi-Hi 5 and am now in the CB club. We want to wish you all a wonderful Holiday season and we will see you all next year under the pines!! Love, ~ Lisa (Mrs. Beveridge), Austin and Brad

Hope everyone is having a great school year! I had a blast at camp- my first year was great! Happy Holidays, ~Jo-El Gavel-Cookman

Timi-Hi Everyone! I hope that you are having an awesome holiday season. It seems like just yesterday we were enjoying those “Perfect 10s” that Gene was bantering about. He is right though, those are the days we tend to remember during these cold, winter, off-season months. I hope school is going well for everyone, and that they are living Camp outside of Belknap. Down in Providence, we have established a wrecking ball of a crew (sans K.J...) that is taking over this most enormous state. I hope to see you all under the pines next summer. ~ Teddy Kinneen

Hello from Galway, Ireland. Three days after I left camp this summer I was settling in to my new apartment across the pond in Ireland. For those of you that thought this past summer was wet, it was nothing compared to the everyday rain here in Ireland. It has been an amazing semester, but it will be great to be home. I hope this note finds everyone well during the holiday season. I look forward to seeing all of you under the pines next summer, but until then be brave, be helpful, and be kind. Timi-Hi, ~Christian D’Amour

Hello to all Belknappers near and far. I hope life outside Belknap has been treating you all well, and that you’re finding time to relax now that the busy fall is over and the holidays are finally here. Life in Colorado this fall has been enjoyable as ever and I was lucky enough to catch up to Jack Laskey one night at my house and later, Pete Laskey and his parents on their visit to Colorado College. Lacrosse season started in late November, keeping me very busy, but I’m looking forward to the return of Belknappers to the Rockies this spring for your yearly Belknap ski weekend. Enjoy the holiday season and stay warm. Belknap awaits your return this coming summer. Get excited. Timi-Hi, ~ Brendan Gangl

Buenos dias, Belknappers! This fall finds me in the midst of a new adventure: a semester abroad in Granada, Spain. It’s been an incredible experience – improving my Spanish, seeing the sights, and sampling a different way of life. As much as I’m enjoying it, I’m looking forward to getting home in December – and then back to my other home in June. My best to you and yours,~ Chris Lash

Salutations! I write to you from the fluorescent drenched basement of the university library, a far cry from the open air sunshine of main dock to be sure. The offseason grinds on as usual and as we prepare to plunge into the dreary days of New England winter, I’m stocking up on Belknap memories to help weather the storm. I can advise that you all do the same; there are few things as warming on a frigid January evening than the vivid recollection of the sun on your back and Clark Field between your toes. A special greeting to all the Brotherhood, especially the noble rapsCALLIONS of Cabin 2 – you made the summer what it was. But sadly I must be going, I can feel the snows coming on and I better start hunkering down for the long haul; someone wake me when the Bizou season starts. Until then, ~Greg Berman

Greetings Everyone! Hope this cold offseason is treating everyone well. I have been enjoying school the past few months out in Ohio at the College of Wooster. I have had a lot of work keeping me busy but I still often find myself daydreaming of those perfect summer days on the lake. Besides school work, I still watch my Buffalo Bills lose game after game on their quest to go a decade without a bid for the playoffs. Hopefully the rest of you have someone better to cheer on. Anyways, hope everyone is safe and well. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Timi-Hi, ~ Jack Tracy

Dear Belknappers, I would just like to send everyone my best and hope that all is going well for everyone. I hope that the holidays are going well and that camp is on your minds. Sincerely, ~Ryan Clark

This is Dayno and Geis and we are here in Maui taking a semester off from school and we want to wish Belknappers far and wide a happy holiday! We have been doing a lot of snorkeling, surfing, and swimming. The most interesting event of late is that Nick hit his foot on the reef and put a massive hole in his toe while attempting to surf a wave that was much too big for Nick, woahh bro. Matt has been rocking the live open mic every Wednesday night in town and watching and crying over the movies of the twilight saga. Nick has been surfing giant waves on the north shore and single-handedly feeding the mouths of hundreds of tourists daily. We hope everyone has a great holiday and that we will see you all back at camp this summer especially those of you that will be back in the best division in camp, Besserers. Timi-Hi,~ Geis (Matt) and Dayno (Nick)

Happy Holidays Everyone! I’ve recently finished my first soccer season here at Colby and now look forward to the winter ahead of me. I’m excited to begin working as a teachers assistant during January while continuing to make fresh tracks on the mountains with a classmate some of you may know, Dan Covert. Even though I’m busy loving my freshman year up in Maine, I still dream of what promises to be another unforgettable summer in Camelot. Best wishes Belknappers, and a stoic Timi-Hi to the fellas of Besserer 3. God Bless, ~ Nick Nowak

Greeting Belknappers! I hope this letter finds you happy and healthy and warm. Memories of Summer '09 still hang in my mind constantly and bring a smile to my face, as I'm sure they do for you. Life in Amherst has been good, playing lots of music, and building my first guitar. Let the countdown to June 2010 begin... Eat your veggies and Seek the Joy '09,~ Rat Dog (Tom Wraight)

Hello Everyone! I hope this finds you happy and well. I've been up in Hamilton, New York, enjoying the last of what has been a warm fall, and getting ready for what should be a freezing winter. I'll be thinking of the beautiful Belknap days while I'm trudging through two feet of snow. Best of luck to all for the rest of the year, and I look forward to seeing everyone this summer. Until then, ~ Matt Flannery

Dear Belknappers, As I sit in my dorm room pondering my last paper before the holiday break (which is due tomorrow!) I occasionally find myself drifting back to all those long summer days on Main Dock. While the weather here at Cushing has been so mild, nothing beats those long, warm summer days at camp. Hope you are all keeping Belknap fire alive inside you, and that you and your families enjoy a wealth of holiday spirit. Happy Holidays, ~Tyler Griffin

Greetings from up on the hilltop of Burlington, Vermont! As the days get shorter and we begin to think of summer under the pines, remember what made your Belknap experience so great and share it with the people around you now as you celebrate the off-season holidays. Have a terrific year until we meet again on the shores of the mighty Winniper. Seek The Joy,~ Jeff Lyons

Dear Belknappers, I hope everyone is having a safe and festive holiday season! Life is full of fun here in Keene, NH. College applications and SAT's own my life at the moment, but I hope everyone enjoys their holidays. ~Elliot Mitchell

Happy Holiday Belknappers, Hope everyone is having a great off-season thus far. I am just finishing my first semester at James Madison University and I absolutely love it. However, more than anything I miss those amazing times under the pines with everyone, and the Winniper. We need to think of those amazing memories under the pines, as they will comfort you and ease you closer to the next season at Belknap. Keep working hard in school, having fun, and may the Belknap spirit glow everywhere you go. Before you know it, the 2010 season will be upon us...till then fellas take it easy. Timi-Hi, ~Ryan Oliphant

Greetings from the beaches of Northern Peru! As you all finish up your fall semester of school, I will be completing my South American travels in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. It's been an amazing experience, yet I can't wait to come home to Belknap next summer. Until then, my brothers, seek the joy. ~ Andrew Rentschler

Greeting Belknappers near and far, I hope that all are well around the holidays. As for me, college applications are winding down and I am gearing up for snow to fall. Amidst the stress of senior year of high school, my mind seems to constantly drift towards camp. As the new year approaches and 2009 draws to a close, I find myself again and again attempting to figure out a way to make a "10" with my hand. No success thus far, but hope remains. Live the lamps always. Timi-Hi until we meet again under the pines, ~ Sam Stewart

To All Belknappers~ I hope all of your holiday seasons are off to a good start. As a senior in high school in the frigid winter months of Massachusetts, all I find myself thinking about are the countless great times with everyone back at Camelot. Remember, only 6 more months until the start of another great summer. Hope all is well and see you next year. ~ Ed Tarnell

Hi Belknappers, I am greatly enjoying Tampa in almost every aspect, though I am having a tad bit of difficulty dealing with the locals who complain when the temperature drops below 70 degrees, but I'll get by. Similarly, school is going quite well, and my classes are enjoyable. The teachers are interesting, especially a philosophy teacher who refers to major political figures as "cats" and "fish sandwiches" (no, it makes no sense to me either). My major is still film, I still love math, and though I enjoy the offseason I still long to be back at camp. Sincerely, ~ Matt Weinburg