



***Happy Holidays
From
Camp Belknap
2011***

Dear Belknap Family,

Belknap lies peaceful and quiet, in all her beauty, in anticipation of you returning next summer. The leaves have fallen and first snows have arrived. We remain grateful for all Belknap means in our lives; a kind place where happiness and growth in spirit, mind and body reign supreme. You all remain in our hearts always. Until we meet again in the summer of 2012 "Seek the Joy of Being Alive" and have the happiest of holidays. Timi-Hi, Gene & Caryn

On behalf of Camp Belknap's Board of Directors, I would like to extend to our legion of leaders, campers and staff a most appreciative thank you for being a part of the Belknap family. As we approach this holiday season, it is only fitting that we reflect upon this national treasure we call Belknap and the promises it holds for each and every one of us. For 108 years it has never strayed from its core mission of providing a foundation for young men on which to build a life of dreams and fulfillment: A life's journey that puts God First, the Other fellow Second and Myself Last. It is a mission that your Board commits to daily with the knowledge that there is no greater gift than serving a cause greater than your own. Belknap is a constant reminder, that regardless of the challenges ahead, there is still much to be thankful for. Please know that you and your families remain in our hearts as we all look forward to coming together once again on the shores of Lake Winniper. The very best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and a very, very healthy New Year. Oh Chief! Greg Whalen, Board Chair and President, YMCA Camp Belknap

It seems like so long ago that the warm summer sun shined on all of us through the pines and on the lake. Since the 2011 camp season ended, those of us in the Northeast experienced a late August hurricane, which knocked power out for many of us for many days. Remember? We lived through a late October snowstorm, which did the same thing. Remember? We cringed as we watched a late season Red Sox calamity. Remember? Now, as we head full speed into the holiday season (Thanksgiving is just two days away as I write this), it's time to remember all that Belknap has taught us about others coming first, about selflessness, and about taking care of each other. It's time to remember Belknap friends, past and present, and how much they mean to us. And it's time to remember the role that camp plays in each of our lives, while we're at camp in body and while, like now, we're there in spirit. Be grateful! Merry Christmas, one and all, and Happy 2012! May the lights stay on for all of us 'til we meet again. With all good wishes and love, Tom and Elaine Giggi

*“The sun sets, over the islands, purple and orange in the fading light;
The sound of the loon’s haunting call, loud and clear in the coming night.
As taps echoes off the distance hills, across the darken lake;
A Belknap camper sleeps and dreams of memories to make.”*

From: Reflections of a White Pine

Barb and I wish all Belknappers a safe and happy holiday season. Hope to see you all next summer under the pines. ~ Chip & Barb Bierweiler

What wonderful memories we have of the 2011 summer! As you flip through the Masqua this winter, we hope you’ll remember all the fantastic activity periods, hilarious band reports, and close friends that made your summer at Belknap so special. Make somebody’s day by getting in touch with them during your vacation! We also hope that you’ll pause and count your blessings this winter, just as we do before every meal at camp. This year, the Thurber family is grateful for continued good health, a new job in Philips Exeter Academy admissions for Simo, success in gymnastics, school and violin for Dacha and Sava, and the opportunity to be among friends and family during the holidays. We thank you for a phenomenal summer, we wish you all the best for 2012, and we hope to see you back under the pines this coming summer!

Peace and love, Chris, Simo, Dacha, Sava and Gordana

Mandy and I wish you all a happy holiday season from our new home at Deerfield Academy, where we live with a cabin full of ninth and tenth grade boys. The students clap for chicken patties here too! As the snow falls in western Massachusetts, we are reminded of warm afternoons on Clark Field, the hustle and bustle of Conlon Lodge, and the smiley-faced campers who display the essence of the Belknap spirit at play. We will always remember the summer of 2011 as our honeymoon at the 'Chuckling Chipmunk,' and of course, the summer that brought the addition of our newest family member, Ellie, the golden retriever. She sends her kindest greetings too! Writing this annual holiday greeting is always my first reminder that the summer will soon be upon us once again. Boy heaven on earth will descend upon us all for another magical eight weeks in 2012. Until then, boys, stay warm and seek the joy. Timi-Hi, Dave and Mandy Irwin

Happy Holidays to our Belknap family! May you enjoy the changes of the seasons as we look forward to the summer when we will all be at our favorite place under the pines. Hoping everyone will have a healthy holiday season. Remember a camp motto “God First, the other fellow second and myself last”. See you soon, Hippo (Paul) and Karen Moore

I wish all campers, leaders, staff and friends of Camp Belknap a joyous Christmas and successful New Year. A special greeting goes out to all my past “kitchen boys” from Camp America. May this holiday season find you safe, happy and satisfied with your life endeavors. Remember, you will always be Belknappers, and my friends. “Father” Peter Sluski

Happy Holidays to all: Every fall as I get back into my home routine I find myself wondering how did summer go so fast. Once again, I was able to enjoy watching campers having a great camp experience. When I think back to camp, some of the things I always think of are sailboats across the bay, the splash of water from main dock, Adam’s Cup games being played all over camp, and watching the beautiful sunsets in the world but the memory that makes me smile the most is the sound of laughter from campers and leaders. May laughter and smiles surround you this holiday season and all year long. Have a blessed and safe year. God Bless, Doris

Greetings to all our Belknap Friends! We are so thankful this holiday season for the many blessings in our lives...our health, home, family and friends...but particularly to have been a part of the Belknap family for the past 6 years. We had a wonderful summer under the pines this year that we often talk about around the dinner table during the long winter season. We often jump right back into our busy life in Reading after 4 weeks at camp and this fall we were able to attend a fellow camper's soccer tournament that was being played in our neighboring town. The Donaghey boys had a blast with the Barnett boys!...even played some mean street hockey in between Sam Barnett's soccer games...I encourage campers to reach out to their Belknap brothers during the off season...it was so great to bring a little Belknap into our life at home... We wish you all a wonderful holiday season seeking the joy in your everyday...best wishes until next summer.

Mary Anne Donaghey and the Donaghey Boys

Happy Holidays to my new Belknap family! I hope you are able to enjoy this wonderful season with family and friends. May the New Year bring you joy and good health! ~ Valerie Cartier

Happy Holidays, Belknappers! Winter in our nation's capital promises to be warmer than I'm used to, but still cold enough to make me miss the sun on Main Dock. Wishing all the best to you and yours this holiday season, at a time when there's plenty of joy to be sought.

Best ~ Chris Lash

Hey to all Belknapper. I hope everyone is doing well and starting their "countdown to camp" calendars. Greg, KJ, Teddy and I successfully moved down to Providence, RI. And while we are all adjusting to life in "the real world", there is nothing better than coming home to a dose of Belknap every day. As the holidays approach, remember what you learned at camp: be thankful, be brave, and be kind. Stay safe and see you next summer.

Timi-hi~ Christian D'Amour

Dear Friends, A happy holiday season to all! May good friends, family, and spirits usher in a great New Year! ~Dave Latchaw

Hi all Belknappers, Hope everyone is enjoying themselves and are ready for winter. Another extraordinary summer is over and we wait eagerly for next summer. Hello to all the kitchen crew. You guys were super. Hope you can return next summer. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ~Maxine

Camp Belknap Staff and Campers. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Hope everyone has a safe and Happy New Year. I hope to see you all in 2012. ~ Norma Hughes

Hello to everyone, I am traveling south with my buddy in a 34' fifth wheel for the winter as we speak. We are having a blast. Visited Washington DC yesterday, heading to Virginia Beach today for a few day's visiting with some friends. Then it's on the road again through the Carolina's. From there we will be heading towards the sunshine state. I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year and we'll see you in seven months~ Judy Stockman

*Happy Holidays to all. Hope you and your loved ones have a safe and healthy holiday season.
~ Debbi Santulli*

Hey All, J Starr here reporting in from the warm sunny city of Seattle. Just kidding it's really wet cold and grey most of the time but it makes looking back on the summer months all the more enjoyable. I am in good spirits as the holiday season comes around and hope you all are as well. I miss you all and

think of the times we shared often. Have a good winter, ski as much as possible and always "seek the joy"! Timi-hi, Jesse Starr

P.S. If anyone is coming to Seattle for business or pleasure let me know I can get great discounts for you on hotels.

Greetings Belknappers- I hope this letter finds you all happy, healthy and warm. The summer of 2011 was amazing, as you all know, and the memories have kept me going through the offseason. Thinking about 2012 is getting me excited. I hope to see ya'll there. Keep living the dream!

Rat Dog (Tom Wraight)

Greetings from Providence College! Life is great down in the beautiful state of Rhode Island. I don't think I've ever had so much work in my life, but it makes me that much more excited to be back under the pines! I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy new year! I can't wait to see you all next summer! ~ B-Cat (Brian Catinella)

Hello, Hola, How We Doing? I'm living out in Colorado once more! Everything is wonderful, the music, the people, the food. I am traveling to Chile, Argentina, and hopefully Bolivia this spring, February 1st-May 15th. I will carry with me many thoughts and memories of this past summer, of bare feet on Messer and morning swims with the boys of cabin 2. I hope everyone is getting out and connecting with nature no-matter what the season!

Happy Holidays! ~ Bogie Foden

It's been a busy fall between work and soccer, but now I am getting ready for a very relaxing January of guitar lessons and skiing up at school. Dan Covert will be moving into my room once he returns from New Zealand, and hopefully we will see some Belknappers up at Sugarloaf for the ski season. Happy Holiday's and Take Care ~Nick Nowak

Timi-hi from beautiful Sewanee Tennessee! I hope we are all doing well. I am concluding my first semester at The University of the South and loving it, keeping very busy with academics and lots of rugby. Be safe, happy holidays and God Bless~ Jack Colligan

Happy Holidays to all my friends and extended Belknap family! Hope you have a fantastic holiday and an awesome New Year!! Things at Trinity College are great! Studying hard (hope you guys are too!) Special shout out to my "Little Bros." in Jr. Cabin C! Enjoy all that is important in life until we meet again. Remember: only 209 shopping days left till Belknap!!! Timi- Hi, ~ Tyler Griffin

Season's greetings from Boulder, Colorado!

After the initial shock of going from junior cabin m to a classroom in the span of just under 48 hours, I settled into my sophomore year at the University of Colorado quite nicely. My fall has been filled with some good hikes, some great early-season skiing, and of course plenty of schoolwork to keep me busy. I have seen some pretty cool things out here in the Rocky Mountains, but still nothing quite like a Belknap sunset, and I am counting down the days until I can share them with my boys once again. Happy Holidays! ~ Sam Stewart

Happy Holidays Belknappers! I write to you from Charlottesville, VA where I am currently in my sophomore year (2nd year) at the University of Virginia. Thomas Jefferson's campus looks magical right now with the colorful foliage. I had a smooth transition from the pines to UVA and I could not be happier with my new school. I do, however, miss waking up to a view of Messer from my front door.

I wish the entire Belknap family a great holiday season. Reach out to a few fellow Belknappers and be thankful for all that we have. Timi-Hi Nick Dayno

Belknappers, I hope this letter finds you warm and comfortable. I always miss the pines most when the weather starts to turn, but memories have never failed to get me through the winter. Thank you for sharing the joys of last summer with me—I'm already counting down the days until we start again in 2012! Have a blessed holiday season, and be safe until we meet again.

Timi-Hi and Seek the Joy, Ryan Giggi

Greetings from New London, CT! It's been a pretty wild fall semester here at Connecticut College considering we've seen hurricane Irene and snow on halloween, but so far school has been great. Of course, I'm thinking of the beautiful pines all the time and already getting excited for the 2012 season. I hope this message finds you warm and well. Happy Holidays! ~Andrew Rentschler

Greetings from Wooster, Ohio! I hope everyone finds themselves in a warm place surrounded by family and friends this holiday season. As I write this, I am currently sitting in my dorm room at the College of Wooster where I am wrapping up the first semester of my senior year. School has been awfully busy, full of working on my thesis, student teaching, and playing a lot of hockey. Thoughts of the warm summer days on the Winniper are keeping a smile on my face through the cold season, and I hope they do for everyone else. Shout out to all those who had a stay in Cabin 3 at some point this summer and Merry Christmas to all. ~Jack Tracy

Hello all, still at school out here in Colorado. Wish the best of luck to everybody during the holiday season. Safe travels and Timi-Hi.~ Pete Laskey

Hey Belknappers, just enjoyed a great Thanksgiving dinner with some of my family. I'm back in New Hampshire for the first time since the summer and it feels great to be back under the pines, even if there is snow on the ground. Hope you are all enjoying the holidays and seeking the joy. Timi-hi! – Spencer Dahl

Happy Holidays fellow Belknappers! I'm currently finishing up my first semester at Ithaca College and it's been tough work but I enjoy it. I've been making movies for my television classes and when I do, I think about the moviemaking periods I used to have and how fun they were. I miss all of you guys and hope you're doing well. Seek the joy, ~Matthew Hadley

Timi-hi---from Farmington, Connecticut. I hope everyone in the Belknap family is keeping the sight and sounds of camp in the back of their minds as they head into the holiday season. As I am heading into the toughest part of my senior year at the Taft School and trying to figure out my plans for the future, I always keep the sight of those pines and that lake that we all love in the back of my mind. I am always counting down the days until I can return to Belknap this summer. Hope to see you all soon! ~ Jack Katkavich

The other day, I went for a run in the woods. At first, I was very focused on what was directly in front of me. I did not look up because I did not want to trip on a root or stumble over a stray rock. As I continued to run thought, I began to look up every so often. I began to take in my surroundings and was amazed by all of the beauty that I had ignored at the beginning of my run. I slowed my run to a walk and did my best to absorb the beauty of nature on this sunny autumn day. My experience in the woods reminded me of my time at Belknap. There have been many times at camp when I have looked up from whatever activity I may be doing to admire the majesty of nature, and I recommend that you do the same. The next time you go to Clark Field, look at how the pine trees surrounding the field seem to tower over its sidelines. The next time you hike a mountain, look down and recognize how amazing

it is to look down on the clouds. In a fast paced world, it is sometimes necessary to slow down and find the beauty in nature. ~ Henry Knutzen

Hello Everyone, I hope that your fall and the beginning of the school year were good. I had a wild fall that consisted of skiing in October and then training for racing for the next month. I am getting ready to travel all across New England and some parts of the west for my ski racing. I hope that you all have a great holiday season and enjoy being with your families. "Be Joyful Seek The Joy of Being Alive". Thanks, Shane Love

Happy Holidays from Durham, NH! Just as the summer before it, this fall seemed to go by in a blink of an eye. I spent two months volunteering my time at Monte Sion Orphanage in Costa Rica. It was amazing to see how the kids at the Monte Sion, despite being put in such a tough situation, still smiled a ton and maintained such a happy demeanor. They reminded me of Belknappers the way they Seek the Joy! Now that I am home my time is filled with college applications for next year, and preparing for my winter semester at Colorado Mountain College where I'm getting my EMT Certification! I hope everyone is still Seeking the Joy through the cold winter months! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays ~ Brendan Mulhern

Season's Greetings Belknappers! Hope y'all enjoy your holiday. I love my new school, the University of Virginia, and am representing Belknap volleyball on the courts. It is staying warmer down here in Virginia than up north under the pines, but as weather turns frosty, hopefully you will all be warmed by the memories of Belknap summers. Timi-hi, Elliot Nolan