

# Keeping It Special

End of Quarter 2

Winter 2020

Special Areas Quarterly Newsletter

## Salt River Elementary School

### Winter Break Activities for Families

Embrace the fun over winter break with these creative activity ideas. Cut out the cards and drop them into a jar for kids to choose from. Challenge them to complete 10 before the New Year!

WIDEPENSCHOOL  
FOUNDED BY COMMON SENSE



#### SNAIL MAIL

Pick a friend or family member and write them a letter the old-fashioned way. Use a pen, paper, envelope, stamp, and your brain—no computer! Make sure to ask them to write back before you drop your letter in the mailbox.



#### FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Make and send out a family newsletter. It can be digital or just stapled paper. Try including a variety of stuff: news, interviews, history, recipes, and more.



#### GRATITUDE LIST

Think of three things you're grateful for. Describe exactly why you appreciate these things, to yourself or someone else.



#### CREATE A KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Think of a way your family can show kindness to each other this week. How can you help each other or make the day better?



#### COMMUNITY GIFT BOX

Decorate a cardboard box. Use it to store gifts for local charities. Put in toys to donate, food to give, and more!



#### FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Take some time together to curate your best family photos, and put them into a digital or old-school album. Create a theme or just choose your favorites.



#### WHAT CAN YOU GIVE?

Make a list of things you can give, like toys, clothes, money, skills, time, or love. Figure out whom or what to give those things to.



#### THINKING ABOUT TRADITIONS

Write down your family or personal traditions for the holidays. Which do you enjoy the most? Are there new ones you'd like to create?



#### SHOW THE SEASON

Color and cut out snowflakes, flowers, leaves, and more to decorate your windows to show the season or a holiday that means something to your family.



Tape this to the jar and X out or color as you complete an activity:



Find more fun student activities for the holiday season at: <https://wideschool.org/student-activities/holiday-activities/>

#### VIDEO-CHAT WITH A FAMILY MEMBER

Make sure to keep connected with family, especially older people in your life. Let them know what you are learning in school.



#### FOREVER FLOWERS

Use some art supplies to create a bouquet of flowers for a family member. Write a note or draw a picture to go with it.



#### EXPLAIN EMPATHY

What does it mean to have empathy? Write a poem, create art, or make a picture book that expresses your point of view.



#### HELP OUT

Ask an adult how you can help for 15 minutes. Or set a timer and find something to clean, wipe, or put away until the alarm sounds.



#### FAMILY FRIDGE QUOTABLES

Each week have a family member curate a collage of quotes—from family, friends, or famous people—on your fridge. You can use sticky notes or get creative with your own cutout shapes.



#### MAKE A DEVICE-FREE DINNER

Prepare a meal for your family, and then enjoy it together. The catch: All devices should be locked away.



#### SECRET MESSAGES IN INVISIBLE INK

Find two pieces of paper and put one over the other. Now write something with a pencil, applying as much pressure as possible. The bottom sheet now has the secret message. Shade it gently to read it!



#### CREATE A CARDBOARD ARCADE GAME

Grab some cardboard and any art supplies you have to build a playable game for your family. Think: Skee-Ball made out of boxes!



#### CALL AN ELDER

Call a grandparent, a neighbor, or a friend of the family to check in on them and make their day. Maybe tell them a joke!



#### ROSE, BUD, THORN

Describe your day to a family member with one thing that fits each category, including something positive (rose), something hopeful (bud), and something challenging (thorn). Take turns sharing.



#### PAPER AIRPLANES

Try folding paper into airplanes without a model. Then look up different techniques. Which ones fly the farthest?



#### LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Practice your writing skills by writing a thank-you note to your favorite teacher. Include a drawing, too!



#### DRAW YOUR FEELINGS

Find some markers and paper and turn your emotions into art. What color is joy? Sadness? Boredom? Love?



#### LOVE ALL AROUND

Color paper hearts and cut them out. Then write messages on each one, and place them around the house for your family members to find.



#### DANCE PARTY!

Listen to your favorite kid-friendly playlist, and bust a move!



P.E. | Coach B

Happy Holidays! Many of us celebrate Christmas the same way or close to the same way. Many around the world and in our communities celebrate the holidays with different traditions than you or I. I love them all and have tried over the years to keep some things I have grown up with and have also blended in new traditions from other cultures into my holiday season traditions. If you're looking for a new tradition during your winter break from school, or just need something to do, why not try to do a new physical activity every day. Here is web site with tons of activities you can choose from <https://openphysed.org/activeschools/activehome> Be safe, and have fun as you start a new holiday tradition of a new physical activity each day! **Coach B.**

Library | Mrs. Yurek

Keep kids reading over this

holiday break by adding books to the Christmas wish list. One idea that has been floating around is to plan your gift giving around 4 themes: something they **WANT**, something they **NEED**, something to **WEAR**, and something to **READ**.  
**Have a wonderful holiday season!**

Music & Movement | Mrs. Meyers

### Merry & Bright

When I reflect the past few months, I can say we had **a merry time** in Music and Movement. We danced, sang, and learned some songs that built a connection. Thank you for your support and participation in helping your child to grow. For 2021, I know it will be **bright** and we will continue to enjoy singing, dancing, and connecting with one another. I want to wish you a **happy and safe holiday season**. Listen to some holiday music and sing and dance together!

From my heart to your heart, I wish you well!

Mrs. Burstyn-Meyers

Art | Mr. Crebs

This semester's end comes with us moving to Microsoft Teams. So far this has gone rather smoothly with just a few setbacks.

I hope everyone continues to create **ART** over the break and that they enjoy the Holidays with their families. Be safe and take care of yourself.

Mr. Crebs

Technology | Ms. Tuchawena

Technology is everywhere these days. Chances are good that any career path your child chooses will involve technology. Even with this inevitability, only a fraction of students have been given the opportunity to learn computer science.

There is a national education event called Hour of Code that we have been taking part in this December. The goal of this event is to introduce students to computer programming in a fun and engaging way. There are activities provided by code.org and its partners for each grade level so that all students can learn at their own pace.

If your child comes home and asks to continue learning computer science, you can find free resources at <https://HourofCode.com>