

# Superintendent NEWSLETTER

December 17



Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

The Holidays are a strange blend of old and new traditions. One tradition that has been passed down to me by my dad is staying up to all hours just looking at the lit-up family Christmas tree, carols playing in the background. As a kid, I would sit with my dad in silence, just taking it all in. After my dad retired for the night, I would take it one step further and climb back down the stairs from the bedroom I shared with my older brother. Not a creature was stirring as I crawled underneath the tree, looking up through the branches until I fell asleep. Curiously, no one ever disturbed me or sent me back to bed, except for Christmas Eve, of course.

Years later, when I was comparing notes with my dad, I talked about my spot under the tree and he began to chuckle. My look told him I was waiting for an explanation as to why he was finding my story so funny. He explained that it was exactly what he used to do at my age, and that he was fully aware of my journey back to the tree every night during the Holiday season. Seeing the same tradition acted out was his cue to preserve it intact. His explanation made good sense.

All of us have traditions that are passed down to us, and some of these are mysteriously ingrained like the one I share with my dad. Other traditions are of our own making. We create new meaningful activities with our families and friends that are based on the unique chemistry we share with each other. Many families enjoy playing board games during the Holidays, for example. I would wager that *how* those board games are played is unique to each family. It is times like these when we are unguarded and fully in the moment that our best nature is revealed to our friends and loved ones.

I wish you and your loved ones a Holiday season with fond memories of seasons past, the ability to be fully present this Holiday, and bright hopes for the future.

Be Merry!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Raphael Rittenhouse'.

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent  
Gull Lake Community Schools



## Updates

**Winter Break** is December 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

**School Resumes** Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

**Early Release** is January 12, 2022.

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