

BIG PARTNER LITTLE PARTNER

NEWSLETTER - December 2006



November
Event In Lund
Center –
Large group
games

SPECIAL EVENT THIS MONTH:

- Come join us for the Holiday Party **December 9th** from **2-4pm**.
- Play Games! Do Crafts! **EAT FOOD!**
 - Experience holiday activities from different countries.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! BE SURE TO STAY WARM & HAVE FUN!

Holidays are a fun and exciting time for everyone. It's a time for people to enjoy the weather and to stay inside with those they care about. There are a lot of great things to do, so be sure to brainstorm with your partner the unique things to do this winter. BE CREATIVE. Try something new. If you have any sort of tradition, share it with your partner. Let them know about your life and the things you do each year around this time. This time of year remember to stay open minded and be respectful of anything that might be new and/or different to you. Big Partners, this is a time that you may be away from St. Peter for

a while. Be sure to let your little partner and their families know how long you will be gone for, especially if you will not be around for January



Mentorship Moment

Mentors are more than just friends. They let you know when you are doing something you shouldn't and encourage you to be a better person. An important part of being a Big Partner is helping your Little Partner grow up, and this includes telling them when they are acting out of line. Discipline is good when it encourages good behavior. Some tips for positive discipline include modeling good behavior, directly reinforcing and complimenting good behavior, and reframing disciplinary phrases so the child can correct their

behavior. If your Little Partner is not following the rules at a group event or being overly hyper, you can first ask them "should you be doing that?" or say "we don't yell when others are talking." Next you can explain the way it is good to act, why that way is so good, and then model that behavior. Finally, compliment your Little Partner abundantly when you see him or her doing good things. Good advice and discipline will help your Little Partner grow into the best person he or she can be.

"Be sure to keep in touch over the holidays and January Interim with your partners. Communication will keep your connection strong over breaks."





Things to do this December:

1. Make holiday sugar cookies together, cut them into fun shapes using cookie cutters or shape them yourselves.
2. Create and decorate a paper box using markers and crayons. Put a small gift into the box for family members or friends if you like.
3. Drink hot chocolate with marshmallows and do a puzzle together--it's relaxing and fun!
4. Go see a movie together; there are lots of good family flicks around the holidays.
5. Bundle up and take a walk outside. Look for animal prints in the snow (or dirt) and find signs of life in the cold.



NO FAIL SUGAR COOKIES

6 cups flour
 3 tsp. baking powder
 2 cups butter
 2 cups sugar
 2 eggs
 2 tsp. vanilla extract
 1 tsp. salt

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix well. Mix dry ingredients and add a little at a time to butter mixture. Mix until flour is completely incorporated and the dough comes together.
 Chill for 1 to 2 hours
 Roll to desired thickness and cut into desired shapes. Bake on ungreased baking sheet at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until just beginning to turn brown around the edges.

What do you call a person who is afraid of Santa Clause?
 Claustrophobic

BPLP "Pair of the Month"

Mai Xee & Bailey

Mai Xee and Bailey are this month's BPLP pair. They are a really great match, and have really enjoyed all their time spent together so far. This is what Mai Xee has had to say about her time with Bailey this year:

"Bailey Blasing is my Little Partner. She's talkative and full of enthusiasm. Bailey loves to play sports. She's currently a gymnast and a hockey player. We look forward to spending time with each other every Thursday at 6:00pm 'til 8:00pm. Our big project for November was to take pictures of the people we are thankful for. And from there we make a scrapbook out of the pictures. We made each other alligator key chains and did lots of other arts and crafts. We don't have anything planned for December yet, but we will have fun with whatever we decide on doing. Thanks for the opportunity to share my good times as a Big Partner with everyone."



Mai Xee & Bailey – BPLP Pair of the Month

Don't forget to check out the November event pictures on the website.
www.gac.edu/communityservice/bplp