

Swan Lake

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

Merry Christmas!

Aside from all of summer, Christmas is hands-down my favorite time of the year. In my opinion, it is the only reason to even have winter. I love the anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth, the contagious joy and cheer, the decorations, and the Christmas music!

At camp, I am learning a new rhythm. It seems the Christmas season is one of the few times of rest where there are fewer guest groups and youth events have wound down. A small part of me wants to deck out all of camp in Christmas cheer, but I recognize that there will be few to share in it. I welcome the rest and renewing as we anticipate the coming months, but it is bittersweet. I pray that as you are home this season, you will find rest as well.

As the calendar year comes to a close, I am filled with awe. Much has changed in one year. Looking back, I see God's fingerprints through it all. I am amazed by His goodness and faithfulness. Please know that we are thankful for each and every one of you. Your continued support of Swan Lake Christian Camp is a testament of His provision.

Thank you from the SLCC staff!

Jerry & Judi Kroeker,
Mary Anderson, Shelley
Fox, Dan Johannech, and
Kianne Gilles

for unto us a child is born



Piano Night

with musical selections by
Russell Adrian & Ken Rogers



Heston College music faculty

and featuring an extended session with Mary
Anderson, SLCC cook

Enjoy great food, music and fellowship

Sunday, January 9th

6:00 PM

Reserve your seats today at

605-326-5690

or email campoffice@myslcc.com

Winter Camps

Registration is OPEN!

5th & 6th ~ January 14th—16th

Junior High ~ January 21st—23rd

Senior High ~ January 28th—30th

Register today online at
www.myslcc.com

Friends, food, games, hot chocolate,
campfires, music and more. Come
experience the fun!



Do you know a young adult (19 & older) who loves Jesus AND needs a summer job!?!?

We are accepting applications for lead counselor positions. (a re-imagined summer staff position)

Endless opportunities to learn, grow, and serve others while creating lasting friendships and having fun!

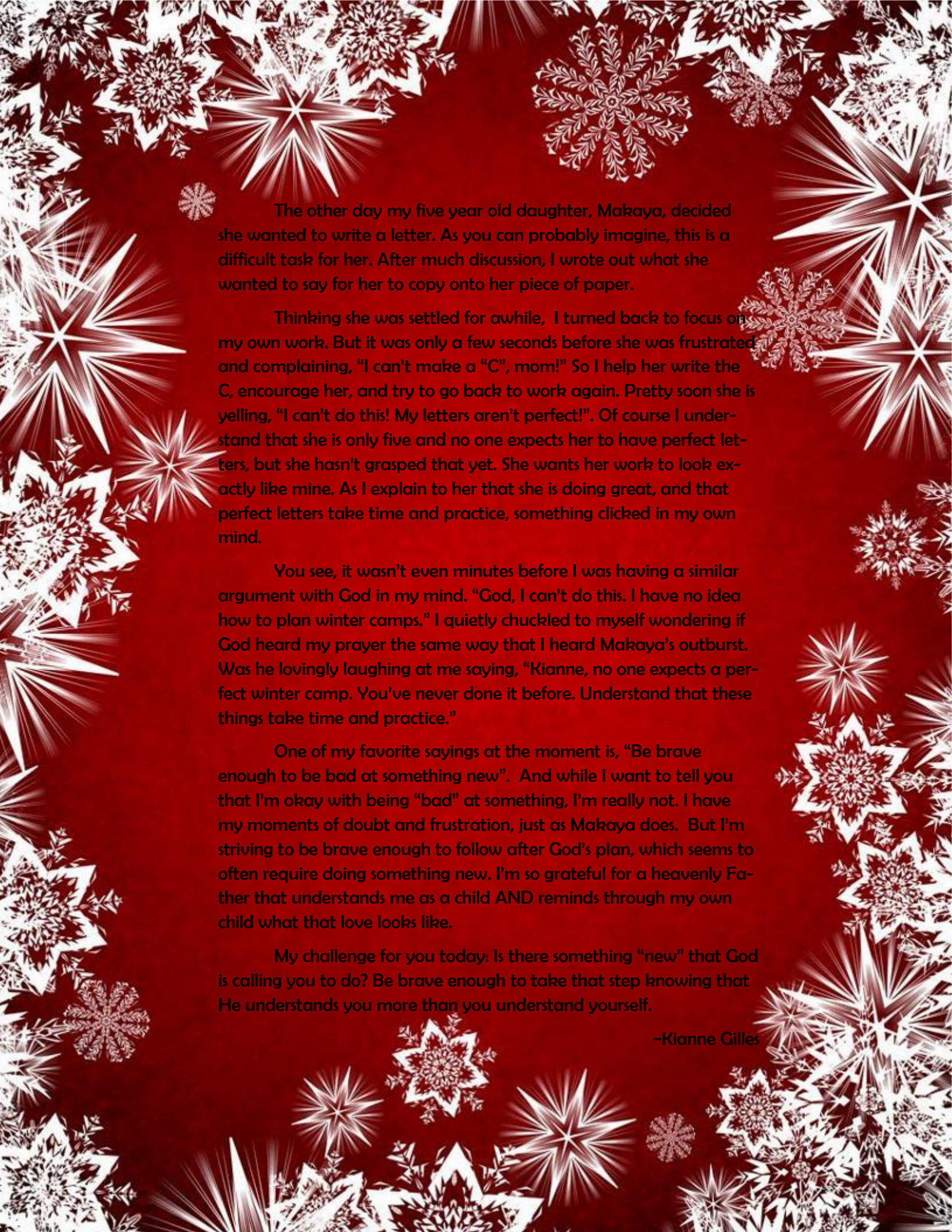
Need more information? Email: programdirector@myslcc.com Or call: 605-326-5690

Christmas came early at camp!

Terry and Nathan Schultz of Schultz Concrete Construction out of Avon, SD dug out, framed, and poured the foundations for two new cabins.

Thank you Terry & Nathan! We know many will be impacted for Christ in these cabins.





The other day my five year old daughter, Makaya, decided she wanted to write a letter. As you can probably imagine, this is a difficult task for her. After much discussion, I wrote out what she wanted to say for her to copy onto her piece of paper.

Thinking she was settled for awhile, I turned back to focus on my own work. But it was only a few seconds before she was frustrated and complaining, "I can't make a "C", mom!" So I help her write the C, encourage her, and try to go back to work again. Pretty soon she is yelling, "I can't do this! My letters aren't perfect!". Of course I understand that she is only five and no one expects her to have perfect letters, but she hasn't grasped that yet. She wants her work to look exactly like mine. As I explain to her that she is doing great, and that perfect letters take time and practice, something clicked in my own mind.

You see, it wasn't even minutes before I was having a similar argument with God in my mind. "God, I can't do this. I have no idea how to plan winter camps." I quietly chuckled to myself wondering if God heard my prayer the same way that I heard Makaya's outburst. Was he lovingly laughing at me saying, "Kianne, no one expects a perfect winter camp. You've never done it before. Understand that these things take time and practice."

One of my favorite sayings at the moment is, "Be brave enough to be bad at something new". And while I want to tell you that I'm okay with being "bad" at something, I'm really not. I have my moments of doubt and frustration, just as Makaya does. But I'm striving to be brave enough to follow after God's plan, which seems to often require doing something new. I'm so grateful for a heavenly Father that understands me as a child AND reminds through my own child what that love looks like.

My challenge for you today: Is there something "new" that God is calling you to do? Be brave enough to take that step knowing that He understands you more than you understand yourself.

-Kianne Gilles