

CRESS CREEK MOMS & TOTS

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

CHAIRMOM'S MESSAGE

My house always feels the coziest at Christmas time. The lights and decorations, the warm fire in the fireplace ... the ridiculous amounts of holiday clutter I jam-pack into my typically bare-bones home. It all works together to bring out the magic of the holiday season!

But this year, I just can't get my act together. The stockings have not been hung (confession, Miles doesn't even have a stocking, yet) and the halls have not been decked. In fact, as I sit here writing this newsletter, I'm staring at a half-lit, basically naked Christmas tree. Sure, it's gorgeous and full and smells amazingly fresh, but I have some serious doubts that it'll ever get decorated.



Photo evidence of half-lit Christmas tree

Anyone else feel this way this year?!?

It's not for lack of motivation - thanks to my 2 cups of morning coffee, that's never been an issue - it's TIME! Between my kids living their best lives, and Mike and I running here, there and everywhere; there's been no time!

So, instead of dwelling on the fact that my home is currently more Grinch-like than Griswold-like, I'm going to embrace the CHAOS. I'm going to be thankful for the opportunities my kids have to grow, learn & play with friends; thankful for the time I can volunteer at my kids' schools and also complete the other millions of tasks we moms & caregivers complete around the holidays. I'm going to be thankful for the holiday family traditions we're able to experience together - shout out to all the amazing Santas and Elves who helped bring holiday magic to our doorsteps! But most of all, I'm going to be thankful for the memories we are making - the belly laughs, the smiles, the chaos!

So, if you've been short on time & are an eleventh-hour-decorator, fear not! The tree will get decorated (or at least fully lit), the stockings will get hung, and "we're gonna have the hap, hap, happiest Christmas..."

The Board and I hope your holiday season is filled with SO much joy and happiness.

This month's newsletter recaps both the Ladies Holiday Party & Santa Visits. We have some important Save the Dates and a fun new 'Board Picks' section - *New Year Book Pick*.

Happy Holidays, CCM&T!
Your friend,
Meghan

2021-2022 Board Members

Chairmom: Meghan Mederich

Treasurer: Danielle Harmon

Membership: Molly Ogbomo

Secretary/Webmaster: Erin Seyring

Philanthropy: Kathryn Cain

Kids Events: Lauren Voit & Julie Chiu

Adult Events: Jorie McCoy & Jennie Siebert

Marketing & Community Outreach: Caroline Connell



CRESS CREEK
MOMS & TOTS

Ladies' Holiday Party

Thank you to our very gracious hosts
Laura DeLacey Bougadis with John Greene Realtor &
Jennifer McClure with The Federal Savings Bank
for making this wonderful event possible!



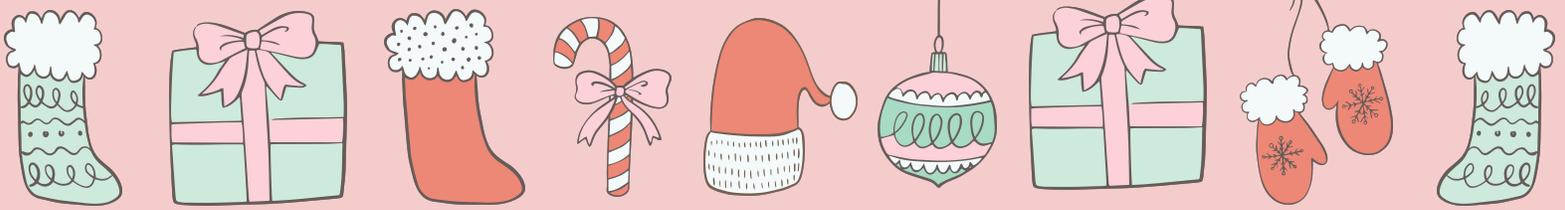




Santa Visits

A very heartfelt thank you to all the Santas and Elves who made this tradition possible and brought SO MUCH Joy to the families of Cress Creek: the Valles, the Kuchurises, the McSwiggans, Jennie Siebert and her dad Jack, Aaron Justice and Roby Callaway, Brad and Mirella Miller, Josh Corson, Julie Chiu and Lauren Voit.

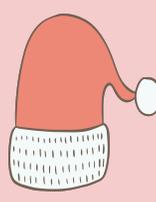
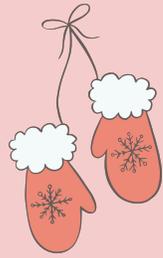
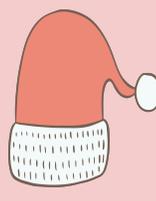












Philanthropy Update



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Loaves and Fishes drive during this year's Santa visits - and a BIG shout-out to our amazing Santa and Elf teams, who collected these donations after each visit! Thank you also to our philanthropy chair, Kathryn Cain, for organizing and delivering the donations to Loaves and Fishes. This time of year can be difficult for many families, and our donations will go far to help those in need this holiday season.

Together we collected 51 boxes of pasta, 45 jars of pasta sauce, 40 boxes of cornbread mix and 49 tubes of toothpaste!!

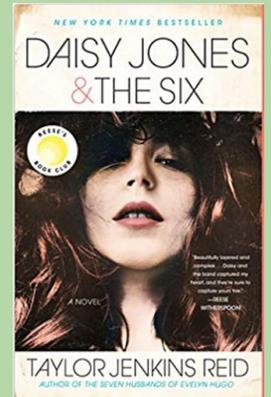


December Board Picks: Books to Read in the New Year

This month, the Board is sharing some of our favorite reads. Once the dust settles after the holidays, we hope you'll have some time to snuggle up somewhere cozy and a good book!

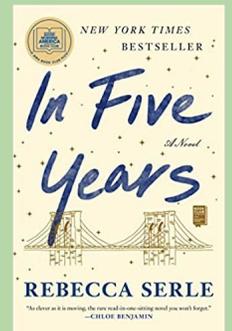
Meghan's Pick: *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, I was an 8th grade English teacher. I have my Master's in Reading. I love to read. All kinds of books. But, quiet time is hard to come by now-a-days. So, instead of reading, I've started listening to audiobooks - because I'm never not taxiing someone in the car. Recently, I finished listening to, *Daisy Jones and the Six*. Written by Taylor Jenkins Reid, this fictional novel tells the story of the rise and fall of a 1970s rock band. It's a quick read (or listen), written like a documentary, in almost all dialogue. Each section spotlights a different person's perspective, and makes you feel like you're a part of the drama.



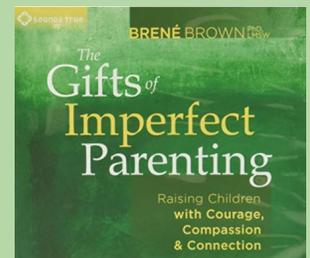
Caroline's Pick: *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle

Highly recommend! It was actually recommended to me by another board member, Jennie! It's about friendships, love, and ambition. Definite page turner!

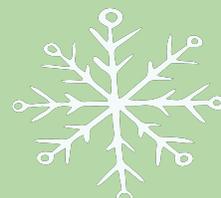
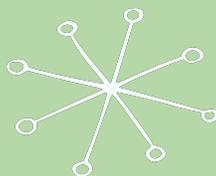
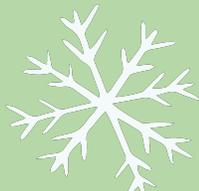
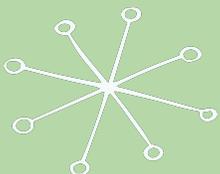
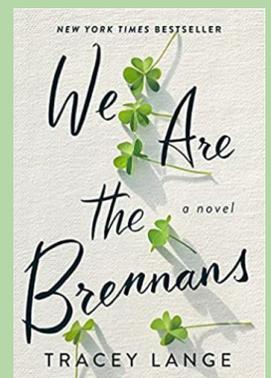


Danielle's Pick: *The Gifts of Imperfect Parenting* by Brené Brown

I enjoyed the Gifts of Imperfect Parenting because it helped me keep in perspective that there is no such thing as a perfect parent or perfect family! Even the hard moments carry an opportunity to teach and learn.

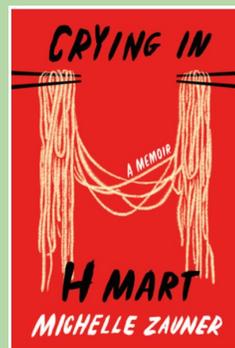


Kathryn's Pick: *We Are the Brennans* by Tracey Lange



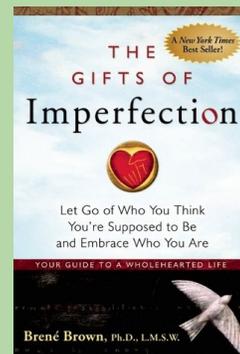
Julie's Pick: *Crying in H Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner

Crying in H Mart is a powerful memoir about a rollercoaster mother-daughter relationship, dealing with grief, capturing and re-creating memories through familiar Korean dishes. It's easy to read (and to listen on audiobook), and full of heartfelt emotion, so just be sure to have some tissues nearby!



Lauren's Pick: *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown

I was recommended 'The Gifts of Imperfection' by Brené Brown and I love it. This has been a tough year for me and the book has provided me a lot of reminders and realizations about whole-hearted living. I would highly recommend!



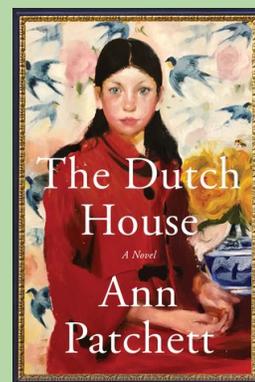
Jennie's Pick: *Local Woman Missing* by Mary Kubica

It's a murder mystery based in Naperville. If you pay attention you catch some of the references to our town.



Erin's Pick: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

Like Meghan, audiobooks are my go-to these days so that I can listen on the go or while doing chores around the house. I've enjoyed many of Ann Patchett's novels, and this family drama is no exception! It was an especially great listen because Tom Hanks performs the audiobook. Definitely worth a listen if you're an audiobook fan!



Molly's Pick: *Meet You In The Middle* by Devon Daniels.

A romantic comedy about two people on opposing political parties falling in love.





EVENTS



<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
New Years Couples Event	Friday, January 21st, 6 PM * new date! * RSVP Here	Up North
Bach to Rock Kids Music Class	Saturday, January 8th	Bach to Rock Music Studio
J-Fit Group Workout Class	Sunday, January 16th 9AM	524 W 5th Ave, Naperville
Ladies' Game Night	Thursday, February 3rd	Great Western Flooring



Members can register for all events on ccmomsandtots.org.
Click the "EVENTS" tab to find information and RSVP

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December Birthdays

Danielle Harmon
Jill Poetz
Shana Scheid
Candice Falk

**Happy
Birthday!**

Don't see your birthday listed? Be sure to update your member profile on ccmomsandtots.org to include your birthday so that we can celebrate you in the newsletter!

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