



Dear RCS Families,

December 2021

In my monthly letter, I like to feature a resource or practice that helped me parent better. My wife deserves the credit for finding this month's timely tip about Christmas gifts. She discovered the idea before our girls started elementary school. At that time, she was a stay-at-home mom, and I served as a classroom teacher. Our limited discretionary dollars for Christmas gifts flung the doors wide open for creative approaches.

The message about giving Christmas gifts to our kids generated thoughtful questions. As parents, what did we want to say? What did we not want to convey?

Elevating the Christmas story was critical, so our strategy loosely orbited around the account of the Magi in Matthew 2:1-11. It is important to note that our family is a non-representative sample. No one identifies with the love language of gifts—see the reference to Love Languages in my October letter.

Instead of buying presents galore, each girl received three gifts in the following order: something they needed, something they wanted, and a surprise.



The earliest known depiction of the Magi (~ 250 AD) bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. From the Catacomb of Priscilla in Rome.

We let the grandparents do what the grandparents were going to do.

Our first crack at the “Magi” approach struck gold. Watching the girls guess and then open each gift stretched out the moments of fun like Silly Putty. The Magi practice became our family tradition until the Kelly girls graduated from high school. As a collateral benefit, the simplicity of the Magi model reduced some holiday stress.

Our other family traditions fold in generosity for and service to those in need. Traditions, among other things, offer indelible and practical ways to be intentional. Whatever they are, the consistency stays with our kids after they leave home. Stir up legacy-building memories through family traditions. Let your kids know the “why” behind the practice. Storytelling sticks, and Christmastime is pregnant with opportunities.

Staying on point with Christmas gifts, if you are looking for a way to show your school spirit, then the Spirit Store may be the place to shop. The Spirit Store carries an assortment of wearables in men’s, women’s, and youth sizes. Order today for delivery by Christmas @ the [SpiritStore](http://SpiritStore.com).

Staying In step with the theme of gift-giving, I want to thank Sarah Rickel and her team of amazing volunteers, our families,

staff, friends, and Kent View principal, Don Garnand, who directly supported last month’s signature fundraiser. The auction’s Fund-A-Need raised nearly \$40K to replace the Chromebooks and the RCS maintenance vehicle crushed during a windstorm



Thank you! Out of deep appreciation, your generous giving during this time blessed our ministry and encouraged me.

If you desire to partner with us for a year-end, tax-deductible gift, the following link provides a way, [Invest in RCS](#). Thank you again for supporting our educational ministry that aspires to “Educate and Develop the Whole Child for the Glory of God.”

A remarkable employee, Lee Anna Jackson, truly inspires children to live for the glory of God. For the last 27 years, Lee Anna served at RCS and retired from Little People Preschool and Childcare on November 30. Please join me in thanking her for a lifetime dedicated to nurturing children. Lee Anna's infectious smiles and giggly giggles forever shaped the lives at LPPC.



Most importantly, December 1st ushers in the first day of Advent. The countdown to Christmas excitedly and officially begins. The birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, trumpets the highest note for celebration and worship on the Christian calendar. May God's greatest gift, Immanuel, and His favor richly bless you and your family throughout the Christmas season.

My best,

Bruce Kelly

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president, Rainier Christian Schools

