

As we write this on Christmas Eve (yes, better late than never), knowing the Mayan Apocalypse never occurred (shocking, we know), our family continues to find many things to keep us hopping.



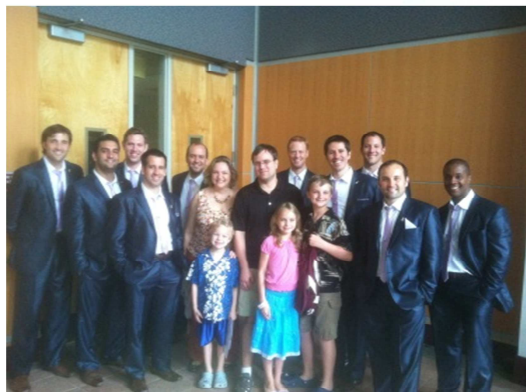
Anthony is now in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and in the process of exploring his options for high school of which there are many. He is still challenged by a demanding curriculum in school, having multiple large projects to prepare on a regular basis. He is involved with clubs in school, participating with the Math Counts club and National Junior Honor Society. Anthony travelled to Busch Gardens for Physics Day in December and will be joining a group of students on a skip trip in February. He still loves his computer games (when he has time), playing with the animals, and enjoying life in general.



Alex is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who keeps Mom's taxi very busy. She recently obtained her black belt in Tae Kwan Do after 6 years of training. She is also very active in dance. Currently, she is taking 5 classes a week, learning ballet, jazz, and pointe. She performed as part of the cast of The Wiz back in March, and is a part of the competition team for Cameron Dancenter and will be competing later next spring. She still loves socializing with her friends, playing with her American Girl dolls, and hanging with her brothers.



Joshua is now in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and is really coming into his own. In school, he is currently in a combination 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class which he loves (as his birthday straddles both classes). He has also joined the Cub Scouts to be with his best friend and neighbor. In October, he and Kirk had their first campout together with the pack (as Kirk had to set up the tent in a pouring rain). His favorite activity so far with Cub Scouts has been Archery and is working with Dad to prepare his Pinewood Derby car for the race in January.



Nicole maintains a busy schedule. In addition to keeping the home and kid front going, and selling Close to My Heart scrapbooking supplies, she continues to work part time at the Stepping Stones Preschool as a Music teacher and supervising children in the early morning program. She also has been working to increase her fitness levels by first working with a personal trainer and then on her own 5 days a week to help combat passing the milestone birthday this year.

Kirk continues to stay busy both at work and around the house. He still enjoys going golfing with Anthony and occasionally Alex, and taking our dog Aimee on long walks.

Our pets added much excitement to the house. In addition to Aimee which we adopted in 2011, we adopted a kitten Orion in July. The 2 pets have a mutual tolerance association, where they will “play” together, but also find their own space. It is odd seeing Orion chasing Aimee around the house every now and then. They have definitely become a part of our family and are very much loved.

We hope that your holiday season is full of love and joy.

Kirk, Nicole, Anthony, Alexandra, and Joshua (and Aimee and Orion )

