

Merry Christmas to all!!

This has been a very eventful year for our family! We have learned a lot about love, our Heavenly Father's plan, and patience! We are forever grateful for our Savior and His life, death and resurrection. We pray that we will understand and apply His Atonement more each day. Here's a little summary for each of the Petersons this year:

Matt has been working very hard this year to have a successful IT department at the Glendale Elementary School District. He is very good at what he does and we are so grateful to have him as our provider and protector. He is also still the Scoutmaster at church and has a lot of fun with those scouts! He no longer has D&D in his troop, so it's a whole new experience! He has completely fallen in love with all 3 of our foster daughters. He had lots of fun flying in a helicopter for our 16th Anniversary. He also enjoyed being a part of the stake musical this year as one of the narrators (he was the best narrator!).



Alicia: I think I've experienced more emotion this year than ever before in my life. What a roller coaster! I went from 5 children to 6 to 7 and back to 6. Fostering sweet baby girls has mostly consumed my life. I've had a lot of fun with my new calling in church as a primary teacher. I teach a very energetic class of 14 nine year olds. It has been wonderful to help them feel the Spirit as we learn about church history this year. I'm also still managing 9 homes. Singing in the "Lamb of God" for our stake musical was a wonderful experience in the fall. I also had a fabulous, fun-filled trip with my sister down to Guadalajara, Mexico to visit my parents on their mission. We literally shopped 'til my dad dropped!

David finally finished his Eagle paperwork this year and earned the Eagle Scout Award. He rode his bike to the high school swimming pool during the summer to have fun on the swim team. Turning 14 this year was an obvious highlight also! At his first church dance he asked 14 girls to slow dance! He and Dean both caught some delicious sand bass this summer deep sea fishing at Dana Point, CA.



Dean also earned the Eagle Scout Award. They had their court of honor with their cousin and their principal even attended. Dean excelled at swim team this year and got several 1st place ribbons. Dean was just one girl behind David in asking 13 girls to dance at that first dance. Dean and David both got chosen to be in the district honor choir and love going to those practices weekly. Oh! They both got their braces off this year too!!



Trent graduated from cub scouts with his Arrow of Light and the "20" patch and then became an 11 year old scout and has already earned 5 merit badges. He has joined his dad on some of the older boys' campouts. He enjoys being the leader of many self-made games with his friends and brothers. He's on the percussion in band this year and absolutely loves it! It's fun to see him counting as he keeps track of where they are in the music.

Jacob did swim team this year, but hurt his arm by falling off the trampoline and had a hiatus in the middle of the season. Luckily he recovered, but found that swim was not "his thing". He has enjoyed having his mom as his primary teacher and he loves cub scouts! Jacob is doing very well on the piano and his mom thinks he really has a talent there—if he'll just practice! Jacob caught an octopus at Dana Point this summer on our beach trip.





Jared turned 7 this year! He is doing amazingly well in 1st grade, loves to read and he says Math is his favorite subject. He just finished a season of tee ball—he had everyone wrapped around his pinky by the end. It was so great to see him running the bases after he hit that ball! Jared and Mommy got tumbled by a big wave during our beach trip in July. I was injured for over a month, but he recovered that day. Needless to say, we both spent the rest of the time in the sand, not the water.

Foster Girls: When we wrote our Christmas letter last year we had just lost our first foster daughter, Lelani. Just about one week after we lost her, we got a call about another little baby. She came to us without a name, and because it was so close to Christmas Eve, we named her Eve. What a pure joy she was to us. We actually thought we might be able to keep her forever, but she had an aunt in Texas that had just adopted her biological brother a year before. So, after 10 months of having Eve in our lives we said goodbye to her as she left to live with her family in Texas. Completely heartbreaking. When Eve was 5 months old, we decided to get another baby. Alison came to us when she was 2 weeks old. At first we thought she would go back to her mother, but just last month her birth mom's rights were severed and in December her "alleged" father's rights will be severed. We are very hopeful that she will become our forever daughter. We love her so very much, as we have loved them all.

We hope you all have a very happy and loving Christmas season and a bright new year!

Love, Matt, Alicia, David, Dean, Trent, Jacob, Jared and Ally

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