

Merry Christmas from the Petersons in AZ!

Wow! It has been an amazing year for our family! We have been so blessed to have some once-in-a-lifetime experiences this year! In July, we did a church history trip! It started in New York and ended in Missouri. It was really a special experience. Also, Alicia's parents surprised us with a Mediterranean cruise in September! SO Amazing!



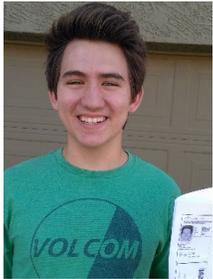
**Matt:** Still working at AZ Arthritis as the IT Director. Is Executive Secretary at church. Caught some fish on our 20-year anniversary. Ate gelato in France, Spain, and Italy. Thinks our two new kittens are sometimes cute. Is thinking about getting a Masters degree because he has so much free time on his hands and is crazy. Is happy with life.

**Alicia:** Feels spoiled with all the trips this year! Surprised Matt with a fun trip for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We travelled to Idaho for the Solar Eclipse, which was just 2 days after our anniversary! In the Relief Society presidency at church. Has several hiking partners and hikes 3 times a week. Overcame her fear of snakes this year! Feels mostly overwhelmed at all times, but loves her life.



**David (18-senior):** Worked as an instructor at the pool. Went to district finals for swim team and got some amazing new PRs (possibly thanks to shaving his body...). Started Sons of Liberty—a male vocal group at the HS. Section leader of the tenors in Chamber Choir. Had a lead role in the spring musical, The Drowsy Chaperone. Turned 18! Took horse riding lessons and guitar lessons, both of which are over, but were so fun! Had his first girlfriend (luckily she lives in Germany now ☺). Has discovered a love of psychology and looks forward to doing that for a career.

**Dean (18-senior):** 10'1" pole vaulting PR. Worked as an instructor at the pool. Went to state for swim team. Started Sons of Liberty—a male vocal group at his HS. Section leader of the basses in Chamber Choir. Stake musical speaking part and singing in the choir. Turned 18! Attends WestMec—Physical Therapy Technician school. Teaching himself the ukulele. 2<sup>nd</sup> counselor in the priest quorum in our ward at church.



**Trent (15-Sophomore):** Involved in Sons of Liberty (male choral group). Has probably read over 200 books this year. Got his drivers' permit! Also had a part in the spring musical, The Drowsy Chaperone. Worked as a babysitter and a lawn mower during the summer. Went to district finals for swim team for long distance (500 yds). Is currently the 1<sup>st</sup> counselor in Teachers quorum at church. Is a D&D master storyteller!

**Jacob (13-8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Started working on his Eagle Project. Is taking high school math. Was Donkey in Shrek Jr., the Musical and got a job offer after it was over, he was that good! Started piano lessons with someone other than his mom! Broke the first bone in the family—his wrist! Is almost as tall as his three 6 ft. tall brothers (and he's only 13...yes...they are all scared).



**Jared (11-5<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Rocked the Pinocchio part in Shrek Jr., the Musical at school! Started singing in choir at school and church and decided he really likes to sing! Earned his Arrow of Light and graduated from Cub Scouts (I think Mom is more excited about that than him!) Enjoyed summer swim team again! Gets his braces off in January!

**Alora (4-Preschool):** Loves her Preschool—not taught by Mom. Starting to write. Rides a 2 wheeler (no training wheels). Asked Santa for Kitties this year and got 2 (early)! We all love them! She is very loving and tells Mom she loves her many times every day.



**Alexis (2-Pre-preschool):** Started a little learning through play preschool. (This means Alicia has 4 hours a week with no children!! It's golden!) Knows her letters almost better than Alora because of an app called Endless Alphabet! Seriously, it's amazing! Rides a trike and scooter like a pro! Loves to make up songs and sing and dance away. Can jump on the tramp like nobody's business! Loves all things princess!

Life is so busy and we are thankful for this time of year to try to remember the most important things! We are excited for the future, but also a little saddened to think that this may be our last Christmas together as a whole family for a very long time as the boys start graduating and serving missions. We love you all and hope your Christmas is very merry!! Love, Matt, Alicia, David, Dean, Trent, Jacob, Jared, Alora and Alexis Peterson [www.mattsfamily.com](http://www.mattsfamily.com)  
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