



Season's Greetings!

Christmas 2006

From our family to yours...



Here's a quick look at what kept us busy this past year...

JANUARY

We started out 2006 with a trip to Northern Arizona, and a train ride on the Polar Express! David's parents (Grandma Penny & Grandpa Tom) joined us for the fun. We also paid a visit to the Grand Canyon.



FEBRUARY

The kids went about their routine of school, friends, piano (Emily) and Boy Scouts (Jakob). David and Stefanie enjoyed getting dressed up for a night out at the annual HomeBase Youth Services fundraiser dinner.

MARCH

Stefanie, along with her parents and Aunt Nora, traveled to Baltimore, Maryland for a week long visit with her Great Uncle Frederick Matson. It truly was a family reunion – Stefanie's brother, Erik, drove up from Fort Eustis, Virginia to join the family in Baltimore.



Joshua turned 4 years old on the 30th!!
What a big boy!



APRIL

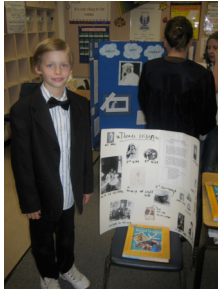
We enjoyed the great Arizona weather hiking in the South Mountain Preserve with Oma Matson... ▼



And playing miniature golf... ►



MAY



What a busy month (!)...Jakob portrayed Thomas Edison for his school's Celebrate Learning Night – ◀

Emily went on SeaQuest – the school's annual 5th grade trip to San Diego... ▶



We took a quick trip to Los Angeles for Aunt Lauren & Uncle Cameron's engagement party.

And... the kids finished yet another school year... this time with Emily graduating from elementary school. Yes, it's official! Emily is in middle school!

JUNE

The kids started their summer vacation with various activities – swim team ▶ and volleyball for Emily, toy design class and a pet care clinic for Jakob, a comic book workshop for both Emily & Jake, and music classes for Josh.

Emily took her first ever solo plane trip to Southern California to visit Grandma Penny and Grandpa Tom. Emily had a lot of fun – they went to Disneyland, California Adventure, watched a ton of movies – and the highlight for Emily – spent the day at the American Girl Place in Los Angeles!

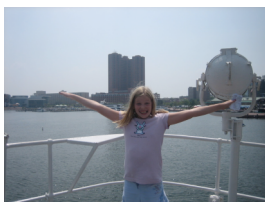


David spent the last weekend of June participating in the Lance Armstrong LiveStrong Bike Ride in Orange County, California.

JULY



By far our busiest month! The kids spent the first half of the month finishing up their various summer classes and activities. Then on the 17th we celebrated Jakob's 9th birthday!



On the 20th we started the first leg of our summer vacation – in Baltimore, Maryland. We visited with Great Uncle Fred and other members of the Baltimore branch of our family. We also toured the famed Baltimore Harbor and historic Fort McHenry.



Then it was off to Northern Virginia, for the second leg of our trip. We spent a whirlwind day in Washington, D.C. – taking a tour of the U.S. Capitol, visiting the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, and paying tribute at the many monuments (including the often forgotten monument to Theodore Roosevelt which sits on a lonely island in the Potomac).



The next day took us to George Washington's beloved Mt. Vernon, and to historic Alexandria, Virginia. We also paid a visit to Arlington National Cemetery – and watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

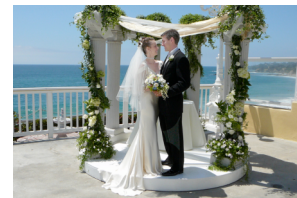
The remainder of our time in Virginia was spent catching up with old friends. We spent time with our gracious hosts – the Vellanis –and with Stefanie's childhood friend, Kirsten Joyner – and her lovely family. On the 28th the Vellanis & the Joyners joined us in celebrating Emily's 11th birthday with a dinner out.



We returned to Baltimore for another day with Uncle Fred before heading home (to HOT, HOT temperatures – and some lonely pets). We had a wonderful time!

AUGUST

We attended the wedding of David's sister, Lauren, in Laguna Beach, California. She and her new husband, Cameron Wiskerson, make a beautiful couple.



The kids started school – Emily is now in 6th grade, Jake in 4th grade, and Josh in his second year of preschool.



We were delighted to have David's sister, Sarah, and two of her friends visit for a long weekend. David flew the girls (okay, young women!) up to Northern Arizona for a quick trip to the Grand Canyon.

SEPTEMBER

Uncle Erik came to visit before heading out to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army. It was a bittersweet visit – we were happy to see him, but sad to see him go.



David and Jakob took an overnight camping trip to Northern Arizona with the Boy Scouts. Jake's favorite parts were archery & the campfire stories!

OCTOBER



Emily had a piano recital (she's getting better and better all the time!).



The kids (and Mom & Dad) had a fun Halloween. Emily was a clown, Jake a knight, and Josh was Darth Vader. Josh tired out early and spent the remainder of Halloween evening handing out candy with Dad.

NOVEMBER

Stefanie, and a team of 5 friends, took part in the Arizona 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk. They walked 60-miles over the course of 3 days in support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Stefanie raised almost \$2,600 in donations from generous friends and family. (Thank you!) The team together raised nearly \$20,000!!



We celebrated Thanksgiving in Orange County with David's brother, Phillip, his wife, Katherine – and their sons, Grant & Trevor. Our children love spending time with their California cousins!

The kids had a mini-recital after the Thanksgiving meal – singing songs and playing the piano.

DECEMBER

Well... here we are... busy getting ready for Christmas. We wish all our family and friends a holiday season filled with love & joy... and a happy, healthy & peaceful 2007!

With much love,

The Richardson's -
David, Stefanie, Emily, Jakob & Joshua

Keep in touch!

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On the Polar Express,
Jan 2006 ▲



▲ At the
Chesapeake Bay,
July 2006 ►



Mt. Vernon, July 2006



Washington, D.C.,
July 2006



On a sub in the
Baltimore Harbor ,
July 2006 ◀



◀ In California for Lauren's
wedding ▼

