

Happy Holidays 2008

From Steve, Mary, Ben, Lizzie, and Alex



What better time to work on a Christmas letter than the day after Christmas, while relaxing at home with the family?

Amusement parks: we visited Holiday World, Six Flags, and Silver Dollar City.

Bassoon: Al remains the only bassoon player in seventh grade at his school.

Cardinals baseball: Okay, so they weren't great this year, but we love watching them play anyway!

Dragons baseball: Al's team finished 2nd in their division for the season. He usually started at catcher.

Eagle Scout: Ben received his Eagle Scout award—an impressive accomplishment for any young man.

Formal attire: For our spring break cruise, everyone had to wear their dress up clothes. Not surprisingly, the boys didn't like it, but Lizzie did! Ben & Lizzie also enjoyed school dances in fancy clothes.

Grizzly bears were among our favorite sightings on our trip to Yellowstone with scout friends in June.

Hiking was somewhat frequent on our vacations, at summer camp, and just to get out of the house.

Indications Discovery: Steve's job is to discover additional uses (indications) for drugs in Pfizer's pipeline.

Jazz: Lizzie is learning Jazz percussion, and Ben continues to play bass guitar.

Katy Trail: Mary warmed up for her 60-mile bike ride at the Holland 100 with friends in Michigan.

Long hair: Al's choice to keep his hair long continues to be a source of conversation at school, with extended family, and with waiters who ask, "and what will you have, little lady."

Mexico: Our spring break cruise destinations were Progresso and Cozumel. The weather could have been nicer, but the Mayan ruins were fun to see on the day before the vernal equinox.

New baby: Gabrielle Elena Wheatley, our grand niece, begins a new generation for the Wheatley family.

Old people keep really busy. Diana is involved at the senior center, George works at Walgreens, and both help taxi around the grandkids. Bette is still working at Jewish Hospital and has another new hip. Don volunteers at the hospital and keeps busy in his shop. All are in relatively good health.

Pfizer is still the Pfounder of our Pfeasts. Steve moves into a new building in April.

Quilting is still a passion, but time to quilt is rare with all the volunteering that Mary does at the schools.

Rappelling off cliffs was one of the scout troop's many activities this past year—even Alex enjoyed that one.

Snares drum and Sousaphone: Lizzie learned snare and Ben was section leader in marching band.

Tuba and Tubulum: Ben made All-State Band on tuba this year. He still plays tubulum with the garage band Cyclic Redundancy—you can get their music on iTUNES!

University life begins for Ben in 2009. He visited and applied to colleges in 2008, scored a 35 on his ACT, and was a finalist for the Chancellor's scholarship at the Missouri University for Science & Technology.

Visitors: we were lucky to see many friends in 2008, and we hope you can come for a visit in 2009!

Wildlife: Bears, bison, wolves, eagles, ravens, moose, elk, and coyotes were among the highlights of our trip to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone with other families from our scout troop.

Xylophone: A xylophone joined our growing herd of instruments in our living room (music room) this year!

Yellowstone had amazing thermal features plus waterfalls, horseback riding, and fun times with friends.

Zoo: Always a favorite St. Louis attraction—we visited several times this year.

Check out our pictures and a fun tuba performance online at <http://www.finertouch.com/2008>

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