

Musni Family Newsletter

Christmas 2008

Josh & Noah (by Josh)

I am 8 1/2 years old. I like to do secret codes. I am always hungry and my homework from third grade is hard. Star Wars is one of my favorite movies. For Halloween I was a Super Scientist because I like to make potions. When I visit my grandparents in San Jose they take us to the beach, Gilroy Gardens and lots of museums.

Noah is two years old, and he is always hungry like me! His favorite movie is Finding Nemo. He likes to jump on the trampoline, climb on things, and make messes. For Halloween he was "Destructobot" because he always breaks stuff.

Annie & Max (by Annie)

I am in second grade this year. I went to my grandma and grandpa's house 3 times with just Josh. This year we finally took our parents to Gilroy Gardens. For Halloween I was Super Artist and Max was Alpha Boy because I like to paint and Max knows all his letters.

When Max turned 3 we had a train party at the park. We rode a train and we made him a cake shaped like a train. I helped make his cake. I like to decorate cupcakes, cookies and cakes with icing, sprinkles and chocolate chips. I like to make special breakfasts with my dad.

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Vickie's View - '08 Highlights

January—Our "holiday" party on New Year's Day was nearly snowed out once again. That seems to be an annual tradition regardless of the date.

February—Josh turned 8 and Annie 7. We celebrated at Fairy Tale Town in Sac with Scott & Debbie's family. My interim position at church began coming to a close, and on the 29th Craig found out his job had also ended.

March—In March we applied for a combined total of over 100 jobs. I spent 6 days subbing at a preschool and then he started doing some work for an ad agency (that he still does contract work for now). We enjoyed spending Easter weekend in San Jose.

April—I started a new part-time job doing administrative support for the county's Children's Mental Health Consortium. We went to the Governor's Mansion in Carson City to watch Annie receive an award for her video entry in a statewide art contest. (Same award Josh won the year before!)

May—In May Craig ran a half-marathon, we celebrated my birthday, and Craig continued to look for a job that "fit" better.

June—Josh and Annie spent a week with my parents and we participated in the ACS Relay for Life with a team from our San Jose church. We received the news that same week that my grandma's chemo/radiation treatments were successful & she is cancer-free! Praise God!

July—Annie and Josh started 2nd and 3rd grades and Craig started doing some design work for a local start-up company. I started volunteering regularly at school and began the application process for my sub license.

August—We celebrated 12 years of marriage and Max's 3rd birthday. He loved his train party. I attended a phenomenal conference for (aspiring) professional public speakers, and we made the huge decision that Craig would become completely self-employed doing video & design.

September—I began subbing at the kids' school, and took a job as office coordinator at Multnomah University Reno-Tahoe – a Christian college in Portland that has a satellite campus here in Reno. Craig started the "Mr. Mom" work-from-home-business-owner juggling act. I also started coordinating a night MOPS group for working moms.

October—Max & Noah loved participating in *Music Together* for 10 weeks this fall thanks to birthday gifts from several relatives. Noah turned 2 and Craig had his last thirty-something birthday. We did a Superhero them for Halloween with each kid creating their own identity.

November—After 2 years at home and last year in Boise, we spent Thanksgiving in San Jose this year. Thursday was a nice dinner with some from Craig's side and Friday all 19 of my "immediate" family members were together at my parents'. The 10 cousins had a blast, as did their parents and grandparents!

Craig's Top Ten for 2008 "Happiness"

1. **Happiness is** taking a new job where you make 30% more, drive 50% less, & get an extra adjective in your title.
2. **Happiness is** cashing a fat new paycheck, until you realize money and commute time don't mean squat when you miss the friends from your previous job.
3. **Happiness is** getting a sterling performance review, until one week later you are laid off in favor of someone half your age making 1/3 of your salary – and has more hair.
4. **Happiness is** finding a job that pays close to what you made before big-raise-short-commute job axed you, only to find the new boss tells you daily he could hire a college kid to do what you do for 1/2 the price (see #3).
5. **Happiness is** leaving downer boss-job to work from home for a new job that pays what boss-who-thinks-you're-worthless job pays, only to find work-from-home-boss doesn't really mean work-from-home and encourages you to just stay home.
6. **Happiness is** deciding to follow your dreams and focus primarily on your wedding video business and graphic design, and charge ex-boss-who-thinks-you're-worthless twice my hourly rate now that I'm a contractor.
7. **Happiness is** spending more time with my kids, making all their meals, and being Mr. Mom while Vickie takes a turn working for a living.
8. **Happiness is** getting to work out most every day, helping Josh and Annie with homework, putting my boys down for naps, being there when they wake up, and knowing they will sometimes ask for me now when they need a hug.
9. **Happiness is** going to Apple Hill with my family, swimming in my Brother-in-Law's pool, seeing relationships with family grow, running a half-marathon and stoking the fire in my wood stove.
10. **True Happiness is knowing God is in control and taking care of me, and my family.**

Contact Information

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Video Christmas Card

www.youtube.com - search "Musni Christmas 2008"

I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."
I have set the LORD always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Psalm 16:2,8

Wishing you a merry Christmas & a blessed new year!



Noah
Annie
Max
Josh
Vickie