





Didner Family Update December 2008

Hello Friends and Family!

After deciding that he really did enjoy making money after all, Michael rejoined the workforce! This move made both Michael's and Pam's parents very happy (well, relieved at any rate.) He's been managing a team of SAP developers at Mentor Graphics since April and enjoys it very much. Besides working full-time, he continues to practice piano and violin and sometimes guitar, all the while managing to make the boys look like musical geniuses in comparison. Pam is polite about it anyway, as she enjoys watching him bang his head against a musical wall.

Unlike Michael, Pam continues to have 'no life'. She still works at Intel (read as: loooong hours), but she really enjoys her marketing job. Shockingly, Pam is discovering that she has a creative and softer side. This year she did manage to carve out some time to take a trip with May (yes, without Michael and the boys) and visited Beijing and LiJiang. She had a great time on her own. Granted she claimed that she missed Michael and boys terribly, but she was also happy to vacation without the fast-food-loving three.

Aaron continues to be busy with Classic Soccer, piano and Chinese School. His soccer team started their first game with a 0-8 loss in May but ended up winning the Premier Cup in November. It went from being very painful to watch the games to great fun as they steadily improved all season. On a musical note, after 4 years of kicking and screaming about practicing piano, Aaron finally admitted that he likes piano "a little". Pam was floored when she heard that. He's also quite good at improvising on the recorder.

Joey discovered the Bass Guitar and The Beatles. He loves playing 'Hard Days Night' and 'Lady Madonna' (which he also plays quite well on the piano.) After 4 years of extreme distress about piano lessons and practice, Joey claims that he *still* does not like piano. He's pretty OK about showing off though.

We made trips to visit Mike's parent in Pennsylvania and Pam's family in Taiwan and New York. Pam accompanied Michael on a business trip to Ireland where they visited the city of Limerick and the Cliffs of Moher. It was certainly a 'fun' experience driving on the 'wrong' side of the extremely narrow road in pouring rain as 18 wheelers screamed by in the other direction.

As the year closes we are leaving behind the snow storm of the decade in Portland and heading to sunny Florida where our greatly deprived boys will finally experience Disney World.

Love and best wishes,
Michael, Pam, Aaron and Joey

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