

DAPCEVICH FAMILY CHRISTMAS LETTER

★ 2007

Merry Christmas!

Busy, hectic, eventful, and action-packed – all words that barely begin to describe our year! But we are happy to announce that, despite rumors to the contrary, we nearly kept our sanity.

Taylor was probably the busiest one in our household. She turned nine in June and started the fourth grade this fall. She's been a member of Glacier Swim Club¹ for almost five years now and she attended several swim meets around Southeast Alaska, placing very well for her age group. She attended Echo Ranch Bible Camp² twice over the summer, and she recently joined the Midnight Suns³ girls' fast-pitch softball league. Yes, we are on a first name basis with the local gas station attendants.

Max finished up a year of pre-school this spring, and turned five in July. He started kindergarten at Harborview Elementary⁴ this fall (also Taylor's school). He loves school and his teacher says he soaks up new things like a sponge. She also said he's the kind of student that every teacher wishes for; he loves to learn. Max is already very comfortable with computers and he loves to take things apart. In May, he learned how to ride his Star Wars bike without training wheels, and he's already asking for the car keys – okay, he hasn't really asked yet, but we wouldn't put it past him.

Kinsey is our little fairy-princess who is never at a loss for words. She started at Juneau Co-op Preschool this fall and she's quickly taken the part of the class story-teller. She loves to pretend and make-believe and she always enjoys visiting her grandmas and grandpas. If you like to visit with someone who does most of the talking, give her a call anytime.

Leanne has been very, very busy being a full-time mom, operating her childcare, and taking courses from the University of Alaska⁵. She is hoping to start nursing school in 2009. During the month of February, (while Sam was working in Sitka), Leanne became a professional at operating our snow blower. She dealt with much of the 200 inches of snow that we received in Juneau last winter.

¹ <http://www.gsc-swim.org>

² <http://www.echoranch.org>

³ <http://www.midnightsuns.org>

⁴ <http://www.jsd.k12.ak.us/hby>

⁵ <http://www.uas.alaska.edu>

Sam has been very busy with his job at the Department of Labor, managing websites to train and recruit workers for projects like the Alaska Gasline⁶. He's also continued working on the monthly magazine, *Alaska Economic Trends*⁷. In his spare time, he's running his computer support and web design business, and managing the website, Sitka.com. He also spent the month of February working for Dapcevich Accounting Service in Sitka while doing his state job remotely at the same time.

In March, we made a family trip to Carlsbad, California. We spent a week visiting Southern California attractions including Disneyland and Palm Springs. Although a week in California is a lot of fun, the hustle and bustle of the big city really helps us appreciate our lifestyle in Alaska.

In May, Sam and Leanne traveled up to Galena, Alaska on the Yukon River, to watch Leanne's brother Lenny graduate from High School. It was quite a fun trip – Leanne's family made us feel right at home. Leanne was able to re-experience her childhood joy of riding 4-wheelers at break-neck speed, while Sam had fun experiencing for the first time what it's like to live on the Yukon. In Fairbanks, we visited Leanne's brother David, cousin Josh and his family, and Aunt Leona and her son John Bernard.

After our trip up North, we returned to Juneau and volunteered with Project Playground⁸, a community effort to build a huge public playground in a central part of Juneau. It was quite a fun experience. Leanne was assigned to manage the front gate and act as “first-response” for injured volunteers. Guess what – Sam was the only patient. He stabbed his leg with a utility knife and left a gaping ½” gash that nearly required medical attention.

After an arduous recovery from the playground wound, Sam was well enough to organize a few family camping trips around Juneau. His parents left their new motorhome in Juneau, so we put it to good use. We stayed at the Eagle Beach state recreation area campground which we never knew existed. Aside from numerous mosquitoes it was a great experience.

In July, we made our first family trip to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory of Canada. We stayed at Takhini Hot Springs⁹ and

⁶ <http://jobs.alaska.gov/energy.htm>

⁷ <http://labor.alaska.gov/trends>

⁸ <http://www.juneauplayground.com/>

⁹ <http://www.takhinihotsprings.yk.ca/>

campground. On our last day, we visited the Canada Games Center¹⁰, an impressive facility built to host Canada's Winter Games. We spent most of the day in the Aquatic Center which had a large twisting waterslide, a lazy river, and a kid's playground/pool.

In August, we were pleasantly surprised with about 50 lbs of fresh vacuum packed halibut from Leanne's parents. They made a trip up from Petersburg on their boat and stopped along the way to pull some halibut up off the bottom.

Later in August, our friends Joe and Ciara Rear were married, and our friends from Sitka, Cleve and Psalm Oines¹¹ came over and spent several action-packed days with us before the wedding.

In October, one of Leanne's nursing courses required her to spend a week in Sitka, so we made a family trip out of it. The trip coincided with Alaska Day, so Max was able to ride in the parade with his great-uncle, Mayor Marko Dapceovich, and his great-grandpa, the former Mayor John Dapceovich. It was quite an eventful day with a visit by our Governor and several other luminaries of various distinctions. You can see a photo album of Alaska Day Celebrations at <http://sitka.com/akday2007/index.htm> .

In November, we journeyed to Mexico for a little bit of exposure to that bright ball of fire in the sky (referred to as the "Sun" by non-Alaskans). We stayed at the Torres Resort¹² in Mazatlan with nearly our entire Sitka family. We spent almost every day on the beach and in the pool. On our way back to Alaska, we stopped and visited Leanne's cousins in Brush Prairie, Washington. Then Thanksgiving was spent with Sam's family in Sisters, Oregon.

So now you see what we mean when we say, "busy, hectic, eventful, and action-packed". But we forgot one more word that describes our year much better: blessed.

We hope your year was as much fun ours – and we hope that 2008 brings many blessings for you and yours.

Merry Christmas and *Happy New Year!*

From,
Sam, Leanne, Taylor, Max and Kinsey!

¹⁰ <http://www.canadagamescentre.whitehorse.ca/>

¹¹ <http://www.psalmoines.com/>

¹² <http://www.vacationinternationale.com/resorts/tm.html>