

Hello! Greetings from the Wu's!

Where did 2011 go! Fortunately, it was pretty calm: we have all stayed healthy and happy and financially stable. And we are looking forward to several events in 2012. Dachywan continues to work at Oracle, and still golfs about once a week. Elizabeth has continued her solo practice which has also stayed steady, fortunately. She has also taken up fencing for exercise, and has found it exhilarating!

Stephen is in his last year at Case, and we are looking forward to his graduation in May next year. Beyond his classes, he has started working as an assistant in his chemistry professor's lab. It has definitely been a hard road for him, and there is still uncertainty over his post-graduation plans: work vs. attend a master's program. So you'll hear what happens next year!

Alyssa is in her last year of high school. We are looking forward to her graduation in June, and have mixed emotions about sending her off to college in the coming fall. She continues to volunteer at the local children's hospital. And this year, she is Editor of the high school's yearbook. It has been a VERY time-consuming position! But they have already won one award so far under her leadership, and she's gunning for another one that's awarded near the end of the school year. And she has completed her college applications (yes, already!!), and should hear the results this spring.

Conrad is now in 2nd grade, continuing at Argonaut. He enjoys the benefits of staying in the same school: having a lot of old friends in his class as well as making new friends. Over the summer, he had a pool party/playdate EVERY weekend with his school friends, and got MUCH better at swimming! And he's looking forward to an upcoming ski trip with one of his classmates. He also started fencing this past spring, progressed to the developmental class, and entered his first competition on Dec. 18. It was so exciting to see our first live fencing tournament, and Conrad did NOT place last even though he was the youngest competitor there! In addition, he continues to practice piano, and in Oct. he performed in his first recital. He played a duet version of "In the Hall of the Mountain King" with Mommy, and did quite well. He also continues to play chess, attending a weekly class, and still adores his weekly drawing class, and attends Chinese class weekly.

This year, we were unable to take a true family vacation because of timing difficulties. Our last family vacation was December 2010 when we spent several wonderful days in Walt Disney World, FL. We covered almost all of Epcot Center and very much enjoyed the Magic Kingdom, but simply did NOT have enough time at the Animal Kingdom! But we also spent some fun time at Downtown Disney, including watching the best juggler in the world perform at Cirque du Soleil.

Then in February, since we didn't get enough of Disney, Elizabeth brought Alyssa, Conrad, and 4 of Alyssa's friends to CA's Disneyland to celebrate Alyssa's 16th birthday. We spent 4 beautiful days there, and took the train coming back up so we could enjoy first class train berths and dining. It was definitely a wonderful trip full of memories!

In August, Elizabeth, Alyssa & Conrad went to Chicago and the East Coast to look at different colleges that Alyssa is interested in applying to. We traversed 7 states in 9 days, with Elizabeth driving most of the time, but Alyssa came away with a good idea of where she would be happy spending the next 4 years after high school. And we also had some fun: visiting the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, and seeing "Wicked" on Broadway.

In October, Dachywan went alone to Taiwan to visit his parents and sister. During this time, they spent a few days in Singapore where they stayed at the Marina Sands hotel, a new hotel that has a pool on its boat-shaped roof that looks like it's about to tip over the edge! He didn't go swimming.

Next year, we are hoping to visit Elizabeth's sister, Judy, who moved to Switzerland with her family over 2 years ago. We are hoping to go in the summer when we can finally take a family vacation ALL TOGETHER again!

Hope you had a wonderful 2011 and are also looking forward to great things in 2012. Meanwhile, Happy Chinese New Year!

From the Wu Family

year of the dragon

