

Highlights from 2013...

In February, Dave, Marci, Jacob & Hannah took a trip out to Washington D.C. (Amira stayed home with Grandma & Papa Peterson, she wasn't quite ready for all the walking and museums). We loved seeing the monuments, learning a lot at the museums, and eating yummy Georgetown Cupcakes.

In August, we enjoyed an extended family get-away. Our immediate family, Dave's parents, Dave's brother and his family, and Marci's parents, spent the beginning of the trip in Wisconsin Dells riding water-slides, driving go-carts, and perfecting our mini-golf game. Then our immediate family and Marci's parents boarded the Amtrak train in Wisconsin Dells to head to Chicago to visit Marci's brother. In Chicago, some highlights were the Willis Tower, Navy Pier and the Shedd Aquarium. One of the unexpected highlights of the trip was all the modes of transportation we experienced- cars, train, subway, taxi, boat, and though we didn't actually go in a plane we got to see the Chicago Air Show.

In September, school started up for all three kids. Amira was very excited to be part of the "back-to-school" excitement for the first time. Jacob is now in 10th grade, Hannah is in 7th, and Amira is in her first year of pre-school.

We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and peaceful New Year!!!

*Dave, Marci, Jacob,
Hannah & Amira*



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As we look back on 2013, here are a few highlights of the year:

Washington D.C.
Wisconsin Dells
Chicago...

Read on to find out more!

Jacob's Jottings



Hello everyone! I am 15 years old and in 10th grade at Rosemount High School. I recently got my driver's instruction permit. At school, I am in Honors Math and English, AP U.S. History, and AP Biology. I am involved in choir at school and in Men's Ensemble, a small, extra-curricular choir of only 16 people. I am involved in OnStage at school, which is a musical type review show. I am also in the Minnesota

Boychoir high school group, Allegro. This summer we went to the Wisconsin Dells and Chicago.



One of my highlights was visiting the top of the Willis Tower in Chicago. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



Marci's Musings

I continue to be fortunate to be able to stay home to take care of the kids and our home. I have become more involved at our church (Restoration Covenant Church) through serving on the hospitality team, coordinating the Ministry Team Leaders' meetings, and hosting our Life Group (another name for small group Bible study). In February, a friend started a freezer meal group which I help her coordinate. There are 12 of us in the group. We each prepare 12 of the same freezer meal and then meet monthly to swap. We each walk away with 12 different meals ready in our freezer for the month. It has been fun to meet some new women, try new recipes, and spend less time worrying about what to serve for dinner each night. (We invest a lot of time at once prepping the 12 meals but save time over all.)

Hannah's Happenings



Hello everyone! Happy Holidays! So far my 7th Grade year at Rosemount Middle School has been great! The only thing I don't like about it is having to run to class with our 4 minute passing time. I am 12 years old and I love to

play soccer and swim. I like being in 7th grade, and not being the little kids anymore at our school. My favorite subjects are English, and Science. This summer, Our whole family went to Wisconsin Dells, and we stayed at the Wilderness Resort. It was super fun, and we all

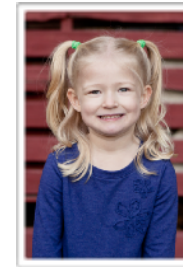


had an awesome time. Then after that, my family and my Grandparents from my mom's side went to Chicago. (We rode a train to get there, and it was really cool.) I can't believe that it is already the Holidays! I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Dave's Declarations

I am in my 9th year working at TIES in my role as Senior Consultant in our Data Services Department. New projects at TIES keep me challenged which is my cup of tea. I have been enjoying singing with the worship team at Restoration Covenant about once a month and am also in a men's Bible study on Saturday mornings. Recently I have become a driving instructor (for Jacob) as he is learning to drive...I have mixed feelings about that as it must mean I am getting older. I am trying to make sure to have my "patience" hat on and remain calm when instructing Jacob behind the wheel. In my spare time, playing chauffeur to the kids seems to be more prevalent this year.

Amira's Anecdotes



I am now 3 1/2 years old. I attend preschool 3 mornings a week at Easter Preschool. I love school! The best part of school is art time... I bring home lots of beautiful artwork. I'm still in gymnastics. My favorite activity at gymnastics is the trampoline though the bars are fun too. I also take swimming lessons and love jumping into the pool. Most days I still take an afternoon nap so between my morning activities and a nap my days are pretty busy. But when there is a spare moment my favorite places to go are the Children's Museum and the library. My favorite color is purple. When I grow up I want to be a princess.

