

THE CAMPEN FAMILY

Christmas 2016



2016 in review

January - Marci's dad moves to Rosemount. It was a huge project to clear out the house in New Brighton where Marci's parents had lived for over 40 years but thankfully it sold quickly and Gary is settled in at his new place. The best part is he is now only 5 minutes away so we see him often.

February - Hannah turned 15 and got her driver's permit! Learning to drive is still a work in progress but she is well on her way and will be set by February 2017 to take the driver's test.

March - We celebrated Amira's birthday. Spring break! We all went to Hawaii! Marci's mom had been planning for years that 2016 would be the year with the kids at their ideal ages for all of us to experience her favorite vacation spot. Unfortunately, she passed away in 2015 so she couldn't be along for the trip, but we decided it was still important for us to go. We spent a week exploring the island of Oahu, seeing the dolphins, eating fresh shrimp, watching the surfers, and learning about the Polynesian culture. Some of our favorite moments were spending time at Marci's parents' condo which is right on the beach!

April & May - Lots of rehearsals and performances for all of the kids. Both Jacob and Hannah participated in Rosemount High School's musical production of Mary Poppins. There were concerts for school curricular and co-curricular choirs and Amira's dance recital. Jacob had his last concert as part of the Minnesota Boychoir after 9 years of participation! It was so fun to see all the hard work and talent of the kids displayed in these various productions.

June - Jacob graduated from high school! We are very proud of him for his hard work in high school both in academics and in extra curricular activities.

July - We traveled as a family to San Francisco. About four years ago, we asked Jacob and Hannah to each individually come up with their top 5 vacation destinations (in the US). San Francisco was the only destination that appeared on both lists. We decided it would be a good trip to take before sending Jacob off to college. We split our time between the city of San Francisco and Marci's Uncle John and Aunt Kandice's who live in the mountains on the edge of the Tahoe National Forest.

August - Jacob started college at Iowa State University. We miss him a lot here at home, but he is really enjoying Iowa State so it makes it easier to be excited for him as he starts this next phase of growing up.

September - Hannah started 10th grade and Amira started 1st grade. We are enjoying the fall activities with the girls.

October - Busy with the daily routines of school, choirs, piano, dance and swimming. We all enjoyed a weekend in Ames visiting Jacob after 2 months of him being at school. We were all thrilled to all be together for a weekend.

November - Dave & Marci each grew a year older and we all were able to spend Thanksgiving together.

December - Jesus's birthday, the reason we celebrate Christmas. We pray that you will be blessed with joy, peace, and surrounded by love during this Christmas season and into the new year.

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Jacob

Hello! This year has been full of change for me! I am now 18 years old and in my freshman year at Iowa State University. I'm majoring in Electrical Engineering and next semester will hopefully be adding a music minor. I am really excited for what college has to offer. I'm currently involved in the PRISUM Solar Car Team and Iowa State Singers on campus. Overall, college is a new challenge and I am looking forward to the rest of my time in Ames! This past spring, we were able to go to Hawaii, and that was a lot of fun and filled with picturesque places. During the summer, we took a family trip to San Francisco, and it was cool to see the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, and the weather was awesome! I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jacob's Jottings



Hannah

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is having an amazing year! I am 15 years old now and a sophomore at Rosemount High School. Classes are a lot more difficult than freshman year, since I'm in two college classes, but I really enjoy them! This year I am still involved in choir, and sing in our curricular choir at school and am involved in two extra curricular choirs (Women's Ensemble and Da Capo). This year has gone great and I hope yours has too! Happy holiday season to everyone!

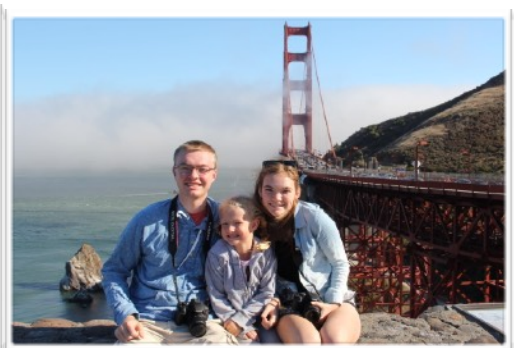
Hannah's Happenings



Amira

I am 6 years old and in first grade. My favorite specialist is computers. My favorite subject in school is Math. My favorite holiday is Christmas. I like Christmas because it is Jesus's birthday. I am in swimming and I like it a lot because it gets your muscles stronger and I like diving. I am in dance and I like it because you do lots of stretching, I really like the teapot stretch (see picture). I am excited to be in the Nutcracker ballet in December. I am also in a tap dance that is called Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer that I will do at Winterfest. When I grow up I want to be a vet. My favorite vacation was Hawaii because we got to swim and I was with my family. Also I really liked seeing dolphins and eating shaved ice. I like to play with my friends. We Rip-Stick a lot. Some of my favorite memories from this year are going to Build-a-Bear with my grandpa and grandma Campen and going to San Francisco. It was fun to tell you all about my year, Good-bye.

Amira's Anecdotes



The usual parenting tasks of caring for the family, cooking, cleaning, and chauffeuring continue to take up a lot of my time but some fun things I am able to do include... I've started a book club with some friends. I love to read so it has been fun to read the same books as others and discuss. So far, we have mostly read historical fiction books. I also enjoy volunteering at Amira's school. I am involved in a couple Bible studies - one group is currently studying prayer and I attend one at our church where we study the Bible passages for the upcoming Sunday's sermon.

Marci's Musings

I am in my 12th year working at Ties and am a Senior ETL Developer. I truly enjoy this work as it regularly exercises my problem solving skills. I have been enjoying singing with the worship team at church.

Dave's Declarations

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

Dave & Marci