
THE CAMPEN FAMILY

Christmas 2018



2018 in review

It is hard to imagine that another year is coming to a close already. Jacob is in his junior year at Iowa State and is still enjoying his time in Ames. Hannah is a senior in high school, very active in choirs and theater. We have been traveling with her to colleges narrowing in on where she wants to go next year. Amira is in 3rd grade and very busy with her swim team, dance group and playing with friends.

In August, all five of us headed to Europe to start a two-week adventure which included London, Paris, Amsterdam and more. We walked over 100 miles and took trains, buses and subways throughout our adventure - no need for a car at all!

In London, we had the great pleasure of staying with Nate & Hilary Sonstegard. They were wonderful tour guides and hosts. We saw the London Bridge, Buckingham Palace, The London Eye, Hyde Park, The Tower of London, walked across Abbey Road, toured Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, saw two musicals - Les Miserables and Matilda, experienced high tea and attended a church service at St Paul's Cathedral. Amira also took a trapeze class in Hyde Park (at least 30 feet high!) From London, we took a day trip to Warner Brothers Studio to see The Harry Potter Experience.

In Paris, the Sonstegards joined us and we rented an apartment in the Popincourt neighborhood (XI^e arrondissement) of Paris. We toured the popular landmarks; Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triumph, Louvre, Bastille, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, Palais Garnier Opera House and more. We also took two day trips: one to Versailles and one to the Loire Valley (this is where a large number of Chateaus are located). We had great food and (of course) fresh bakery items every day!

We were only in Amsterdam for 2 days but squeezed in the Anne Frank museum and a boat tour of the canals, while witnessing the largest bicycle parking ramp we have ever seen.



Jacob

Hello! This year, I am a junior at Iowa State University in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Music. I'm still enjoying college and singing with the Iowa State Singers. As far as extra curricular activities, I'm involved in PrISUM, Iowa State's solar car team, and The Engineering Ambassador and Mentor program, which gives weekly tours of the Engineering college, and most recently, IEEE-HKN (an honor society). I recently accepted an offer of an internship at Ecolab for next summer! This past summer, I really enjoyed our visit to Europe. I think the highlight was visiting landmarks in Paris that I've read and learned about in the past. I also really enjoyed the French countryside; visiting castles was very interesting! We also had the opportunity to eat some fantastic food! I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jacob's Jottings



Hannah

Hello everyone, and happy holidays! I am currently a senior at Rosemount High School. My goal for next year is to go to UW-Eau Claire or The University of Minnesota Twin Cities to study Kinesiology in order to become a physical therapist. I am busy with involving myself in theatre and choir at my school, I am in my school's concert choir and two extra curricular choirs. I am also the Sugar Plum Fairy in our musical this year, *Shrek*, and will be in OnStage later this year. The coolest thing that happened to me this year was travel! Last March I went to Italy with my high school choir, which was an amazing experience to perform in cathedrals around Italy! We also as a family, went on a Europe trip to London, Paris, and Amsterdam which was so fun!! I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings, and I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!!

Hannah's Happenings



Amira

Hello! I'm in third grade. My favorite subjects in school are math, grammar and reading. I love my activities of swimming and dance. I swim three nights a week and participate in some meets. In dance right now, we are doing *The Nutcracker*. We get to go on tour and perform *The Nutcracker* for schools. I went on a Disney Cruise in November. I love all the food- shrimp, escargot, calamari- YUM! My favorite thing from our Europe trip was the Trapeze school. I felt like I was flying! We learned how to hang from our knees with our hands dropped from the bar and did flips to land in the net. I was in two plays this summer. In *Beauty and the Beast*, I was LeFou and in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* I was Mrs. TV. I like sharing with you what I did this year, Merry Christmas everyone!

Amira's Anecdotes



I continue to keep our busy household running smoothly, am involved in a Bible study at church and volunteer at Amira's school. I also spend a lot of my time helping my dad, Gary, who unfortunately was diagnosed with Vascular Dementia this summer. We have moved him in to an assisted living apartment and he seems to be doing well, with support from all of us and the services from his building. One fun thing I have added in this year is being a wellness advocate for doTERRA, which involves educating people about essential oils and how to incorporate them into their lives to help solve everyday issues with all natural products. If you ever want to meet for coffee to learn more, let me know!

Marci's Musings

I have been the Senior Data Engineer at Insite Software for 1 3/4 years already - how time flies! I truly enjoy this work as I get to work my problem solving skills on a daily basis. This year we are preparing for another transition at home - going on college visits with Hannah as she looks ahead for her bright future. I also stay busy chauffeuring Amira to swimming practice and soaking up all of the kids activities and performances.

Dave's Declarations

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

Dave & Marci

Christmas 2018

