



Last December our good friend, Micah Shenk, visited us for Christmas Break. He has always wanted to see the Alamo, so we took the family to San Antonio. There was so much to see there! We enjoyed the Alamo, Sea World, the River Walk, and the Texas Ranger Museum. The kids also had fun “feeding the ducks” at the River Walk, and Holly enjoyed kissing Harold on the big screen during the Sea World Christmas Shamu show.

Micah joined our household. His laughter, sense of humor, and good work ethic are positive additions to our family.

This last summer, instead of vacation we “stay-vacationed.” So the kids did summer camps, and we enjoyed season passes to Six Flags Over Texas and Hurricane Harbor. We also went to the Dallas Arboretum and Flower Gardens.

During the summer we picked up a companion for Pappy (our Papillion). She’s a spunky Pomeranian named Roxy! And she doesn’t take any guff from anyone, not even Pappy.

Micah (14) enjoys “coming home from school” and spending time with friends playing basketball, and going to parties and LDS Stake Dances.



During the summer break Micah took Tennis and swim lessons. But his favorite part of summer vacation was visiting Utah and Wyoming with his father. The highlight of his year was when his Dad visited us here in Texas.

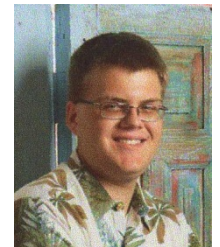
Micah is very entertained by the many misstated comments he hears. (See his favorite quotes in a special corner of this newsletter.)



Andrew (14) decided to go out for football this year. His team was second in their league, and Andrew played Center and offensive line. He’s currently involved in Wrestling, so he goes to 5:45 a.m. Seminary, heads to off-season football practice, and then after school he goes to Wrestling practice. After Wrestling he plans on trying out for Baseball.

Andrew’s favorite experience this year was going to Six Flags Over Texas and riding the thrill rides. He also enjoyed touring the Alamo and Sea World. He is ecstatic that we got Roxy! Andrew would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas.

Jonathan (17) has been driving Andrew to Seminary and football practice; and now, he likes his Seminary teachers so much, he is considering attending 5:45 Seminary even after Andrew doesn’t need to go that early. Jonathan also enjoys our stake’s Missionary Preparation Center one Saturday each month.



Summer highlights for Jonathan were his Boy Scout

Funny Quotes

By Micah Shenk

- Holly waving good-bye to Micah in the morning, “Have a nice window!”
- Holly asking to have Roxy put in her kennel, “Andrew, put Heather in her pen.”
- Jonathan, on pain reliever, “What kind of headache should I take?”
- “I have a headache, please?!”—Jonathan trying to quiet everyone down.
- Micah, on Roxy wearing Pappy’s naval officer uniform, “She looked like a whale wearing a tube-top.”

High Adventure river rafting trip and jumping off a giant rock into the river. He also enjoyed “the Titan” at Six Flags. He admits that getting a new energetic puppy was really fun, “but house training her wasn’t.” (Look for Jonathan’s inspirational corner about addiction in this newsletter.)



David (21) is serving a mission in the Idaho Boise Mission. He is currently in East Meridian, Idaho. He has thrown himself into the work and is doing very well. (If you would like to receive David’s weekly emails, contact Holly at holly@toomey.org.)

Heather (10) has found that she loves Science class in school. She loves science so much, that she is performing scientific experiments on plants concerning photosynthesis in her spare time.



Heather loved visiting the Alamo and the River Walk in San Antonio. Her favorite summer experience was the Mr. Freeze ride at Six Flags. She is also very glad we got Roxy, because “she’s so-o-o cute!” She’d like everyone to know that, “Peanut Butter Rocks!!”



Holly loves team teaching, a class of 5 year old boys every Sunday, with Harold. She likes not having to drive to or from Early Morning Seminary five days a week. Thank you,

Jonathan! Holly also enjoyed two sessions of Women’s Boot Camp at 5:30 in the morning earlier

Motivational Corner
By Jonathan Toomey

I used to be addicted to a certain “MMORPG” online game, but now I have conquered my addiction, and I don’t really have a desire to play it anymore. I believe addictions can be conquered and that anyone can do it. You just have to have the desire to conquer your addiction!

this year. But her most memorable experiences have to do with the kids either meeting milestones or having really cool experiences of their own, like Jonathan getting his senior portraits taken, Andrew being so committed to Football, Micah realizing he’s good at Basketball, and Heather getting so involved in her scientific experiments.

Harold temporarily became a contractor employee for McAfee and worked with the network security business unit. Beginning in January he will join the Policy and Compliance team on McAfee’s Global Security team as a full-time employee again.



Every Sunday Harold and Holly teach a darling class of 5 year olds (Primary CTR 5B). Two have special needs, but Harold has figured out how to make classes run smoothly.

After having four (4) surgeries last year Harold has fully recovered and is glad the worst is over. He now needs reading glasses. We expect his hearing to go next.

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