



Happy Holidays! Every year, we are surprised how quick the year flies by. We're hoping that you and your families are healthy and hopeful for the New Year. Now, a Martinka update:

**DORIAN** Going back to full time work after a year's leave of absence has not been a piece of cake. I took on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade position at the highest ranking of my district's schools. It's worlds away from my previous job of many years teaching recent immigrants English at the middle school level. At Huff Elementary almost all my students speak English and have achieved "advanced" status on last year's state tests. I team with two women that are showing me the ropes and I'm having fun, although it's a steep learning curve. I commute by bicycle through pretty neighborhoods which packs in exercise and time to relax into the daily routine. After 30 years I finally got back to playing badminton! That will make you sweat!

**ARIELLE** From my point of view, 2010 has been filled with lots of awesome events. For one, I was involved in lots of sports, soccer and basketball. I completed a spring soccer season as well as a fall soccer season, and I was on the school basketball team.

The trip of the year this year was to Thailand and Hong Kong over spring break. We spent some time in Hong Kong admiring the scenery and witnessing the lives of foreign cultures, then went to Thailand where we rode elephants and went zip-lining before sailing for a week in the warm waters of Phuket. While sailing, I read books for most of the time, but I did spend a considerable amount of time doing homework, drinking iced tea, and hanging off the side of the quickly moving boat in the hopes of catching a jellyfish (which I eventually did). You tube: <http://tinyurl.com/sailThai>

As for school, I am excited about being in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Cupertino Middle School but am already a bit apprehensive about the prospect of high school looming on the horizon. In the next year I am looking forwards to many cool trips: a trip to Yosemite with my fellow 8<sup>th</sup> graders, a trip to Disneyland with my Advanced Band class, and a trip to New York City as a part of the Homestead High School Marching Band in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



**PETER** This year was interesting. I went sailing in Thailand and at Lake Tahoe, where I liked a week long small boat-sailing class. When in Asia, we climbed mountains, went in gondolas over bays and mountains, rode 45° trains, explored cities, went to zoos, stood on miles of escalators, swam, fished, ate, traveled on elephantback, ziplined, *and* had a great time. Later, in the summer, I went alone to Wisconsin, staying with relatives and going camping, then went to Boy Scout summer camp for a week. Topping it all off was an extraordinary airship ride around the bay area. Yay.



**JOE** We're having a whale of a great time taking two rapidly growing kids into their teen years. Peter's (12) is now as tall as his Mom. The frenetic pace keeping up with all our myriad activities, both parents working full-time, and the increasing bane of senior forgetfulness makes it a challenge. Planning our next international trip has hit some snags, so we be centering on one of the last of long family car camping trips this summer, probably exploring the way northern part of CA, from redwoods to Sierra through mountains, volcanoes and gold country ending back at serene Lake Tahoe for a while. Of course...annual August backpacking if my knees behave.

We wish you all the best for 2011. If you find yourself traveling to the San Francisco Bay area, please give us a ring. 408-735-7245.

