

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE MARTINKA'S



Sorry for this late greeting for this year seems more of a holiday run-around than usual. This December, we spent more time out of our house than in it. Right after Thanksgiving we joined Dorian's extended family for a family reunion and early 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of Dorian's parents in Maui. Tough locale. We spent a week snorkeling, BBQ dinners on the balcony, climbing into volcanic craters and connecting with family. A week after we returned we tented (fumigated) our house after finding evidence of termites in the fall. Then a Christmas week at Lake Tahoe.



Peter, now 5, loves Playmobiles, drawing complex scenes, riding his bike and playing soccer. He continues to grow his 12 inch braid. After 2 years of Enlighten Chinese Bilingual Preschool, Peter entered Kindergarten. He and Arielle both attend a public school Chinese-English dual language program. Joe and Dorian still study Chinese in a futile attempt to comprehend our kids' homework.

Arielle, nearly 7, loves the water! She also plays soccer, reads prodigiously (it seems to us), and plays duets with Dad on the keyboard. She is in her fourth year snow skiing, and to Dad's delight, is tall enough to get on and off ski lifts by herself.

In July, Dorian got a job offer she couldn't refuse. She now works part-time teaching ESL at the middle

school she left seven years ago. She finishes just in time to pick up Peter from Kindergarten and play with him. Her other milestone- she's published! After writing an Amazon.com review of her favorite Chinese dictionary, she found to her surprise it had been published word for word in the Dictionary's second edition. This letter went through more editing!

Joe, now an honest parent, has become the children's wakeup call, dresser, breakfast chef, hair stylist, time management specialist, and car pool driver. He is apprised now of the fact that mothers are under paid and under appreciated. Joe celebrated 20 years at HP with





another patent and a telescope. When he's not on keeping the house from falling apart, he studies for continued Certifications. Like most U.S. software employees, the future is increasingly uncertain. He's starting his fourth year of Yoga and has been experimenting with a new balancing pose while fooling around on a snowboard.



In April the family took a vacation with Aunt Lauren for our second (and last!!) to Legoland in San Diego. (This is one small benefit to having kids grow up so fast.) In June we discovered Kings Canyon and stayed 4 nights in this awesome national park. The kids did some radical hikes this year past six miles with major ~~altitude~~ attitude changes. Joe's new GPS Geko gadget helps mark progress.

In  
September  
Grandma  
Barbara

visited. She helped in Dorian's home to work transition as well as in caring for the yun uns while we sailed in the Monterey Bay for 3 days. This was the ultimate whale-sail. We spotted them everyday often breaching not far from the boat. Having a Russian-born bartender along sure helped after sundown.

We hope this year proves to be even more enlightening and exciting for all. Best wishes for your good health and joy in 2004!

