

MLK HOLIDAY UPDATE LETTER

For 2007

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Well, Marc can't be slowed down enough to write this year's letter, but he did take a few minutes and left me some notes, so I'll give it a try, but bear with me as it has been a couple of years since I actually wrote one of these. We know it's late, but if you'll check the print date on the card you'll see that they were ready to go in mid-December. Unfortunately, at the end of the second week of December our beloved kitty of 13 years, Loki, took very ill and we spent a week at the vet trying several different things to help him, but nothing seemed to work. Basically that led into Christmas with a three and a half year old, which is hectic by definition and now here we are at MLK Day (also a holiday, so this technically still is a Holiday Update Letter). I apologize that the funny is lacking in this year's letter...

We finally took some time off and took some vacations this year. Dave's mom treated all 3 of us to a wonderful week at Atlantis in the Bahamas. The place is amazing (a tad expensive... a piece of pizza is \$6), but Marc (and all of us) absolutely loved the fish everywhere, especially the rays (which he got to feed) and the Goliath Grouper. The waterslide through the shark tank is pretty unbelievable, too. We all went to hang out with dolphins and Marc got to feed one. Over Labor Day we decided on a last minute trip to Disney World. Marc loved the Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom. He was a little less enamored with Epcot and MGM, but he did amazing putting in marathon days like a trooper. Grandma and Pop (Matos) met us for a day at the Magic Kingdom as well. Marc tried to make us all sick on the tea cups (just like his mom)...

We bought a Funhouse Pinball machine. To make a long story short, we used to play this pinball all the time during college. As an incentive to get Catherine to finish her PhD I promised I'd get her a pinball... So here we are 5 years later and I finally came through. We all love it. We still have season tickets to the Thrashers and we go to most of them. Marc has days where he's completely into it and other days he wants nothing to do with the game.

Catherine is still teaching at Clayton State and managed to squeeze in another Masters degree, this time in Math., with that came a new office (with a window to help save her plants) and some new responsibilities (Statistics coordinator, numerical methods and ODE). After she finished most of her Masters coursework she took most of the summer off, spent a lot of time with Marc, took him to local parks, Six Flags and a ton of other fun stuff (I was quite jealous of all the fun stuff they got to do).

Dave has been doing the same thing at Georgia EPD for an even longer time now - I guess I enjoy the people there! Marc still loves to ride on my shoulders everywhere and pull the little bits of hair that are left on top of my head out. He learned to steer thanks to Ratatouille. I 'ran' the Peachtree for the 7th straight year. I mean 'ran' real loosely since I had a 103° temperature. Oh yeah, I got Lasik last January, I absolutely love it and am very sorry I didn't do it a lot sooner!

Marc is in preschool now and pretty much never stops talking. He took a trip to the Tweetsie Railroad in North Carolina with Grandma and Pop (Matos); it was his first over night away from home trip without us. He did great, we managed. He also took a couple trips to Grandma and Granddad's (Moseley) and played on their waterslides and had a great time. His 3rd birthday party was pirate themed and I made his swingset into a giant pirate ship complete with cannonbaholed sails and buried treasure. He loves watching his Disney movies, Mythbusters and Dirty Jobs. He can write his name and points out that his name is everywhere (any time he sees an M. A. R. and C. in any order it must be his name). We're working on simple math skills now. We all went to the circus this year and he watched it so intently we thought he didn't like it... he talked about it for weeks afterward (now we have a circus themed playroom). He took his first plane trip to the Bahamas and did great. He is getting taller and taller every day (I'd say he's 42 inches now). He loves to "read" and play games (Chicken Cha Cha Cha, Sequence and the usual kiddy games). He absolutely loves the pinball machine.

With the passing of Loki we decided to get a new kitty just this past week, this one is called Calliope (Calli for short). She is a Norwegian Forest Cat (at least that's what the vet and rescue organization think she is). She and Marc get along great, Tyr and Freya are still working out how they feel about her.

Grandma and Pop Matos still live in Augusta and are doing well. They are absolutely giddy when they are around Marc! They visit us about once a month and do fun stuff with Marc like go to the Zoo or the Aquarium or just hang out and play around the house riding his trike or playing games. Pop Dave is traveling more now that he is a "retired contractor" working out of the house. Grandma Moseley is still battling Ovarian Cancer (for about 16 months now) and has some of the best doctors Emory can offer. Suzie, Uncle Jason and cousin Ben are all doing well. We all go up and see them and their doggies fairly often (sometimes we even leave Marc overnight, so the two boys can wreak havoc at their house). Mike is still managing an O'Charley's restaurant just a few minutes from our house, so he comes to visit us a lot.

Marc's website (g33kbaby.com) is updated about quarterly now, however I have a flickr photostream which is updated much more frequently (flickr.com/photos/dmatos).



Please don't hesitate to give us a call if you're near Atlanta, drop us an e-mail anytime. We hope everyone is doing well and you have a healthy and happy 2008. Oh yeah, you can make a note of this, apparently we now live in "Lake Spivey, GA", but Jonesboro will still work though.

Love,

Dave, Catherine, Marc, Freya, Tyr, Calli and just maybe someone else.... Stay tuned towards summer...