



### Max's Life Inside Stories (told by Daddy)

I had a great year. I earned my very own cell phone because of my improvements at school.

I played soccer this fall and I got invited to one of the few goalie academies in the United States, located here in Tustin. I'd had been quite an experience so far - I have to run two miles and do all sorts of exercises, but my body is getting strong, and quick. We are learning how to stop the balls and play our position. I do miss the running part of soccer, but I will give this a try as everyone says how good I am at it. I could not pass this opportunity up.

So far this year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade has started well. I have noticed that it's not as much fun and games anymore as the work is getting harder and more serious. I also learned that cramming is not a lot of fun, so my study habits will improve! Still in the Boy Scouts, I have moved in to Webelos I (We Be Loyal Scouts). We learn and do all kinds of things. Last week we sang Christmas Carols at the homeless shelter and the folks there really appreciated it!

Summer was a blast with the trips we took and I look forward to the next year!

### Jackie's Life Inside Stories (told by Mommy)

I am really maturing this year. I think summer time was a turning point for me. I seem to always love my teachers and Mrs. Cheryl Smith is really special to me. I do need to concentrate more on my work in the classroom; I seem to get distracted easily by what others are doing. I'll have it down by the end of third grade, because I'll get my first cell phone like my bother.

I still enjoy many sports, soccer, softball and riding my new bike I got for my 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sunday, I'll begin horseback riding lessons, my favorite gift from Santa Clause. Even though I already know how to ride a horse and a mule, I'll be taught how to care and groom a horse during my lessons. I still want to be a veterinarian and this school year I had a garage sale with 2 of my classmates raising money for our Veterinarian who cares for search and rescue dogs and police K-9. All together from donations and sale items we raised \$241. I also raised money at Albertson's around

Thanksgiving for families in need, my Mom says I'm a natural and I feel so good helping others!

I can't leave this out, my Papa and TuTu (grandparents) gave me a Kindle Fire for Christmas, by far this is the best gift and I can't keep my hands off it!

### Peggy's Life Inside Stories

I'm still at UCI Medical Center and really enjoying my work experience. Interventional Radiology has been constantly changing and growing, its fun to be part of this ever changing medical field. The best part is I still have the best boss ever! Looking forward to many more years at UCI or cashing in on the group lottery we occasionally contribute to.

### Ed's Life Inside Stories

Little to report this year - work is stable, personal growth is going well, and Michigan is winning again!

The one new thing is that I joined a sailing race team, and we do a few races every year. It's not serious - mostly an excuse to get on the water and then party after, but we did end up in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our division. We do try when we are on the water and I am learning quite a bit each time I go.

### Chmiel's News

We took on some amazing hikes in the spring, and found that there are quite a few waterfalls in Orange County. Who knew? Some hikes were crazy, others really easy, but all were fun.

We went to Las Vegas for spring break. It was a total blast and we got to see some amazing shows and do all sorts of fun things as a family.

We began summer break with a trip with several families to Yosemite. It was beautiful and the rivers were fun of the huge snowfall runoff. This in turn made the waterfalls spectacular! What a fun trip.

Right after, we went to Pinecrest Lakes on our own. It's an hour or so north of Yosemite, and a fantastic family destination. With giant campsites, a lake full of trout (they were delicious!), and outdoor movies, we could not have

asked for a better place to hang out. We will have to go back as soon as we can!

Late July, Peg and Ed left the kids home and took a few days sailing over to Catalina with the Albers. Great sailing, lots of fun, and a break from the kids made for a wonderful time away.

Early August, the family camped at Leo Carrillo, one of our favorite campgrounds further up the coast. Easy bike to beach, cool canyon shade, and lots of things to do like biking and hiking, plus just plain relaxing on the beach keep us coming back for more.

Then, just before school, we took the kids over for a few days sail over Catalina. Our usual charter boat was broken, so they gave us a larger one for the same price. What luxury! Now of course we have to take that one every time! The kids love the island, and we played on the beach and danced every night, and had some great fun.

Then in October we went back to Vegas for a couple of days. Thanks to a great email deal, we got to stay at Mandalay Bay, our favorite hotel there. The water park there kept all of entertained all day, and the Shark Reef exhibit is something to see.

Thanksgiving was spent at home, at Christmas will be also. If the weather is nice, we might take advantage of winter charter rates and sail over to island for a few days. After edit: We did! It was a total blast.



P.S. Ped & Eggy, Jax & Mackie's Times had a bit of a publishing delay this year. Happy New Year!