



I am absolutely amazed at how quickly life is passing all of us by. I remember my dad telling me to quit wishing my life away and he was so right – I couldn't wait to be 21 and now I am facing turning 33. This year has been rather chaotic for our family. I decided to return to college at the Mount and will graduate with my Master's degree in Special Education in May of 2008. I was hired full-time as an Aide at the Highlander Academy in the Oak Hills School District and am interviewing for a long-term sub position on January the 4th at Oakdale Elementary (keep your fingers crossed – this would be a great opportunity for me)! I would like to thank my family and friends for all of their support this past year as I literally have had no time to do anything and have really slacked off with keeping in touch with everyone. I am happy to report that I just received my grades and have a 4.0 GPA. This makes the \$40,000.00 college loan well worth it! (Who am I kidding – just think of what I could have done with that money??) I would especially like to thank my mom for always being so willing to help me with the kids on Saturdays while I sit in class all day. I love you so much and appreciate all of your help and support!! You are truly the best mom ever!!

Jeff has been on day shift for the last year and will be transferred to 3rd shift starting January 19th. He is really looking forward to this as this is his favorite shift to work. He has been busy coaching Andrew basketball, Allie's soccer and taking Andrew to Cub Scouts. He continues to run about 3 miles a day and is currently re-painting Andrew's room. He has been a huge help to me and is very supportive of me working full-time and attending graduate school full-time – I could not have done this without him! I am so thankful and grateful to have him for my husband and best friend. I truly could NOT ask for more.

Allie is a very active 3rd grader. She just turned 9 on October 26th. She loves playing soccer and even made a select team this year, which has kept us very busy. Right now she is playing on an indoor team that plays once a week at the Western Hills Sports Mall. She was also picked by her teacher's to help with the kids in the Special Needs classroom where she helps them develop their social skills. Her grades are phenomenal and she is one of the happiest kids that I have ever met. She loves watching Hannah Montana and the Suite Life of Zach and Cody and enjoys playing outside and rollerblading. She is a true grandma's girl and loves spending time with her in any way she can! (I never thought that I would have a child who would love going to Gatlinburg without me!!! She is truly *not* her mother's child – if you know what I mean!?)

Andrew (or Buddy as we call him) is a BIG first grader this year and has really done well. He is learning to read and loves anything sports related and playing on the computer. He is currently on a basketball team for St. Dominic and has made several amazing shots from the 3-point line. He is very handy and loves to work with his dad around the house on projects. He is also very pleased with the new additions at Grandma Debbie and Papa Al's house – 2 new beautiful yellow labs named Colby Duke and Chloe. Unfortunately we just learned that Dutchess (who is their 13 year-old chocolate lab) has cancer and won't be with us much longer so getting the new dogs could not have come at a better time.

We know that we are truly blessed and thank God for all of our good health and many, many blessings. We hope that all is well with each of you and wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,

Jeff, Laura, Allie and Andrew Braun