



Merry Christmas



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*Were earth
a thousand
times as fair,
Beset with
gold and jew-
els rare,
She yet
were far too
poor to be,
A narrow
cradle,
Lord, for
Thee*



Martin Luther

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Hello my friends. Merriest Christmas to you all! I hope this letter finds you with your Christmas shopping done, your tree lit and your family nearby! We just finished our tree last night and this was the first year that all 3 boys were able to “help” decorate. It was lots of fun and with grandma’s help we even managed to prevent the very bottom-heavy ornament distribution that was likely given the stature of the new help.

Andrew and I have loved watching our boys grow over the last year and are trying hard to enjoy our big boys and not mourn the loss of our babies. The three boys actually play well together on occasion and sometimes for extended periods (like 30 minutes). Unfortunately their favorite place to play is in Andrew’s closet which usually results in the need to re-hang most of his pants. This is a sacrifice he is willing to make for his wife’s sanity and there is a special reward waiting for him in heaven as a result of his sacrifice. These periods of harmonious play tend to end with tears and usually mild physical violence. I am now truly a mom of boys as I find myself responding to “Matthew punched me” with “Did it



hurt for more than 3 seconds?”, or “Did it leave a mark?”

Matthew is now 7 years old and in the 2nd grade. He finds just about every toy, movie, and activity his little brother enjoys to be babyish (a word I have learned to hate!). This makes keeping the whole crew happy at once a challenge. His passions are video games, tetherball, Star Wars and Legos with the recent addition of chess. I have never played chess and therefore struggle when asked how to check-mate with a pawn and a rook, or whether it is wise to sacrifice your rook for their knight. For question one I go with, “Just do your best to chase him into a corner” and with question two I tend to assume that the pieces with higher political standing are of more value. How am I doing?

Isaiah (Zay) turned 4 this week and has a very tender heart. Having had a firstborn who avoids feeling words like the plague this constantly catches me by surprise. He says things like, “Mommy you shouldn’t have talked to daddy with a voice like that,” (I promise this has only happened once or twice ;-)) and “Mommy thank you so much for letting me help you hang the ornaments. That made me feel really special and so happy.” He also started preschool this year and unfortunately shared his views on the imaginary status of the jolly man in the red coat with his whole preschool class at circle time. Yikes! To make things worse he continually points out, in his most joyful and boisterous voice, “Look mom! There’s another fake Santa” at every mall Santa stand we pass. He will not rest until

he has set every child on the Eastside straight. That's what I get for giving an honest answer to the age-old Santa question.



Zachary who turned 2 on Friday has not hit the "terrible twos" yet and is just a crack-up. He is obsessed with Veggie Tales, coloring and music. He likes to respond to the "How are you?" frequently addressed to cute toddlers by strangers with "Bob and Larry?" As Veggie Tales are not widely known by Safeway checkers this usually results in some confusion. If they know what he means he launches into more obscure Veggie trivia like "Bunny song, Mister Nezzar sing it" and "Fib a outer space?" As I mentioned he also loves to color right now and I frequently have to cut him off as our record session lasted straight through from breakfast to lunch. The fine motor skills are developing quickly as a result and he loves drawing circles (Bobs I think). This coloring obsession buys his mom lots of time including the time to complete half of this letter and I will be sad to see it go. As for his love of music let me just say the words "Daddy's Zune on



...pease??" can frequently be heard in our home. I'm afraid only our Microsoft friends may get that one.

Speaking of Microsoft, Andrew is still employed by them and truly enjoys the very challenging, yet rewarding work they provide. He works in the Window Mobile side of things. As a result of his loyal spirit we are now a very Microsoft family with 2 Zunes (no iPod), 3 PCs (Mac's a bad word), 1 Xbox (poor Matt, no Wii), a Windows Home Server and two Windows phones (iPhones are overrated). He even has our homepage set to Bing (Google is not a verb). Andrew has also become a big Seahawks fan over the last several years and now a Seattle Sounders (soccer) fan. My years with a hubby who could not find any sport worth watching on American TV are gone. A sad, sad thing it is.

As for me, my primary job is still taking care of my crazy crew, but I also started a new role at my pediatric nurse job working with a mostly retired ADHD doc. We both work one day a week which works out perfectly. He is truly an amazing doctor both to his patients and his staff and I am very blessed to work with him. I still work as a telephone triage nurse for pediatricians when their offices are closed and really enjoy helping out mommies who are worried about their little ones.

Well I think you are just about as up-to-date as I can get you without switching to an even smaller font. I hope you have a fantastic Christmas and a wonderful new year. I leave you with a few favorite David boys' quotes. Enjoy!

Love,

*Andrew, Amber, Matthew,
Isaiah, and Zachary David*



Top 3 David Boy Quotes of 2009

1. Heard from the boys' room after they were put to bed:
"Matthew, what is government?" "Government is Democrats and Republicans." "Which are the good guys and which are the bad guys?" "Well, basically Republicans are good guys because most Christians are Republicans." (So sorry my liberal friends)
2. While pretending computers:
"My computer is better than your computer."
"No it's not."
"My computer has a newer version of Windows on it."
"No, mine has a newer version of Windows."
"Mine has the new beta 7 version."
"So does mine!!!"
"NO it does NOT!!!!!"
3. Matt after Zay told him a wild story: "Zay, you're a liar." Zay: "I'M NOT A... well, I am a sinner but I don't lie all the time."

