



Christmas 2002

Duelm Family Newsletter

from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock in The Woodlands, Texas

Happy Holidays!

We hope this festive season again finds you healthy and happy, with fond memories of the past year and excitement for the year to come. And, we hope you enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months.

Just the facts, Ma'am

Just in case you're reading this while making a last-minute mad dash to the store, here are the facts. Brock turned 10 in April and is in 4th grade. Tony turned 12 in January and is in 7th grade, the first year of Junior High. Julie and Brian both turned 29 again but feel like they are in their 40s. Too bad beauty is only skin deep! ☺ Now...for the rest of the story.

Texas deep freeze

This has been a fun year for Brock in Scouts. As a Webelo rank, he's had opportunities to tour NASA, sleep in a battleship, and camp all over southeast Texas. While camping earlier this month Brock and Dad discovered that not all sleeping bags are rated for 35° weather! Dad lay awake listening to Brock's teeth chatter, and wondered why there is no such book as 'Scouting for Dummies.'

Really advanced studies

Junior high started a bit rough for Tony. During the first week of school he struggled with algebra homework. Tony worked through all the problems, and they looked correct. But the answers didn't match in class. Then, on Friday the teacher noticed that Tony's textbook looked different. It turned out our babysitter had left her college textbook on the counter, which Tony mistook for his.

Since then algebra hasn't been easy, but at least the textbook is correct and Dad can help. Well...actually that's not true anymore. Brian kept up and checked homework until he had to travel in October. He's been behind ever since. Tony enjoys saying "You can't check my homework anymore, can you Dad?"

Confirmed clean

This was a big year for Tony as he was confirmed into the Methodist church. The service was memorable, both for Tony and for the congregation. Before confirmation there were about two dozen children to baptize. Half way through the baptisms the senior pastor realized his terrible mistake and said, "I must ask your forgiveness. I have been baptizing these children without using water." The assistant pastor stepped forward to help explain. "Methodists believe in baptism by immersion, pouring, and sprinkling, but we stop short of dry cleaning."

In other news...

Tony continues to play violin with the school orchestra, as well as baseball and football. But, in a surprise move, he replaced basketball with wrestling this winter. Brock is playing basketball this winter and soccer the rest of the year.

Julie "glues" the family together by keeping watch over the calendar, homework, and activities. She also "volunteered" as 4th grade coordinator, a position that should carry a six-figure salary!

Brian now works for HP, which bought Compaq, but continues in his position as training director.

**Have a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!**

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