

The Rosenweld's 2010 "Year-End" Letter

It's April, 2011 and we're on a bus to Tana Toraja, Sulawesi; can I even remember 2010? Indeed, the many adventures we've had since we left Seattle in January for a 6-month sabbatical in Brisbane, Australia have somewhat eclipsed the events of 2010. But before we get talking about Australia, what about 2010?



Vietnam ricefield

In April, 2010, Adam and Galen went to Vietnam for a month long trip, the climax of their Global Studies program at the Evergreen School. They were accompanied by their 32 8th grade classmates, 2 teachers and 5 parent chaperones, including Margaret as pediatrician. It was an amazing adventure for all! Next came graduation and the headlong rush towards high school...

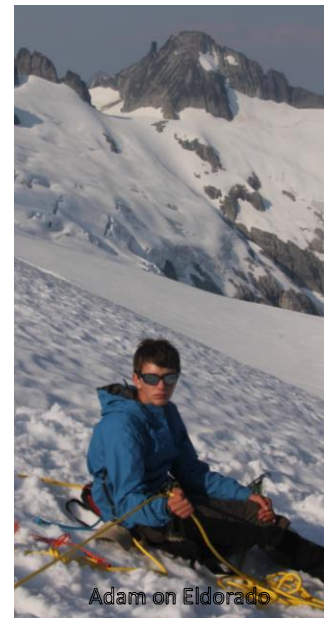
Adam chose the Northwest School, which seems a great fit. He played soccer on the Northwest team in the fall, but loves Ultimate even more. Over the summer he spent three weeks backpacking in the Teton range, which was fun despite the trip leaders' incompetence and the moose attack (don't ask). In the fall Adam resumed work on robotics, joining a First Robot League team based at Microsoft and building a mobile base for the nearby Intel research lab.

Galen chose Bush for high school and loves it. He bikes six miles each way, even in the dark and rainy PNW winter mornings. Mass transit and urban planning remain passions for Galen; he faithfully reads the Seattle Transit Blog and attends regular meetups. He interned at Walk Score for part of the summer, helping them to add public transit data to their information on the "walkability" of neighborhoods. While Adam was in the Tetons, Galen backpacked the Olympic coast, climbed Mt Adams and summited 14410' Mt. Rainier. In the fall Galen and Dan did an arduous three-day ascent of Monument Peak and Lake Mt. in the dry Pasayten range, yielding Galen a grand total of 13 of Washington's 100 highest mountains.



Leah

Leah entered sixth grade in the fall, still at Evergreen. She likes her classes, but seems even more enthusiastic about the school dances... She juggled an exhausting schedule of gymnastics, karate, Ultimate and soccer. In the spring of 5th grade, she also joined a Broadway Bound production of *High School Musical*, taking the prominent role of Ms. Darbus, and delivered a stunning (ok, so we're a bit biased) performance. (Margaret didn't even recognize her when she came on stage!) Over the summer Leah trained for and earned her next level



Adam on Eldorado

black belt, first degree, and she helps lead the karate demo team. She also visited best friend Olivia's cottage on Cape Cod.

Margaret enjoyed watching with some awe her kids turning into such capable, inquisitive teenagers – thought she also received at least her share of sass and rolling of eyes! She and Dan had a fantastic week-long backpack, while the kids were at camps; they climbed Osceola, Lago and several other Pasayten peaks, just as the snow was melting off the long access trail to reveal wildflower carpeting.

Dan turned fifty, but chose an unlikely present - an L4/5 spinal fusion on his actual birthday. The experience was quite unpleasant, but the recovery has been steady. In hindsight, it was a wise move, since he can now stand without pain! In March, Dan



met his sister for an eight day backpacking adventure around the Escalante river area of Utah; the weather was cold, but the scenery simply stunning. In April, Dan and the boys ski-camped near the mouth of an ancient cave and explored several miles of subterranean lava tube. Dan's old friend Marcel visited in September and they rappelled French Creek canyon then climbed Copper Peak (#89/100) in a snowstorm.

There were more fun adventures: Skiing with the Cummings at Whistler. The annual Weld family reunion on Upper Saint Regis Lake in the Adirondacks. A visit by Margaret's Dutch colleague, Harm, and his

daughter Chiara, which included a climb of Mt Chickamin. In August, Margaret, Dan, Adam and Galen traversed the massive Eldorado icecap and climbed remote Mt. Austeria. The Rosenfeld side of the family united over Thanksgiving in Belmont, MA at her sister Anne's home. December was bittersweet as we packed our house for tenants, took the cats to a friend's house and prepared for vacation in New Zealand, then six months in Australia.

Now we're living in Brisbane until July. Margaret is working at Royal Children's Hospital, Dan is remotely continuing his research and precepting his graduate students, and the kids are all at Brisbane State High School (in uniforms!). We've had some great adventures and are making some great friends. If you can't wait until next year's letter, take a look at <http://rosenweld.blogspot.com> for some flavor of our life here.

2010 has been an excellent year, but not all happiness. Our old friend, Don Cummings, finally lost his battle with cancer, leaving a gap in many hearts. Other friends are terribly sick, playing hopscotch with the hospital. We count our blessings...



A+G+L+M+D