

Merry Christmas Friends and Family,

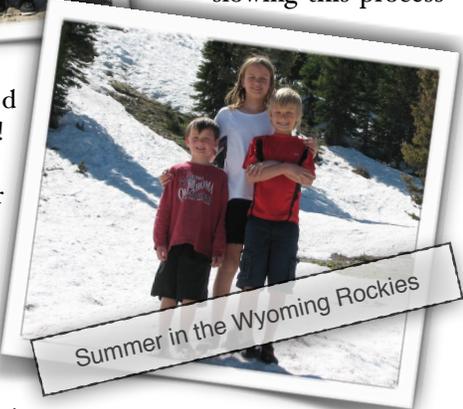
We hope that this letter finds all of you happy, healthy, and enjoying this joyous 2010 Christmas season! We have had another year bursting with blessings! Since we didn't manage to send out a letter last year, we'll try to recap the last two years as succinctly as we can...



All of our children have spent the last two years growing and maturing at an alarming rate. Any tips on stopping or at least slowing this process

would be much appreciated!

This school year began with our "baby" starting Kindergarten and our oldest entering Middle School, bringing the current enrollment in the Pond Family Home School to four children and one oft-frazzled Mom. All the children are doing well in their studies, and they particularly enjoy their weekly homeschool co-op, where they study art, history, science, and assorted electives. They have made some wonderful friends, and so far our fourth year of schooling at home has been our best ever!



Summer in the Wyoming Rockies

Our lovely daughter Emma is blossoming before our very eyes, gaining on most of the female members of the extended family in height this year, and beginning to share her Mom's shoes. She has excelled in just about every subject in school, but mostly prefers art and history. She and Atticus participated on a Lego Robotics team, which built a robot and then



Emma, 11

programmed it to complete various tasks. She loves skiing, reading, swimming, singing, and her girls' Bible study.

Atticus is in 4th grade this year. Thoughtful and reflective, he is becoming quite the little grownup. He has taken a real

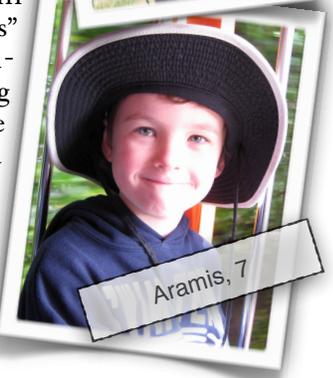


Atticus, 9

interest in all things electronic, following in his Daddy's big footsteps. His entrepreneurial side came out in the year's Cub Scout popcorn sales — he was a highly motivated seller and had the 2nd highest sales in his pack. He loves math, science, watching movies, playing video games, scouts, skiing, and swimming. He also has his Dad's wry sense of humor.



Aramis began 2nd grade this year, and has proven to be a bit of a whiz at mental math problems. He surprised us over the summer by beating both Emma and Atticus at solving some problems in his head, including percentages and some multiplication. He is a delightful freckle-faced kid, and he still carries the nickname "Hilaramis" for his off-the-wall, laugh-inducing comments. His big claim to fame, however, of the past two years was beating a National Chess Master in an exhibition match where the Chess Master was playing 40+ people at once. Aramis was the only person to beat him!



Aramis, 7

Atticus and Aramis set the bar high as Pinewood Derby competitors in Scouts. In their local pack's derby, they both won 1st place in their respective dens. In the pack finals, Aramis took 1st overall and Atticus 2nd, with Aramis beating his big brother by 3/1000ths of a second. They both qualified to move on to the district derby, where they each finished 1st in their respective divisions.

Last time you heard from us, our little Eragon was in a cast with a broken leg, and we are glad to report that he recovered fully and perfectly. In fact, he had learned to ski by the end of last year's season, and this year we can hardly keep up with him! He skis blues with all his big siblings and even tried a couple of race courses and black runs last year. He enjoys getting to do real school work with the rest of the kids. He walks the line between being the baby of the family and being one of the kids, balancing his bubbly, mischievous side with his serious, contemplative side.



Eragon, 5



Swimming in Missouri



One of our favorite activities last Winter was dogsledding; everyone in our family had the chance to either drive the team or ride in the sled. We had an adventurous trip to Disneyland and the Bay Area in the Spring. Disneyland was great as always. Hitting a deer with our pop-up camper on the way out to California...not so great. Over the Summer, Dave, Emma, Atticus, and Aramis embarked on a 3-day canoe trip on the North Platte River in Wyoming. We also had a relaxing family getaway to the Pagosa Hot Springs, as well as a boating excursion on Grand Lake. Over the Labor Day weekend, we spiced up our annual camping/rafting trip to Glenwood Springs by letting Emma, Atticus, Aramis, and Dave do an "adventure" rope course and zip line across the Colorado River. Fun!



Christy continues to homeschool our kids, as well as run a homeschool co-op with over 40 other families. Then there's being the Cookie Mom for Girl Scouts and a Den Leader for Cub Scouts, numerous field trips to the Zoo, Aquarium, Museum of Nature & Science, the King Tut Exhibit, etc., etc., etc. We honestly don't know how she does it. She enjoys the occasional Moms Night Out with her friends, and has attended the Women of Faith Conference in Denver the past two years.

Health-wise, we are doing well. Christy took up jogging in January, and in August she and Dave ran their first-ever 5K. Dave finally broke down and had the LASIK procedure performed, and he is relishing his glasses-free 20/15 vision. Christy's Dad had some very worrisome health issues over the past year but he is doing much better, and we continue to hope and pray for his full recovery and good health.



Emma, Scout, and Storm

In 2009 our sweet kitty Gizmo passed away after 18 wonderful years. Our home was pet-less until a fateful Halloween carnival where Atticus won a goldfish, which he promptly named Pumpkin. At that point, the floodgates were opened, and now our family is complete with three fish and two cats, our 2009 Christmas kittens, Scout and Storm. They have brought our family lots of laughs and smiles, along with a

bit of consternation. It's been a long time since we had kittens...

Dave keeps busy working for Adobe from home, and leads the family on adventures every chance he gets. Work continues to be interesting and at times challenging, with Dave juggling a variety of new projects over the past two years. He has had to travel back to San Jose a few more times than expected this past year. Otherwise, he continues to enjoy his geeky pastimes...such as designing and editing this entire Christmas newsletter on his iPad "just to see if he can."



Kenosha Pass, Colorado

As a family, we still very much love the Colorado outdoor lifestyle, and try to spend as much of the summer camping/hiking and as much of the winter skiing as we can possibly manage.

We pray that you and yours experience the true joy of Christmas, and that the coming year is full of love and the peace that passes all understanding.

The Pond Family

Dave, Christy, Emma, Atticus, Aramis & Eragon
Scout & Storm (our kitties)
Pumpkin, Quicksilver & Mud (our goldfish)