



THE HOSKEN TIMES

2014

Re-Used Gift Bag Edition

As with past years, 2014 has sped by and our children are growing all too fast. Graham is now 12 and a middle schooler in seventh grade. Olivia is now 16 and a junior in high school. Dan and Bekki (age withheld) continue to juggle two full-time careers as well as a variety of kid activities like, "How late is Michael's open to buy materials for the class project due tomorrow?"

In summer the family visited the Gerhart and Hosken clans in Michigan. In July Graham enjoyed a day at the SoCal Tourette Syndrome Association camp, meeting up with old friends, and scaling an enormous climbing tower. In August, Olivia spent two weeks in marching band camp and rescued the four week-old kitten left on a nearby bus stop bench; she is now "Treble," the newest addition to our family. Bekki takes the family hiking in search of geocaches when she gets them out of the house.

Since both kids were out of school Thanksgiving week, the family took a brief escape to San Diego and enjoyed parks, museums, kayaking, and our hotel on a beautiful marina. We look forward to more adventures in 2015... and maybe some rest!



OLIVIA PUTS THE ART IN SMART

To round out an already challenging Junior Year course schedule, Olivia has been very busy with a variety of activities this Fall including her school marching band where she is section leader for the alto saxophones, musical theater voice lessons, and creative writing through the amazing Writergirl program. Her marching band show, "The Marching Dead," was glorious to watch! (Ever seen a whole band walk like zombies while playing? We have!)

In the Spring she plans to rejoin her Youth Chorus and hopefully find time to continue volunteering at the local animal shelter, a passion of hers as exhibited by our now FOUR cats.

She continues to pursue all things artsy, be it writing, music, visual art, or acting. She obsesses about Supernatural, Doctor Who, Sherlock, Star Trek, and all things nerdy. She is Cosplay ready.



OUR BABY IS ALL GROWN UP

Graham, age 12 going on 40, completed sixth grade last spring and is now a big middle school seventh grader, enjoying a rotating schedule of teachers and classes.

He has grown by leaps and bounds and is almost as tall now as his sister, four years his senior. To fuel his growth, he has mastered the art of pantry raids — yes, that's "pantry" (get



your mind out of the gutter!). Despite seemingly endless trips to the grocery store, our cupboards are always bare.

Graham is actively taking parkour classes, which is what Bekki calls "hipster gymnastics" (Google it!). He loves the challenge and successfully tested up a level in November.

He is also performing in his school musical. Mad props to his drama teacher for getting Graham — who barely talks to us — to SING and DANCE! Can't wait to see the show in January.

He is an avid collector of funky hats and retro/vintage videogame systems. Duckhunt anyone?



BUSY BEKKI

Bekki has had a busy year yet without much specific to talk about. She recently celebrated her two year anniversary as Budget Officer for the City of Simi Valley. In July she and Dan snuck away for a few blissful days in Vegas (and met Teller!).

She volunteers for both kids' schools as time permits and in August she flew to Salt Lake City to meet up with her mother and research the family genealogy. She is an obsessive "The Walking Dead" fan.

DAN: MAKING WEIRD NOISES SINCE THE 80s

Dan continues to juggle his two jobs, high school carpool limo driver and Associate Dean for the arts college at California State University—Northridge (CSUN). He enjoys the challenges and perks of his job, perks like attending 10 gallery openings and 15 concerts every month (okay, we're exaggerating a bit but it feels close). Graham suggested he get a bed in his office since he is at work so much.

In June he escaped from the family for two weeks for intensive management training for college administrators at the Harvard University College of Education and returned with an obnoxious "pahk the cah" Kennedy accent... and t-shirts. Lots of t-shirts.

This former music professor finished a new composition this year — to be premiered soon! — and also the second edition of his textbook, *An Introduction to Music Technology*.

In his free time he watches football and naps. And snores with a Kennedy accent.

