



THE MILDENSTEINS



WE WANT TO WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS! WE LOVE AND MISS YOU!

What a Year!

First of all we wanted to start our newsletter with a bit of an explanation.

Normally you would be receiving a DVD from us with our year in review. This year it is just not feasible with all of the demands of our busy family life, so look for individual vignettes of The

Life and Times of the Mildensteins, on the internet at www.mildensteins.net throughout the year.

We are really looking forward to the coming year and all the experience the year holds.

We hope you enjoy this little slice of what we have been up to this year!

We hope the new year will be wonderful for you and yours!



SEVEN FROM HEAVEN

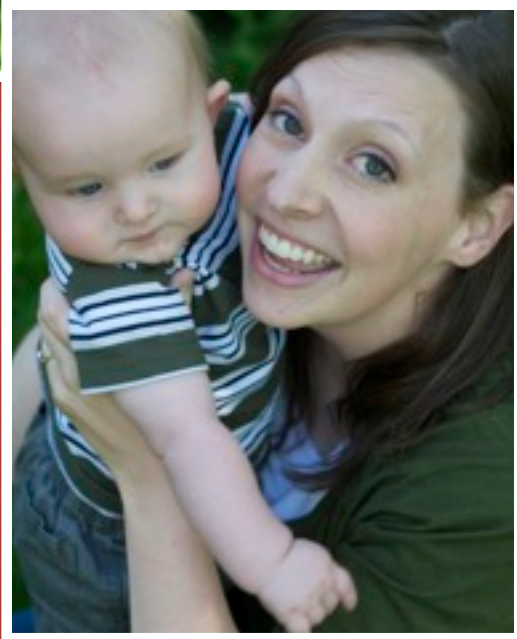
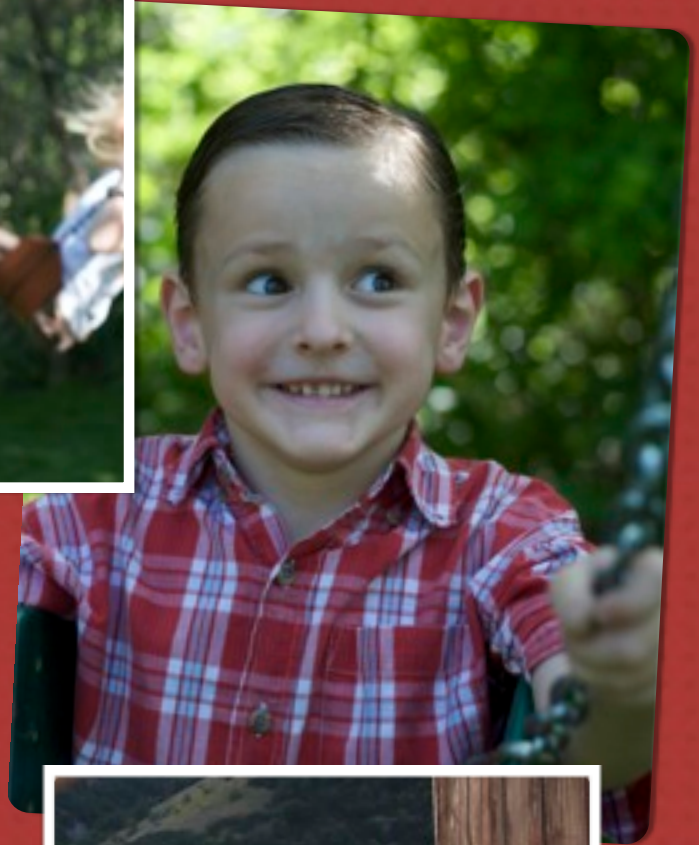


PATIENCE'S BAPTISM



NATHANAEL'S 1ST BIRTHDAY

THE JOY OF LIFE



WE HAVE TRAVELED A LOT AS A FAMILY THIS YEAR. WE MADE TWO TRIPS TO UTAH AND BACK. THE CHILDREN ARE SUCH GOOD TRAVELERS.

WE LIKE SPENDING TIME TOGETHER ON THE ROAD, ON VACATION AND AS ALWAYS, AT HOME.

The Children's Year

Nate has grown a lot this year. He had his first birthday on October the 16th. He devoured his cake and was covered from head to toe in frosting. It was adorable. Aaron and I can't believe this was our last, first birthday. Wow, where does the time go? Life with seven children seems to make time speed up. Nate loves to scream out "DAD!" and he likes to be in the middle of all of the action of life.

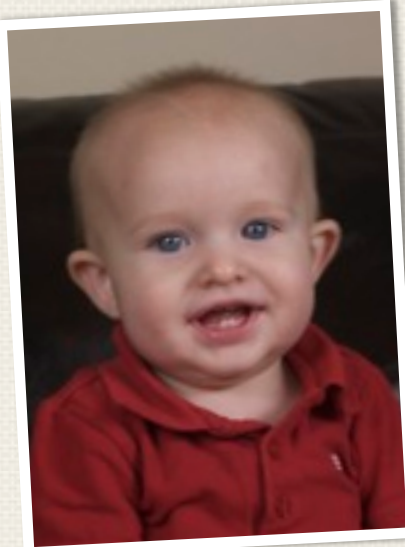
THE LITTLE ONES

Fantastic Four!

Hannah is four this year and we really enjoy watching her grow up. She is finally getting used to not being the baby of the family any more and she is a wonderful big sister to Nathanael. She has a contagious smile and laugh. Hannah is a very animated child and can tell elaborate stories in which princesses and skeletons always seem to feature. Don't ask us why, all we know is they are very interesting stories! She also loves to make up jokes. The one she is most famous for this year is "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Give up? "To get squished by a boulder!"

Gabey Baby

Gabe has learned so much this year. He likes to read and write, but you can really see where his talents lie when you get him working on an art project. He has such a creative soul and he loves to draw, color, paint, and sculpt. He is at his happiest when he is creating works of art. Gabe is very physically active. Riding his bicycle and swimming are his favorite activities. He can't wait until he is old enough to go on a long bike ride with the big kids. Gabe loves playing games with his brothers and sisters. Light sabers are his weapon of choice on the battle field, even if he is wearing a full suit of play armor.



NATHANAEL

NATHANAEL BRINGS SUCH JOY INTO OUR LIVES. HE LOVES PUSHING BUTTONS ON ALL OF THE ELECTRONICS IN THE HOUSE, INCLUDING DAD'S COMPUTERS. NATE LOVES HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BOOKS AND MAKING EVERYONE LAUGH. HE JUST STARTED WALKING IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS.



HANNAH

HANNAH IS SUCH A CUTIE. SHE LOVES TO WORK ON HER SCHOOLWORK WITH HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS. SHE LOVES COOKING WITH MOM. HER FAVORITE COLOR IS PINK. SHE HAS BEEN LEARNING HOW TO SWIM AND TO RIDE A BICYCLE THIS YEAR. WE LOVE HAVING HANNAH AROUND!



GABRIEL

GABE IS A BALL OF ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT. THERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT WHEN HE IS AROUND. GABE LOVES SCHOOL. HE LEARNED HOW TO SWIM THIS YEAR AND LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT! GABE IS A WONDERFUL BIG BROTHER. GABE IS SO MUCH FUN AND HE LOVES TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.

The Children's Year

Patience turned eight this year and with that came her first big birthday party with friends. It was a princess party with the works, a draw bridge and portcullis, royal banners and tapestries in the front entry way and a beautiful princess castle cake. She loved being the belle of the ball!

Patience was baptized and confirmed as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints this year on August 1st. She was a little nervous, but very excited. We had many friends and family come to be a part of her special day.

Sam the man

Sam enjoys Cub Scouts and right now he is working on earning his Bear. Sam and Dad worked hard on Sam's pinewood derby car this spring. All their hard work paid off. Sam won first place in the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. He was so gracious when he won, making sure to congratulate everyone that raced and point out the things he liked about their cars.

Sam is also a talented joke maker. He loves making up jokes. This is one of the ones that he made up recently.

"What did Hansel say to Gretel when they saw the gingerbread house?"
Wondering? "This house looks desserted"
He cracked us up with that one!

Emma Liz

Emma turned eleven this year and is looking forward to turning twelve and entering into the Young Women's program next year.

Emma has been working on being more responsible this year and working harder in school. Emma's favorite thing to do is to write. She is on chapter eight of the book she is writing for fun.

Emma loves to sew and to bake. She loves making things to give to others. She loves to serve her family and friends.



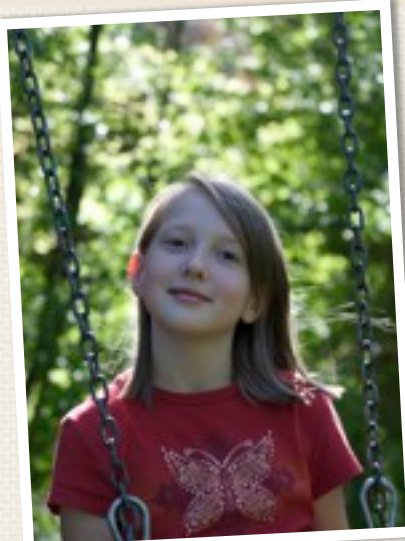
PATIENCE

THIS WAS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR PATIENCE. SHE HAS BEEN LEARNING TO SEW THIS FALL. SHE LOVES TO READ HER FAVORITE SERIES "THE MAGIC TREE HOUSE" BOOKS. SHE LEARNED HOW TO SWIM THIS SUMMER AS WELL.



SAMUEL

SAM TURNED NINE THIS YEAR. WE CAN'T BELIEVE HOW TALL HE IS GETTING! HE IS VERY CREATIVE IN THE COMEDY DEPARTMENT AND IS ALWAYS MAKING US LAUGH. SAM LOVES TO BUILD AND CREATE THINGS. HE LIKES TO LEARN ABOUT INVENTORS AND ABOUT HOW THINGS WORK. SAM LOVES COMPUTERS AND HE BUILT HIS FIRST ONE THIS YEAR.



EMMA

AS ALWAYS EMMA IS KEEPING US IN STITCHES WITH HER SENSE OF HUMOR AND HER FUN PERSONALITY. HER FAVORITE COLORS ARE ORANGE, GREEN AND PURPLE. HER FAVORITE BOOKS TO READ ARE NANCY DREW AND HISTORICAL FICTION. EMMA HAS MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS AND LIKES LIVING IN TEXAS.

The Children's Year

Aubria is studying hard during her first year of High School. Bri chose to do BYU Independent Study High School Online. She is doing very well and enjoying her classes a lot. Her favorite subjects are World Geography and Latin.

Aubria loves to play the piano. All on her own has been teaching herself new pieces of music. She taught herself "Cristofori's Dream" by David Lanz, this year. She has also been working on the theme from Harry Potter and a few pieces by Jon Schmidt. We love to hear her play.

Bri has a new best friend here in Texas and she is so happy because her new best friend is a "geek" like her. (Those are Aubria's words).

THE PARENTAL UNITS

My Wife

Diana has been hard at work in her calling as Primary President in our ward. She has traveled quite a lot this year having made the long drive to Utah twice, once by herself with all seven children. Diana made her first trip ever to the Big Apple to help Jared and prepare for their move to Houston. She is feeling quite travel savvy after this year.

My Hubby

Aaron has been very busy at his job and he is really enjoying all that entails.

He has enjoyed being the choir director of our ward and recently got to direct the Stake choir for Stake Conference. Aaron was also in a production of *He Is Jesus Christ* this year with our Stake and he sang beautifully.

Aaron has done much to improve his personal life this year and has strengthened relationships as he has faced some difficult things about himself this year. He is such a wonderful man!



AUBRIA

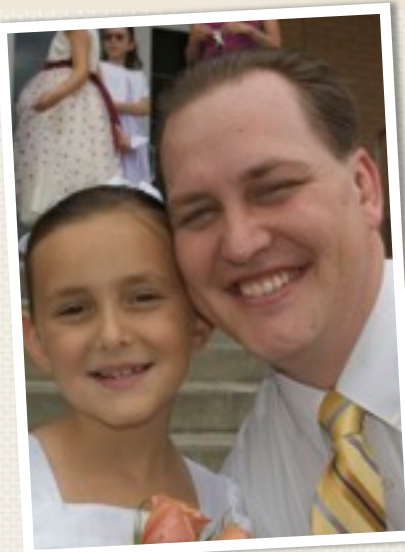
BRI IS AS WONDERFUL AS EVER. SHE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE TO OUR FAMILY OF SERVICE WITH A SMILE. BRI IS BUSY WITH HER ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME SCHOOL GROUP, SEMINARY AND THE YOUNG WOMEN'S PROGRAM. AUBRIA IS THE YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENT, AND IS BUSY, BUSY. SHE LOVES TEXAS!



DIANA

DIANA HAS BEEN TEACHING THE SISTERS IN OUR WARD HOW TO USE THEIR FOOD STORAGE AND IMPROVE THEIR COOKING SKILLS ALL AROUND. SHE IS AMAZING!

SHE IS BEGINNING TO ADAPT TO TEXAS WEATHER, THOUGH SHE WILL ALWAYS MISS THE MOUNTAINS (AND SNOW!) OF UTAH.



AARON

AARON IS A GREAT DAD. HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF BAPTIZING AND CONFIRMING PATIENCE THIS YEAR. THIS WAS A VERY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE FOR HIM. AARON STILL LOVES COMPUTERS AND HAS TURNED THE BIG ROOM UPSTAIRS INTO A BIG COMPUTER LAB. HE LOVES IT! HE HAS BEEN TEACHING THE CHILDREN THE "HOW TO'S" OF COMPUTERS.

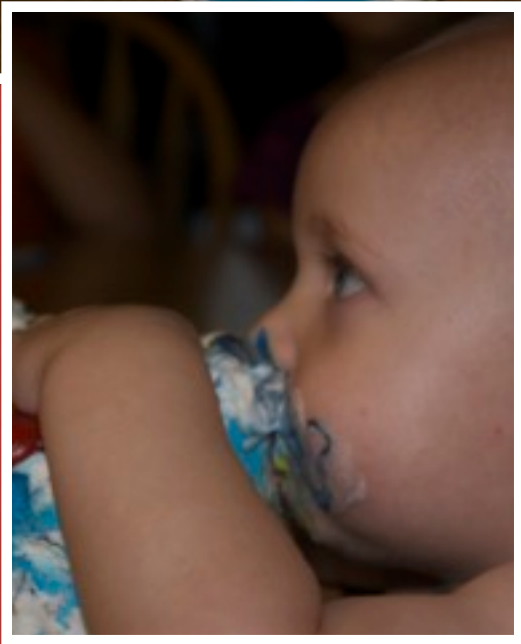
SILLINESS IS THE SPICE OF LIFE



HELLO GOVERNOR!! PIP, PIP, CHEERIO!

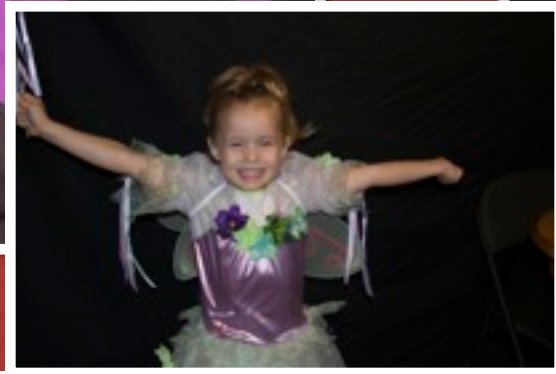
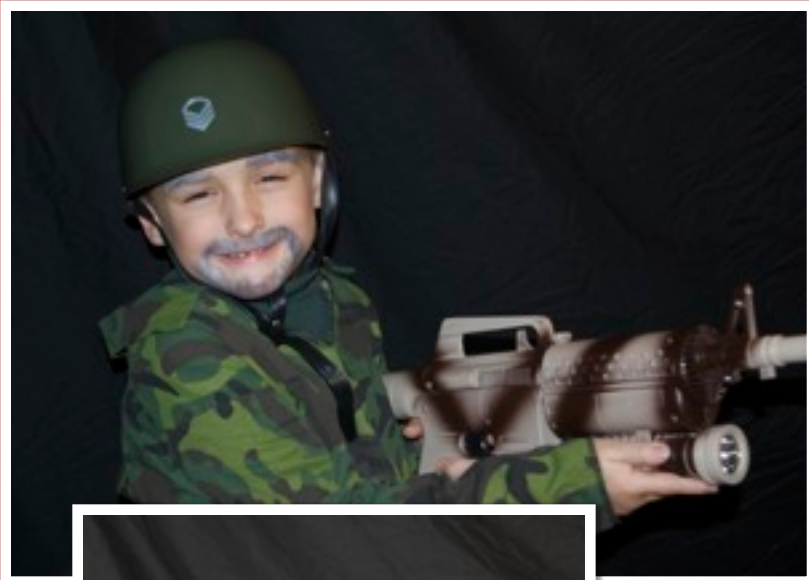
PARDON ME, DO I HAVE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?

NATHANAEL'S FIRST BIRTHDAY



HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY NATHANAEL! HE SURE DID LOVE THAT CAKE! BECAUSE OF ITS' SHAPE, NATE WAS ABLE TO SUCK THE CORNER OF THE CAKE. IT WAS SO FUNNY TO SEE. HE GINGERLY TASTED THE CAKE AT FIRST, THEN HE BROUGHT THE CAKE IN FOR A HUGE BEAR HUG AND KISS AND FINISHED THE CAKE OFF. WHAT A MESS!

HALLOWEEN



PATIENCE'S BAPTISM



PATIENCE'S MEMORIES

1. I FELT REALLY WARM INSIDE.
2. I REMEMBER GOING UNDER THE WATER AND DADDY HOLDING ME AND SMILING WHEN I GOT OUT
3. SISTER SHARP GAVE ME FLOWERS
4. WE TOOK PICTURES
5. MY PARENTS GAVE ME A BEAUTIFUL BAPTISM DRESS

Patience's Special Day!

Thank you to all of the dear friends and family that came to participate in Patience's special day. We had family and friends from all over join us that day. Great Grandpa Mote, Nannies and Grandpa Haraden, Grandma and Grandpa Mildenstein, Uncle Jared, Aunt Rebekah, Kaelten, Koen, Liam, Asher, and Avonlea, Aunt Maria, Uncle Russell, Kennadee, Uncle Ian, Aunt Jehn, the Alemans, the Sharps, the Belangers and the Bosticks, were in attendance.

We love you Patience, and we are so happy that you chose to be baptized!





MAY ALL YOUR DAYS BE
MERRY AND BRIGHT!
AND MAY ALL YOUR
CHRISTMASES BE
WHITE!



CHRISTMAS

A time for loving and laughter,
for joy and celebration. A time
to hold each other closer. A
time to dream.

For us in the Mildenstein family,
Christmas is a time to reflect
back on all that has happened in
the year. It is a time to capture
and remember the best times in
our life, the wonderful
memories of family and home.

We hope you enjoy reflecting
with us.

Merry Christmas!

The Mildensteins