

The Annual Splinter

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An annual publication from the Wood family

Tom, Christina, Tiffany, Heidi, Kyle, & Madeleine

We've been in this house for five years now, and it just keeps getting smaller. Still focused on getting into a new house, but it will be at least another year. We have made good progress on the home improvement projects and we're pleased with how things are shaping up.

With Madeleine getting older, we've been able to do more camping, which everyone loves. We got a much-needed larger tent and managed eight trips this spring and summer.

We added a new family member in February, a Doberman named Sebastian. He is getting very big! He just had his first birthday and he's over 80 pounds (he will likely be about 110 lbs); he is still growing. He's quite a chore to take on a walk, but getting a lot better, and he loves to go on campouts.

The kids spent a week this summer at Grandma and Grandpa Wood's house and Christina and Tom took advantage with Sonoma Valley wine tasting and a leisurely trip down the coast.

Tom

Less travel this year than in years past means less excuses for not getting home projects done. This year's destinations have been a refreshing change from Detroit, including Sacramento, Miami, Boise, and Dallas. His company, Iteris, is doing well and expects to break away from its parent this year or next. Tom's home business, BCS, is still going strong, providing the family some extra income and Tom a nice diversion.

Tom's still playing a lot of basketball, mainly at work during lunch. He joined an organized league in Anaheim and had a lot of fun with it, and will be continuing to play in the league next year.

He graduated from Cub Scout Den Leader to Assistant Cubmaster with Kyle's pack. He's also helping coach Heidi's basketball team.

Christina

Has broadened her activities this year. She is creating two newsletters - one for Girl Scouts



and one for MOM's club. She continues to work her Mary Kay business as a hobby that she is passionate about. She is also the secretary of the 6th grade activities at school to support Tiffany and be ready to have two 6th graders in the house next year.

Christina continues to love doing things during the day with Madeleine, although now most times they include the MOM's club. She has also joined a Bunco group this year that gets her out one evening a month to cut loose and have a great time with other moms.

Tiffany

What a difference a year makes! Tiffany started sixth grade like she did fifth - like she was shot out of a cannon! Her test scores are amazingly high and we are so proud of her!

She continues to play the clarinet and really enjoys it. She is also involved in vocal music at school. She also remains very involved in Girl Scouts (her fifth year) and NEW - Cheerleading. She participated in two parades this year so far and looks forward to continuing in January.

Heidi

Still loves school and her new teacher this year. The challenge this year is to keep her focused on academics rather than socialization. She remains a very enthusiastic and extremely thoughtful girl.

Instead of violin this year, Heidi has chosen vocal music and it seems to be her passion.

Any chance she gets she seems to be giving us a performance. She also chose to continue with basketball and is very excited about playing. She also remains in a Girl Scout Troop with Tiffany and they are doing a lot of exciting activities this year.

Heidi had her first big crush this year on a boy named Kyle. She is too young in our opinion, but she is so excited - her face lit up as big as the sun the day he gave her four little stuffed animals.

Kyle

Entered the GATE program this year! It has been a challenge, but one he has been grateful for. He is excelling with As and Bs, which in a normal class would translate to one grade higher. He also continues to love to read, especially the Harry Potter books. They can't keep up with him!

He chose to play the saxophone this year, his first instrument. So far he's been very passionate about it, practicing regularly and hardly having to be asked to do so.

Kyle is still involved in Cub Scouts and will graduate to Boy Scouts early next year. He is working very hard on advancement and expects to earn the Arrow of Light - the highest achievement in Cub Scouts.

Madeleine

Now a school girl! She started preschool this fall (two days a week) and just loves it. She adjusted to it very well and quickly, and even gets to do homework.

It's fun to watch Madeleine grow up with her older siblings. She has learned, at a very young age, how to get what she wants. She doesn't always get it, but it's fun watching her try.

She loves playing on the computer with her special games. She's gotten very good with the mouse and doesn't even realize she's learning along the way.