



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

December 2007

Volume I, Issue VII



### Subscription Update:

#### *Inside this issue:*

Teaching your 18 month old the art of a good goose call takes time and patience, trial and error. Learn how P.4C

Nutrition recommendation: An apple a day (plus two healthy scoops of ice cream a day) prevents heart disease. P. 6E

The art of play dough sculpture carving for children under three on display at the art museum. P. 4B

Parents with more than one child need to know when the right time is to enter them into a boxing match — against each other. P. 1C

#### *Events of 2007:*

Christine runs the show at the state Jan

Brendan constructs first snowman Mar

Ryan and family build deck May

Brendan starts preschool Sep

Brendan meets Frank the combine Oct

Caelin calls in the honkers Oct

Caelin catches a chicken at Papas Nov

Brendan skates for the first time Nov



C practicing goose call

## Reflections:

BY CHRISTINE S. MURPHY ♣ EDITOR

In my best of dreams, I never thought I would be where I am today. I was watching my precious little ones help my husband wrestle with the faux tree as Manheim Steamroller bellowed from our kitchen CD player.

While Caelin attempted to take every bulb out of the Christmas tote from last year, I realized that I had "arrived." Let me back up a little bit. I think I have spent my entire life trying to get somewhere. When I was little, I just wanted to be in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I don't know why my mind arbitrarily picked that place and time, it just did. When I was in eighth grade, I just wanted to be 16 and experience the freedom of driving. When I was a senior, I just wanted to graduate. Soon, I was 21 and wondering when I would ever be done with college and on the road to

financial independence. When I got married, I still did not feel complete with my Bachelor's & Master's degree and a Law degree pending. While I was studying for the bar, I just wanted to be done. When I was pregnant, I just wanted to not be pregnant.

All of this endeavor was in an effort to "get there." I had an idea of where "there" was, but it always shifted to another place as I matured. While I watched Brendan run

around the room as I clumsily struggled with the video camera to catch every moment on film, something peculiar occurred to me. I realized at that moment that I had arrived. I could think of no other place in world I would rather be. My life right here, right now is quite a bit more than perfect. I also realized what "there" meant—to be happy. I recognized I had been there all along-happy. You see, the most important thing about being happy is to recognize that you are.



## O' Brother Where Art Thou

BY RYAN MURPHY ♣ SENIOR WRITER

Watching the boys play on a daily basis reminds me of how well my brother and I got along growing up. What a headache we must have been.

Now I watch as Caelin attempts to play with Brendan, but the older sibling wants nothing to do with it. I try to encourage him to play with his little brother, but he would rather not.

My only conclusion is this must be part of growing up and coming into their own. I wonder if there is a concoction on ebay to speed this up. However, I assume if this was possible my parents would have lived in a shed, worked two jobs each and biked to work to pay for this invention so they could have had peace.

The boys actually play very well together and get along just great. Time will tell if they get their Daddy's bad habits or not.

We recently purchased a pair of hockey skates for Brendan. I couldn't wait for this day to come. I have always looked forward to the day the boys could learn to skate and eventually play hockey.

The minute we arrived home from the sporting goods store Brendan wanted to put on the skates... and he did. Six days, ten hours and five minutes later we were able to take them off.

Brendan loves to run around in his skates pretending to play hockey with his stick and net. And of course, right there with him along the way is



Brendan Skating

his little brother with hockey stick in hand saying "hockey" (about one million times).

As usual, Thanks to all of those who have helped us out over the last year.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!