

The Monk Chronicles

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Happy 2008!

I apologize for my tardiness in sending this. The past six weeks have been... hectic.



The most exciting news for 2007 is that we bought a new house. We moved only a couple of miles, but it's a better situation for us. In case you don't have it, our new address is 11 Autumn Ridge Dr., Wilton, CT 06897, and our new phone number is 203-210-7224.

The other big news is that Suzie started college at BYU in August. She's majoring in Civil Engineering. She took so many AP classes in high school that she started BYU with 36 credits. She has adjusted to college and is doing very well, but we were all very happy to see her when she came home for Christmas break. In addition to her Civil Engineering major, she is planning on a music minor and will automatically get a math minor because of the number

of math courses required for her major. Suzie is principal violist in BYU's non-majors orchestra.



Andy is a senior and has already been accepted into BYU for next fall. For a while, he was considering going to the University of Michigan, but we all decided that BYU would be the better choice. Since Andy has already been accepted to college, you would think that he could relax, but that's not the case. He's taking several AP classes that require constant attention and he has also been preparing for two violin competitions which were completed on January 19.

He played the Tchaikovsky violin concerto (for those of you who don't know, that's the one that was considered unplayable when it was first written in 1878) and the Mendelssohn concerto. He won first place in one competition and second in the other.

Last summer, Suzie and Andy attended a six-week music festival in Vermont. It was a 'total immersion' experience and they both loved it. Michelle went to the festival too, not as a student, but as a baby-sitter for the artistic director's children. All four of the kids are hoping to attend next summer.



Ricky is a sophomore this year and is doing very well. Last spring, we had a serious conflict with his teachers and counselor over his choice of courses for this year. He wanted to take two honors math courses as well as an honors chemistry course but the teachers worried that would be too much for any student. He finally ended up with honors chemistry, one honors math class and one regular math class. He couldn't get into the second honors math class only because of a scheduling conflict. In spite of his heavy course load, Ricky is doing very well in all his classes and is already planning which AP classes to take next year. Ricky has made a great deal of progress on the cello this past year. He was in All-Region Orchestra

last year and this year both.

Michelle is fourteen years old and is in eighth grade. The other day, she mentioned that she's now the same age as what Suzie was when we moved to Connecticut. Time flies! Michelle is still studying violin and is the model student. She is very conscientious and gets upset if something isn't exactly right at school. As if they didn't already have enough to do, Michelle and Ricky started taking piano lessons again this fall. They both used to sit and pick out music on the piano so resuming lessons seemed a good choice.



We wish you all a wonderful 2008 and hope to be able to visit many of you this year.

Richard, Ann, Suzie, Andy Ricky and Michelle