

The Schocks – 2011

Winter-Snow was everywhere and it was so cold. The kids spend every day after school sledding in yard. Unfortunately Emma's headaches and eye problems returned in January and we had her evaluated by a Developmental Ophthalmologist only to find out she had Convergence Insufficiencies and needed Vision Therapy (it is like physical therapy for your eyeball muscles). She went once a week for an hour and then had 15-30 minutes of exercises to do every day, for 16 weeks. It was a lot of hard work, but it paid off and now her eyes work better than any of ours. We all had fun doing the exercised with her too. It was still so cold and snowy, but we decided to **Spring** a trip to Mall of America on the kids. Ryan enjoyed the Lego store and Emma picked out an American Girl, Elizabeth, for an early birthday gift. We all enjoyed the rides at Nickelodeon Universe. Then we went to Grandma Terry and Grandpa Tom's for the rest of the long weekend and even got to sled behind the 4-wheeler on the frozen lake. Both kids are in soccer and live at the soccer fields. Emma turns 10-double digits! I take her and a friend bowling on her birthday, which is also a half day of school, and James flies in early from a long work trip and surprises Emma at the bowling alley. It was a great surprise! Emma received her First Communion this spring. We had a wonderful Seder meal at church followed by Maundy Thursday service where she received Communion. Grandpa Martin was here to



celebrate this milestone in Emma's life. The spring piano recital was great! It is fun to watch them enjoy something they worked so hard on. Ryan also begins baseball; he loves sports! The end of the school year Emma found out she would have the teacher she really wanted for 5th grade, and thus began the long



Summer of her wanting everyday to be the start of school. Emma and Ryan love the pool, riding bikes and drawing extensively on the driveway and sidewalks with chalk. They create "action figures" (tracing each other in various positions, diving, dancing, shooting baskets etc...) and color them in with great detail. Then the rains (or car



washes) come and rinse them away and the creative process begins again. Ryan took 2 weeks of golf lesson with First Tee of South Dakota with his best bud. They enjoyed playing golf together and even got to play a round with their dads as their caddies. We travelled to Bismarck over Memorial weekend, then to Minneapolis in late June and to Rapid City over the 4th of July for a Knowles family reunion. It was nice to meet so many of James' extended family and spend a long weekend in the Hills. While there we climbed Harney Peak – it was a perfect day for a big



hike, and the kids want to know when we will do it again. We return from Rapid on a Monday and the next day Emma goes to her first away camp, NeSoDak, for the rest of the week. She really enjoys it, but is not convinced she will go back again this summer. We will see when the time gets closer. In early August we decide to go to Bismarck again for James' Grandpa's

90th birthday and to see his brother from Texas and family. It was a fun trip! We are now a bit road weary and plan not to travel anytime soon. James and I went to some really good concerts this summer. Every year we look forward to more outdoor concerts next year. Emma gets her favorite teacher for 5th grade and is so excited for that school is finally here! After some thought, we decide to move Ryan to the Challenge Center, a week into the new school year. It has been a great move, he is so happy there and thankful to be challenged every day. Emma had the option to go there as well, but decided to spend her last year at Harvey Dunn with her favorite teacher. Having 2 kids in 2 schools is a big adjustment, but so far it is all working out just fine. James finishes up another season on the church softball team. We have come to love our Thursday nights at the ball park with friends, and the kids love staying up late, sometimes up until 11p. The weather begins to cool and we



Fall back into the rhythm of soccer games and practices for both kids. Football begins as well and the boys enjoy the growing undefeated season of the Packers. Our piano teacher moves, so again we are on the hunt for a new one. We are blessed to be able to start lessons with Mrs. Quimby. Emma and Ryan trade weeks with lessons, so they go every other week. Ryan loves this, and Emma hates it, but she fills her time with her French Horn lessons and practicing. I am still working as a substitute educational assistant at Emma's school, and have also begun to work part-time as an Educational Assistant at our church. I help to plan and set up for the church school classes and give support to the teachers. I enjoy this job and all the learning it has brought to me. For

Halloween we have an ancient theme; Emma is an Egyptian princess, and Ryan is a "human fossil" aka skeleton. He refused to be a skeleton, and really wanted to be a nautilus fossil. Luckily we were able to talk him into being a human fossil; but not a skeleton. James spends a few weeks traveling this fall to Iowa and Missouri. Work is busy for him and we miss him when he travels, but absence does make the heart grow fonder. I got sick this fall with a



staph infection that turned out to be MRSA, ugh! We caught it early and I got on antibiotics, and just when I started to get better, I had an allergic reaction to the medicine, so we had to start treatment over with a new antibiotic. After about 3 weeks I was finally better and mostly thankful that so far no one else in the family has gotten it. While I was sick my entire family came to spend Thanksgiving with us. I was bummed to be not feeling well, but thankful for the time to visit with them; also thankful that my kids got to spend a few days with their cousin Alexandra. Ryan will be 8 this December. For Christmas it will be just the four of us this year. We are looking forward to celebrating, and having hamburgers and french fires on Christmas Day – yum! New Years Eve will be our 11th wedding anniversary. It seems fitting that when the year ends, and a new one begins, so ends and begins a new year in our life together.



We hope this finds you all well.

We pray this finds you blessed in big ways and in small.

We believe this finds you loved.

We trust you are in the Grace of God – today and always!

We love to keep in touch – schocks@sio.midco.net or Cicely DeMars Schock on facebook

We are so thankful and so blessed to have such great extended families. During our summer travels we visited with many of them.

