



Times of the Odd Family

December 2010

Julie, George, Jaden, Carson, and Pauley Tsai

The Eleventh Volume

Year of Change



After a year of uncertainty, 2010 provided fresh transitions and exciting forks in the road. The Tsai boys advanced to their next levels in education, while the parents changed their roles in education.

Son Kind of Wonderful

Initial concerns about delays were minimized once official assessments confirmed Carson had made substantial speech improvement. Anyone within earshot can quickly hear how outspoken and expressive Carson is now! He can be seen nightly performing his favorite tunes and dances.

Carson entered the world of education, attending preschool and adjusting to the demands of the Montessori system.



Our Lil' Pun Kin

Now that he has been promoted to first grade, Jaden is even more determined to become as punny as ever. From suggesting that his teacher add a question mark to the "Can Food Drive" poster to recommending that this newsletter title be changed



to *Thymes of the Odd Family*, the boy is a bottomless resource of responses and antics.

Jaden remains a fun big brother while finding time for his other hobbies of soccer and art.



New Chartered Territory

Julie ventured into both new and familiar territory with her most recent employment. While being an instructional coach has been her forte since 2003, Julie joined the Oprah-featured Aspire Public Schools team. The innovative and progressive charter system, backed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has a 100% college admission rate for its students and has provided Julie with many new approaches to working with teachers statewide.

There's an AP for That

12-16 hour workdays and seldom seeing the boys became rarities once George found a new balance between work and home life.



Returning to an Assistant Principal position not only provided a chance to experience elementary school administration for the first time but also to take advantage of more Mr. Mom opportunities, perform mixology experiments on friends, and pursue recreational hobbies.

Family News

John and **Chris** continued their travels with a trip to London, while **Mark** and **Nichole** explored the Mediterranean on their second cruise together.

Donald closed his family practice of over thirty years. His new retirement allowed him to enjoy two weeks with **Grace**, **Chen-Yuan**, **Jenn**, and **Janet** in Taiwan.



Reflections

The year provided many reasons to enjoy life's moments. Julie and George took trapeze lessons for their tenth anniversary, and they conquered an obstacle-rich Warrior Dash dressed in gawdy garb. George's 20th high school reunion brought back old friends and memories. The Tsais were also able to connect with family during a San Diego trip and catch up with loved ones who came to visit.



Overall, the year provided positive changes and direction. We hope the same held true for you and your loved ones. Wishing you a 2011 filled with love and laughter!