

2009

# Palmatier Family Newsletter



*What the heck did we do all year??*

Let's see, in mid-'08 our house was demolished and the site developed, so we moved a few blocks away (after a short mental-breakdown) with fairly short notice - and a trip to the Bahamas sans kids...

The new house is in a wooded area just outside the center and back in all the "right" school districts for us. We're really lucky to be where we are.

## *Individual Highlights:*

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**Christmas Week, Lake George, NY in 2007**

*Last ditch effort at the Nice List, all getting along!*

## *Happy holidays from our family to yours!*

As we move into 2010, we figured it's time to reflect on the happenings of 2008 & 09...perhaps in hopes of, oh say, learning from our mistakes (j/k) and successes! As a whole, I don't feel like we have a ton to "update" and yet I can't remember sitting still for more than about 8 consecutive minutes all year, like every one of you, I'm sure! It makes me wonder where the time went, and wish I had spent more of it, well, sleeping late...but alas, that wasn't on the list of things-to-do. Aside from the usual things, like 2 "close call" fires, and rear-ending a nun and priest in a Prius vs Yukon showdown, and an unexpected inheritance

of 2 teenagers for a few months, my Dad becoming gravely ill with Multiple Myeloma and...and...and...that was just '08!!!

2009 has had it's up's & down's, but we have kept ourselves entertained all the while. From sports, work and school to several minor (and some major) medical meltdowns, and a plethora of tires. Even as I write, dearest Joe is nursing his latest malfunction...a concussion that scored him his first ambulance ride! 2009 was a persistent state of unrest...

(Note to self: I hate surprises)

## *Maddelyn – Class of 2011*

Well, everyone in the family got another year older (I know, enter surprised face here), with the exception of me. I gained 2 years, at least. How does this work exactly?

Maddie turned 16 in August and is in her junior year of HS and Thank Heaven, finally knows everything. It isn't clear to me how we got this far without it, but anything you need to know, just ask Maddie. Just kidding...She's a fabulous teenager, especially as teenagers go, and I'm very happy with the one I got, since she's outside of her Lemon Law coverage at this point. She's doing well in school, cheering for the Varsity cheer team in both fall (football) and winter (basketball) to the tune of \$876,924,986.23 in athletic fees per season...plus sneakers. It's a lovely experience where she comes home wildly

bruised, aching, and sore, and for some reason still adores it. Bless her for her patience, but on top of a very full cheer and school schedule, Maddie also coaches a team of adorable little tiny cheerleaders, who appear to also be addicted to this masochistic sport now too. Success!!

She has her permit & we're driving more often...so at this time next year I will probably be FIVE years older than I am this Christmas. Funny how that works, huh? (Whoa...2011 is next year!) Right, the college search is in its early stages as well. I just wish some magical college fairy would just put a sticker on the back window of your car and \*bam\*, that's where your kid would go. I'm afraid it would be the University of Maltoff Cocktails tied to a big rock...

*As of today, (12/10/09) my Dad has been admitted to the hospital for a stem cell transplant to battle the Multiple Myeloma that he was diagnosed with in Sept '08. It has been an extremely long road for both my Dad and Mom, but today we seem to have reached a significant milestone in this ever-expanding marathon.*

*Best of luck to Dad & wishing Mom some peace and relief while he gets regenerated during this SCT. They both have not finished the marathon they set out to conquer...and there apparently are no bathroom breaks along the way!*

<http://muckerheide.blogspot.com>

~L

*Click the "P" below for Family Pictures*



## *Bryan – Class of 2015*

Bryan is sooo easy going ALMOST all the time. He decided that 4 seasons of sports is a little insane (uh, ya think??) so he took last winter off, then picked it back up again for this winter (ugh, just when I thought someone was on my team!). In the spring, he played a phenomenal but demanding season of baseball, which ended within a day of Summer Baseball's first day...

Anyway, three of the kids played some type of sport this spring, and we had a cumulative 79 games in about 10 weeks. It was fun, but as one can guess, the games all take place at opposite ends of town and at the same time. It seemed a never-ending

season! Football was AWESOME, really a killer year for Bryan, who scored his first touchdown, against Natick in '08 and continued this year playing a lot, carrying the ball and getting his bell rung several times. School is great, and though I would love to boast about a flawless report card, I'll rather say that Bryan is a master procrastinator and motivation is tricky with him. The magic of Bryan is that he's happy pretty much anywhere (except shopping...figures) and nothing really ruffles his feathers. I wish I could bottle and sell it!!

## *Kathryn – Class of 2017*

Kathryn is the morning-person in our house...she never needs to be reminded to go through the AM routine, or skips the steps of getting herself together, and she always goes out the door with fashionable, spunky clothing and a big smile. Well, she's usually also bossing Joe around, but that's for another newsletter.

Kathryn cheered this year, and learned to play softball in '08, and took up soccer in '09, snowboarding in '07/'08 (like she was BORN using one) Kath remains an animal-Whisperer of sorts, and gets all sorts of animals let her get absurdly close. I can't fathom

her going into a field that doesn't utilize this skill, and she surely didn't get it from me.

Kath clearly is in the running with Maddie for knowing-it-all, which is great to have a back-up in the house. Kathryn is honestly a force to be reckoned with when she wants, and other times is the most pleasant, thoughtful and sweet child on Earth. I can't wait to see what comes from Kathryn this year! She's almost aging faster than me. School is great, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade suits her so well. She rocks at "time management" and homework related stuff...a miracle around here!! Again, I would bottle and sell it!

## *Joey – Class of 2018*

Joe is an old soul, without a doubt. His namesake would be proud, and would enjoy him enormously...as he would have adored them all. Despite Joe's fearless nature, we didn't have to make even ONE ER or surgical visit in 2008. In 2009, well, we had one - stitches in the knee...regular little boys stuff. Joey has climbed 426 chain-link fences, 8,056 trees, (did I mention we now live in the woods?) and over several railings, staircases, slides... counters, chairs, balconies, etc.

While Bryan was playing his 6<sup>th</sup> year of football, Joe was playing his 3rd. He, like his bro, is an animal on the field. He played defense, and a variety of

positions. Aside from one atrocious altercation with a referee in the last 2 minutes of the LAST game of '08 (yikes!), his seasons were spectacular. Baseball in the spring was the same, but is still done in a rotating basis so play-time remains pretty equal. We're trying to keep his competitive streak down to a dull roar. Joe ALSO played basketball, which is due to start back up right after Christmas. Summer baseball was a wild ride of virtually all wins. If only I could bottle Joe's energy...(There it is again. Me trying to make a buck.). \*\*Since I wrote this, Joe has had a concussion worthy of not only the local ER, but an ambulance ride into Children's. See? I spoke too soon.\*\*

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*This newsletter template suggests that "A favorite family phrase or slogan can go here."*

*We're sticking with:  
"Oh Crap, Mom overslept!"*

**We're on the Web!**  
Visit us at:  
<http://palmatierfamily.blogspot.com>  
& for my Dad's illness/fam blog:  
<http://muckerheide.blogspot.com>

### *So what did we DO in 2009?*

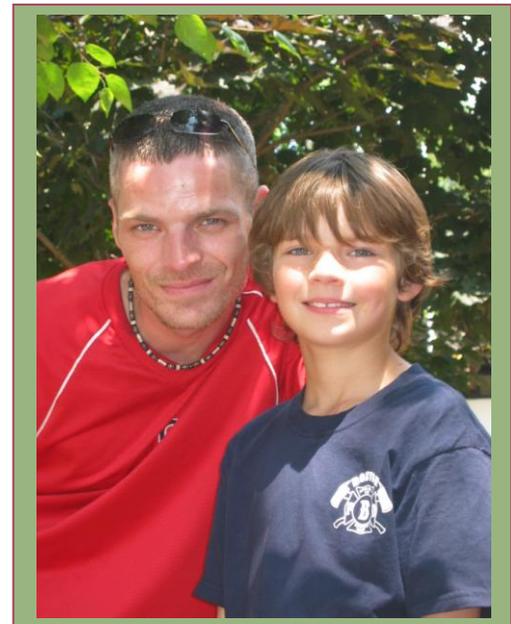
We laughed, swam, camped, fished, drove, shopped, swung, climbed, ran, jumped, played, teased, fought, antagonized, giggled, snuggled, jogged, sprinted, strolled, fell, tattled, comforted, slid, cleaned (and dirtied), charmed, loved, lost, found, warned, gave, threatened, taught, smiled, grounded, chased, annoyed, pounced, pummeled, admired, aggravated, adored, worshipped, threw, held, marveled, eaten, lunged, studied, confessed, exaggerated, learned, collected, cheered, ached, celebrated, impressed, worried (and then some), promised, bled, and healed. Most of all, we grew and survived. So well that we cherish the opportunity to do it all again in **2010!** Bring it on!



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!* Let me know if you want me to suggest a resolution for 2009. My resolution is to start telling everyone else what they should change about themselves...I started with cashiers while Xmas shopping. ;o)

*Christian's* job keeps him traveling sporadically, and it's been great to have him home more. He's been able to get to more games and Asst. Coach Bryan's football team this year. Work is never-ending, but at least exciting and often gratifying.

*My hobby, job, passion & pastime (addiction?):* Working with the football program is the perfect fit, and I'm so lucky to have it available to me when my family needs me to have this flexibility the most! With my Dad going through chemo and the time I get to spend with Drew, there couldn't be a better opportunity for me in the world. I love it, I believe in it, and my entire family is immersed in it (perhaps involuntarily at times, no doubt)! I started a Bootcamp...that I vow to continue through 2010. Hopefully putting it in writing helps!



*The Palmatiers*



*Your Name*  
*Street Address*  
*City, State Zip Code*