

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 205

AUGUST 2008

SCHOOL, MAMMA MIA! AND PLAYS

This month, the headline tells the whole story.

The kids started school this month, which is good and bad: good because it ends summer's video game-induced comas, and bad because it marks the start of the ensuing nightly homework rituals. Jeff is in 5th grade at North Ranch Elementary, and this year he is joined by Marnie, who started 1st grade. Meanwhile, Chad started 8th Grade at Desert Shadows, his second and final year in middle school. The kids will talk a little about classes, teachers, and the start of the school year on page 2.

Angie saw *Mamma Mia!* (the film) with a group of friends and liked it enough to bring the family along for her second viewing. The show got mixed reviews from the family: Marnie loved it has been singing the songs ever since, while the boys hated it (too much of a chick flick!). We already owned the Broadway soundtrack, but Angie preferred the movie version and was also nostalgic for the ABBA originals. As a result, we now have three roughly identical CDs.

Moving on to plays (but also still linked to *Mamma Mia!*), Ken and Angie spent a weekend in New York City, where we celebrated our 17th Anniversary. While there we saw three shows on Broadway: *Mamma Mia!* (again), *Boeing-Boeing*, and [title of show]. We also ate at a Turkish restaurant and an Italian place, walked the streets and Central Park, and spent the wee hours of our anniversary atop the Empire State Building.

Finishing off the "plays" portion of the month, we also made our annual trek to the Utah Shakespearean Festival. For the first time in ten years, we skipped a summer play, but that still left us with five performances to enjoy. Jeff saw two plays, Chad all five, and Ken and Angie saw these five plus the three in New York. As Shakespeare said in *Hamlet*, "The play's the thing!"



Marnie on the first day of school

replace

The word of the month.

We replaced Chad's lost cell phone, broken garage door springs, the computer monitor and the pool motor. We also finally traded out the hand-me-down garage fridge for something more energy efficient and attractive (now it's an inside fridge).

detour

A quick side trip to Coral Pink Sand Dunes ended up being much longer than expected. We found ourselves on a washed out dirt road south of the Arizona border, sliding around in the mud as if it were snow. We finally powered up the laptop and GPS, and got back on our way after seeing parts of the Arizona strip we never needed to see.

Oaks

We were surprised to see Elder Oaks (a Mormon apostle) was a fellow theatre-goer in Cedar City.

He sat right behind us in *Two Gents*, and seemed to enjoy it, as did most of the crowd. He was particularly fond of the scene when Brian Vaughn was licking the dog's open mouth (blech!); E. Oaks was hiding his face in disgust, but still peeking out between his fingers.

SCHOOL STARTS

By Marnie

AUGUST 11

I was a little nervous when we were walking to school on the first day. I already met my teacher, Mrs. Krell, but it was still a little scary because all my friends were not in my class.

I met my first friend in my line and her name was Kayleigh. When she checked what her mom packed in her lunch, said "I wonder what *that woman* packed for me." It was pretty funny. My next friend was Isabella because she sits at my table, and she's one of my best friends. Now I have lots of friends: Kelly, Emily M., Emily T., Heui-ling, Emma Jean and many more. Even Mrs. Krell is a lot of fun and pretty and so nice. My favorite special class is P.E. because Mr. Hirth is so nice. We do stuff like almost gymnastics. Library is my second favorite special, because you can check out books, and I like to read. Last is computers.

After school I go to the Wrangler Club, which is an after school care. It is in the lunch room, and on early dismissal days we get to go there at lunch time. We can color and play with toys. Mom and Dad usually come get me at about 5:30.

By Jeff

AUGUST 11

You may not know this, but this is the year of the chicken. Last year was the year of the potato.

I'm still going to North Ranch and nothing is new (besides the chicken thing). I have Mrs. Adamson (two years in a row) for my homeroom teacher and language, writing, social studies, and science. Pretty much my whole class is the same except for four kids. I also have Mrs. Brown (three years in a row) for honors, where I study math and reading. I even have the same rotation schedule for specials (library, music, P.E., and computers).

My teacher told me about the field trips for this year. The most interesting one is the Challenger Space Center. We are also going to a Diamondbacks science fieldtrip next month.

AUGUST 2008

By Chad

AUGUST 7-27

First off, right before school was the day of my first concert. I went with Dylan, Colton, and Christian to see many of my favorite bands play including Ashes Divide, Linkin Park, Hawthorne Heights, Ten Years, and Armor for Sleep. Hawthorne Heights was cool, and we got our stuff signed by them and some of the other bands.

We didn't think we were going to be able to stay for Linkin Park, but they finally came on ten minutes late. It was totally awesome. They played better live than they do on their CDs. They were the best band we saw. They had lighting effects, smoke machines, dynamic vocals, the whole nine yards. Overall the show was just great.

This year I started 8th Grade at Desert Shadows Middle School. So far the year hasn't been much of a change from 7th grade. I had half of my teachers last year so I already knew what to expect. Only my core classes have changed (English block, Science and Social Studies). As far as electives go I am taking P.E. and French 2.

Despite little change in teachers homework has been stepped up big-time in Science and English, but I have much less in Social Studies. For Science we basically have one homework packet a day ranging from 3-5 pages. English we get 2 essay assignments a week and 1 or 2 pages a day. Other than that not much else is different.



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MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

Mamma Mia!

Disco lives again in this bouncy musical with little substance but lots of Abba. Angie saw it twice, bought the movie soundtrack (we already had the Broadway soundtrack) and Abba Gold.

Ken ★★★
Angie ★★★½
Chad **
Jeff zero
Marnie ★★★★★



THEATRE

Boeing-Boeing (Broadway)

This was a funny French sex comedy about an American in Paris juggling three air hostess fiancés when it all suddenly goes horribly awry.

Ken ★★★
Angie ★★★½



Mamma Mia! (Broadway)

We went to see this on Broadway because we liked the movie musical. The singing was top notch, although the Greek setting of the movie was better.

Ken ★★★
Angie ★★★



[title of show] (Broadway)

This is a musical about two guys writing a musical about two guys writing a musical. The songs are funny and novel. As they say in the play, better to be 9 people's favorite thing than 100 people's 9th favorite thing.

Ken ★★★½
Angie ★★★★★



Cyrano de Bergerac (USF)

This is the classic tale of unprofessed (and therefore unrequited) love of a big-nosed but witty and intelligent man for his sweet cousin who thinks she loves his handsome friend.

Ken ★★★
Angie **½
Chad ★★★½
Jeffrey ★★★½

Fiddler on the Roof (USF)

The classic play is about a family struggling to maintain identity through tradition while dealing with changes both within the family and in their country.

Ken ★★★½
Angie ★★★
Chad ★★★★★
Jeffrey ★★★

Othello (USF)

This is the classic play of Iago's revenge, Othello's jealous rage, and Desdemona's submission and sweetness. It kind of makes you want to take a stick to these guys.

Ken ★★★
Angie ★★★
Chad ★★★

The School for Wives (USF)

Moliere's farce is about a past-his-prime schemer who raises a dunderhead to marry her, only to find that she has fallen in love with a more age-appropriate suitor.

Ken ★★★
Angie ★★★½
Chad ★★★★★

Two Gentlemen of Verona (USF)

One of Shakespeare's lesser comedies with mistaken identities, girls dressed as boys, clever servants, and in this case a bit with a (live) dog on stage.

Ken ★★★½
Angie ★★★½
Chad ★★★★★

BOOKS

The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory

Angie ★★★

This was a bodice-ripper based somewhat loosely (and that is a double-entendre) on the life of Mary Boleyn, sister of the eventual headless queen of England and original mistress of Henry VIII.

An Insider's View of Mormon Origins

by Grant Palmer

Angie ★★★

This is an expose on some of the claims of Mormonism. Some was old news, some was interesting and plausible, and some was just silly. An engaging read, but not really for those who have little imagination about or interest in Mormon history.

MUSIC

Mamma Mia! Broadway soundtrack

Angie **½

Good. Only real issue is how shrill the Donna character is. She is very buggy.

Abba Gold

Angie ★★★

Better. Almost identical playlist to Mamma Mia, but the way they sang it in the 70s. The one song that is creepy is the "Does Your Mother Know" sung by a man. Ick.

Mamma Mia! Movie soundtrack

Angie ★★★½

Best. Seriously, who knew Pierce Brosnan could sing, but really, I like Amanda Seigfried's voice a lot, too (Lily Kane from Veronica Mars).

RANDOM NOTES

- Ken returned to the *Dark Knight*, taking Chad to see it on August 1 (we both reviewed it last month). Zachary Reinstein went with us, while the rest of the Claytons stayed home and visited with Sara and Lexi Reinstein.
- We had Saturday night desserts with new friends the Maws on August 2. Angie met Rachel through a church-related message board they both use.
- We spent a couple of Saturdays moving beds around in preparation for buying a new bed for Chad's room.
- We watched the opening ceremony of the Olympics at the Reinsteins, along with the Harrigans.
- Angie made one short business trip to San Antonio late in the month.

RANDOM SHOTS



Angie in our Manhattan hotel room and Ken outside the Longacre Theatre.



Angie in Central Park on our 17th anniversary.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This was another palette knife painting. This is now one of my two favorites of all time. The fence was a bold move, but it came out well.



This is a redo of my all time favorite painting. I wanted to do another copy to give to a friend.

...AND KEYBOARD

Angie decided to start blogging her RS lessons to kill two birds with one stone, along with her other posts:

- *Virtual RS/PH #14: Words of Hope and Consolation at Time of Death*
- *Virtual RS/PH #15: Establishing the Cause of Zion*
- *Virtual RS/PH #16: Revelation & the Living Prophet*
- *Is the Internet a Urim & Thummim?*
- *In Defense of Apologists*
- *Chakras and the Word of Wisdom*