

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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BACK TO SCHOOL WITH TWISTS

School started for the Clayton kids on August 13 this year, but "Back to School" didn't mean returning to prior routines.

- ✓ Chad started 7th grade, making the move from elementary school to Desert Shadows Middle School. That means two years of new experiences like studying French, more in-depth Science classes, and intramural basketball. However, he escapes middle school staples such as lockers (none at his school) and gym class (at least until next semester).
- ✓ Marnie started Kindergarten at Scottsdale Child Care & Learning Center. She isn't old enough for public Kindergarten, but her day care offers a private class that is only slightly more expensive than the regular day care rate. As a result, she will attend Miss Pat's Kindergarten class this year, and then be eligible for first grade at North Ranch Elementary next year. So far she loves her class, teacher, and classmates, many of whom she knew before.
- ✓ Jeff didn't make as big a change as the other two, advancing from third grade to fourth at North Ranch. Still, his teacher made a point that fourth grade is a secondary grade rather than a primary grade, and she certainly has greater expectations of him. In just three weeks, he has been more aware of his schoolwork and even gotten *ahead* on assignments. If he can keep that up for 33 more weeks, everyone will be happy.



Marnie on her first day of school

Each of the kids will take a turn later telling about their first school experiences.

heroes?

In Utah during allergy season, Ken and Angie complained one morning that they had red eyes. Marnie hopefully suggested: "Maybe you guys are getting super powers!"

A moment later, she accidentally flung her sausage across the table and Ken suggested that perhaps she had Meat-Vision (courtesy of Fairly Odd Parents).

good morning!

Angie went in to wake Marnie up one morning. She sang out, "Good morning, Sleeping Beauty!"

Marnie rolled over and replied in a surly tone, "Mom, will you *please* stop saying that?! You're creeping me out!"

diversity

After leaving school one day, Marnie referred to a friend with "brown skin." Ken explained that the friend was Asian, but sensed that Marnie didn't know what that meant. "Asian means people who are from places like..."

Marnie interrupted, "I know Dad...Pei Wei."

CLAYTON CRITICS

By Chad and Jeff

AUGUST 8-12

The Matchmaker (Jeff)

Ken: ★★★
Angie: ★★½
Chad: ★★★★★
Jeff: ★★½

This play was about two men that wanted to have actual adventures, so they went to the city and pretended to be rich guys to impress ladies. My favorite part was when the restaurant people put a screen in the middle of the restaurant to block the view of the people on the other side. Lots of crazy stuff was going on at that time.

Lend Me a Tenor: The Musical (Jeff)

Ken: ★★★
Angie: ★★½
Chad: ★★★★★
Jeff: ★★½

It was about a boy wanting to be an opera singer but didn't know how to sing. Then a famous singer came along and taught him how to sing very well. I liked the Italian singing at the beginning.

Twelfth Night (Jeff)

Ken: ★★½
Angie: ★★★
Chad: ★★★★★
Jeff: ★★½

I've seen plays at the Shakespearean Festival before, but this was the first one that was actually by William Shakespeare. I followed it OK because this play was like the movie *She's the Man* with Amanda Bynes. Viola dressed up like her brother Sebastian and said her name was Cesario. My favorite part was the sword fighting when they were both afraid to fight.

Candida (Chad)

Ken: ★★★
Angie: ★★★★★
Chad: ★★★★★

In this play, two men love Candida: her preacher husband (age 40), and a wealthy poetic boy named Eugene Marchbanks (age 18). Whom do you think she chooses? Hmmm . . . (stroking chin). I loved when Eugene Marchbanks was calling the preacher a coward and falling over in fear, thinking that the preacher would hit him.

King Lear (Chad)

Ken: ★★★
Angie: ★★★
Chad: ★★★★★

This play was basically a bloodbath. There were several gory scenes, like putting the guy's eyes out. That was gross.

Coriolanus (Chad)

Ken: ★★★
Angie: ★★½
Chad: ★★★★★

I liked it. I thought that the play itself was underrated. It was well done. I loved the fighting scene where they were saying "Oh, no, Coriolanus is dying," but he was really covered in other people's blood. He got the name Coriolanus later. He was a hero, but he didn't want to have to do what the lazy peasants wanted. He preferred his own judgment.



Jeff's Brush with Fame (Jeff)

While we were walking, we saw Jered Tanner, a very good actor at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. I had seen him in two plays: *Lend Me a Tenor: The Musical* and *Twelfth Night*. I wanted to go up to him and ask him for an autograph, but just took a picture instead. (That's him in the middle picture, top row above, in *Lend Me a Tenor: The Musical*).



PRESENTATION: ME

By Chad

From Chad's presentation on himself at school.

I live with my brother, my sister and my parents. My brother's name is Jeff. Marnie is my sister. My mom is Angie, and my dad is Ken. Yesterday (from due date) was my parents 16th anniversary. Jeff is 9, Marnie 4, and my parents would rather I don't say.

My family has had a few pets over the years. We have owned a cat, a dog and some fish. My family's first pets were fish. When we put our crab-fish in the tank with the goldfish it ate all the food and died of overeating. The goldfish died of starvation. Our cat Yoda was our next attempt but we gave him away when we bought our dog thinking it would solve our dog problems. But the dog, Jack (our first initials at the time Jeff, Angela, Chad, Ken), got worse and we sold him wishing we had kept our cat. I would like another pet, but mom and dad say no way. A turtle?

My hobbies are eating, napping, video games, skateboarding, scootering, biking, writing songs and reading Shakespeare.

My dream is to play in a band in the future. Right now I have a numetal band called Surge of Doubt. Numetal is a combination of classical, alternative rock, and elements of metal.

My favorite things are: my skateboard, my cell phone, my scooter, my bike,

my chair,



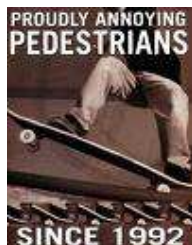
the word "hobos"



the picture of this dog,



and pedestrians.



I am addicted to music. Here are a few of my favorite bands: 3 Doors Down, Coldplay, The Police and Nickelback.

FOURTH GRADE

By Jeff

This year my teacher is Mrs. Adamson, and she is nice. I have her for writing, math, Arizona (social studies) and science. Oh, and for laptops. I have Mrs. Brown for reading and math. Oh, oops. I don't have Mrs. Adamson for math—just Mrs. Brown for honors math.

My favorite subjects this year are math, reading, laptops and Arizona. (Jeff: "You need a comma in that last sentence." Mom: "No, I don't." Jeff: "Yeah, you do." Mom: "No, I don't. Who has a degree in English?" Jeff: "Who's in honor's reading?" Mom: "We're moving on here.")

My best friends right now are Isaac Warren, Gregory Gualtieri, Andrew Cho and Parker Duke. Gregory is a new friend and a new student at North Ranch Elementary. All of us like Pokemon and Club Penguin.

My cousin Alex likes to call me on the phone this year. He calls me because he has so many questions to ask me about Club Penguin. It's just a fun chatting place for kids to get together and play cool games together with fake penguins. Some of the cool games are: Mancala, Sled Races and Find Four (it's the same thing as Connect Four).

Q&A WITH MARNIE

Q: Tell me about being in Kindergarten.

A: They have play time. We go outside. We get to sing songs.

Q: Who's your teacher?

A: Miss Pat.

Q: What are you learning?

A: About the letters. Well, we're just learning about nothing I don't know.

Q: Do you like Miss Pat?

A: Yeah, I like Miss Pat. In the afternoon I have Miss Lauren. I like Miss Pat better. Just 'cause.

Q: Did you make any new friends this year?

A: Mackenzie. Drake. David. Keanu. Jordan. That was the first day of Kindergarten. I like Mackenzie best because she's so pretty, and I miss her. She's on vacation.

Q: What do you guys do together?

A: Play art center.

Q: Do you like to do art?

A: Yeah. I like to make you pictures and Mackenzie pictures.

Q: Are you a good artist?

A: Yeah, I know how to make flowers and machines and lots of things. And that's it.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This was a fun still life because it had more of a background with the plate and the table. It was a lot easier than I expected.



This painting of Jeff and Marnie at the St. Augustine beach was my first attempt at painting faces, and it was really fun. It came out much better than I expected. I would call this painting *Buckets*.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Angie

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

☆☆☆

It's like *The Office* set in 18th century England, but Michael Scott is a 17-year old girl and Jim is a dashing young preacher who falls for her somehow.

Night by Elie Weisel

☆☆☆☆

A gritty read, but worthwhile.

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

☆☆☆

A dead girl watches what happens on earth after she dies. Plus, it takes place outside Philly!

WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

MEET THE TURNERS

AUGUST 19

Instead of having ward members over for dinner, we invited Ken's cousin, Jason Turner, and his family. They are the closest family we have here in the Phoenix area. Despite that, this is the first time in the eighteen months since we moved here that we've gotten together with them.

Jason and Shelly moved here several years ago from Moses Lake, Washington, where they both grew up. They live on the east end of Mesa, and Jason works for a homebuilder. Shelly keeps busy with the kids, and also finds plenty of time to read.

Ken's other cousin (and Jason's sister) Erin was also invited, but couldn't make it because she was in the hospital. She lives with Jason and Shelly as she prepares for her wedding in October.

FAMILY SELF-PORTRAIT



Family picture we took for Marnie's class

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 30-31

For the second time this summer, we made a trip to celebrate a milestone wedding anniversary. This time it was Ken's parents, who were married on August 31, 1967, and were hitting the 40-year mark.

We flew to Salt Lake the night before, eating at Utah-favorite Noodles & Company before checking into a hotel for the night to keep our location a secret.

On Friday we prepared for the party. Ken put the finishing touches on a DVD to play during and after the party, and then we went off to the Butler Ward building to set up. Ken and Chad set up tables and chairs and Angie worked in the kitchen while Jeff and Marnie played with cousins.

After a few hours of setup, Grandma and Grandpa arrived for an appointment with their Bishop (who was in on the plan). He led them to the room where they were surprised to see the entire family (including us, since they didn't even know we were in Salt Lake), as well as several guests who had arrived already.

By the end of the night, we had hosted over sixty guests, including relatives, ward members, coworkers, and even several high school friends. The biggest surprises were Steve Plew (the best man at the wedding) and Dwight (Grandpa's brother, who happened to be in town) and the Hawkes family (who drove from Pocatello and back the night of the party).

We had served goodies with a chocolate fountain, and like any good party, we took home enough leftovers for two more parties.

At the end of the night, Jeff and Marnie went to Debi's house for a sleepover while Chad went to Cori's. Ken and Angie spent the night at Grandma and Grandpa's, as well as the rest of the weekend (which you can read about in September).



The happy couple forty years ago.



Grandma and Grandpa Clayton with the six kids: Ken, Cori, Debi, Calli, Dan, and Kim



The entire family on the 40th anniversary. Only John, who was out of town, was missing.

COUCH POTATOES

We didn't make it out to the movies this month, but we watched a couple at home together. One was a big event on the Disney Channel (if you have kids under ten), and the other was a pretty good DVD rental.

High School Musical 2 (TV Movie)

Those high school musical kids are back in Utah again (St. George this time), pretending it's Albuquerque. This time, despite Sharpay's manipulations and flashy showmanship, true friendship wins the day. And Troy and Gabriella share a magical kiss under the stars.

Ken: ★★½

Angie: ★★

Chad: ★★

Jeff: ★★☆☆

Marnie: "I would say 100. I like the sad song where they let go of their hands, like that" (trailing her hand behind her).

Disturbia (DVD)

A kid under house arrest takes voyeuristic delight in spying on his neighbors. He eventually hooks up with the hottie-next-door and convinces her that their neighbor is a serial killer. Is he really a killer or is house-arrest kid just losing it? Watch and find out.

Ken: ★★☆☆½

Angie: ★★☆☆½

Chad: ★★☆☆½



RANDOM NOTES

- It's never easy to schedule a birthday party for Jeff, with his July 3 birthday. Parker and Isaac were finally both in town, so we held the party on August 4 even though a few others were still unable to come.



- Angie made only one business trip this month: a quick, one-day trip to her Albuquerque site.
- Jeff began reading the *Encyclopedia Brown* books.
- On the 21st, we all got new bikes. We're still waiting for Jeff to take his out for a test ride.
- Chad and Mom rode their bikes 3 miles round trip to the video store in 104 degree weather. It was hot.
- With no new TV shows out yet, we watched many episodes of *M*A*S*H*. It's important to teach the kids good viewing habits.
- Angie participated in a "wacky" bowling event at Jillian's.
- We had the Reinsteins over for Family Home Evening and a trip to Gelato Spot (a family favorite).
- We woke up in at 2:30 in the morning to witness the lunar eclipse when the moon was "turning to blood," but we couldn't get Marnie to wake up. In the morning, she was angry she had missed "the show."
- Angie availed herself of the trip to SLC to have her hair cut at Lisa's once more, and to have lunch with her SLC work friends Dave, Jenny, and Greg.