

# PENCHUK 2006 RECAP

NOW THAT 2006 HAS COME TO A CLOSE, LAURA AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO UPDATE THE WORLD ON ALL THAT HAPPENED TO OUR FAMILY OVER THE PAST YEAR.

## JACKSON EDWARD

THE BIGGEST NEWS OF THE YEAR WOULD, OF COURSE, BE THE BIRTH OF JACKSON EDWARD ON APRIL 18. BORN 8



POUNDS, 12 OUNCES, HE HAS NOW GROWN TO OVER 21 POUNDS. HE'S NOT SMALL. HE STARTED LIFE WITH A HEAD FULL OF HAIR THAT GREW INTO WHAT WE COULD ONLY DESCRIBE AS JACK'S HAIR. IT SEEMED TO STAND STRAIGHT UP AND RESEMBLED SOMETHING KRAMER MIGHT WEAR (OF COURSE, MENTIONING KRAMER WAS A GOOD THING A FEW MONTHS AGO).

SINCE APRIL, JACK HAS LEARNED TO DROOL LIKE A MACHINE, CRAWL ALL OVER THE PLACE AND HAS BECOME MUCH MORE VOCAL. HE STARTED OFF AS OUR QUIET KID. NOW HE'S JUST ANOTHER CONTRIBUTOR TO THE VOLUME. REGARDLESS, HE'S A GREAT KID. FOR THE MOST PART, JACK SLEEPS THROUGH THE NIGHT ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE OUR CHALLENGING EVENINGS. ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT HAVING A SECOND KID IS GETTING THE CHANCE TO WATCH THE INTERACTION BETWEEN HIM AND HIS OLDER BROTHER. WHICH BRINGS US TO BEN.



## BENJAMIN

BEN TURNED 3 THIS PAST JUNE 19TH. WITH THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION CAME THE END OF DIAPERS. IT'S BEEN 6 MONTHS SINCE THEN AND WE VERY RARELY HAVE ANY ISSUES NOW. BEN IS THRIVING AT HIS PRESCHOOL, WHICH HE LOVES. THE KID LOVES PLAYING OUTSIDE AND IS GETTING TO

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THE AGE WHERE MANY OF HIS FEARS HAVE DISAPPEARED. THE DIFFERENCE FROM ONE YEAR AGO IS UNBELIEVABLE. ON THE PLAYGROUND, FOR EXAMPLE, HE CHARGES AT SLIDES AND JUNGLE GYMS. IN THE PAST, HE WAS TENTATIVE AND LET OTHER KIDS GO IN FRONT OF HIM. THERE'S A GROWING CONFIDENCE THERE.



WITH JACK, BEN IS FANTASTIC. RIGHT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING HE'S BEEN LOVING AND AS WARY AS CAN BE EXPECTED OF A 3-YEAR OLD. HE GIVES HIM A HUG AND KISS GOODNIGHT BEFORE BED AND OFTEN DOES WHAT HE CAN TO SOOTHE JACK WHEN THE BABY IS CRYING OR UNHAPPY. IT'S QUITE CUTE TO SEE. BEN IS NOW CRUISING ALL OVER THE PLACE ON HIS BIG

WHEEL AND CAN HIT THE COVER OFF A WIFFLE BALL. WE'RE STILL WORKING ON HIS SPEECH, THOUGH. HAVING PUT TUBES IN HIS EARS IN LATE 2005 MADE MASSIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN HIS HEARING AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIS SPEECH. RIGHT NOW WE'RE STILL WORKING ON A FEW SOUNDS, BUT HE'S DOING GREAT.

## REMEMBRANCES

THIS PAST YEAR ALSO SAW THE PASSING OF BELOVED FAMILY MEMBERS. IN EARLY JANUARY, WE HEARD THE BAD NEWS THAT LAURA'S UNCLE MIKE PASSED AWAY FROM LUNG AND PANCREATIC CANCER. HE WENT PEACEFULLY IN HIS SLEEP AFTER POIGNANT HANDLING OF WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN CONSTANT AND SEVERE PAIN. HE WILL BE MISSED.

THEN, IN SEPTEMBER, ANDREW'S STEPFATHER, ARTIE SUDDENLY FELL ILL AND NEVER RECOVERED. IT WAS QUITE SHOCKING TO ALL OF US AND WE THINK OF HIM OFTEN. SARA,

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ANDREW'S MOTHER, IS DOING THE BEST SHE CAN. WE WORRY ABOUT HER, BUT AS ONE OF THE STRONGEST WOMAN WE KNOW, WE'RE CONFIDENT SHE'S GOING TO BE OK IN THE LONG RUN.

## LAURA

LAURA SPENT MAY AND JUNE RECOVERING FROM THE PREGNANCY. AT THE END, SHE RETURNED TO WORK, BUT THIS TIME, IT WAS A NEW JOB. SHE'S STILL WITH DANCİK BUT INSTEAD OF BEING THE OFFICE MANAGER (WHICH SHE WAS FOR 6 YEARS), SHE'S NOW IN THE IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT OVERSEEING THE DOZEN OR SO CLIENTS THAT ARE GETTING STARTED. SHE'S THRILLED WITH HER NEW JOB BUT ITS MORE DEMANDING THAN THE PREVIOUS GIG. SHE WAS READY FOR THE CHANGE AND IS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE. LAURA KEEPS BUSY KEEPING THE REST OF THE FAMILY ON TRACK AND HAS STARTED COOKING MORE OFTEN. THE MATERNAL INSTINCTS HAVE CERTAINLY KICKED IN.



## ANDREW

ANDREW HAD A NUMBER OF JOB CHANGES THIS YEAR. STARTING IN JANUARY HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE CLIENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION WITHIN REGED. THAT WAS A COMPLETE CHANGE FROM THE PRODUCT MANAGEMENT WORK HE HAD BEEN DOING. HALF WAY THROUGH THE YEAR, THE COMPANY ASKED HIM TO TAKE ON AN INTERNAL CONSULTING ROLE FOR AN ACQUISITION THAT HAD BEEN MADE. AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF THAT, HE RETURNED TO HIS ORIGINAL JOB, ALTHOUGH WITH A MORE CHALLENGING, AND LARGER, SET OF

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CLIENTS. HE'S STILL PLAYING ICE HOCKEY AND ONCE IN A BLUE MOON PICKS UP A SET OF GOLF CLUBS.

## VACATIONS

WE ALSO HAD TWO FAMILY VACATIONS DURING 2006. THE FIRST WAS IN SEPTEMBER WHEN WE TOOK THE LONG TREK NORTH TO NJ, NY AND CT. WE VISITED WITH FAMILY IN SOUTH JERSEY, CONNECTICUT AND SARATOGA SPRINGS. THE SECOND WAS A BIGGIE. WE DROPPED JACKSON OFF WITH BABA AND EPA IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND HEADED



SOUTH FOR THE BIG MOUSE. WE SPENT A WEEK AT DISNEY VISITING FOUR PARKS WHILE THERE. LAURA'S SISTER, CHRIS, AND HER FAMILY MET US THERE FOR OUR MAGICAL ADVENTURE. WE HAD FOUR KIDS (11, 6, 3 1/2 AND 2 1/2) AND FOUR ADULTS. THE

RATIO SEEMED FAIR ALTHOUGH AT TIMES WE ALL FELT OUTNUMBERED. IN THE END, WE ALL HAD A GREAT TIME.

OTHER THAN THE CAROLINA-WIDE CELEBRATION OF THE STANLEY CUP CHAMPION CAROLINA HURRICANES, WE'VE COVERED JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM THE PAST YEAR. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT 2007. HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

*JACK, BEN, LAURA AND ANDREW*