

# 2021 Desimone Family Newsletter



The feeling that describes my experience this year is, grateful. I'm grateful for things I used to take for granted, like seeing family or getting together on the holidays. I'm grateful for a healthy family. I'm grateful for food and a roof over my head. I could go on. But this year, more than ever, I truly understand the importance of enjoying everything in life, no matter how insignificant it may seem.

Our children are growing up faster than ever before. Michael just finished his first semester at West Chester University as an Actuarial Science Major. He decided to give on-campus living a try after

College started. It was a hard thing to manage, but Michael has done well with his new roommate and has had to learn a new balance working at UPS part-time and taking on a whole new school experience simultaneously. Michael has done a great job managing all of the details as he enters this new and challenging time in his life.

Besides Michael's graduation, there were several first time events that occurred in 2021. Michael received his Eagle Scout Rank and purchased his first car! Matthew and Ryan took summer jobs as camp counselors at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

# 2021 Desimone Family Newsletter



Ryan became a certified lifeguard and just before Christmas this year he was awarded the Kittany Lodge Order of the Arrow Camp Service Award for going above and beyond! Ryan stayed at camp and skipped summer vacation to accomplish all of his goals. Ryan also got his first official lifeguard job at the local YMCA and was thrilled that his hard work paid off. Matthew also did a great job of teaching other Scouts so they could earn merit badges as a member of the Outdoor Camping Skills team. Alissa was able to earn her Girl Scout Silver Award by working with a local dog shelter to donate needed items to new dog owners. She also developed 3 website videos on the 7 common

commands, how to help dogs adjust to their new home, and how to make a dog tug toy. Alissa spent most of her summer getting this accomplished! Joe has been working remotely with his job and he has received a promotion at DPS Global Engineering as a Senior Project Auditor. I have also met some professional/career goals in 2021. I received my LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) credential in June 2021. This took 5 years of meetings and several graduate courses to accomplish. I also accepted a job offer to work at CW Psychological Services as a private practice therapist. I plan to start in the next few weeks.

# 2021 Desimone Family Newsletter



2021 was definitely the busiest I have been since the kids were little. I was balancing graduate school and working 2 jobs (full-time at Holcomb as a Behavioral Consultant, Outpatient Therapist, and Mobile Therapist and part-time at Owen J. Roberts Middle School as a School Counselor).

Other activities that the kids have been involved in include Marching Band for Matt and Alissa. They were awarded 4th place in the national competition! Alissa continues to participate in dance and is taking tap dance. She loves it! Alissa also had her first date to go to the snowball dance with her boyfriend, Matt.

We also did our usual trip to Gloucester and had amazing weather. Ryan stayed at camp to work on goals and Joe was busy painting the family room. I was so surprised I didn't even notice the new paint job at first when I came home from Gloucester!

Some other big developments included Michael getting his driver's license this year and both Matt and Ryan getting their learner's permits to drive. There have been a few hair raising moments on the road, but they are all developing this much needed skill! Phew!

So, as I find myself at the end of the Newsletter I always feel

# 2021 Desimone Family Newsletter



contemplative about what will come in the New Year. I pray every day for God's guidance and will. The verse that is on my mind as I contemplate 2022 is, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). As Joe and I look at our children trying to figure out what their purpose is in life, this verse really speaks to us. It is our prayer and our hope that each of them hold tightly on to their faith in God as they navigate through all of life's decisions. They will have to make their faith personal by working through doubts and questions. Ultimately, if they pray for the ability to know God and



trust God, they will find their path. Quite a few years ago I was finishing up eating lunch out. I was taking a much needed break while the kids were in school. As a I got up to leave, an older man handed me something and asked me if I would share it with others. It was a quote written on a small piece of durable white plastic. This quote was written by John Wesley who is known for his part in founding the Methodist church. The quote was:

**"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you can."**



# 2021 Desimone Family Newsletter



I have kept this quote and placed it on a picture I have hanging in our home. We can always find ways to help others.

Hang on a little tighter to your loved ones this year. Take the good with the bad. Cultivate and live your faith every single day.

We wish you all the Merriest Christmas and the Best New Year filled with many blessings for you and for those around you!

Love,  
Jodi, Joe, Michael, Matt, Ryan,  
and Alissa





2021 (A few more pictures!)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

