

The Desimone Newsletter 2014



Greetings Everyone!

Our year was full of many fun activities. The children have grown so big! Michael is almost as tall as me now. He's even taller than in the picture shown above. That picture was taken in May at Sharon and Tony Mazzarella's wedding. When I remind myself that Michael entered the world at the tiny weight of 5 pounds and 4 ounces it really makes you wonder where the time went!

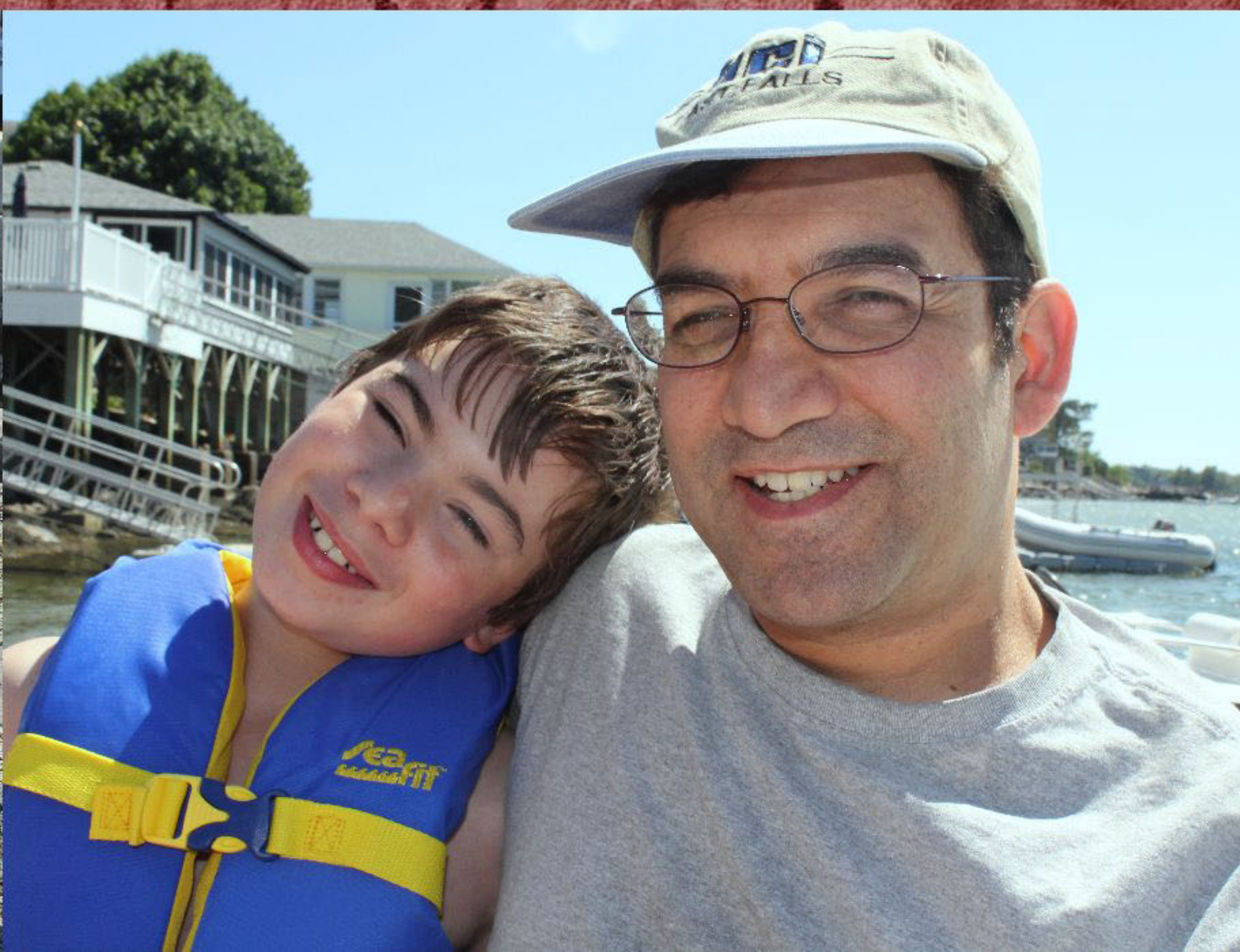
We had our usual summer vacation in Massachusetts and Vermont this year. Matthew has described my brother's summer house in Gloucester as the "greatest place on earth." Uncle Doug and family graciously give of their time to entertain us and it is a time full of fun and so many good memories. Our time spent in Vermont with Grammy and Grampy is also fantastic with soccer camps and time spent at the pool, beach, and at Jay Indoor Water Park. This year we were thrilled to have the chance to visit with my first cousin Danny and his family. One of our adventures included taking a tram ride to the top of Jay Peak. I think I sprouted a few more gray hairs up there since my kids were bounding around on the rocks like they thought they could fly if they fell off of a cliff! Yikes! My cousin Danny bought me a drink after that excursion. It was soda, but in retrospect maybe a cocktail would have been an even better choice!

We truly have been blessed to have all of the good times that we have had. As time marches on with each passing year I tend to reminisce about my time growing up. You begin to understand how much your parents have sacrificed and loved you when you start to do the same for your own family. It has been a tough year for us financially. I have prayed for the right job to come along for both of us. Currently Joe has been unemployed since July. I recently started a new job as a



paraeducator in an excellent school district. I hope to work into a full-time guidance counseling position if it is God's will. It was quite interesting to me to find out that the school psychologist that I worked with as a school counselor two years ago now works at the school I was just hired at. I found this out after I was hired. It's a small world and God weaves connections in the most fascinating ways. The kids are very busy with their activities. Michael is in boy scouts, Matt and Ryan are in cubscouts (Joe is their den leader), and Alissa is in brownies. Michael is still playing two instruments (trumpet and viola), Matthew is playing the trombone, and Ryan is playing the saxophone. In addition, Matthew, Ryan, and Alissa are taking dance lessons. If you recall, last year only Ryan and Alissa took dance lessons. Matthew decided he would like to give dance a try this year! Also, Matthew and Ryan had their first holy communion in May and Joe's niece (Sharon) got married to Tony Mazarella this year. It was an amazing wedding with a horse drawn carriage to deliver the beautiful bride to her wonderful significant other (Tony).

As 2015 approaches I am counting my blessings. I have so many. But, blessings don't come without challenges. Our greatest challenge this year is financial. I pray daily for God's will to become my will. Sometimes those two things don't match up. I'm sure everyone can relate to that. That is part of the journey that God lays out for us. If our journey didn't cause us to struggle or really find our faith it wouldn't be the path that God intended for us. As Christians we must strive to have Mary's "blind" faith and take what comes next with strength and courage. Life can harden us along the way with what we can't understand or struggle with.





“Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken, it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.
TO LOVE IS TO BE VULNERABLE.”
C.S. Lewis



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I remind myself that God has a plan and each day I wake up I renew myself with prayer and hope realizing that I will stumble here and there. God is always there to pick me up and bring me through it if I let Him. I would like to leave you with a C.S. Lewis quote (above) that I heard at my church not too long ago. It really spoke to me about how we need to let our hearts be open to God's love in spite of all of the struggles and hurts we encounter. Because in our struggles is where we will ultimately find God.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,

Jodi, Joe, Michael, Matthew, Ryan, and Alissa

