

(some time in spring 2003)

**ANNIE'S MAILBOX**  
**ADVICE**

**Dear Annie:** This is in response to the California woman whose children don't get along. I say, if Mom knows the kids don't like one another, she should not force them to "play nice."

Every time I tell my father I'd like to visit him, he replies, "I'll invite your sister, and we can have a family reunion." For that reason, I have not seen my father in six years. Whenever my sister and I are in the same room, everyone is stressed-out and miserable.

I do not understand why I cannot see him without her. I love my father and want to see him more often. I wish he would not add the condition that I must love my sister in order to do it. — Older Daughter

**Dear Daughter:** Your father must be heartbroken that his two daughters do not like each other. But you are right. If the two of you cannot be civil to one another, Dad should invite you over separately. Have you considered inviting your father to YOUR home? That might solve the problem. Please think about it.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie, c/o The Journal, Marketing Dept., Box 2421, Edmonton, T5J 2S6.*



**dessin par Alexandra, 6 ans  
by Alexandra – 6 yrs.**

**tricky social situations**

dilemma	solution
You want to invite two people who don't get along.	Give each guest advance notice that the other has been invited. Then it's up to them to decide if they want to show up.

Source: Kathy Lynn, parenting expert

(Winter 2003 issue) living spree 13

# News Update

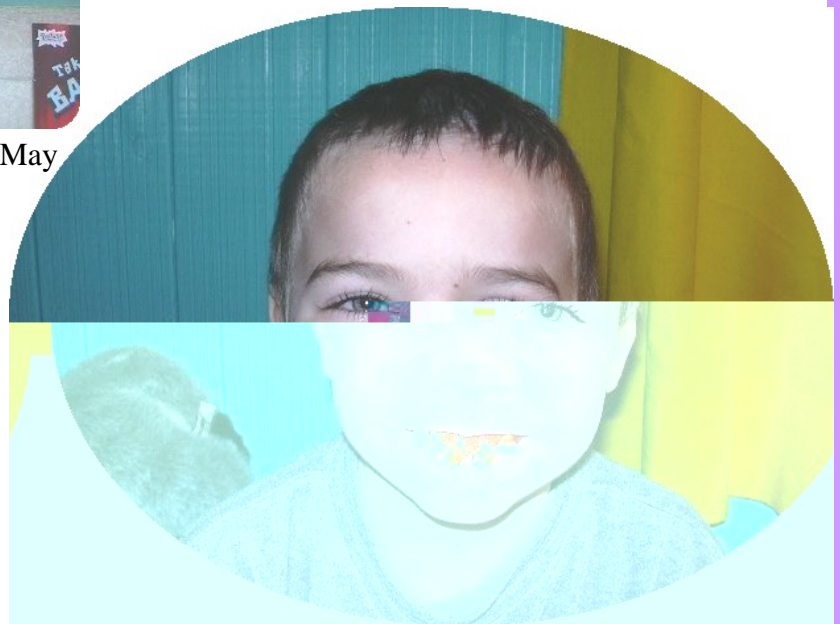
## Spring 2004

It has been an unseasonably cold spring. We had a very fun vacation to Winnipeg in March, and the kids had a wonderful time with their cousins.



Alexandra and her library of books. May 2004

Jaron recovering from pinkeye. May 2004.





# Summer 2004 été

The first thing we noticed upon arriving in Thailand is the geckos. They're everywhere as soon as the sun goes down. After a long search for a suitable gecko house, we finally found one and Alexandra has had lots of fun catching geckos and playing with them.

The humidity and heat are extreme, and we've been told it takes about a year to acclimatize! We are very hot all the time, and went swimming for hours on end every day in July. Our condo complex has 4 pools! It was so relaxing, and Jaron's swimming skills improved very rapidly. He now swims over to the deep end wearing his snorkel and fins, and he loves it.

We've done a few "tourist" things as well, such as a boat cruise down the Chao Phraya river in central Bangkok. We've tried Thai fruits: mangosteen, Dragon fruit, rambutan and lychee!



Feeding fish in the moat around our building.



The view from our balcony!



Enjoying the gorgeous pools!



Cruising the Chao Phraya river!



New bikes!



We went away to Samed island for a long weekend (2 hours away from Bangkok). It was the kids' first time ever at the ocean, and they loved catching sand crabs and small fish. It was also their first time in a speed boat, and Jaron thought it was very cool. We'll definitely go back!

[L'île de Samed, Thaïlande.](#)





In mid-August we went to the Kanchanaburi province, and saw the famous bridge over the River Kwai. The area is gorgeous, with lush greenery everywhere. We took a raft ride up and down the river and saw several resorts on stilts. We also went to a sound and light show re-enacting the building and subsequent bombing of the famous bridge by the Japanese. Instead of being depressing, it was very interesting and educational.



Kanchanaburi province "Home Phu Toey" resort



See [www.kanchanaburi.com](http://www.kanchanaburi.com)

En mi-août, nous sommes allés au province de Kanchanaburi, Thaïlande, où se situe le fameux pont de la rivière kwai. C'est un endroit magnifique, verdoyant, et impressionnant. Nous avons fait un petit tour de la rivière en bateau. Par la suite nous avons assisté à un spectacle expliquant la construction et destruction du pont par les japonais.



quant la construction et destruction du pont par les japonais.

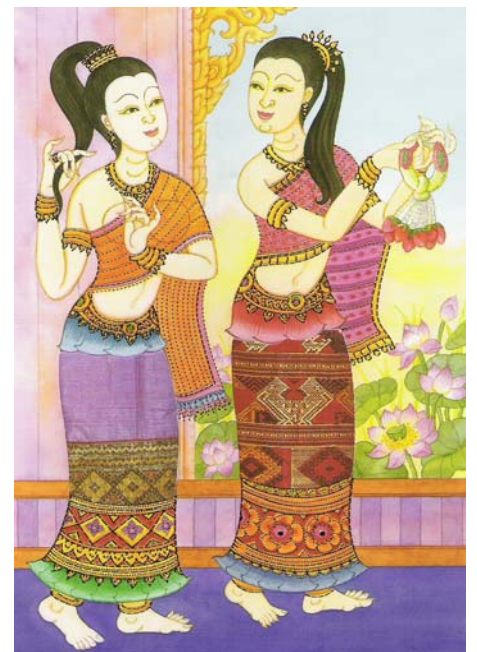


Bridge over a pond at the resort

Voir [www.thailande-online.com](http://www.thailande-online.com)



Kanchanaburi resort with a friend





Summer 2004 etc



We live very close to the school, and ride bikes each day... for now, with training wheels...

Nous habitons très proche de l'école, donc nous prenons les vélos.



Riding bikes to school  
On va à l'école...



First day of school—La rentrée  
16 August /août 2004



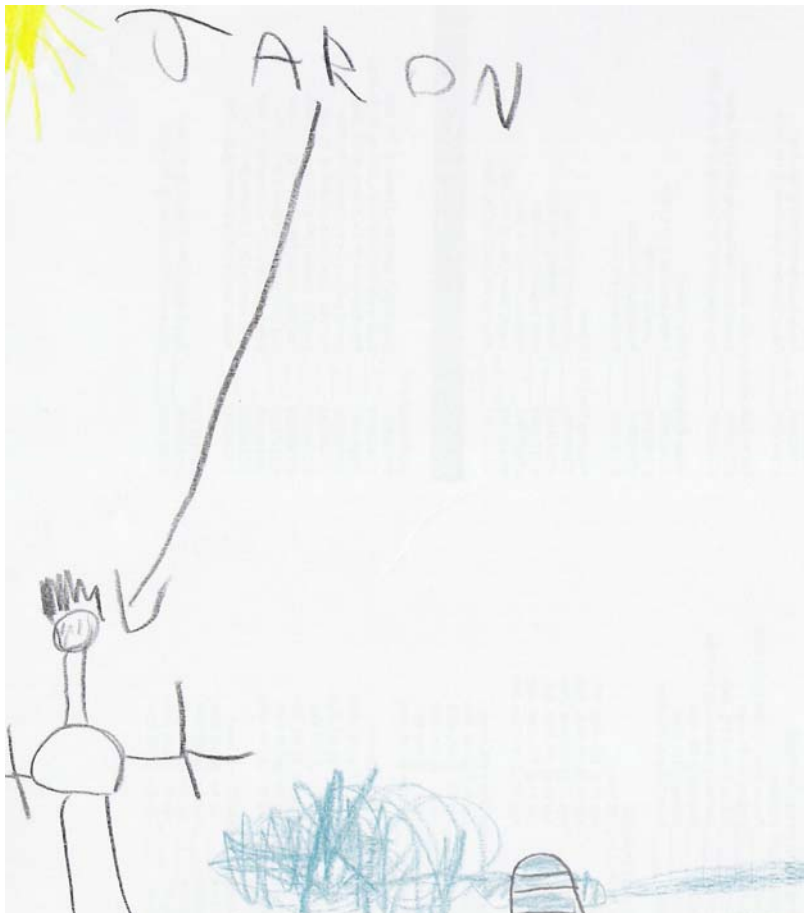
La fête du 1er août avec la Société  
Suisse de Bangkok!



Lantern parade

Summer 2004 etc

By Alexandra  
Age 6



By Jaron  
Age 5



# Fall 2004 automne

So far we are still settling in. So many places to go, and so many things to do, and so many, many things to buy!

We have taken the skytrain a few places, but have only begun exploring this amazing city.

We are enjoying our condo so much (built like a resort), it is difficult to go away! But, we went to Samed island again one weekend in October. Alexandra went on a snorkeling expedition while Jaron tried kayaking for the first time. We all took a speed boat trip around the island and had lunch in a restaurant on stilts in the water over a pearl farm! We fed sharks at a fish and turtle farm!



Two Swiss girls having a tea-party in Bangkok! We love our condo complex because it is very social... Alexandra and Jaron can call on their friends to play any time!



Relaxing at Ko Samed !



Returning from snorkeling.



Beautiful Samed Island!

Alexandra and Jaron like their new school! They are making friends both at school and at home. We are very lucky that another French-speaking Swiss family lives upstairs from us in our building. They have a 7-year old daughter and two sons, 5 and 3. Perfect play-mates! The after-school activities are great as well: Alexandra is taking ballet, jazz and tae kwon do, but her favorite activity is on Wednesdays: "Nature Club."

Jaron is also taking tae kwon do and badminton. He loves both.

### Important Events this Fall:

- Both kids learned to ride bikes without training wheels!
- Alexandra lost her two front teeth!



In October, we saw a fabulous show of traditional Thai puppets!

# Fall 2004 automne

Alexandra's school work always includes beautiful pictures.



## 美夢成真

班級: 0427 姓名: Alexandra 家長簽名: 2-A

### ★★★學習目標:

- (一) 能在筆述作文中，培養豐富的想像力。
- (二) 能精確的遣詞用字，使用基本句型表達思維。

### ★★★如果願望能實現，你希望天上會掉下什麼？為什麼？請畫一畫，寫一寫。

我希望天上會掉下 10月18日 我夢想我是 仙女

mèng xiǎng xiān nǚ

因為 我的生日是10月18日...

shēng rì

仙女是 魔術  
xiān nǚ mó shù



my dream is I became a Fairy on 10/18/2004

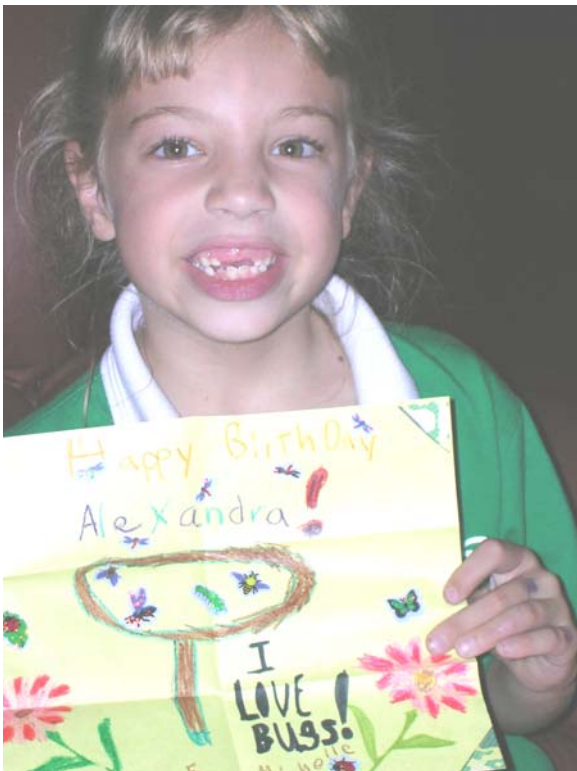


## Fall 2004 automne



Jaron is practicing numbers and number words. Jaron apprend ses chiffres.

## Alexandra's 7th Birthday



I've lost my two front teeth!



Panda Bear cake with Gabby!

Alexandra shared *Nanaimo Squares*, a special Canadian treat, with her friends at school.



Alexandra decided to have a "Rainforest" themed party. She helped make her own invitations with blowpens, and packed treat bags made out of rainforest frog fabric. Since we don't have an oven, she chose a mocha fudge ice cream cake from Swensen's (it was delivered in dry ice) !!

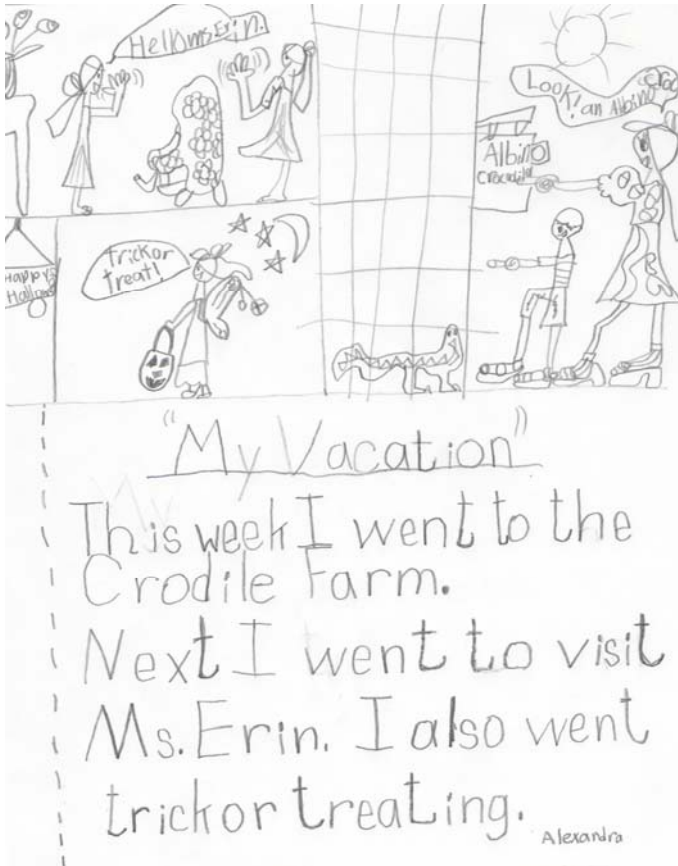
We never thought we'd make new friends so quickly... but are very happy and grateful to live in a great place with so many other children around to play with!



Fun in the pool with Maeva, Ning Ning, Amy and Grace!



# October Break 2004



Nichada Club Pool!

We had a busy week! We visited the world-famous crocodile farm and saw many species including the "milk chocolate covered crocodile" and the "Halloween masked crocodile", among many others. Alexandra had her first elephant ride ever!

We also went North of Bangkok to Nonthaburi, and had a fabulous time visiting friends.

We attended a Halloween party put on by one of the large schools here, and while Jaron was too tired, Alexandra went trick-or-treating as a Woodland Fairy!



Mom and Jaron at the pearl farm restaurant, Ko Samed





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**My Favorite**

Book Horses  
Movie/TV Charlie's Angels  
Animal Champion  
Sport Swimming  
Subject Nature  
Food Chicken

**My Family**

Mom, Dad, Me and  
My Brother.

**Other Stuff About Me**

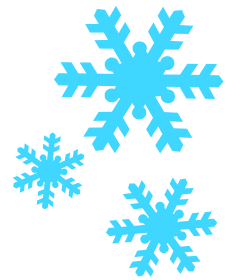
I hate spiders I like  
Nature I love  
Birdsongs.



Alexandra  
**My Name**  
Brooke Chalier



# Winter 2004 hiver

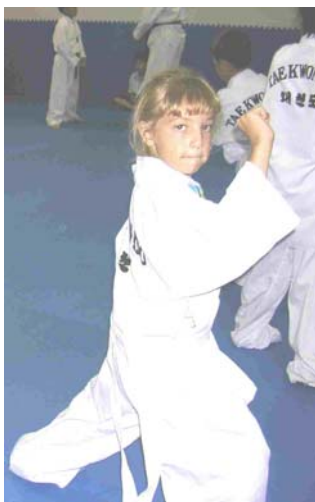


Happy Holidays!  
2005  
Joyeuses Fêtes!

Happy New Year 2548  
in Thailand!

Well we thought it would never happen... but the weather has indeed cooled down! Even though the temperature now sometimes goes down to the mid 20's (Celsius) people are wearing sweaters and jackets, and the stores all have thick wool sweaters on display. Around the 3rd week of November we no longer had to run air conditioners all day at home. There is now a nice breeze when we have the balcony doors open.

Though most Thais are Buddhist and don't celebrate Christmas for any religious reason, the stores are still full of Christmas trees, ornaments and decorations. We bought an artificial tree and have continued our tradition of decorating it with pictures of the children.



Tae Kwon Do



Loy Krathong



Alexandra learns to clean squid!

Il fait moins chaud depuis mi-novembre, et nous en profitons. Malgré le fait que 99% des Thaïs sont bouddhistes et ne fêtent pas Noël pour des raisons religieuses, on voit des sapins et décorations de Noël partout, dans tous les centres commerciaux. Nous avons donc acheté un sapin artificiel et les enfants se réjouissent de la visite du père Noël.

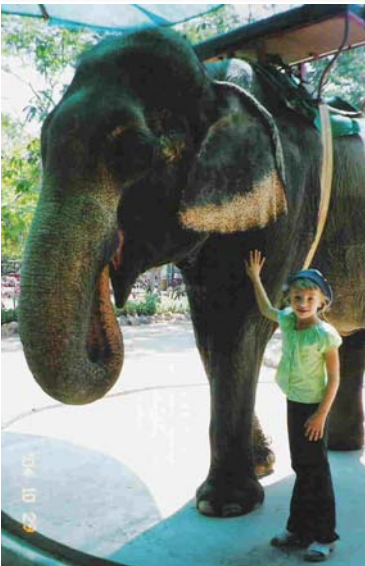


JAKO 1

23 November 2004

M Y E P E T S N G K H E S B Y T W  
 Y S O N F Y E X R S O H E F A O A D  
 Y B Y K E G B E G B Y K T S O  
 H E P Y T H E S B Y T O N T H  
 Y W O T R A N E N D

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Jaron is learning to write stories with the “inventing spelling” method, which means students are encouraged to write for meaning, using phonics without worrying about correct spelling. His story says:



Samutprakarn Crocodile Farm

My pet snake's butt was on fire so he found a big bucket so he put his butt on the water. The End.



# Loy Krathong 2004



Making kratongs in the classroom



Getting ready to set the kratong afloat



Grade 2 girls

**Loy Krathong** is a spectacular holiday when small “kratongs” (floats made traditionally from a slice of the trunk of a banana tree decorated with folded banana leaves, flowers, lighted incense sticks and candles) are set adrift on the rivers and khlongs of Thailand to honor the water spirits and wash away the previous year’s sins. School children all over Thailand make kratongs for this festival and celebrate at school, and later in the evening. Jaron, Alexandra and their friends floated their kratongs in the moat around our condo complex.



Jaron and friends set kratongs afloat at school



First tuk-tuk ride!



# Jaron's 6th Birthday



Jaron shared hexagon-shaped cookies decorated with 6 M&M's each with his classmates



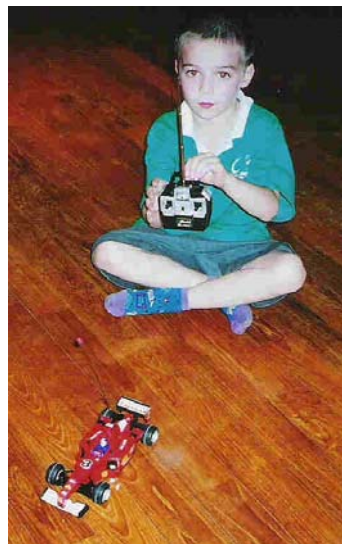
Jaron chose a "Superheroes" party theme. Five friends attended, and they had a great time with games, pizza and playing outside in the gorgeous weather!



Birthday party 11 December 2004: playing froggy and crazy string with Swiss friends.



Opening presents at home





# Winter Break 2004



Bang Saen Beach, Thailand



Look! Santa found us in Pattaya!



For Christmas we met up with the kids' friends at Pattaya Beach



Alexandra and friends got body art (face paints) to match the Fairytoria Barbie.



Jaron & Alexandra

25 December 2004, Thailand. This gorgeous water park was a 2-block walk from our hotel in Pattaya.

We listened to the news on December 26 with shock and disbelief that such a calamity could happen so close to home. Though we heard reports of several skyscrapers being evacuated in Bangkok, we didn't feel any tremors. Our condo complex immediately set up a table for donations.



# Winter 2004

## Winter Concert at School



Alexandra's ballet class did a short dance to the Overture for the Wizard of Oz



Alexandra had a solo part

The Winter Concert was held Friday, December 17, 2004. It was "A Celebration of Popular Musicals" including The Jungle Book, The Wizard of Oz, and Mary Poppins.

Jaron's class sang "The Merry Old Land of Oz." Alexandra's class sang "We're off to see the Wizard" and "A Spoonful of Sugar."

Unfortunately, my pictures didn't turn out because of the distance, but the show was lovely!



Jaron and his class are waiting their turn to go on stage.



... and we thought our pools were nice! Here is the 1/2 acre lagoon at a huge condo complex near us. The more we see of Bangkok and Thailand, the more we like it!!!



Jaron and Alexandra playing in this gorgeous lagoon, complete with waterslides! Are we thinking of moving????

Maybe...