





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Wishing you all the joys of the season and every happiness throughout the coming year.

**May this new year bring new joys for you.... may your new year be blessed with peace,
prosperity, and happiness, too!**

All Our Love - Casey, Miranda, Jacqueline (13), Leah (12), Mckenna (10), and Kiera (6)



December 12, 2020

Hello friends and family!

What a year 2020 has been! And while I could most certainly skip this letter this year, I thought I'd take a moment and highlight some of the better parts of our year.

I think one of the most fun parts for us has been the opportunity to spend some time in the mountains – more than we usually do.

In March, right as everything was starting, my sister Monica came out with her kids and we all spent the first week of lockdown/extended Spring Break (March 16-20) hiding away together in a cozy house in Grand Lake. While most of the group took turns getting sick, we played lots of games, the kids played in the snow, we walked on a frozen lake, and celebrated Jacqueline's 13th birthday together. I can't believe we have a teenager!

We spent a lot of time hiking this summer, and got back into the mountains when Monica came back again in July. We traveled to a few more new places including state parks, the troll in Breckenridge, and over the top of Rocky Mountain National Park – which we rarely do.

In November, Casey's parents came out for Thanksgiving and we spent a few days at the beginning of the week in Steamboat Springs. We played games, put together a puzzle, Papa took the girls on a bike ride, and we enjoyed seeing a new area of the state.

While filled with new challenges, this year has been good to the girls. Back in January, Leah represented her class in the all-school Spanish Spelling Bee. She came in 2nd and got an invite to the State Spanish Spelling Bee! (She was not able to compete, as it was canceled due to COVID-19.) At our immersion school, 5th graders have the opportunity to complete the Colorado Seal of Biliteracy, which showcases what they have accomplished while learning a second language. Leah completed this back in May and will receive her award during a virtual ceremony before school is out for winter break. We are so proud of her for these two great accomplishments. She is now in 6th grade and is challenging herself every day to do her best.

While the other three girls don't have big news like Leah, they are all doing so well and we couldn't be happier. Jacqueline is doing well in 8th grade and we are preparing for the transition to high school next August. She still reads all the time and I am often challenged with finding her new books. McKenna is in 5th grade and is doing very well in her Spanish and English classes, and she loves to play with her friends. She was recently chosen for the "Student of the Quarter" award by one of her teachers. Kiera is in 1st grade and has mastered navigating through her online classes without my help. She has her first loose tooth and is excited for the tooth fairy, but worrisome about the tooth coming out and is hesitant to help it on its way. While I worry that she isn't getting Spanish on the same level as her sisters did at her age, she is picking up on a lot more than I thought through the virtual platform.

All the girls started the year virtually, and then were in school for three to five weeks before being sent back home for virtual learning. We have spaces set up around the house for individual virtual learning space. We are unsure if/when they will go back in-person, but I am optimistic.

This year has been good to Casey and me as well. After 19 years with Bell Labs/Lucent/LGS/CACI, Casey transitioned to a new job in July with a company called ICR. He's doing similar work to what he did before, but honestly, I don't know much about what he does. I do know that he is traveling less (so far), but we will see what happens as they grow the side of the company that he is helping to build from the ground up. It's been a great opportunity and I think he's getting to do a little more hands-on work than he had been doing in recent years with the other company.

My year has been eventful as well, which is unusual for me. Back in January, I started a 3-course Early Literacy Certificate program with CU Denver. I finished the final course last month and am happy to be done with school work. My most exciting news is that I just (this past Tuesday) accepted a position with an area charter school as a 2nd grade teacher. I will start with my class in January. I am looking forward to this new chapter in my life.

Despite the challenges, we have had a great year and we hope your year has been just as wonderful.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ~The Reynolds family