

# Autumn Greetings from the Halversons!

"Time flies by as on eagle's wings."

We share this Autumn celebration letter with love and joy. Autumn is a time of endings and beginnings, of reflection and anticipation. Summer ends and school returns for the kids. It is also a time of harvest in preparation for a long winter. Though most of us are no longer in engaged in agrarian lifestyles, we can harvest the good from our past and store it away for sustenance in times of difficulty and heartache. The joy of a sunset, the laughter of children, the embrace of friends and family, the sweet memories of loved-ones past: All these are part of this harvest. Despite personal challenges and setbacks, community, national, and international concerns, life is beautiful!

We'd like to share with you how our family is doing:

**David** (9) is a proud 4<sup>th</sup> grader. He loves karate, is developing his skills with violin, and is an insatiable reader. He will tinker with everything, pulling apart whatever he can find to discover how it works and creatively building some imaginative project with whatever is at hand. STEM, robotics, and coding classes have been really fun for David, who thinks engineering would be the coolest field. He loves to tell stories, to make people laugh, and to be a good big brother to Rachel. He is an intrepid explorer on our family vacations to national parks, always curious and interested in the opportunities for learning.

**Rachel** (6) loves riding the bus with David and friends and getting to spend the full day at school. Rachel loves moving her body. Though she is enrolled in gymnastics, those couple of hours a week don't satisfy her. She usually practices some type of body contortion at the dinner table, during family time, reading time, or whenever. She loves reading and, like her mom, laughs out loud at funny stories she reads. She is a good friend to many and always wants to help out around the home. (Is that normal?) The world would be a much happier place if we could replicate everywhere Rachel's desire to share, give, and serve. Like her brother, she loves visiting state and national parks and earning Junior Ranger badges. Her thirst for learning is infectious.

**Taylor** continues to be thrilled by his work at Brigham Young University. Each year he has personal interactions with nearly 500 professors and administrators at BYU. He is inspired by their personal stories, professional expertise, and drive to do good in the world. Several digital scripture projects he's been contributing to for several years are finally nearing public release: an interactive Book of Mormon map, a 3D ancient Jerusalem walkthrough, and an interactive digital Book of Mormon complete with contextualized resources at the finger tips. Taylor is proud of the work that [bookofmormoncentral.org](http://bookofmormoncentral.org) has accomplished since its public release on January 1. Also watch for two new books that Taylor has helped edit and soon to be published by Covenant Communications: a Joseph Smith quote book available November 2016 and a compilation of 135 Book of Mormon Central essays to be released in January 2017. Finally, Taylor loved leading a tour group to Israel during June 2016.

The BIG news is that **Lisa** graduated with her PhD in Instructional Psychology & Technology. She continues to be a beloved teacher in the History of Learning / History of Creativity courses. She also continues to wow the academic community as awards and top tier publications garnish her vita. Still her greatest joy is in being a mom, wife, sister, daughter, and friend. Lisa provides grace to every relationship she is in. She has known some heartache, too. About a year ago she suffered catastrophic hearing loss in her left ear. Lisa underwent invasive cochlear implant surgery in March 2016 and has been persistent and diligent at seeking to train her brain to understand speech again with her left ear. So far voices sound like Kylo Ren from Star Wars 7. Because Taylor always wanted to be married to the bionic woman (remember the '70s show?), he now has his dream come true. 😊

Finally, we invite all of you to **join our family** on an unforgettable **Book of Mormon Cruise May 20-27, 2017**, led by Taylor with stops in **Honduras, Belize, and Mexico**. More at: <http://bountifultravel.com/may-20-2017-book-of-mormon-cruise/>.

*May the warmth & beauty of autumn animate your days!*

*Love from Taylor, Lisa, David, & Rachel Halverson*





Skiing at Alta (Feb)



Ready for Cochlear Activation (Mar)



Easter



Capitol Reef National Park, UT (Jun)



Ph.D. Graduation (Aug)



Visit to Oregon (Jul)



Back to School (Aug)



Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, UT (Sept)

See also <http://taylorandlisa.com>