

Dear friends,

Delft, Jan 12th, 2008

another Christmas came and went, and before we knew it, we were head-first into 2008. It took some effort to ignore the rushing headwind of new challenges, to sit down and summarise the events of last year. Therefore, this letter is almost too late to merit the context of “New Year’s”, but nonetheless...

For **Sunniva** (4), elementary school has become an important new factor in her daily life, and she and her big sister now walk to school together every day. Inspired by her summer vacation at the beach in Sardinia, she started swimming lessons this fall, and is enjoying that very much. She also takes violin lessons, resulting in unforgettable pizzicato renditions of “hip-hop kangaroo” and other evergreens. Her current career ambitions include being “a princess and a cook”.



Ursula is almost 11, and already slinging the puberal phrase “*I’m not crabby!*” with remarkable impulse. With the Hague choir school, she sang her first “Matthäus Passion” during Easter, and parts from “The Messiah” for Christmas, and is now admitted to the elite choir “Musicanti”. She is taking viola (!) lessons at the Hellendaal music institute in Rotterdam, as well as piano lessons, and judo, and hip-hop classes... and yet, she still easily manages to find the indispensable “vegetation” time in front of the TV ☺.



Still busy with numerous part-time jobs, **Marianna** is giving music lessons, playing the bells, and conducting choirs. Her Youth choir “Delft United” received a prize at the Rijsbergen choir competition in June, and there have been several public appearances with the international women’s choir “Wanaisa”. The Adelbert church choir also gave a concert for its 40th anniversary. Amidst all this, she successfully passed her exams in Gregorian music at the conservatory in Amsterdam, where she feels that a few hip-hop moves would enrich the curriculum. In September, she went on a study trip to Cambridge, England, to learn more about college choirs. The passing away of her aunt Annie in June left a sole melancholy shade among the many memorable events.

There was so much going on last year, that **Kristofer** hardly had time to worry about turning 40. Throughout the spring, he conspired with former classmates to organise the 20-year reunion of his “International Baccalaureate” class. This event took place on May 19th, providing a pretext for also letting Ursula and Sunniva experience the May 17th feast in Oslo. In July, he went with his string sextet to the Orlando chamber music festival in Limburg, for a week full of lessons, rehearsals and concerts... and a beer or two ☺. The results of all this (drinking?) can be seen at [YouTube](#). The job also brought some adventure, with travels to Tromsø (visiting old friends Marianne and Kim there), as well as to Matera (Italy), and Maspalomas (Gran Canaria).



Providing the year with a special richness, an unusual number of opportunities arose to re-connect with family and old friends. There were two big weddings (Brummen’s in Oslo and Katrine’s in Copenhagen), and many other cherished reunions in Delft and outside. How we wish every year could be like this!

We wish you all the best for 2008!

Sunniva, Ursula, Marianna and Kristofer

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