

2 0 1 1 C H R I S T M A S E D I T I O N

the JANICEK family

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTERS!

✧ Merry Christmas ✧



Elise and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary in September. Maly, now 5.5-years-old, started Kindergarten and is doing fantastic. We lost our two beloved cats this past November. And we found out there's going to be a new addition to the Janicek household in the Spring!

As always, you can keep up with us at Janicek.com or [Facebook.com/janicek](https://www.facebook.com/janicek)



Howdy and Happy Holidays everyone! It always baffles me how quickly a year goes by. As I get older, the years get shorter, the hair in my ears grows longer, my patience dwindles, and just when I think I've got life all figured out, I'm quickly reminded that I'm not even close.

Speaking of life, can you believe this is the 10th installment of the annual Janicek Christmas Newsletter? Ten years. Wow! I decided to write a Christmas newsletter every year shortly after Elise and I were married. And do you know what that means? Yep, you guessed it! Ten years ago I decided to commit to a journey of life-long commitment. To give everything of myself. To be completely selfless and passionate about none other. To share my inner-most thoughts, desires, fears, failures and triumphs. To love, honor and cherish. To present to the world an ever-lasting, unified, indomitable and loving embodiment of all that is us. This newsletter and I have come a long way over the years. There's a lot of give and take in this relationship but, in the end, we're happy, and we hope you're happy because that's what's important to us.

Elise and I also celebrated our 10 year anniversary this past September. Neither of us can remember what we actually did on the date of our anniversary to celebrate, but whatever it was, I'm sure it was awesome. The weekend of our anniversary we celebrated by walking up and down the

Pecan Street Festival here in Austin, sharing a shaved ice and taking a sunset ride on a sailboat on Lake Travis. I'm sure it won't be too long before we're sharing tapioca pudding and reading glasses, and fighting for the last piece of broiled talapia at the 4 o'clock dinner at Luby's.

I really lucked out when I met Elise, and even more so when she agreed to marry me. I take it as a good sign that these past 10 years have just flown by. And as each year goes by, I realize how evident it is that she and I complete each other. She's patient, I'm not. She talks, I don't. She's consoling, I'm not. I'm fast, she's slow. I'm the spendthrift, she's the miser. I'm spontaneous, she's calculated. I'm a fantastic cook, she's really pretty.

It's been an amazing ride with my lovely bride over the years. And life's been even better since Maly came along. Five and a half years ago, Elise and I brought into this world a product of ourselves. Of all of the advice I was given, the one nugget that has held truer than them all has been, "don't blink because she'll grow up fast." I remember, in vivid detail, driving home from the hospital with my wife and new baby girl. I was in awe of this little human that would one day grow into a fully-functioning member of our world. And, between you and me, she's had me wrapped around her finger since that night I first laid eyes on her.

As most of you know, the past three and a half years have been a little rough for us. We'd always wanted to have another child, but things just weren't stacked in our favor. Until now. I don't know what we did differently this time, but this one stuck. I remember the day we found out. I was in the garage sanding a table when Elise came out of the house and showed me the pregnancy test. We were both happy, but we both thought that given our luck, this pregnancy might end too soon as well. It wasn't until our 8-week ultrasound that our doctor confirmed that the baby had an amazingly strong heartbeat and that all systems were a go.

And since then, the pregnancy has been relatively smoothing sailing. Elise suffered a little nausea during the first trimester and still has the occasional bout with heartburn, but no major complaints. The due date is slated for April 25th. Maly was born a week early, so I'm curious to see if this baby will be early or late. And as it stands now, we're going to wait to find out the sex of this baby as well. If we have another girl, I've already let the family know that I'm getting a dog. *His* name will be Jake.

And speaking of pets, it's with a heavy heart that I have to report that we lost both of our beloved cats, Riley and Annie within two days of each other in November. Riley cashed in his 9th life while crossing the street early one morning and Annie's health declined quickly after being diagnosed with Cancer. While it was really upsetting to lose them both, we know they lived full and happy lives and they'll both have a special place in our hearts forever.

Maly took the death of her buddy, Riley pretty hard. Thankfully she's resilient and has since pressed on. Her life has changed quite a bit this year, mostly in that she started Kindergarten in August. And so far, she's loving it! She's made lots of friends, she loves her teacher and we've been told that Maly's an excellent student. I knew the day would come when we'd find out that Maly isn't actually my child.

She continues to grow like a weed and surprise us each and every day. In fact, one day she came home from school and she could read. And now she's writing words and stringing them into sentences and stories. And it's in these fleeting moments when we realize that we've blinked.

Our Texas Winter will be gone before we know it, Spring will come around again and we'll be bringing home the newest addition to the Janicek household. Until then, we wish you and yours a very healthy and merry Christmas, and a happy New Year! We hope that you're afforded the opportunity to spend time with and cherish those you love!

Love Always,

Josh, Elise & Maly

