

# Giezendanner News



**Faith...Health...Happiness...Peace...Success...Freshness**

**We wish you these and more in 2014!**

2013 was a settling down and exploring year for us in Switzerland. As we completed our first year and came to our second year in our new home, we have gotten used to exceptionally clean air, beautiful surroundings, intense recycling, quiet Swiss life and a higher cost of living (esp meat prices!).

It is the perfect time to be here in Switzerland as it presents the best opportunity for our kids to learn the true values of being a family – learning to form close bonds with their ailing grandparents. Despite us settling down in Switzerland, we still reminisce our time in US once in a while. We miss our friends dearly but they are always a click away on FB and skype. Thanks to everyone for keeping us in their circle always. We wish everyone:

**Prosit Neu Jahr! Selamat Tahun Baru! Happy New Year!**

## The Giezi Family

Our kids are officially Swiss school going kids. Sarah is in primary one and Nadiah in first kindergarten.

Walking to and from school by themselves seems to be an important social experience for the Swiss kids. That's where friendships are made and lessons are learnt. Sarah loves school and is still as enthusiastic as ever. Nadiah is also happy to be in school and can't wait to be 5!

Sisterly love is still going strong for our two girls. They spend a lot of time together and one can see how much they love each other. And for that, we are truly blessed.

As we settle down, Stefan is getting more active with his friends and the clubs he is a member of since many, many years. He enjoys getting reestablished in the community and is an avid critic on the Swiss way, be it for the banking or the retail industries. He is back to his good old ways of writing letters to get free stuff, give positive feedback on good loyalty programs and complaining on bad service.

Nora is enjoying more alone time with the kids in school. Her routine is very much in sync with the kids but now she has found the time to so-

## 2013 in a flash

- Settling down and exploring in Switzerland
- Sarah starts Primary one and Nadiah kindergarten
- Nana and Opapi had to be admitted to care homes
- More Singapore family came to visit. YAHOO!!!!

*When you look at your life, the greatest happiness is family happiness... Health is key to happiness*



cialise a little more and make new friends.

The Giezi family spends a lot of their time with Onkel Juerg (who is our official babysitter should we need to go to appointments or just a nice dinner in town), Nana and Opapi. With the grandparents being in homes now for better care (dementia ward and nursing home), we have to split our times to visit them often. It is difficult to see them in their circumstances, but one thing is for sure, we will not abandon them.

## Givaudan

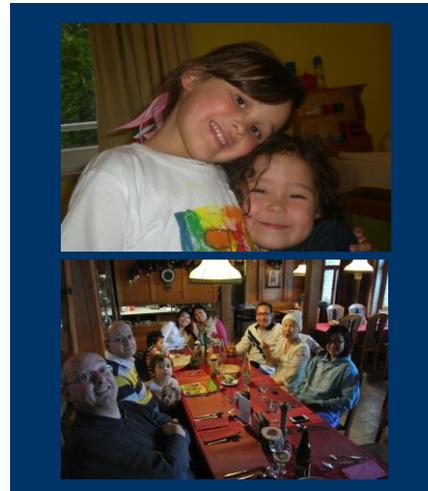
Stefan got more used to the new role in Europe and was able to extend the business support. He still finds it a pity that his team is spread throughout Europe/Africa/Middle East, thus making telecommunication key to solving issues. He misses the times in US and Singapore, when he can just walk in his team's offices and get things resolved.

All affiliates are now on SAP and finance can work on their processes in order to achieve "excellence in finance". There are still lots to do and the economic pressure and volatility increases the demand of business for financial analysis. Nora has at times to remind me, that the main duty of senior management is to deal with problems, not with the day to day functions and working processes. Having been with Givaudan for 19 years, it is nice to look back at what we have accomplished ....

## The Swiss Life

One of the first few things that we noticed in Switzerland is the fact that there are a whole bunch of Swiss who are old and yet so healthy and sturdy. Then we realized that it is so because of the Swiss way of life. The Swiss eat a little and walk up and down hills a lot. A typical Swiss house is always clean because the Swiss wives are typically detail oriented. The Swiss enjoys their peace and quiet.

Sometimes a little too quiet for Nora's taste. This quietness is expected in many places from apartment corridors to trains to restaurants. Being a half Asian, half Swiss family, it took quite some time getting used to. This



year, we explored the real estate market. We are slowly looking at buying our own property. The property market here took us by surprise. Low supply and high demand somehow leads to low professionalism. Buying a property seems to be like a "who can impress the developer" contest. Information seems

to be scarce and not updated. One seems to have to almost stalk the developer to get information or an appointment. Despite all the trials so far, we are still impressed with the quality of homes and hope that we will be able to close a deal this year.

## Travel and Visits

This year, we enjoyed more hikes, sleds and walks. These day trips are either done with club members or us as a family. We also found the time to visit our US friends who were in Gryon and went to Nauders, Austria for a mini fall vacation. Nora did an alone weekend trip to London in February (YAHOO!!!). Our Singapore trip this year was extra special as we got to celebrate Hari Raya (even for one day) with our Singapore family.

Our niece from US came for a visit in spring for a week. The year ended with a bang! We had five Singapore visitors (mom and sister Nor's family) for two weeks. We spent time showing them where and how we live. Tons of shopping and sight-seeing were in order and despite the holiday season, we squeezed them all in.



### Keep in touch!

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