

# Giezendanner News



**Happy 2015!!! May your world be filled with faith, health, happiness, success, and peace always...**

2014 started off calm and ended rather tumultuous for the Giezis. What a year, we have had – from making a definite decision to settle in Wil while in Switzerland to losing two of the most important members of the Giezendanner family- Nana Rosmarie (in September) and Opapi Karl (in December) – within months of each other.

Our lives as we know them since we moved here almost three years ago are forever changed. As we always believe, everything happens for a reason. There is always a greater plan in store for us. We hope and pray that our losses will bring our family closer together, strengthen our faiths and appreciate the love we have with each other.

During these difficult times, family and friends from near and far have always been there to lend their support. We appreciate that very much. And despite these trying times for us, we look forward to a great 2015 and we wish everyone:

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

## The Giezi Family

Sarah and Nadiah are very much settled in school. Sarah's German is getting better, with some extra help from enrichment class. She is now into music, playing the recorder almost every day. She continues to have a remarkable enthusiasm for anything new and remains our sensitive child. Nadiah enjoys school and continues to enlighten us with her adventures on the way to and from school, in addition bringing home her tons of artwork. She cannot wait to be in the first grade so that she can walk to school with kakak Sarah every day... These two girls remain our light and anchor.

Ibu Nora started taking German lessons to refresh her grammar in the language. Weekdays got a little more hectic, but learning time with the kids is always fun. She also looks forward to her once a month gathering with the international Muslim ladies in St Gallen.

With the kids growing up, Saturdays tend to be more structured. Papi

## 2014 in a flash

- We are building our Swiss home in Wil
- Sarah is in 2.Klasse and Nadiah in 2. Kindergarten and loving school
- After 30 months, we were back in the U.S of A for a visit
- We lost Nana and Opapi within 107 days

*When someone you love becomes a MEMORY, that memory becomes a TREASURE*



shuttles the girls to swimming and girl guides activities. On Sundays we look forward to having Onkel Juerg over to our place for lunch.

2014 will forever be a year of loss for us. Despite the sadness, we hope that being here for the past two and a half years have allowed the children to get to know their Swiss grandparents better and have learnt to love and treat them as they should. And thankfully, Stefan's wish to be closer and to have the opportunity to care for his parents while they were still alive has been fulfilled. Nora is truly grateful to be accepted and loved by two amazing people.

## Givaudan

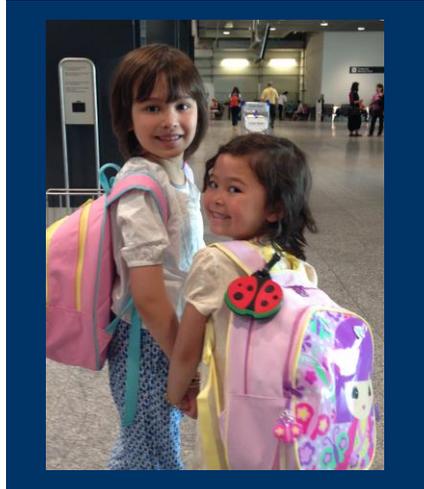
Stefan was honored for 20 years of working with Givaudan, his first and only employer after university. A great and challenging career. Being in Europe means taking care of a very diverse and fragmented market. Stefan has one KPI (Key Performance Indicator) that has proven right: The more flight hours away from HQ, the easier and less stressful the job. Being close to Geneva and being based at Flavors HQ translates in being monitored and each issue gets escalated to the top rather quickly. Givaudan is performing great, but internal pressure mounts. This sometimes dampens the spirits a bit, but the job is still interesting, rewarding and Stefan has a great team all over Europe, Africa and Middle East.

## The Giezis Pad

**Wir heizten!**  
In early 2014, we put our signatures on the dotted line to purchase a custom built apartment not far from where we are renting. Wow, what a life altering experience it was!!! It made us feel more settled and responsible. As the foundation got laid, the structures erected, the rooms defined, and the accessories picked out, we got more and more excited. While the girls were choos-

ing their rooms, ibu Nora and papi Stefan compromised on the feel of our new home – contemporary country (whatever that means?!).

The dealing with the developer, architects and contractors have



been rather seamless. While ibu Nora got down to the details, papi Stefan tackled (and yes, still tackling) the prices to ensure that we are within reasonable budget.

We are totally psyched and cannot wait for early summer 2015 – when we get to transform

our house into a home (and yes, Nora gets to pack and unpack!!!!).

## Travels and Visits

We had a year rather filled with travelling. We started with a winter ski vacation at Nauders, Austria with Onkel Juerg. The little girls learnt to ski at a skiing school, Nora took up cross country skiing (and fell down umpteen times) and Stefan took to the mountains skiing after more than a decade of absence. Nora went to London (again!) for Singapore Day in March. The Giezi girls went on their annual Singapore vacation in summer - another year of celebrating Hari Raya with our Singapore family. How blessed we are....

The highlight of all our travels this year was of course to U.S.A!!! After 30 long months of being away, it was simply fantastic to be back to visit with our close friends and bask in the all American way of life – huge stores, many stores, spacious parking, giant cars, humungous portions of food, land of tips and coupons. We were truly content after dragging 3 luggages and shipping back 204lbs of goodies.



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