

Thai Adventures in 2005



Janvier—mars 2005

1st Quarter 2005

Special events for us:

- Jaron learned to read! Jaron a appris à lire!
- Chinese New Year : the Year of the Rooster : nouvel an chinois
- Vacation to Ko Chang. Vacances à Ko Chang.
- Muang Boran : Ancient City. Cité ancienne.
- Jaron lost his first 2 teeth! Jaron a perdu ses deux premières dents!
- Easter in Bangkok. Pâques à Bangkok.

Chinese New Year : Year of the Rooster : Nouvel an chinois



“Dragon dancers” by Alexandra, age 7



February 2005 : Chinese New Year celebration at school, each class singing and dancing one animal from the Chinese zodiac. Alexandra’s class did the “ox,” and Jaron’s class did the “rabbit.” La fête pour le nouvel an chinois à l’école était super.



January 2005 : we visited Muang Boran (Ancient City), a must for one-time visitors to Thailand. A 20 minute drive south of Bangkok, it is a huge Thailand-shaped park, with full size or scale replicas of over 100 famous monuments and buildings from all over the country. We took our bikes and rode around, seeing all of Thailand in a morning!



March 2005 : our latest pool toy, for the hours spent swimming each week! Un nouveau jouet pour les heures passés à la piscine chaque semaine!



Dessin par Jaron, 6 ans

By Jaron, 6 years

For the Chinese New Year break, we went to Ko Chang, Thailand's 2nd largest island, a 4-hour drive from Bangkok. Elephant trekking on Ko Chang. "Ko" means island and "chang" means elephant in Thai.

Pour les vacances de février nous sommes allés à Ko Chang, à 4 heures de Bangkok. « Ko » veut dire « île », et « chang » veut dire « éléphant » en thaï.



March 2005 at Leoland!!!! The amazing rooftop water park just a short drive from our house! After the cool period from November to January, things started heating up at the end of March. April will be the hottest month of the year.

Mars 2005 à Leoland. Ce parc est sur le toit d'un grand centre commercial très près de chez nous. Il faisait plus frais de novembre à janvier, mais en fin mars il faisait déjà plus chaud. Avril est le mois le plus chaud en Thaïlande.



The still largely unspoilt, beautiful beach at Ko Chang.



Clowns, face painting, Easter egg hunts, and more... at hotels and restaurants all over Bangkok. We went to an Italian restaurant—a gorgeous tropical jungle setting in the heart of Bangkok!

Nouvelles de la Thaïlande

Thai Adventures in 2005



Cruising the up-river, Chiang Rai province

avril - juin 2005

2nd Quarter 2005

Special events for us:

- Songkran holiday : one big water fight
- Vacation to Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. Vacances à Chiang Mai et à Chiang Rai
- Vacation to Khao Yai National Park. Vacances au parc national de Khao Yai
- Swiss Society weekend in Pattaya. Weekend à Pattaya avec la Société Suisse de Bangkok
- Finally... Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok

Songkran Holiday in Chiang Mai



Happily participating in the country-wide water fight ,known as "Songkran."



We took the overnight train to Chiang Mai, the children's first experience on a train. It was great fun. Chiang Mai is a wonderful city, but so different than Bangkok. There were no taxis, so we traveled around by tuk-tuk. We visited the Chiang Mai zoo, an insect museum, and this famous umbrella factory at Bo San. We saw the entire process of traditional umbrella-making: from chopping bamboo to making paper to painting the beautiful designs. In Chiang Mai we saw traditional Thai dance for the first time, and in Chiang Rai, a traditional candle dance of the Hilltribes (right).



↑The largest sand pagoda ever!

←We stayed at a spectacular resort in the hills of Chiang Rai province.





For one of the long weekends in May, we went to Khao Yai National Park with a group of friends. It is a 2-hour drive from Bangkok. We visited the « Chokchai Farm » where the children fed animals, rode ATVs, and even saw a demonstration of the artificial insemination of cows.

Pour un long weekend en mai nous sommes allé au parc national de Khao Yai, à 2 heures de Bangkok. On a visité la ferme « Chokchai. »



In April, we went to Pattaya beach with the Bangkok Swiss Society. We had a day cruise in the gulf of Thailand, where Alexandra experienced her first banana-boat ride! Weekend à Pattaya.



Jaron riding back up the "mountain" after his flying fox ride, and waiting to go on the ATV trail.



Finally in June we found time to visit the famous Chatuchak weekend market for the first time! Le fameux marché Chatuchak de Bangkok.



“My Family”
by Jaron
Age 6
“Ma famille”
par Jaron
6 ans
“我的家”
夏家仁

Nouvelles de la Thaïlande

Thai Adventures in 2005



Jaron tries kayaking, Kal Lake, B.C., Canada

juillet - septembre 2005

3rd Quarter 2005

Special events for us:

- Summer visit to Canada. Vacances d'été au Canada.
- Swiss National Day in Canada! La Fête du 1er août... au Canada!
- Visit to Ayutthaya
- First Day of School
- Dream World, Bangkok

Summer visit to Canada. Vacances d'été au Canada



Visiting friends in Edmonton



Jaron, 6 yrs. and Ian, 5 yrs.



Hiking with our cousins



At the beach in the beautiful Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada.



Jaron and Alexandra participated in their school's Summer Reading Program, as well as doing summer creative writing. Here is one of Jaron's postcards. It says "I have three fish. Yesterday I saw a rainbow."

New School Year:

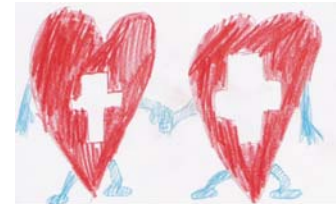
Alexandra has started 3rd Grade, and loves her [American] English teacher, Mr. Matthew (she is slowly warming up to her Chinese teacher, Ms. Julia from Taiwan)

Jaron has started 1st Grade, and has many friends. He enjoys his [American] English teacher, Mr. Jeremy, and his Chinese teacher from Beijing, Ms. Betty.

3rd Quarter 2005



In August, we took a tour to Ayutthaya, the previous capital of Thailand. Years ago, the city was destroyed by Burmese invaders so the capital is now Bangkok. There are still beautiful sites, in ruin, to visit. Alexandra and I are standing in front of a reclining Buddha statue.



Swiss National Day. La fête du 1er août.



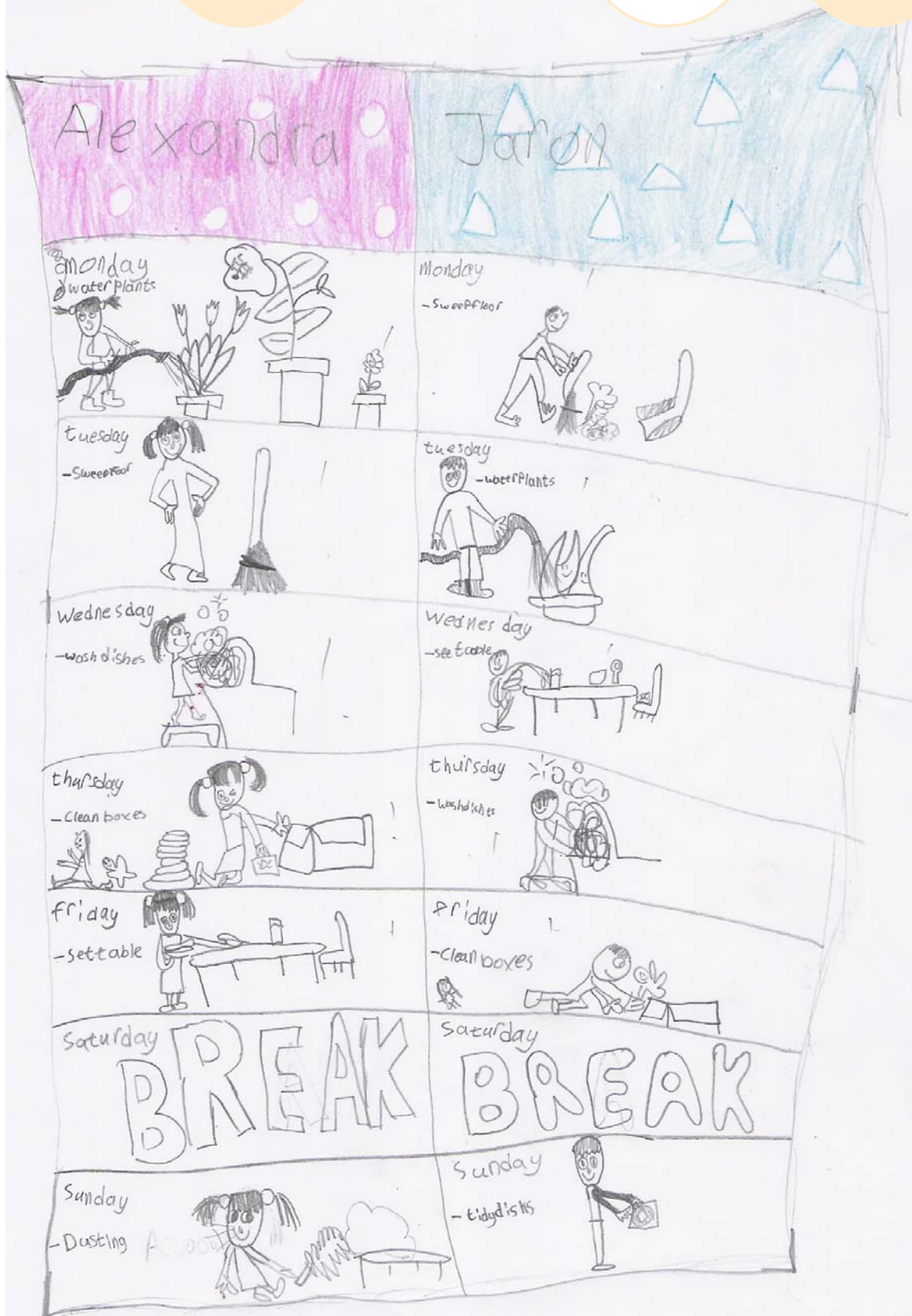
1 August 2005 : Swiss National Day in Edmonton, Alberta.

La Fête du 1er août à Edmonton, Canada.



In September we finally visited « Dream World , » the closest Thailand comes to Disneyland. We spent an entire day with a group of friends, and still didn't see everything. We'll definitely go back!

In an attempt to be more organized and give the children more responsibility at home, we have been talking about chores. Alexandra decided to make her own chores chart, below!





Nouvelles de la Thaïlande

Thai Adventures in 2005

octobre—décembre 2005

4th Quarter 2005

Special events for us:

- October break in Vietnam!
- Alexandra's 8th birthday
- Loy Krathong festival
- Jaron's 7th birthday
- Xmas vacation (visit to Kanchanaburi, Thailand)

October Break : Vietnam! Vacances d'octobre au Vietnam!



Our first cyclo ride : Hanoi, Vietnam



Hanoi's famous water puppets

For our October Break we visited Vietnam—first the capital, Hanoi. It was full of scooters and motorcycles. We took our first cyclo rides, visited the Ho Chi

Minh museum, saw water puppets and bought silk outfits! Then we took an excursion to Ha Long Bay and Cat Ba island. We visited Monkey Island, where the monkeys immediately jumped on Alexandra to get the bread she brought to feed fish. We visited a large grotto with spectacular stalagmites.



The beach of Monkey Island (right) in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. The Bay is made up of 2,000 underwater mountains : a spectacular, peaceful sight.



Alexandra's 8th Birthday (slumber) party : Alexandra a 8 ans!



Alexandra invited four friends from school, and one friend from her French classes. They had a pizza/movie/slumber party at our house!



Fun in Bangkok : On s'amuse bien a Bangkok



We participated in the Terry Fox Run in Lumpini Park, Bangkok for the first time, helping raise money for cancer research.



31 October 2005: A group of friends from school and the neighborhood got together to go trick-or-treating. It was 33 degrees Celcius and we were all looking forward to jumping in the pool after! From left to right: Adara as a bunny, Alexandra as a witch, Amy as a witch, Christine as a monster, Jessica as a princess, and Jaron as a knight.



Loy Krathong
16 Nov 2005
Bangkok

Loy Krathong!
The children made their own krathongs at school. We also went to a celebration at Novotel.



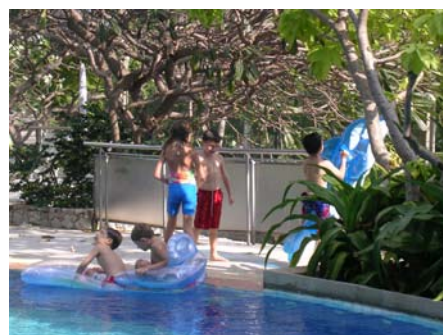
On December 2 Alexandra participated in the worldwide [Swim for Malaria](#) event.

Jaron's 7th Birthday! Jaron a 7 ans!



Since December 2nd fell on a long weekend, Jaron had a sleepover party on Saturday, November 26. His party had a pirate theme, and he invited five of his best friends.

On Sunday morning the kids went swimming then had a treasure hunt.



Christmas in Nonthaburi * Noël à Nonthaburi

4th Quarter 2005

Nonthaburi is the province North of Bangkok. We spent xmas with friends, I cooked a real, imported turkey with all the North American trimmings. The kids were thrilled Santa found their stockings hung out... even in Nonthaburi. We visited the newest attraction in Bangkok: Siam Ocean World, a 2.8 million litre oceanarium! See www.siamoceanworld.com



Vacances à / Vacation in Kanchanaburi



We were so impressed our first time in Kanchanaburi (August 2004) that we wanted to back. Our resort had 3 beautiful pools with fountains and gardens. The kids enjoyed playing with rabbits in the rabbit cages most, however!