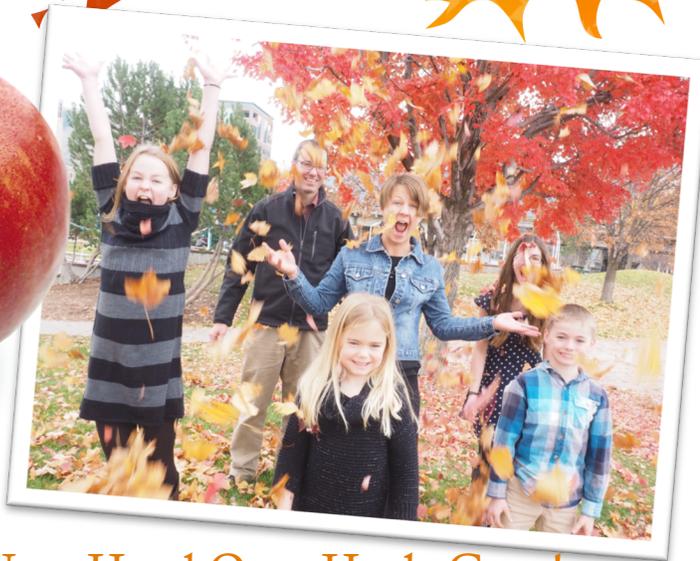


CHRISTMAS 2016

the
Edwards News

Jason, Jessica, Kilty, Riley, Jack and Avery



Our New Head Over Heels Gym!

When I was young I dreamed of having a gymnastics gym for a house. Who needs beds or sofas if you've got mats?! Well, now I have my gym! It wasn't even on my radar when I started teaching gymnastics again when we moved back to Polson. But the little bitty classes I started for our kids and their friends at the Christian Academy grew faster than I could imagine, and the Church that has so generously housed us for the past five years was just not big enough to handle the demand for more classes. After months of delay that proved invaluable for me in allowing me to find really great deals on equipment, train staff more thoroughly, and recover from my ruptured Achilles Tendon (!) we moved into our new facility in the middle of November last month. We have 160 students right now, and interest in more classes when we are ready to staff them! Sometimes I think we are crazy to do this to ourselves and to our kids because it has been super intense and demanded most of my time for the past year to bring it together. But to the best of our limited understanding we see this as a business and a ministry to the community that our family can grow in together. Please pray for us if you think of it! Our Church in Missoula is very supportive, and we love them.

Jason is in his new Office!

Just a couple of weeks ago we moved Jason into his office in the Head Over Heels Gym. Our whole family is in one spot!! Good-bye logistics! A year and a half ago Jason began an intensive training with Thrivent Financial. After becoming certified to do certain technical things (beyond me!) he became a Financial Representative for Thrivent. We love Thrivent. It is a Full-service Christian Financial Company. They are a not-for-profit fraternity and on the Fortune 500 list, so they give away over \$80 million each year to non-profits around the world selected by their members. Jason has added value to a lot of people's lives through his work, and we think we may even be able to make a living out of it someday!



Our Amazing Children

These kids have been taking responsibility for meals, cleaning, firewood, schoolwork, helping at the gym, and watching out for each other.

They also fight like cats and dogs sometimes.

Kilty Daya, 12.5 years

Kilty passed me up in height this year, but I've still got her by 30 pounds in weight! She is loving Algebra class with our neighbor Connie and is still on the swim team. When she's not buried in a book she is very attentive to loving and serving her family. She enjoys cooking, friends, making and listening to music, and movie watching. She is a blessing to me.

Riley Ann, 10.9 years

This girl always amazes me with her keen perceptions about people and situations. She understands delicate or awkward situations well and when willing can deal with them surprisingly appropriately. She is very competitive and one lots of medals on swim team last year. This year she is taking a break to help me with the gym. She is a very organized person, and sometimes she even organizes me! I'm thankful for her. She is loud, confident, fun, and opinionated!!



Jack Kenneth, 9 years

Jack just turned nine, but he looks about six and half, so everyone thinks he's precocious. He is pretty talented – he can walk around the house on his hands and do flips wherever he likes. He's got a pile of swimming medals, and he also loves math and reading and his uncles. All the kids play violin, but Jack works particularly hard at it. Jack does the outside chores, and we added to his work with a new dog (after subtracting some chickens to our freezer). He is a character and a half!

Avery Jane, 6.5 years

Avery likes being with mom, and wishes I would do more school with her. I hope to do so once things settle down at the gym, but I don't think I should hold my breath on that, so I'm going to have to just make it happen. Jason's parents come over to do science with the kids each week, and that is a highlight for all of us! She is a very strong girl – she loves gymnastics and does well at it. She wants to try everything though (ice skating, horse riding, etc.), which her mama learned many years ago is just not always possible. I love her!

