



Christmas Report from 488 Strathmore Blvd.

As I am writing this letter to family and friends, my mother is making some Holiday Rice Krispie squares to appease my brother. Not that he's bad, it's just there are moments when you want to quote that line from the Exorcist: "Get me an old priest and a young priest." I love my brother, but he can be annoying.

Well it has been a pretty good year for us. My mom has a new job at Bishop Strachan teaching piano, and I'm currently in the Gifted program at Holy Name school. My mom is really happy this Christmas because she is having her latest poetry book being published by Brick Books. Her other new book, a novel titled "Potential Magic" has been picked up by a New York literary agent. She was practically screaming when she received the E-mail. My mom is now working on a book-length poem. Apparently, few women have written book-length poems since Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Lee*. That poem was written in 1856! So my mother is going for a somewhat incredible goal.

My dad has completed another hectic year at AERI (Aboriginal Economic Renewal Initiative). He is also still the President of Miziwe Biik Employment and Training after almost nine years—President for Life? One accomplishment he is proud of is that he has lost 15 pounds and is looking great!

My year at school is very interesting. My teacher at Gifted, Mr. Howard, is excellent, in the fact that he has a profound understanding of how to inspire me to think creatively. If you met my friends you would see how much they are like me (frightening!). I am enjoying my clarinet lessons with Mr. Gomez at the Royal Conservatory, and Kendo (a Japanese Martial Art) provides the weekly stress relief that I need. My dad also takes Kendo, which means I can hit him with no legal ramifications!

My brother also is having a good year. He enjoys all the singing he does in his Kodaly music class and just loves Senior Kindergarten. He did mutter something about Manhattan being next, whatever that means... I hope you enjoyed my letter and I wish you a very merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Alex, John, my Mom and Dad.