

Thursday, October 1st, 2009

Hello family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances,

I send an e-mail each year on October 1st to extol the virtues of having an extra chromosome. I personally do not have one, but my son, Flynn, does.

Flynn is now 14 and he likes to be introduced now in a certain way. He wants to make sure that people know he is a high school student.

Life with Flynn is never dull. We work on life skills at home. He likes to move at his own pace which is usually "slow" or more often, "too slow". This pace with life skills often finds Flynn in a state of undress for long periods of time in his room. We do work on having him keep his door closed, but occasionally the door is open. One day Beth walked by and said "Flynn your naked! Get your pajamas on!"

Flynn responded with " Mom! Not naked! Socks!" And he was right. He was emphatically pointing at his feet and his socks were still on.

This e-mail will not be as long this year. I don't want to repeat too much of what I have said in the past. I am including a link to my school web page that has all the old letters I have sent. [Click here](#). I hope you will enjoy reading them if you have time. People with Down syndrome are people first. It really is not polite to refer to them as a Downs child or Downs people. The extra "s" popped into existence somewhere, but the doctor the syndrome was named for was just Down.

Flynn's biggest delay is speech. He also is very low cognitively by the measures we think of most of the time. He really does have quite a high quality of life and he just takes it one day at a time.

Flynn is active with horseback riding, basketball, and track throughout the year. He loves Star Wars, The Muppet Show, playing video games, and riding the back of our tandem bicycle. He has two brothers, Will and Reed. He plans to have a dog when he turns 22, but for now he has two cats, Tiger and Bear. I have lost track of the number of girl friends he says he has, but any girl that he sees with long hair seems to become a girlfriend which he refers to as "longhair".

Thanks for reading and for keeping people like Flynn in your mind. There are lots of disturbing statistics in the world. To put it nicely, it seems that there are less children being born with Down syndrome. I think that is a shame because they really have so much to share with the world. Thanks for letting me share a little bit of Flynn with you.