

# hoops & yo-yo

Happy New Year!

# newsletter

january '07

issue  
#25



# helloooooo, 2007!



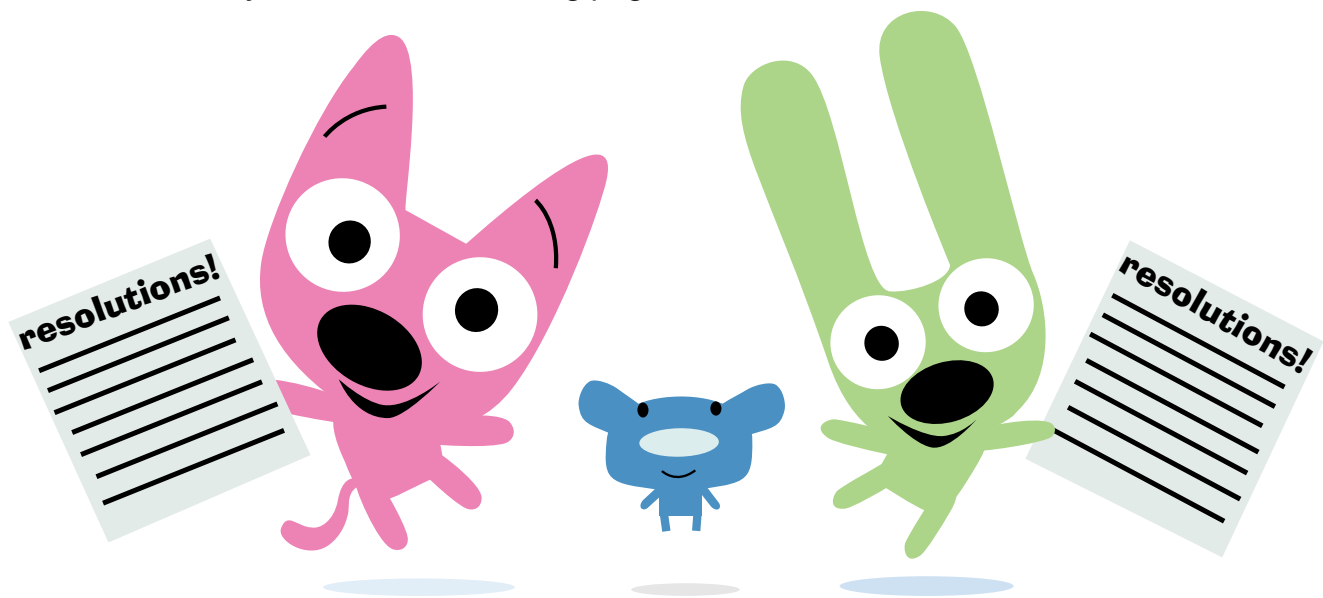
happy shiny, bright new year! we just know 2007 is going to be totally niiiice! and we could not wait to get started, so we decided to make some really coool resolutions! here are a few of our very favorites...

**hoops:** i resolve to help bob&mike make the web site even more fun with some groovy new dance moves. watch out, people, i'm gonna be workin' it!!

**yoyo:** i resolve to make a new friend at hallmark every week, by searching out parties with delicious treats and niiiice people who will share them.

**piddles:** i resolve to sing a happy song every single day. (hey, just like last year!)

**we want to know...** did you make a coool new year's resolution? share it with the whoole hoops&yoyo world! it can be silly or serious or weird or wonderful or just plain niiiice. send your resolutions to us at [hoopsandyoyoblog@hallmark.com](mailto:hoopsandyoyoblog@hallmark.com), and we'll share as many as we can on our blog page!!



# FAN OF THE MONTH *neesie!!*



## how we got to be friends with neesie!

we have soooo much to tell you about our friend neesie! like, how we got to be friends!! it all started last year, when neesie's friend wj sent neesie one of our e-cards for her birthday. neesie liked it soooo much that she played it over and over, even way after her birthday was gone!

and then something happened to neesie's computer that totally wiped out her e-mail with her e-card! (ouch!) so she went to our web site and looked at all the e-cards and stuff and she really liked it all!! she sent our "send a kiss" e-card to her friends and they all loved it. and neesie and her friends have had it "GOIN' ON, baby!" ever since.

also, neesie read about the "summer of niice" on our blog and thought that was such a cool idea! it was all about doing niice things and also looking for others who were doing niice things. so neesie started doing both—even though she was already waaaay nice! one day neesie saw a lady do something super-nice and she wrote to tell us about it. well, we've been goood friends ever since!

## allll about our way-nice neesie

neesie's real name is actually "mary denise," but just about everyone (including us!) calls her neesie. our neesie calls san antonio home, and her mom still lives there, too! neesie's mom is one of her two most favorite people in the whole world because she's wise and generous, and fun to boot! (now we know where our neesie gets it!)

neesie's has a niice husband named joe. they've been married for 11 years, and she says joe's the best husband EVER! neesie knew that joe was "the one" right away. they had their first date on a wednesday, and by friday, joe asked our neesie to marry him! (WOW! you go, joe!) they got married 8 weeks later and had a super-fun wedding. neesie says they're still on their honeymoon. that's when we blush and start looking around for snacks.



# FAN OF THE MONTH

## neesie!!



joe is soooo cool. he's really laid back and kinda quiet—but super-funny, too! he likes to sing, and he knows, like, a million songs. and he's a super-good guitar player, too! and oh, does he make goood coffee. joe, you make the best cup o' joe ever, man!! and sometimes joe even takes us fishing in his little boat, which is soooo much fun.

joe's job is also totally awesome. he's a railroad man!! chooo-chooooo! joe is a conductor, which is a waaaay-important job. he always makes sure the trains are safe, which is, like, the most important thing in the world, because he likes to keep people safe. so he always reminds everyone to NEVER stop on railroad tracks when they're in a car or on a scooter, because that is NOT safe,

people! also, do not EVER play or walk or take a nap on the tracks. joe works soooo hard keeping people safe, and we think he's the best! so does neesie. she likes to make sure home is always happy so they can enjoy being together. ooooooh, they're soooo suh-weeeet!



we like just hangin' around neesie and joe's house with them and their dogs, named cassie, teddy and general. cassie's a golden retriever and is sooo pretty and sweet. teddy's a pomeranian (does that mean he's from pomerania?) and looks like a really furry little fox—he must have a lot to say because sometimes he barks a LOT. and "little general" is a super-shiny black lab who likes to run around with toys. he has a special sprinkly DONUT toy that we just loove.

neesie stays sooo busy it's hard to keep up with her! she takes the dogs on walks and goes to the gym to do water aerobics. and she likes reading and listening to music. and of course, she visits our site quite a bit (hooray!). neesie is also active in her church,

with the local community women's club, and the assistance league® of san antonio – bexar (pronounced "bear") hugs auxiliary. AND, she's on the board of "paws for service," an organization that takes dogs to visit

# FAN OF THE MONTH *neesie!!*



hospitals, schools, and nursing homes!! neesie takes cassie and teddy on those visits, and we get to go, too! it's sooooo much fun to meet new people!

neesie also spends a lot of time taking care of her very special almost-96-year-old aunt millie. aunt millie needs a lot of special help, and neesie is always there for her to make sure she gets the very best care in the world. she does everything to keep aunt millie safe, and we think that's just about the niiiicest thing in the world.

## our biiiiiig adventure!

neesie thought it would be a total blast to take us around san antonio and introduce us to some of her favorite places and people. (you were right, neesie!) san antonio is a really coool place. there are tons of things to do all the time and we did loads of fun things and met lots of nice people!

first, we went to timo's coffeehouse and had lattes and met neesie's friend wj and saw her way-cool digital art. we wouldn't know neesie if it weren't for wj, so we were verrrry happy to meet her and see her coool art. wj is really smart and funny, too, and her art is wow-wow-WOW-a-rrific! and after we met, wj did an art piece featuring...US! it's like we're out in space in our own "space bubble" – whee, wj! thanks!



# FAN OF THE MONTH neesie!!



a couple of days later we met neesie's friend janie who has her very own PIE FACTORY (can you believe it?) and had some deeeelicious pumpkin pie! janie's pie factory smelled soooo goood that we wanted to stay there forever! but then we would miss neesie too much, so we'll just come back for visits, okay janie?

neesie had to go to the dentist so we went, too. dr. joe was super-nice and told us to brush and floss our teeth twice a



day, especially before we go to bed, and to see our dentist twice a year. then he gave us each a toothbrush that said "use the fuzzy end" – ha, ha, dr. joe, we get the joke!

after the dentist, we got to go to an awesome restaurant, called the mexican manhattan on the river walk. neesie's very best hoops&yoyo pal, donna, came with us, too! we had a humongous plate of cheese nachos and a biiiiiig fajita dinner. ooooh, was it delicious, and ooooh, did we need a nap after that meal!!



and we also got to go to a really niiice luncheon with neesie's mom jo and her friends who all went to high school together, like, over 50 years ago!! they liked us a LOT, and we liked them, too! we taught them the right way to say "niiice," and they gave us some totally awesome treats. we think that was a really super trade, don't you?

# FAN OF THE MONTH *neesie!!*



one day on our big adventure, we went to neesie's grocery store for snacks and drinks. it's one of neesie's favorite places because the people who work there have biiiiig hearts and are always so niice to everyone, especially people who need extra help. and they were so totally niice to us that we can't wait to go see them again!!

one of our most very favorite adventures was when we went with neesie and her dogs, cassie and teddy, to the retirement center for the community of divine providence. neesie, cassie and teddy are a visitation team in a group called "paws for service" and have been going to the

retirement center for six years. we got to visit with the sisters who live there, and we even watched the san antonio spurs game with them on a giganto-normous tv! the sisters were happy that the spurs won, and they were happy to meet us, too! we can see why neesie loves the sisters and the people who work there, too. they were soooo much fun to be around. neesie told us on the way home that she's grateful to have cassie and teddy and to be able to visit the sisters and be part of their lives. we can't wait to go back!



next, neesie said we just HAD to have donuts from her favorite old-timey donut shop. it's been in the same place for more than 50 years! we ate about the biggest apple fritter we'd ever seen, and some cinnamon pretzels and



regular donuts, too. YUM. we ate them with karen and cindy, neesie's pals from church. a group of people from their church (we went, too!) had gone grocery shopping for families at a transitional living center, and the families gave the shoppers a thank-you gift of a "mint house" with angels. we wanted to show it to you!

# FAN OF THE MONTH

neesie!!



AND, we got to go to the alamo! we learned all about the heroes of the alamo and saw one of davy crockett's rifles. we met a really cool woman who's an "ambassador amigo" and is really "in-the-know" about downtown san antonio events and history. she had it GOIN' ON, baby! we called her "miss information" but her real name is cat, which hoops really liked.



while we were adventuring, we also got to meet ralph, neesie and joe's good friend. ralph is one of the nicest people ever! he's very wise and ALWAYS has nice things to say. (like we do, neesie says, only we do it in the hoops&yoyo way!) after we met ralph, neesie said we'd had soooo many adventures that maybe we should get to work on our story! and so we did, and here it is. neesie told us she was glad she got to be our fan of the month so she could share some of the niice people and cool places in her world with us.

hey neesie, we're sure glad you're one of the niice people in our world! thanks for being our friend!





# things to looky look for



## super-fun widgets for our mac-pack!

are you a mac user? have we got something for you!! we're making widgets left and right for your dashboard. get our "valentine's day countdown" widgets now and look for soooo much more to come! they're super-fun!



## 2-way blog

it's coming—it really is!! soon you'll be able to talk back to us right on our blog! and you'll see your note posted, like, soooo fast you will not even believe it! it's going to be totally blog-o-rrific!!



## the big sneeze

it's cold and flu season. also, sometimes the waiter just puts too much pepper on your food. so what should you do?? check out our manners page to find out!! aaaaah-choo!



# questions we'd like to ask...

## the man in the moon

**hoops:** can you see us from way up there? and if you can, do you ever share secrets with santa?

**yoyo:** if i bring up some crackers, would you share your cheese?

## a donut maker

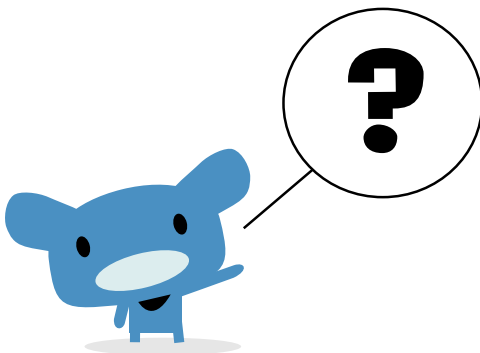
**hoops:** were you, like, born a total genius?

**yoyo:** is it time to make the donuts? hahahahaha.

## the guy who cut in front of us in the coffee line

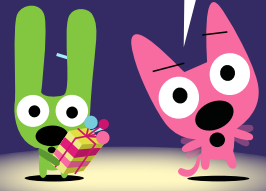
**hoops:** why? WHY???

**yoyo:** helloooo, am i invisible?



# hoops&yoyo FAN(tastic) GIFTS

Thank You!



**julie**, you are suh-weeeet...

hey julie, you really know how to make us smiiiile! bob and mike were totally good about sharing, especially when we gave them our very best "we need chocolate" look. (they always fall for that one.) we have one word for you, julie. YUMMY!!! (and thanks!)



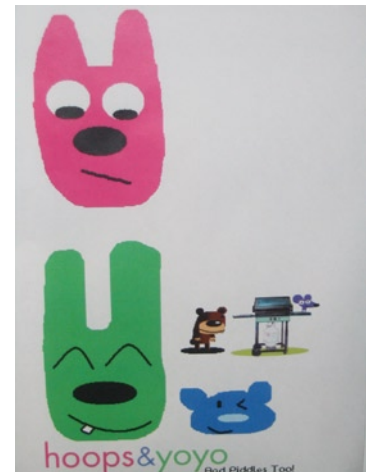
that's good stuff, **zouire!**

there were nuts. and chocolates. and deeelicious candies. there was soooo much to choose from that it was hard for hoops and his friend, david, to make up their minds. so hoops suggested they try one of each. david agreed that was a very wise decision. (it's no wonder they both look so happy.)

niiiiice artwork, **matthew!**

wow, matthew, your drawing totally made our day! we have it up for everyone to see!! guess what, of all the fancy pieces of artwork up around the

hallmark halls, we think yours is the very most fun! thanks for the super-cool picture, matthew!



we're not worthy, **katie-tenkat!**

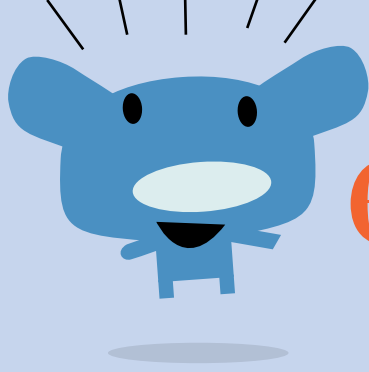
just when we were craving buckeyes, guess what arrived in the mail from katie-tenkat! thaaat's right...lots and lots of buckeyes!! but that's not all! scooter sent along some beeeautiful feathers, too! they're so colorful and cheerful and happy! and so were we when we opened that box! you rock, katie and scooter!!!



thanks for the holiday spirit, **neesie!**

ooh, neesie, just when we thought the holiday spirit was almost gone, you totally brought it back! the cd you sent is soooo groovy we can't stop listening to it! thanks for bringing us a little extra merry and bright, neesie!!





e-mail

shout-outs!

send your e-mails to us at: hoopsandyoyo@hallmark.com

big new year shout-outs to our biggest fans!  
**kyle, sylvia-dudette, arthanise, nyomi, nicholas, stephanie, ginger, gaby, daniel, danelle, danni, dani, danielle, danny, dan, martha, spinashio, taylor, maria, steph, rachelle, kim, morgan, hatty, tai, annie, baylee, taylor, tayler, and greg!**

**heather**...so which ringtone are you dancing along with on your cellphone today? "accordion song #2" or "sounds that make us laugh"?

**lesli**...wishing you as happy a 2007 as you had in 2006 - we're here to help if you ever need us!

**kris**...happy to ride along with you and the teenagedude to check out colleges -- we'll be in charge of finding the best pizza places!

**mark**...did santa make it down the chimney with the big screen plasma or did he just use the front door?

**tamster**...hope there weren't any more issues putting ornaments away in the attic and that big old hole in the ceiling is fixed by now!!!

**aurelie**...did you find our stuff in france yet? we hope the answer is "oui, oui!!!"

**andrea**...c'mon - keep laughing out loud. laughing inside is like drinking too big a gulp of orange soda and not as much fun!

**donna-bob**...how are those triple berry tarts doing? and the apricot orange pie? need a couple of pink&green taste testers?

**lauren**...turn that frown upside down! only 5 more months of school till summer break!

**sam**...keep your paws, er, fingers crossed that we are with you soon snacking on tim-tams and anzac biscuits!

**melissa, shelby, & chasity**...**shayne** is one lucky guy to have you in his life...and so are we!

**angie**...we had that ice cream for you like you asked... want us to do it again???

**nicky**...hieperdepiep hoera!!! we love that phrase - hooray to you for teaching it to us!

**julie**...hope you had a fun move to michigan and found a warm parka to wear by now!!!

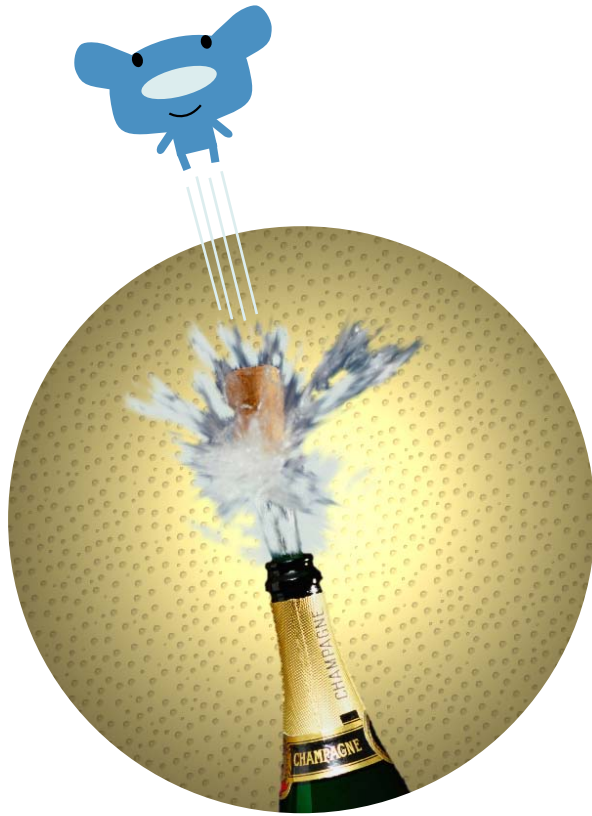
**josh & mike**...thanks a million for noticing...and don't worry - you don't have to tell us "you're welcome!" a million times!!!

**jordan**...remember - trampolines and double-scoop ice cream cones do not go well together. we know this for a fact!

# January



| Sunday    | Monday                                  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                  | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday  |
|-----------|---|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|           | <b>1</b><br>New Year's Day              | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>                   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                                | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>                  | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>Martin Luther King Jr. Day | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>                  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>                               | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>Australia Day | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                               | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>                  |           |           |           |



HAPPY NEW YEAR!