



Panko & Nick

Our Story



「Fresh out of college, we got our first apartment and built our lives together.」

Introduction

Hi, we are Nick and Panko! We appreciate you taking the time to learn about who we are as a couple and as prospective parents. We are sort of an unusual couple because both our names are technically Nicholas, but early on in dating, one of us got the nickname Panko, and it just stuck! No matter what people call us, we can't wait to add more names to our little family.

How We Met

In 2011, we found ourselves at the same college, with the same name, in the same program. While we were not immediately close friends, over the years, we grew closer. Until one thing led to another, and in 2014, we started dating.

Our relationship continued to grow over the coming years. Fresh out of college, we got our first apartment and built our lives together. We were married in November of 2019, shortly thereafter buying our first home and adopting our dog, Pringles, from a local shelter.

We've both always talked about having kids. Shortly after getting married, the pandemic hit, and in the face of the unknown, we focused on taking care of our friends and family. Four years later, we are ready to welcome a child into our family through an open adoption.



On our wedding day



Exploring the botanical gardens

Meet Nick

As Told by Panko



You can often find Nick in the kitchen with a new culinary creation, whether that be homemade salami or honey-fermented garlic. We have amazing dinners with friends and family that Nick seems to whip up out of nowhere. He also remembers what everyone can and can't eat, ensuring that no one gets left out of the fun!

As more of our friends are starting their families, Nick has been showing what a great father he will be someday. He plays and runs around with our friends' children, often spoiling them with toys he happened to "find" while at the store. I truly think that he will be a great father, ready to share his interests and love for life with a child.

Nick in Hong Kong



Nick and Pringles enjoying a lazy Christmas

Nick has his Bachelor's in Chemistry and is a manager at an electric car company, leading the lab responsible for developing new products. He is the smartest person I know, coming up with crazy and unique ideas and concepts.

One of Nick's favorite things to do is make stained glass. He always seems to be working on something new for a friend or family member. The latest project is an amazing lamp for his mother.



Nick and his sister horsing around

Panko and Pringles



Meet Panko

As Told by Nick

When I first introduced Panko to my friends and family, they instantly adored him (as did I) because Panko always gives you his full attention and is genuinely interested in who you are, what you are saying, and how you are feeling. He sometimes wears his heart on his sleeve, but his frank honesty is a refreshing and pleasant reminder that good people still exist in the world.

Panko fishing in Minnesota



Panko gets his Masters!



Panko apple picking

Panko always gives 110%. Shortly after he graduated from college, he pushed himself to go back and get a master's degree while also working a full-time job. When any of our friends or family get sick, he always goes out of his way to check on and care for them. Even when doing something as simple as cleaning the kitchen, I know he will give it his all and make it shine! In what little spare time he has to himself, he relaxes by playing the piano, crocheting baby blankets, and rock climbing.

Even before we started the adoption process, Panko wanted children. He is an extraordinary babysitter for our friend's children and can spend many hours playing make believe or having an imaginary tea party. He brings joy to the room and cares for everyone as if they were his family. I cannot wait to parent with Panko - he is going to be a wonderful father!

Our Home and Hobbies



Turning the house into our home was one of the first major projects we tackled as a married couple.

When we bought our house in early 2020, it was definitely showing its age. Built in 1947, it's a three-bedroom house on a corner lot in a Boston suburb. Turning the house into our home was one of the first major projects we tackled as a married couple.

Nick has always been the crafty one. Early in our marriage, he took a stained-glass class, and he has been hooked ever since. We've replaced the glass window in our backdoor with one of his creations. Slowly, every wall or window seems to have something casting a rainbow onto our lives and our homes!



Enjoying the new wood stove



Winter at Nick's parent's cabin

Panko has always been the musical one. One Christmas, Panko got a keyboard - kicking off his love for music. When furnishing the living room, we splurged on an upright piano for Panko to play on. He now fills our home with music ranging from classical to jazz, blues to pop, and even musicals!

We love our home in every season! On a cold winter's night, we cuddle up next to the wood-burning stove. In the spring, we watch our tulips and daffodils bloom. Throughout the summer, we are out back, relaxing on the patio and cooking in the outdoor kitchen. Pringle's favorite season is the fall, when he loves to jump into the piles of crunchy leaves that have fallen in the backyard. Altogether, it is truly a home we can't wait to share with a child.

Playing with Pringles in the backyard

Family and Traditions

On the surface, our families are very similar. We both have only one sibling, a sister, and we both have large extended families filled with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Panko was born and raised on the Jersey shore, while Nick was born in New Orleans and raised all over the world.

Growing up, Panko's grandmother was a prominent figure in his upbringing. As a German-Ukrainian immigrant, she spoke to him in German and always told him stories of her life before moving to the USA. She and Panko's mother would always fill the house with the smell of fresh perogies and borscht. He loved sitting in the kitchen with them, sampling all the food. When it came to Christmas, they always put on a traditional Ukrainian feast. Panko's favorite holiday is St. Nicholas Day, kicking off the Christmas season! Panko's parents retired to rural Pennsylvania, an easy drive for us in Massachusetts. They bought a beautiful house with a stream going through the back fields and are keeping the family's traditions alive.



Thanksgiving with Panko's mom's family



Our wedding day where Panko swept Nick off his feet

While Nick had grown up in many different places, he calls Minnesota home. He has fond memories of the entire family going to the Minnesota State Fair every year before school started back up again. The fair is known for its "culinary delights" such as deep-fried butter or cheesecake on a stick. The focal point of the summer was his family's cabin right on the lake, where his parents have since retired. Every time we visit, we love playing cards next to the lake and having our annual Crazy Utensil Dinner.



Playing Santa with Panko's family



Meeting Santa with Nick's family

Our Future as a Family



Cheering on the New England Revolution

We are lucky to have many friends also starting families. We are learning a lot from them, and we are all very excited for future play dates and birthday parties together! We are excited to introduce the child to our local community, whether that be going on hikes with our dog through the nearby state parks or going to an arts and crafts fair at the library.

We want to instill a natural curiosity about the world and those in it. Both of us traveled a great deal growing up. There was always a new culture to meet, new foods to try, and new places to see. These were adventures that were pivotal to our upbringing and something we would like to continue to explore with our growing family. Some of these adventures are close to home as we visit family and friends, while some may take us to the other side of the world.



Cooking up something special

We are big proponents of the idea of continual learning outside the classroom. We want to ensure that we help the child find their own best path through life. While school is an important aspect of every child's upbringing, fun is an aspect our family would like to emphasize. Those lazy Saturday mornings watching cartoons or weekday evenings playing catch in the backyard are just as important as schoolwork.

We want to instill a natural curiosity about the world and those in it.



A springtime walk



Sun-gazing during an eclipse



Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! For both you and us, this is an important decision to make. We don't know each other well yet, but we all have the child's best interests at heart. We are excited to go on this journey with you as we all create a loving network of people who care about the child.

Our promise is to love the child with all our hearts, to raise the child with the knowledge of the loving decision their birth parents made for them, and to provide a happy, healthy future for the child so they can grow up to be the best version of themselves they can be!

With Love,

Nick and Panko

We are excited to go on this journey with you as we all create a loving network of people who care about the child.

