



Preparing for this letter, it was amazing to see how much of the calendar was obliterated by scribbles — and we have a “jumbo grid” calendar, too. We just bought our 2006 calendar which still has lots of white space to fill, but here’s a summary of what filled up last year’s:

After four years, the climbing gym closed and James tried out some other career possibilities. He’s ruled out McDonald’s fry cook and Kmart stocker after brief stints, but is enjoying being a host at a local restaurant, and looks forward to being promoted to waiter when he turns 18 next month.

When not working, James is attending classes at College of DuPage. He took some summer school courses this year which effectively completed all his requirements and has graduated. He’s sort of the Class of 2005 and a Half. His interests are in archaeology and art, so he’s still deciding where and what he’d like to study.

James and Dad also spent some serious time in his bedroom opening the ceiling to the attic and installing a couple of climbing walls. Now he can practice bouldering and climb to his bed in a loft. It was good DIY training as well as bonding time.

Emily finally fulfilled a dream she has been practicing since she was six months old. She became a member of the Bristol Renaissance Faire. She and cousin Liz spent every weekend from March until September training and then working at the Faire. They were servants in Lord North’s household who served the Queen and nobles, and they had a blast with a group of

like-minded friends, despite the long, hot days.

Em continues to successfully juggle schoolwork, piano, madrigal choir and theater. She recently played Amelia, Miss Minchin’s sister, in “A Little Princess,” and found out on her Sweet Sixteen birthday last week that she made “The Mikado.”



Opening night of A Little Princess

Don has been up to his eyebrows in Gnu Media work, but he did find time to tell Ghost Stories in the Park...In the Dark this fall to exercise his drama skills. Hopefully things will lighten up soon so he can take on more challenging roles.



The boys chose—and shot—their own pictures while messing around with the new camera, an early Christmas present.

A fun thing Gnu Media did this year is create a web site for the Naperville United Way’s statue fund-raiser. It’s like that Chicago cow thing from a few years back, except they did fairies and butterflies. Kate got to be the artist for our sponsored “African Sa-fairy” bench, which was purchased by Harris Bank at auction.

With everybody’s schedules, we were extremely lucky to get away for a couple of days as a family. We went museum-hopping to see Body Worlds in Chicago and a Petra artifacts exhibit in Michigan. Playing in the new Millennium Park fountain was also a big hit.

Another year has whizzed by — good days, bad days and all-too-short days. We hope the days are rich and full for your family in the coming year, but not too full that we can’t find time for each other. We wish you many happy days in 2006!

Merry Christmas from Don & Kate, James & Emily

