

A Wednesday schedule for Jasmine goes something like this: Help Ian get breakfast ('cause its 6:30 and Mom and Dad are still in bed); ride with Uncle Scott to arrive at school one hour early; have fun in before-school care; have a good day at school; choir rehearsal after school; self-defense class with Sensei Belton—block-grab-flip, Yes! Gold Belt!!; then there is Pathfinder meeting (for those unfamiliar, like Boy/Girl Scouts only co-ed); next it's home for a round of homework and if that goes fast enough, a little bit of violin practice. She has also joined the gymnastics team which she has been hoping would come to her school since first grade. Yes, as the popular TV show has brought to light, it is much harder to be a fifth-grader these days. Are you smarter than a fifth-grader?



This year his Christmas list transitioned from chaps and snakeskin boots to fishing rods, bow and arrow, camouflage, and yes, even live bait would do.

Vacation this year was something new and exciting. We loaded up with Swini's sister's family, parents, and cousins Prethi and Shanthi and headed to Great Wolf Lodge. GWL is a huge indoor water park with the hotel built right in. You can step out of your nicely appointed accommodations and right into morning-to-night swimming, rafting, and water basketball. There's even restaurants, an arcade, Starbucks, spa, and shopping right on the premises. All this nestled in the beautiful surroundings of the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. No, this is not a commercial, but it was pretty fun.



Ian has it a little easier but he's not far behind. He joined the Adventurers (Pre-Pathfinders or like Cub Scouts) and is also taking self-defense with Jasmine. Some of you just had flashbacks of the Jhoon Rhee commercials from the 70's—"Nobody bodders me, Nobody bodders me eeder." Last year we told you of Ian's fascination with bovines (bulls, bison) which has now become second tier to his more advanced sociological interests. As a first-grader, he is now engrossed in Ireland, Germany, and Scotland. While there probably is some Irish in his bloodline, we don't know where he gets these things. However, you shouldn't be surprised to come by the house and find him in a kilt or lederhosen and practicing his jig or Riverdance steps—these are not exaggerations. He has also become quite the fisherman thanks to Uncle Jerry, Uncle BJ, and his two grandfathers, Ben and Jimmie (no relation to Ben and Jerry). He also longs to some day bag his first deer. His outdoorsman fantasies started from visiting his favorite store, Bass Pro Shop's Outdoor World which he would visit every day if someone would take him. One of the managers there has already promised him a job when he is 16.

As the year comes to a close, we look back at all the things for which we are thankful. More so than the things we have been blessed with, we remember the people. Our parents, our brothers and sisters, our aunts and uncles, our nieces and nephew (love you Jerry), and a whole host of cousins near and far are the special part of our lives that is really the hot fudge on the sundae. Any of you friends that are close to us realize what a special part our family plays in our lives and we are thankful and proud of that fact. Raising our children with this in mind is a tribute to the way our parents raised us.

Our prayer for your new year is strengthening relationships with your loved ones. Whether your stock portfolio just tripled in value or you don't know how you will buy gasoline at \$7 a gallon, this investment will bring you riches beyond measure. God bless you all.

—*Harold, Swini, Jasmine and Jan
Chandler*

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