

# Ganley Family Newsletter



The Ganleys take on OBX in August 2010.



## Happy holidays from our family to yours!

We hope that this newsletter finds you all happy, healthy, and prosperous.

This year, each person decided to write his/her own column. Megan (14) is a freshman at TJ and is enjoying some extracurricular artistic activities including oil painting, computer art, and drama. She'll give you the 411 in a way only teens can.

Helen (9) is the funny, verbal child. She's an avid fencer and reader. Her

year in verse is below.

Mary Kate is already 8 and is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She still loves all things animal (mostly cats), soft and fluffy, and Pokemon. She's sweet and lovely, but apparently a woman of few words (we think she had other priorities at the time).

Enjoy!

## Joe's Year

2010 was a relatively uneventful year, in a good way. Highlights of the year were our Spring Break trip to Mexico, Megan's and my trip to California for Maker Faire (<http://makerfaire.com/>) in May, and our annual family trip to the Outer Banks beaches in August. In addition, we managed to line up the kids' sleep-away camps in June so that we had an entire week to ourselves. I took the week off from work and we had a very nice "staycation"--a spa day and an overnight at the Gaylord, a day in

Annapolis, etc. Another highlight was a very successful backyard campout with the girls; I'm looking forward to doing more camping with them in 2011. I continue to work at White Oak Technologies, coming up on the three-year mark. The [product](#) I manage has really taken off this year, so things at work have been just the right kind of busy.



Joe in Mexico during our Spring Break 2010.



Megan meets R2D2 at Maker Faire

Happy Holidays all! We hope that this letter finds you and yours peaceful, happy, and healthy. I started off this year by doing quite a bit more traveling for my small company, ForWord Consulting. I train government agencies and corporations in the finer points of business writing. While I teach many DC-based courses, much of my work takes me overseas.

Last year, while you all were digging out of part 1 of Snowmageddon, I was stuck in Brussels after leaving Liberia. During part 2, I was stuck in El Salvador. Tough breaks, I know. Other trips last year were Cairo and Uganda. Africa's on my dance card again this year with a trip to Kenya in January followed by Morocco, Georgia, Ukraine, Mexico, and Zimbabwe. I love the

work and hate the traveling, but miss the kids when I'm gone. However, I'm grateful to have a job that allows me the flexibility to be home with the kids other than when I'm training (about one week a month).

Last January we woke to a lovely surprise flood. Our ice maker decided that it wanted to run all night. About 15K in damages later (to the kitchen, basement, etc.), we now have a lovely, new kitchen. Then in May, our neighborhood was ground zero for a huge hail storm. Shouse looks lovely with all the freshly painted cars and newly roofed and sided houses, ours included. For us it was good timing as our roof was 20 years into its 20 years. Thanks USAA!



## Megan's Year via Facebook: You know, she's a teen...

School tomorrow? Yes or no? · **SCHOOL IS CANCELED TOMORROW FEBRUARY 5th!** CHECK fcps.edu · \*happy dance\* · Stupid applications send me notifications even if I didn't sign up for them... **EVIL I TELL YOU!** · really, really, really, hopes she gets into the musical (and be the first non-theater and non-chorus person **EVER**)... Never going to happen. · **IS A WICKERSHAMBROTHER IN THE SEUSSICAL!** · is dancing really badly for no apparent reason! · feels very nerdy... · is playing with her kiddy matching oreo set! **TEE HEE! I MADE A MATCH!** · is waiting for the mail to come... · The **SEUSSICAL** Performances are on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of May at Longfellow at 7 PM. Admission is \$5 at the door. **PLEASE COME!** · is going to **MAKER FAIRE!** Three cheers for science! · Im so glad swim season is back \*shakes off water\* · is Dauntless... · owns a ton of awesome hats... now when am I going to wear them? · "That was fail-tacular. I was so epic, it was almost a win" ~ Elizabeth · wants to be a fighter pilot or an aerospace engineer when she grows up! **THANKS FOR GIVING ME THE "RIGHT STUFF" AVIATION CHALLENGE!** · Come see "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" performed by the Shouse Village Players **THIS FRIDAY AT 7 at COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!** · Two days!.. · I WENT AND SAW "AVENUE Q"... IT NO LONGER "SUCKS TO BE ME"... (P.S. My life never sucked) · Thank you mortals for wishing me a happy birthday and I hope that your birthday is as **TOALLY FANTASTICAL** as mine... yeah. · I wish summer lasted just a little longer... · Finish the sentence: I've died and gone to... · Finish the sentence: "**HOLY CRUD! ITS A STAMPEDING PACK OF...**" · Today was weird and amazing. In 7th period my Tech teacher gave me a plate of cookies with my name on it and said "Somebody came in and said these were for you." I had received a plate of delicious cookies... from an anonymous sender. **THANK YOU WHOEVER GAVE THEM TO ME!** They were delicious. · 5K, painting, and laser tag. \*phew\* I had a full day!

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**Family Pictures at**

<http://flickr.com/gp/ganley/pRP1n4>



Ganley girls in Mexico

## Helen's Holiday Ode

This year I experienced some very fun things,

such as fencing, and piano and of course swimming!

I experienced 4th grade for the first time ever,

I'm learning about Colonials, they write with a feather!

I've gotten my braces off and have a great new smile,

And I ran the 5K, that's over 3 whole miles!

I went to camp Winona for the first time in my life,

I couldn't believe my eyes, it was a beautiful sight!

I went to Mexico where it's always so hot,

I went to see the exotic food they had

in the cooking pot!

I learned so much Spanish that it should be illegal,

I'll say to you, "que son grandes personas y mis mejores amigos"!

I've gotten glasses and I've played lots with friends,

But you do have to know, the fun never ends!

I've read o so many books that fascinated me,

I cannot name them all, there are so many you see!

I hope you have a great and fun filled new year,

I hope it's filled with joy and happiness and and lots of joyful cheer!

## Mary Kate's Column

2011 is about to start  
bringing 2010 to an end

this year I went to Mexico  
Ally chased a mouse  
she heard the vacuum and ran right thru the house

Soccer, basketball, swimming, skating  
sports of many kinds

camping was a lot of fun  
the beach shined in the sun

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!