



MGA BATA PA, LAYAS NA

by Teresa Damocles

THIS WAS A YEAR FULL OF TRAVEL FOR OUR FAMILY. No, we didn't take any exotic vacations to some far off tropical paradise island, nor did we go anywhere that required passports. We stayed pretty local here in the great USA, visiting just about all the Laicos who currently reside in Northern California earlier this spring, while Carlo was assigned to a project in Oakland. We also had the chance to fly off to Vail, Colorado on September 8 for a week of relaxing in the mountains. Unfortunately, we happened to be there during the week of the 9-11 "attack." We were due to fly back on Sept. 14, but with all the flight cancellations and delays, we decided to drive back home to Illinois with the rental car that we had. Nevertheless, Colorado is beautiful in the summer. The kids had a great time biking and going up in the gondola at Lion's Head Mountain. It even snowed the day we arrived. We were grateful to be home safe and sound in the end.

In December, we are off to Orlando, Florida. Now for some of you who travel the globe on an annual basis, this may not seem like much travel, but we middle class Midwesterners with kids consider this a jet-setting life!

I've been a stay-at-home mom for about a year now. With Carlo traveling during the week, taking care of the kids and tending to their activities have kept me busier than when I was working full time. Corey is still active in Shotokan Karate – he earned his orange and yellow belts this year. In addition, he joined Cub Scouts this fall and still takes piano lessons from Grandma. Charlotte is in kindergarten now and has joined Girl Scouts as a Daisy. She's still taking piano lessons, as well as ballet and tap dancing. She performed in her first dance recital last May, in front of about 500 people. Samantha is now a very active 2 year old who loves to do everything that Charlotte does. Her favorite activity is drawing, and not just on paper. She also likes to cut with scissors. She's already showing promise as a hairdresser. She can cut her own hair all by herself, much to the dismay of her parents.

This year has been full of blessings for us. It was quite an adjustment for us when I decided to leave my job last year, but it has been worth it to be there for the kids, and see their smiles as they walk into the house when they come home from school.

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Name: Charlotte Cristina Nemia Damocles
Parents: "Teresa and Carlo"
Nickname: Char
Date of Birth: November 8, 1995
Grade in School: Kindergarten at Builta Elementary
Favorite subject: Music
Least favorite subject: Gym, because I have to run around the WHOLE gym for a long time!
Favorite food: Macaroni and Cheese
Not-so-Favorite food: Apple Pie
Favorite color: Purple
When I come home after school, I like to: Eat a snack and play with my best friend, Morgan.
Extracurricular Activities: Girl scouts, and Tap Dance
Best vacation this year: Colorado
When I grow up: I want to be a doctor.

Name: Corey James Damocles
Nickname: Kids at school call me "Buzz" because of my haircut
Date of Birth: October 2, 1992
Grade in School: 3rd grade
Favorite subject: Gym
Least favorite subject: Spelling
Favorite food: Pizza
Not-so-Favorite food: Chinese cabbage
Favorite color: Red
When I come home after school, I like to: Play at my friend's house
Extracurricular Activities: Cub scouts, Karate
Best vacation this year: Colorado
When I grow up: I want to be a doctor

Name: Samantha Arnold Michelle Damocles
Nickname: Sam
Date of Birth: October 5, 1999
Favorite food: Chicken Nuggets
Not-so-Favorite food: Cheese
Favorite color: Purple ("poople")
Favorite Toy: Hush Lil Baby doll
Favorite Activities: Coloring with crayons, paint, and markers, (and not just on paper!) Doing whatever her older sister is doing.
My favorite sibling: Charlotte
Favorite saying: "Where's Charlotte?"

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