

2005 – Another year, and a heck of a lot more pictures...



What a fabulous year! We did so much, it's hard to fit it all into just a few paragraphs. Lucky for us, a picture says a 1000 words – so here goes!



January – it's cold. Caty and Colin loved going out in the cold, wet white stuff (Mike too)! Red cheeks and runny noses never stopped any of them...

February – still cold. At the peak of the Chicago winter Mike and I did what any sane people would do...drag ourselves off to a warmer climate...



We thought the Mirage Volcano in Vegas did the trick nicely.  
- Amazingly, it can really put out the heat!

March - we quietly thawed out. In April however, Caitlin went through her first official “Tween” rite of passage...



Yep, the dreaded ear piercing ritual. We made through with a few tears and a few bribes, and in the end there was much happiness (that it was over!!!!)

May – time to get outside!  
Memorial day weekend we  
ventured out for a day hike at  
Starved Rock Park...



(And we love  
the park so  
much, we  
went again in  
October with  
my parents...)



June – summer was hot, hot, hot! Mike, Justin, Nate and I went to the horse races and won a zillion dollars. Ok, we placed \$2 bets and ended up with \$5 between us...not bad for amateurs though...



July – hotter still. We kept cool hanging out with friends at the Harry Potter book VI convention at the local mall...



And...



...playing  
with big...



...and small  
water toys...





...and just plain



Hanging around!

August and September went by quickly with the start of school and the anticipation and decorating for Halloween, however we made time in October to go to our favorite Pumpkin patch for rides-n-fun!



November – leaves. Lots and lots of leaves. Gold leaves, red leaves, orange and green....

We raked...

And raked...



And threw 'em...



And of course, jumped in!

And in late November –  
Caty, Mike and I even  
got to see Irish  
Leaves!!!



Dublin, the castles, the seaside,  
and the surrounding valleys, lakes,  
and hills were truly stunning. An  
incredible experience!

December – back to the snow, school Christmas concerts, and the hustle and bustle of holiday parties and travel. Colin's taking to dressing himself to help out (note tie and tie placement!), and Caitlin's taken up French horn (that was supposed to help!?) but we love it - and while we're always busy, life just couldn't be sweeter or more fun!





Merry Christmas to all – and a Very Happy New Year!