

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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APRIL 2008

ALL ARIZONA, ALL THE TIME

It seems like the whole month was about Arizona 24/7. Let me explain.

I was working on my Arizona report the whole month because it was a huge report. It was supposed to take us two and a half months to finish, but for us it only took a month of really hard work. You know why? Because I kind of ditched it in the first month and a half, and I didn't get very far in February and March. For the report I needed to have 22 items: a cover, title page, table of contents, six reports and six pictures overall (three each for animals and tourist attractions), five drawings of state symbols (flag, bird, tree, seal, and flower, map showing counties and county seats, and a page of sources.



The Grand Canyon as photographed by Jeffrey

I went to the Grand Canyon on April 25 for the fourth grade field trip. We met at the school parking lot and the buses left at 6:30 in the morning. We went to Sedona first, where we had a little breakfast break in case you were still hungry. Then we went on to the IMAX movie near the canyon where we ate lunch. After that we went to the Grand Canyon. We walked a few places to different views over the canyon and went to the Desert View Watchtower. Next we went to the Cameron Trading Post, where I bought a scorpion magnet that says Arizona and a light up nametag. We had a pizza dinner and a little play time in Flagstaff, and then we headed home. We got back to the school at 9:30 that night.

After the trip I got back to work finishing my report. It was actually finished on May 1 at about 10:30, but it was mostly done in April. It ended up being 33 pages long. I liked doing the drawings most. As far as the reports go, my favorite animal was either the roadrunner or the coyote, and my favorite tourist attraction was the Grand Canyon. It might have been hard work but I think the finished report is pretty cool to have and keep.

snake

After Angie signed in for her massage, another customer returned asking for help because there was a big rattlesnake right outside her car door. When they looked out, Angie saw that the other woman's car was parked right next to our SUV. Angie must have walked right past the snake on her way inside.

train up a child

Marnie has a new habit of asking Ken and Angie if they'd like a Diet Coke, then asking for a drink once she brings it to them. One night, Ken told her, "I'm not sure a five-year-old needs a Diet Coke at 9:00 at night."

Marnie replied, "Well, a five-year-old like me does!"

loyalty

Ken made a passing comment one day about how "we" like basket ball. Marnie responded very carefully, as if she was concerned about hurting his feelings:

"I'm not really a fan. I only watch the Jazz for you, Dad."

MARNIE'S CLASS

By Marnie

Marnie will finish Kindergarten in May, but next month's newsletter will be full of trip stuff. Here's her class picture along with comments about her class:

BACK ROW / STANDING:

David: He freaks out a lot. Like "I don't wanna have a yellow [behavior] card!"

Haley: She's my favorite and she plays with me a lot. She will go to North Ranch with me. I hope she is in my class.

Drake: He likes to chase the girls. Does he ever catch me? Um...yes! I don't think he's cute but he is funny.

Jordan: She cries a lot. Sometimes she gets a yellow card. That's not as bad as orange or red.

Keanu: He freaked out a lot too. He swears, like [makes beeping sound]. I not saying that word!

Alexis: Every time she doesn't win she cries. I like her though, and sometimes we play pop-up witch together.

MIDDLE ROW / SITTING:

Julian: He's funny. He's nice.

Brigid: She likes to be purple princess when she wears purple. She's one of my best friends.

Tayson: He's cute. He's nice.

Allison: She's nice, but she's obsessed with being pretty. She is really pretty.

Miss Pat: She's the teacher. She taught me about letters and lots of songs. I really like her and I'm glad she was my Kindergarten teacher.

FRONT ROW / KNEELING

Alessia: She's very, very nice. She wears pink a lot.

Paisley: She likes pretending to be Snow White. She has the same skin.

TJ: He gets a yellow card a lot. He yells a lot too.

Marnie: That's me!

Cameron: He cries sometimes. I wouldn't recommend doing that.

Parker: Once Keanu was like throwing Parker around. He got scratched on the nose. I like Parker.



TRAILER BASH

By Chad

APRIL 4-5

I had my birthday party the week after my birthday, planning the ultimate sleepover in the tent trailer. My guests were Dylan Bender, Colton Williams, Christian Wilson, and Zak Ismail, but Zak couldn't spend the night.

We started out the night with a little ping pong. We switched teams during the tournament, but I never lost a game. Next was our Panda Express feast which included chow mein, beef broccoli, and mandarin chicken.

Thanks to my friends for the awesome gifts: gift cards for iTunes, Game Stop, and two for Best Buy. Time to go music and game shopping!

We played SingStar for a while after dinner. We sang the Gorillaz "Feel Good Inc." so much that I could seriously see the music video in my head while I was sleeping. We also sang "Kryptonite" a lot.

Out in the trailer we played a ton of games. In Jenga Truth or Dare, we found out that it was not made for boys-only parties. Soon after the start I pulled a dare that said "sit on the lap of the person to your right." Since that meant sitting on Dylan's lap, we decided to throw those dares to the side. Another one was "kiss the person to your left." I don't think so.

We also played poker, but not for money. I was doing really well and had most of the chips. One hand I got a really good hand and ended up with a straight. I put all of my chips in on the last round of betting, and Colton thought I was bluffing and he matched me without even realizing he had a full house. I lost.

We finally crashed for the night around 1:00 and woke up to a pancake and bacon breakfast the next morning.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This was my first painting of this size (2'x3'). It took a lot longer to finish, but it was fun to do. I like the colors, and it matches our bedspread so well that we hung it over the bed.



I like the contrast of the red Indian paintbrush flowers in the foreground, the Norfolk pine piercing the sky to the right, and the white wildflowers dotting the steep slopes. This is a favorite.

...AND KEYBOARD

After debuting with two posts in March, Angie was quite a prolific blogger in April, writing and publishing nine posts:

- *Mormon Persecution Complex*
- *Drop It! Who's Worthy to Take the Sacrament?*
- *A Non-Member Kirtland Experience*
- *The End of Polygamy (Again)?*
- *Why Hollywood Should Convert to Mormonism*
- *The Sun Never Sets on the Mormon Empire: Cultural Colonialism*
- *God's Hit List in the Book of Mormon*
- *Men: The Weaker Sex?*
- *A Method to Our Mormonism*

Check her out at www.mormonmatters.org

RANDOM NOTES

- The night of Chad's birthday party, Jeff went to a block party with his friend Isaac.
- We hosted another General Conference After Party when Sara Reinstien became ill, requiring a change of venue to our place.
- The kids got a kick out of a YouTube video with a fake doll called Tickle Me Emo. It says things like "If life is so fair, why do roses have thorns?" and "You're not the only one who has issues."
- Angie was in Boston for 3 days at a client conference.
- While eating Doritos, Marnie exclaimed "This tastes like love!" We have no idea what that means, except that she liked the chips.
- Angie's brother Dave came to town for a week in April. He and his co-worker (also Dave) came by one Sunday for dinner, and Angie met them for lunch at Oregano's in Tempe during the work week.
- With out old DirecTV/TIVO receiver dying a slow, painful death, we finally upgraded to high definition programming. Just in time for the Jazz' playoff run.
- Ken and Angie joined in work-organized service projects in April. Angie helped paint a group home for disable adults, while Ken helped the Desert Botanical Garden prepare for a fundraiser.
- Chad came down with a cold the last Sunday in April, which ended up costing him an entire week of school, rolling into May. Not ideal, since he was scheduled to miss the last week of school for a vacation. Jeff was also sick for two days that week.
- Marnie's favorite joke: Why did Cinderella get kicked off the soccer team? Because she kept running away from the ball!
- Ken finally had a temporary filling put on to cover up a 20-year-old filling. The temporary is a real nuisance, and he's hoping the permanent one bothers him much less.

MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

Leatherheads

Ken and Angie saw this at a free preview thanks to the Reinstiens, watching George Clooney, Renee Zellweger and John Krasinsky in a comedy around the early days of pro football.

Ken ★★½

Angie ★★½



BOOKS

Perfect Match by Jodi Picoult

Angie ★★½

A fun read, but not as good as *Nineteen Minutes*. Sort of like an episode of *Law & Order* in book form.

MUSIC

Veronica Mars Soundtrack

Angie ★★½

Chad calls this chick music. Some of it is better than others.

Atreyu: Lead Sails, Paper Anchor

Chad ★★★½

One of the founders of the new wave of metal core. Favorites are "Falling Down" and "Becoming the Bull."

MORE GRAND CANYON

Photo by Jeff

