Hello everyone,

Merry Christmas!  Happy New Year!  Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. day!

Since 2008 is an election year, we’ve decided to hold a poll of our own to determine the Best of Everything for 2007. Here are the results:

- **Best new trick:**
  - crawling (Portia)
  - reading and writing (Eve)

- **Best Fashion Accessory**
  - Bunny ears (Eve)
  - cowboy boots (Kelly)
  - Cranial molding helmet (Portia)
  - Stethoscope (Ben)

- **Best Restaurant**
  - "Sandwich restaurant" a/k/a Potbelly’s (Eve)
  - Ann Arbor’s famous Zingerman’s deli (Kelly and Ben)
  - Anyplace with bread (Portia)

- **Best TV show**
  - *30 Rock* (Ben)
  - *The Office* (Kelly)
  - *Dora The Explorer* (Eve)
  - None of the above (Portia)

- **Best trip**
  - Lake Michigan (Ben)
  - Baltimore (Kelly)
  - Chicago (Eve)
  - Utah (Portia)

- **Best DVD release**
  - *Planet Earth* (Kelly)
  - *Seinfeld* Season #9 (Ben)
  - *Bryner Family Home Movies 2007*, starring Eve and Portia (Eve and Portia)

- **Best new blog**
  - Ben’s blog at Medscape:

- **Best not-so-new blog**
  - Ben’s blog for the University of Michigan:
    - [http://www2.med.umich.edu/medschool/reality/blog.cfm?id=4](http://www2.med.umich.edu/medschool/reality/blog.cfm?id=4)

- **Best book read in 2007**
  - *Current Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment* (Ben)
  - *The Happiest Baby on the Block: The New Way to Calm Crying and Help Your Newborn Baby Sleep Longer* (Kelly)
  - *The Cat in the Hat* (Eve)
  - *Goodnight Moon* (Portia)
• Best musical instrument
  o Keyboard (Eve)
  o Maracas (Portia)
• Best 80's Diet Food
  o Rice Cakes (Portia)
  o SlimFast (Kelly--the baby weight doesn't just come off by itself people)
• Best album
  o Radiohead, *In Rainbows* (Ben)
  o Abba, *Gold* (Everyone else)
• Best rotations in Ben’s 4th year of medical school
  o Vascular Surgery
  o Pediatric Genetics
• Best Mirrored Surface
  o Giant bean in Chicago
  o Mirror tunnel in the Grand Rapids Children's Museum
• Best accomplishments of 2007 -- Ben:
  o taking Step 2 of the US Medical Licensing Exam (his last test in medical school)
  o finishing the third year of medical school and getting through a semester of a master's degree in clinical research
  o developing a repertoire of five perfect gardenburgers
• Best accomplishments of 2007 -- Kelly:
  o delivering Portia
  o Teaching 6 days a week while caring for 2 children
  o writing a $30,000 grant that received funding (for an organization, unfortunately not for personal use)
• Best accomplishments of 2007 -- Eve:
  o mastery of the Shift key, enter, and backspace on the computer
  o dancing
  o completing her first year of preschool
• Best accomplishments of 2007 -- Portia:
  o being born
  o eating solids
  o graduating from Physical Therapy
  o crawling
• Best time zone
  o Eastern
• Best Eve quotes
  o “Dad, you only speak Russian and English. Don’t worry, Dad, I will teach you Spanish.”
  o “He’ll say ‘Are you married?‘ We’ll say ‘Snowman! But you can do the job when you’re in town.’”
  o (and too many others to include here…)

As you can see, 2007 was a busy year. On March 15 we welcomed Portia into our family. She was born with torticollis and had to undergo 8 months of physical therapy, but is now a normally developing 10-month-old. Eve has really thrived as a big sister and enjoys teaching Portia new things every day. We’re very happy to have two beautiful, smart and healthy daughters!

We’re looking forward to an eventful 2008, and we hope you have a great election year too!

Love,

The Bryner Family
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