It walks! It talks! It climbs the stairs!

Faithful readers of the Kara-Sean Times and Moira Monitor will remember that last year’s front-page news was the birth of Moira Ann Gavin on December 16, just before the print deadline for both publications. Well, if you’ve been following our Facebook status updates, you know that many more breaking-news updates have occurred since then.

At just over one year of age, Moira has been walking for nearly a month and a half, and saying several words (including her favorites “duck” and “bear”) for nearly two months. She also knows how to feed herself using her hands, dances like a disco queen whenever she hears a good beat, shows off her four teeth every time she grins from ear to ear, climbs the stairs on all fours, waves bye-bye (usually a minute after the other person has already walked away…) and performs many other tricks worthy of Barnum & Bailey’s Circus. By next year’s edition, who knows – she may be completing her dissertation!
ABOVE: Despite an incredible difference from early 2009 (left and left center) to today (right center and right), it’s still pretty easy to spot Moira’s essential personality traits: curiosity, happiness, and unbounded energy.

LEFT AND RIGHT: Moira thinks the University of Michigan logo is just her monogram! She also thinks leaves should be left on the lawn all autumn long…

BELOW: Soon after starting solid foods, Moira mistook oatmeal for hair gel, entering her short-lived punk phase. By December, she was ordering chocolate cake! (and a bath to wash off the evidence…)

ABOVE: No holiday newsletter is complete without a photo of a darling child enjoying her visit with Santa Claus… oh, never mind.

RIGHT: Sean, Kara and Moira wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Peaceful Solstice and a fantastic New Year!

Was there any other (non-baby-related) Gavin news in 2009?

Um, sure.

For instance:

Sean traveled to Brazil to give a talk just outside Rio, and just in time for the announcement that Rio will host the 2016 Olympics. He also guided yet another student to near-completion of a physics Ph.D. at Wayne State U.

Kara attempted to sing in German, as part of the choir for her orchestra’s rendition of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. She also tried her best to be a decent first-time manager and supervisor, and made lots of jam!