



# Gill Gazette

Christmas 2012 – Issue 2 – News From Missouri



## And Dominic Makes Three!

### ...Or Is That Five If You Count Mom & Dad

On Saturday, 9 June we were pleased to have Dominic Sebastian Gill officially join our family. Although he was born a week past his due date, his arrival was swift. Rob-



ert went grocery shopping to stock up while Davina chatted with her dad on the phone in the afternoon. After Robert came home with the groceries Davina started to feel a little something and decided to lie on the couch. As she rested she felt something unusual -- her water had broken. Robert had planned a

quick trip to Lowe's, but hadn't left yet - thank goodness! Davina said it was time to go to the hospital. The neighbors were called to come over and take care of Corinne and Faelynn. Robert and Davina, thinking there was plenty of time until the actual birth based on two previous experiences, started to straighten up the house and put things away. Davina sensed things were moving along quickly and changed clothes and told Robert she would be waiting in the car as she headed to the car. Robert joined her and they had a swift ride to the hospital.

They arrived around 4:45PM at the hospital. Davina was placed in an evaluation room. As she lie there she started feeling stronger contractions. A few glances at the clock showed they were 7 minutes, then 5 minutes, then 4 minutes apart, then that's the last time Davina cared about the clock. The nurse saw things were moving fast and that Davina and Robert needed to get to a labor and delivery room. Davina was given the option of waiting for a wheelchair or walking across the hallway immediately. Davina opted to make a run for it between contractions - what a

sight that must have been! Once settled in the bed Davina's contractions were coming fast and she was soon ready to push. She pushed and pushed and then at 7:13PM Dominic Sebastian was born. He was big (9 lbs 4 oz) and beautiful - everything in the right places. Davina commented that it was still daylight outside and that she had only

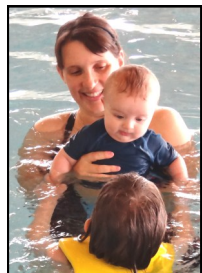


missed one meal and no nights of sleep (yet!).

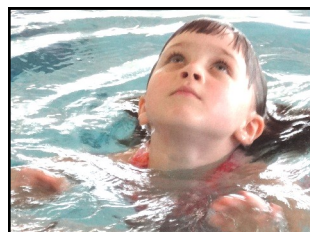
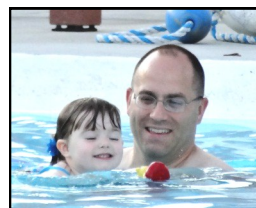
Dominic is a blessed addition to the Gill Family. Corinne and Faelynn were very excited about the baby coming and him being born. They haven't slowed down on their love yet.

## Swim Lessons

We couldn't review the year without a brief note on swim lessons. Corinne made quite a leap this year from being afraid to put her head under water and clutching the side of the wall or her teacher to bobbing her head freely and swimming out in front of her teachers. Faelynn enjoyed her time with Mom or Dad in water babies. When she turns 3 she will move up



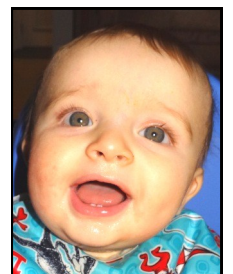
to the next level without Mom or Dad. Dominic took his first official dip in Novem-



ber and loved the water. He looks forward to water babies in the near future.

## Dominic's 6 Month Update...64th Percentile

Dominic is 6 months old. He weighs-in at around 18 lbs. The two bottom teeth have come through and more are on their way. Dominic sits up more or less unassisted and enjoys applesauce and cereal. He is trying hard to crawl so he can chase after those sisters of his.



## Another Year Ends and A New One Begins

Editorial by Davina Gill

As Robert, Corinne, and Faelynn make Christmas cookies, I am sitting here typing with Dominic snoozing in the front pack. Can it be that Christmas is here once again? Each year is more fun as the girls get older. They understand more the real meaning of Christmas and enjoy the traditions and celebrations of the season. This will be our last Christmas at Whiteman AFB. It's fun to think that our next Christmas could be in another part of the country or the world. Robert has enough years in the Air Force to officially retire at any time. He will accept at least one more assignment and then we will have to start thinking about where to spend all of our future Christmases. We hope and pray this Christmas is a peace-filled, hope-filled, joy-filled time and that your future Christmases are too.

### Frosting After Midnight

Frosting after Midnight  
We work all day and bake at night.

Where did the time go,  
It wasn't fast, it wasn't slow.

There were three meals to prepare and serve  
all day,  
And lots of dishes to clean, as always.

The laundry called from the other room,  
"Wash me, dry me, press me", it boomed.

Now it's time to change the baby,  
This has to be done at once - not yes, no, or  
maybe.

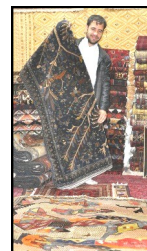
So once again the children sleep  
And Robert and I bake into the night deep.


Christmas-time does seem quite right  
To frost some cookies after midnight.

## Robert Deploys To Afghanistan

Robert left in mid-January for 120 days in Afghanistan. He was stationed at Kandahar Air Base in southeast Afghanistan. His job there was similar to what he does at Whiteman. He was the Mission Support Group Deputy Commander. As such, he was responsible for assisting his boss in the running of the base operations – heat, hot water, computer services, internet, security forces (inside and outside the wire), and other essentials to keep the base and its personnel going. We were so fortunate that Robert was able to get internet in his room

that he shared with the Wing Chaplain, so we could Skype almost daily. The computer at home was set-up to automatically answer when he called. So we girls would be eating in the other room and hear a voice saying "Hello". It was like he was sitting at the desk calling us.





### Editorial Staff

**Editor in Chief**  
Robert Gill

**Managing Editor**  
Davina Gill

**Content Providers**  
Corinne Gill  
Faelynn Gill  
Dominic Gill

**Writers**  
Davina Gill

**Photojournalists**  
Davina Gill  
Corinne Gill  
Robert Gill

**Layout and Design**  
Robert Gill

For more information, call the Gill Gazette office at 330-598-0280, Skype name: twogills, e-mail: twogills@twogills.com, or write us at:  
718 Post Drive  
Whiteman AFB, MO 65305  
For electronic copies, view us at www.twogills.com.

### Notes From Afghanistan

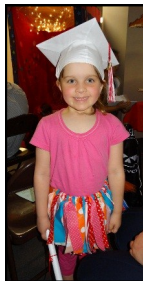


Though I was only there for a short period, I got to see how big the task is to build a stable & fair government so the Citizens can work towards changing their past. However, while the corruption & internal conflicts of the land make it hard, all you have to do is talk with the people of the country & hear the reports of the crimes committed against them & you start to realize why we must try to help the innocent that make up the majority. Nevertheless, there are days when it is hard to believe it can be done when you line-up to say your final farewell to those who served & gave all they could.



**Pre-School Fun**

Corinne enjoyed the last half of her second year of pre-school. In March her class had a Miss Bee Polite tea. We guests were served a wonderful assortment of finger foods, some of which were made by the students, and then treated to some entertainment. The students had to introduce their guests to the whole group and practice their polite words. It was a delightful afternoon. In April, Corinne and Davina rode the Amtrak train with the class from Warrensburg (10 miles west of base) to Sedalia (15 miles east of base). It was a great experience for the children and the weather was perfect for punch and cookies at the end of the trip. In May, pre-school wrapped up with graduation. The students performed several songs before receiving their diplomas. Kindergarten here we come!!

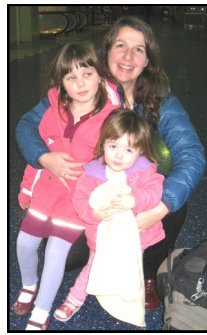


**Corinne Deploys... (For A Day And With Her Mother)**

In April, Corinne was able to experience a little of what her Dad went through getting ready for a deployment. There were briefings on operations and weather, signing of her power-of-attorney, getting “shots,” checking in her bag, boarding the aircraft, “flying,” and then returning home to a welcoming crowd. Corinne had fun seeing what it’s like to be in the military and looks forward to deploying with her mom or dad again in 2013.



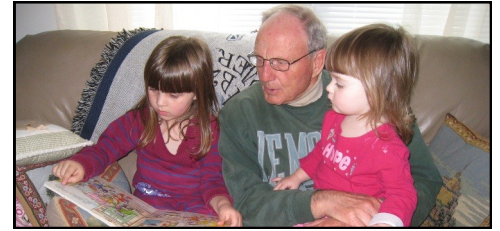
**Visitors From The East Welcomed**



While Robert was away, Davina and the girls were fortunate to have visitors in February, March, April, & May. In Feb Davina’s sister Jeanne visited from New York. With the mild weather we enjoyed trips to the playground & around base. In March Davina’s Aunt Carol visited from Ohio. She had so much fun she even stayed a few extra days. She followed us to dance classes and took Corinne to pre-school. Again with the mild weather we went to the playground and enjoyed time outside. In April we welcomed Davina’s parents from Pennsylvania. They were here to enjoy Easter and the Easter festivities of egg hunts



wasn’t much flying, but we enjoyed the static displays. All of these visitors were fun to have and made the time move quicker until Robert’s return at the end of May.



and hidden baskets. And in May we were happy to have Davina’s sister Gloria visit from PA. Gloria was lucky enough to come with us to the base air show. It was a hot, windy day so there



wasn’t much flying, but we enjoyed the static displays. All of these visitors were fun to have and made the time move quicker until Robert’s return at the end of May.



**Halloween Fun**

For Halloween this year the girls decided to dress up as pirates. They enjoyed a good “Arrrgh!” and had fun trick-or-treating in the neighborhood. Dominic and Davina took care of handing out candy and seeing all of the interesting costumes.



The kids pose for their Christmas photos.

**More Visitors From The East**

In June, Davina’s parents made another trip to Missouri to meet their new grandson. They were a great help to play with and read to Corinne and Faelynn. In July, Robert’s sister Amie and her husband made the trip from Virginia with their three sons. It was a fun-filled, action-packed long weekend. We swam, we visited a B-2 airplane, we went to a cave & the Lake of the Ozarks, we played games, we celebrated Josh’s 13th birthday, we visited Powell Gardens on the hottest day of the year, and swam some more.



# Christmas In Missouri

This year we spent Christmas in Missouri. Corinne and Faelynn were in the Christmas pageant at church on Christmas Eve while



Davina played piano for the choir. Robert and Dominic were supposed to take it all in from the pews, but Dominic decided he wanted to be fussy (that's an understatement) and took Daddy to the cry room. We opened presents Christmas morning and enjoyed our Christmas meal with the airmen and families at the dining facility on base. The day after Christmas we headed south to Branson, Missouri for a few days of relaxation in a

cozy cabin. There was even a little snow to enjoy. We went to an 1800s themed amusement park called Silver Dollar City while we were there. We took in two Christmas shows, the Christmas lights, and the shops (of course!). Our New Year's celebration will be back at Whiteman. Corinne will easily stay up until midnight. Faelynn will do her best. What will 2013 bring? Who knows, but we look forward to every minute of it!

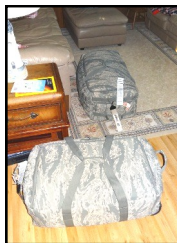


## Robert Returns From Afghanistan

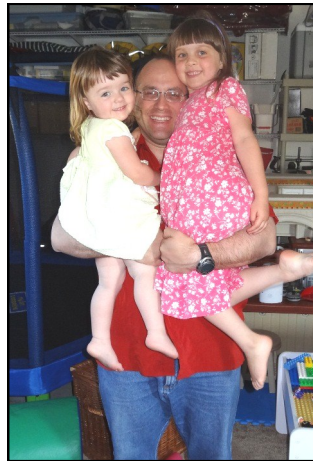


During Robert's whole time away there was the hope and prayer that baby would not make an early arrival and Robert would not make a late departure. Thankfully, baby complied. Robert returned home on 23 May. Corinne went with

our friend Buster McCall and his daughter Jacque to pick him up at the Kansas City airport. Davina was thinking about going until



she was advised by her health care provider that a 38 weeks pregnant woman should think twice about a 90 minute trip to the airport by herself with two small children. Anyway, it worked out great that Corinne could at least go with our friends. When Robert came home we gave him big, big hugs and felt a wave of relief wash over us since he was safe and the baby had waited for him too!



## Kindergarten Kicks-Off

In mid-August we started homeschooling Corinne for her Kindergarten year. So far it is going quite well. Corinne is an eager learner in all of the subjects and Faelynn is always close by listening and learning. It's cute when Faelynn tells me how many syllables a word has. Corinne especially enjoys any messy craft projects and science experiments.



## Winter, What Winter?

We had a super mild winter which was great since Robert was gone and Davina didn't have to worry about shoveling in her deli-



cate condition. On the down side, there was no snow for the girls to enjoy. However, Corinne did not give up hope and we did have a touch of snow in February. It was a heavy, wet snow that melted in a day, but Corinne was able to enjoy it a bit. Faelynn wasn't a big fan, but I think she'll change her mind this year.



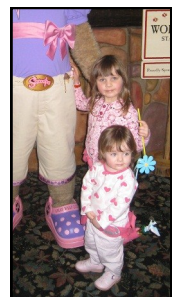
## Fun Trip To Great Wolf Lodge

Robert, Davina, Corinne, and Faelynn kicked off the year with a fun visit to Great



Wolf Lodge in Kansas City. We enjoyed three fun-filled days of swimming and exploring the lodge. There were bedtime stories in front of the big fireplace in the lobby and good nights of sleep for the girls in their bunk beds.

Since we were close to Corinne's birthday, we had a nice celebration complete with cake and ice cream. It was so great we are already talking about a return visit.



## Focus On Faelynn



Faelynn is 2½ years old and quickly rounding the bend to 3. She is one fun girl. She enjoys building with Legos and Duplos, jumping on the trampoline, walking on the balance beam, and doing and saying anything Corinne is. She is sharp and has a memory like an elephant.

When it's time for school, she is right with Corinne and Davina ready to learn when she is interested and play when it gets boring. She always shows up for music and crafts. This year she started dance class learning the basics of tap and ballet. She will be in the dance recital in June. She also loves



Dora the Explorer and the color pink. She looks forward to the day when she will live in her own pink house

and her parents will come for a visit. Finally, she is somewhat of a selective eater. For Thanksgiving this year when we asked what everyone was thankful for, she responded that she was thankful for bread. What a simple pleasure. We look forward to the growth the next year will bring for our sweet Faelynn.



## Fun at the State Fair

In August we spent a fun-filled day at the Missouri State Fair. As always, we visited



all of the farm animals and enjoyed fair food. (Can anyone say corn dog??) We also

took in some musical entertainment and the girls sat on the big tractors.

We finished the day with some rides and made it back to our car before the thunderstorm hit.



## Our Yard...After

Although our yard is very simple, we've made it work for us throughout the year. Robert put in a little garden up next to the house and it produced more tomatoes than Davina and Corinne could possibly eat, but we did our best. There was also yellow



## Robert Returned

squash and yummy cucumbers. The carrots tried hard to grow, but kept being plucked out of the soil too soon by two eager (and slightly impatient) little girls. We also enjoyed the visits of hummingbirds.



They weren't bothered by us much so Davina did her best to capture a few pictures of the quick-moving visitors. The swing set in the yard was also lots of fun for the girls as Faelynn became more



confident using the slide and Corinne got better and better at swinging by herself. Finally, for the hot summer months we had the pool outside again. It provided a cool place to dip on those hot days.

## Corinne Dances in a Parade

In October Corinne marched and danced with her dance school in the local university's homecoming parade. Robert's parents, Davina, and Dominic staked out great seats at the beginning of the route. Robert walked alongside the parade in case Corinne needed anything. The weather was ideal – no rain & not too warm. The group kept dancing and marching for the 1 mile parade route. Corinne had a great time and looks forward to being in a parade again.



Corinne & Robert head off to a dinner for work.



Corinne & Faelynn decorate Dad after his return.

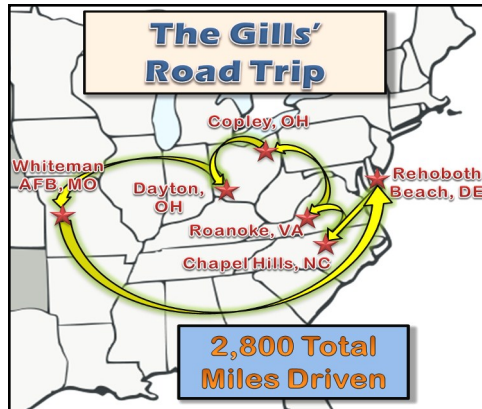
# The Gills Hit the Open Road with Dominic...For 16 Days

In Sep, we packed up the car and headed east for a 16-day meet & greet tour for Dominic. With another person in the family the car was packed tighter than usual, but we shoe-horned ourselves into our seats & hit the road. The first destination was Rehoboth Beach. We stayed at a rented beach house with Davina's family. It was great to relax and enjoy the sun & sand. Of course the visits to the ice cream shop & the amusement rides were fun too.



From Delaware we headed to Chapel Hills, North Carolina to visit Robert's cousins Candice and Natalie. We also met Candice's then-fiancé, now-husband Matt. We had a great visit to a local zoo/museum and caught up on each other's lives. It was fun and Corinne and Faelynn quickly warmed-up to their older cousins and had a great time. Robert and Corinne also had the opportunity to attend a local theater production of "Brigadoon" starring Natalie in the lead female role. What a fun visit.

Time to get back on the road and drive to



Robert's sister Amie's family in Roanoke, Virginia. We had a relaxing weekend enjoying cards, movies, and time at the playground. They liked seeing how much Dominic had grown since July. Onward now to Copley, Ohio to visit Robert's parents. We ventured to the Akron Zoo and had a nice visit with the animals. From wild animals at the zoo we went to a local county fair and visited the farm animals. We also visited our friends Dara and Dan and their children. All in all it was another fine time in Northeast Ohio – great weather too!

Our last stop before heading home was in Dayton, Ohio to visit Davina's Aunt Carol and Aunt Vivien and Robert's brother Donny's family. We only spent a short time with them, but enjoyed catching up with them and introducing Dominic to more of the family. So all told we covered over 2800 miles, slept in eight different beds, and traveled through eight states. What adventure will we have next year!



**LOTS OF MILES!**  
**LOTS OF SMILES!**



Comics



Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and you couldn't spring for a GPS?

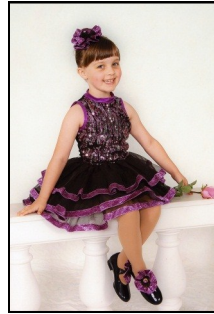


Why are Dasher and Dancer always aking coffee breaks?



Corinne Dances Under The Big Lights

With Robert home from Afghanistan our next big milestone before the baby's birth was Corinne's dance recital. She danced on 2 June, one day before the due date. Davina was sweating it a bit, but Corinne's tap number was the first one after the opening number. Her class danced



great and Davina could relax that she had enjoyed it before baby's arrival. Next year Corinne and Faelynn will be dancing in the recital. Should be fun!



Dominic's Baptism  
The Event of the Season!

On 7 October we celebrated Dominic's baptism. We were happy to have all four of his grandparents here as well as his godparents



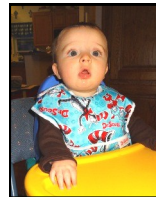
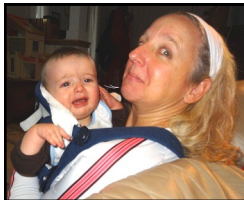
our good friends Buster and Vita McCall. Friends we met in Germany, Zeb & Emily, who are now in Illinois also made the trip from Scott Air Force Base.



During the ceremony Faelynn and Corinne were up near the altar with us. Corinne stood quietly while Faelynn kept asking when we were going to have cake. The cake came after lunch and she had a nice big piece. It was a great weekend overall.

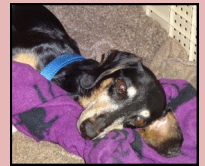
Thanksgiving At The Gills

This year Davina's sister Katherine (a.k.a. Aunt Kat) visited for the week of Thanksgiving. We had a great time. The girls were always talking to her, asking her questions, wanting to play with her, and just generally wanting to be with her. Rob whipped up a great Thanksgiving meal which we enjoyed after Faelynn's naptime, of course, and Dominic had his first solids. On Black Friday we unpacked the Christmas decorations and started putting them in place. Katherine helped Robert hang the outdoor lights – what a great help! Katherine was also a bit of a miracle worker with Dominic getting him to willingly take the bottle while Davina was at an appointment.



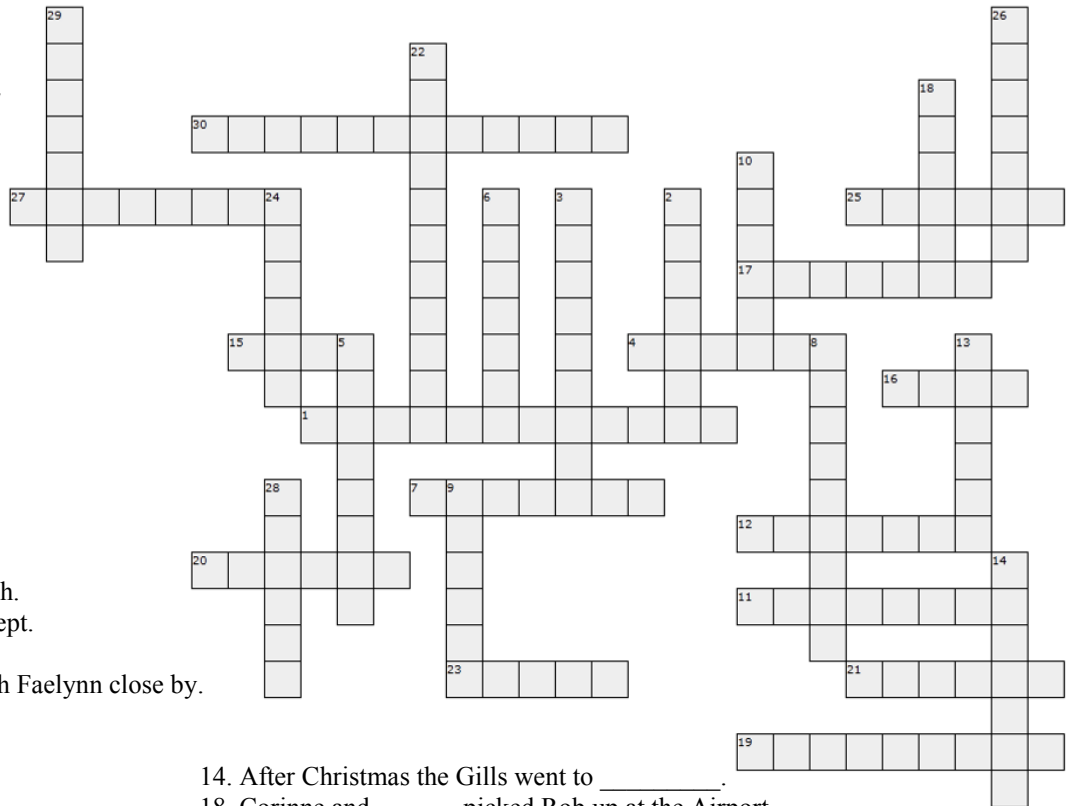
Obituary  
Alexis Passes

Pele would like to share the sad news that after 14 years her best friend Alexis passed away on 8 November. Alexis struggled with the effects of cancer her last couple months of life & just kept slowing down more & eating less. After her passing we had a little memorial service & shared stories from her life – chewing up baseboard & table legs as a puppy, catching treats (and birds) mid-air, chasing squirrels, catching mice, & loving hot weather. She was a great little dog & a friend for Pele. Pele turned 15 in Oct and is still going strong.



## Highlights of 2012

All answers are contained within the 2012 Gill Gazette.



### Across:

1. The day Dominic had his first solids.
4. Rode from Warrensburg to Sedalia.
7. A new addition to the Gill Family.
11. The air base Robert was deployed to.
12. Powell \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Number of states visited in September.
16. Great \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge.
17. What boomed out to Davina?
19. The play Natalie starred in.
20. Miss Bee \_\_\_\_\_.
21. First visitor of 2012.
23. What Rob used to connect to home with.
25. What Aunt Kat helped Dominic to accept.
27. In April Corinne did this.
30. In Aug Corinne started \_\_\_\_\_ with Faelynn close by.

### Down:

2. Who did not buy a GPS? (2 words)
3. Dominic's Middle Name.
5. The beach visited in September.
6. What was frosted after midnight?
8. Last visitor of 2012.
9. The Woods and Gills went to the Lake of the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Silver \_\_\_\_\_ City.
13. Memorial Service was held for \_\_\_\_\_.
14. After Christmas the Gills went to \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Corinne and \_\_\_\_\_ picked Rob up at the Airport.
22. The country Robert deployed to.
24. Faelynn loves to play with \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Dominic's Godparents.
28. Faelynn has started basic tap and \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Sisters' Costumes.
31. Where we will move to in 2013.



Corinne & Faelynn baking banana bread.



Faelynn cleans-up after brownies.



Corinne & Faelynn relaxing in the backyard.

- Down:**
2. Who did not buy a GPS? (2 words)
  3. Dominic's Middle Name
  5. The beach visited in September
  6. What was frosted after midnight? (cookies)
  8. Last visitor of 2012 (katherine)
  9. The Woods and Gills went to the Lake of the \_\_\_\_\_ (ozarks)
  10. Silver \_\_\_\_\_ City (dollar)
  13. Memorial Service was held for \_\_\_\_\_ (alexis)
  14. After Christmas the Gills went to \_\_\_\_\_ (branson)
  18. Corinne and \_\_\_\_\_ picked Rob up at the Airport (buster)
  24. Faelynn loves to play with \_\_\_\_\_ (dupslo)
  26. Dominic's Godparents (mccalls)
  28. Faelynn has started basic tap and \_\_\_\_\_ (ballet)
  29. Sisters' Costumes (prities)
  31. Where we will move to in 2013. (Your guess is as good as ours)

- Across:**
1. The day Dominic had his first solids. (thanksgiving)
  4. Rode from Warrensburg to Sedalia. (amtrak)
  7. A new addition to the Gill Family. (dominic)
  11. The air base Robert was deployed to. (kandahar)
  12. Powell \_\_\_\_\_ (gardens)
  15. Number of states visited in September. (four)
  16. Great \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge (wolf)
  17. What boomed out to Davina? (laundry)
  19. The play Natalie starred in. (brigadoon)
  20. Miss Bee \_\_\_\_\_ (pohie)
  21. First visitor of 2012. (jeanne)
  22. The country Robert deployed to. (afghanistan)
  23. What Rob used to connect to home with. (skype)
  25. What Aunt Kat helped Dominic to accept. (bottle)
  27. In April Corinne did this. (deployed)
  30. In Aug Corinne started \_\_\_\_\_ with Faelynn close by. (kindergarten)

