

THE SAINT TIM'S TIMES

Trip of a Lifetime

by Bitsie Harwell

“Let’s take a family vacation before the oldest grandson graduates and doesn’t have a school schedule anymore”. When I spoke those words to my son and daughter I didn’t know they would conjure up the trip of a lifetime.

Seven of us spent the week between Christmas and New Year’s on a small boat cruising, walking and snorkeling around the Galapagos Islands, It truly is another world with the birds and animals so different from those around here.

Because they have never been hunted they are very accepting of people walking and swimming around them so we felt connected somehow.

The islands are designated as a National Park of Equador even though they are over 600 miles out in the Pacific Ocean. We were with a guide, Edwin, who was fun and interesting. He let us know we could sit on the sand with the female sea lions, but not the males. He kept us from stepping on Iguanas and showed us Blue Footed Boobies (birds) up close and personal, as well as Kestrals (big sea birds) looking for mates.

The plants were unique also; from grassland pastures where Giant Tortoise live with cattle, to very rocky volcanic islands with tall cactus growing next to very colorful small moss like shrubs. Even the islands themselves went from sandy beaches at the ocean’s edge to straight faced rocky cliffs. All of them home to animals that have evolved to take advantage of the environment found in that particular location.



As fabulous as all this was, my most outstanding memory of the trip is the feeling of joy in the time spent with family as we all learned new things and enjoyed new experiences together.

Of course the college boys brought home caps that say "I LOVE BOOBIES" in honor of the birds, no doubt.





Trying a New Thing

by Meredith, 4th grade

I have just recently finished a pottery class for working on the wheel.

First you need to throw: this is when you take your ball of clay and throw it in the center of the wheel.

Once you've thrown your clay you need to center it: this is a very hard step. This is when you tightly grip your clay until it no longer looks like it's moving or is no longer wobbling.

Then you can dome and cone; this helps with centering, but isn't too necessary.

Next is pucking: this is when you make it look like a hockey puck. This is an important step. Depending on what you want to make depends on the size of your puck.

Next, you will well: this means opening up your puck to expand it to what you want to make. When you well, you then need to open up the sides to the size and shape you want.

After all that, you put it in the kiln to bake it for the first of two times. Before you glaze, you need to wipe down your piece so that the glaze sticks to your piece. Here comes the fun part, dipping it in the glazes: this makes your work colorful and shiny. The last step is the kiln that burns up to 2000 degrees and takes up to three days to cool down.

Things to know

There are two types of clay that I know of: brown and white clay. Brown clay has specks in it that hurt your hand and white clay is nice and smooth. Water is very important: too little causes your clay to break and too much makes a mess and is hard to control. Your glaze looks different in a bucket, but trust me, it will turn out the color you picked. Your arms need to be tucked in: this gives you extra strength for centering.

That is all I learned in my pottery class. I hope this was found interesting!