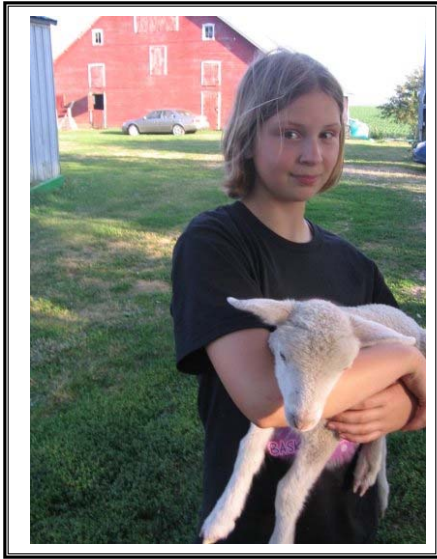


## EMMA'S ESSAY



Hello to all! This year has gone by really fast. I am in 6th grade and quite happy. I am in basketball with a team of 8 girls, and was in summer softball. I also am in the band (flute), chorus, and piano.

This year in school our TAG (Talented and Gifted) we are currently doing a play called 'Big Bad' I also got braces in May. I am in advanced math at school which is only once a week.

I still love to read a lot!! I enjoy working with our dog Mazie. I did training with her this spring. I also did

agility with that very hyper puppy. As always I like to help out with the animals on the farm.

I also have done some extra reading project with another TAG student instead of reading the book. So my life is pretty much going well this year.

Happy Holidays Emma :)

## CLAIRE'S WORLD!

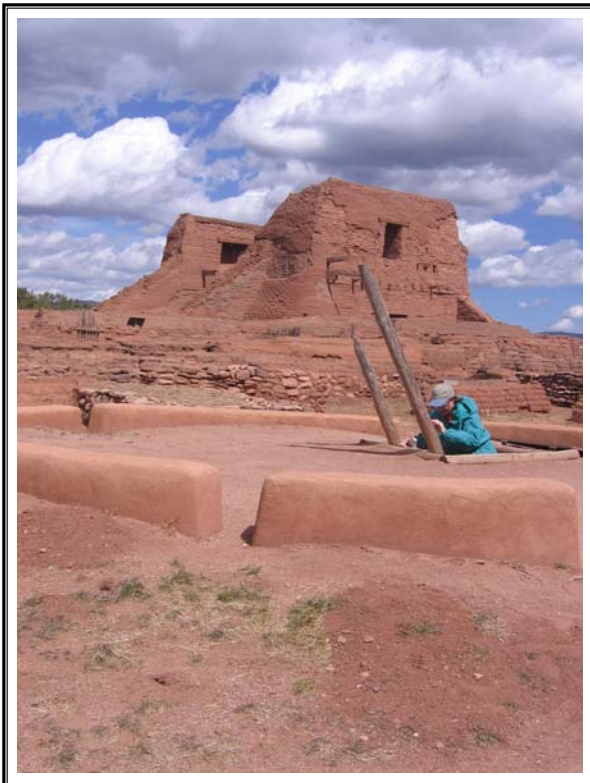


Hola! 2006 was a year of many changes for me. I finished up middle school and moved on to high school. If that wasn't big enough, I switched to a different school district for academic reasons. So far I have adjusted well, and I'm involved in many activities including marching band, pep band, envirothon (a contest about different aspects of the environment), Plumaphobia (a writer's club), book club, and drama.

I enjoy reading, writing, and piano in my spare time. I've been playing piano for 9 years now. I am also working on a novel, titled Fays of the Falls (it's up to 40 pages long!). I look forward to seeing or hearing from everyone over the holidays!

May peace be with you! ~Claire~

## LINDA & MARK



Linda added a new product to the high hopes basket this year — hand made soaps. We're finding out that soap-making is equal parts art and science, which makes it strangely compelling.

Linda continues to work at the Diversified Agriculture program at school. This year she traveled to visit a very successful incubator kitchen (a practice and production facility for food entrepreneurs) in Athens, Ohio and worked on a farm plan for the college farm.

Mark and Linda got of the farm without kids a couple of times— for the Small Farm Conference in Columbia, Missouri in November where they heard Joel Salatin (star of best-selling book "Omnivore's Dilemma") and have the annual high hopes retreat to

assess and plan for next year.

The now-annual spring break trip was to Northern New Mexico— Santa Fe and Taos areas and we saw Santa Fe's biggest snowfall of the year, toured great museums and cultural ruins, found some great hiking and great food.

Mark spent a good deal of the year up in the attic as we work on converting it to living space.

Mark's new farm enterprise was spawning logs with Shitaake mushroom spawn. We won't know if it worked for 18-24 months after putting the spawn in.

More Christmas trees and fruit trees found their way into the ground and more work on outbuildings spilled up the farm a little bit more.

