

June 2018

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Paraguay where World Cup fever has taken over despite Paraguay not qualifying! Our weather varies between 25°C and 7°C. Yesterday was beautiful and we had the ceiling fans on, today we have the heating on! Of course many people end up with colds and flu but we have been saved from them so far.



Our month started off badly when one of our teachers died suddenly. Arsenio was in school on Tuesday and he died in the early hours of the next morning. He was only 51 yrs old but had high blood pressure. His wife also teaches in school and his daughters are pupils with us. They attend the church in Villa Guarani. We were woken at 5 am with the news and then we had to let all the parents know there would be no classes that day. The wake was held in the Anglican cathedral. The next day we went to the funeral and school was back to normal. It was a great shock to the whole of the school community including the annexe school where he also taught.



We were invited by the British ambassador to celebrate the Queen's birthday. The event took place in a party venue. Mostly people who trade with Britain are invited. We were amongst the few who could sing the National Anthem.



Family Day & Interescolar



POLICE BAND

That week we were due to celebrate Fathers' day but we didn't think it appropriate so it was postponed for a week. The celebrations were also for the mums. As we have no school hall we put the two things together. The secondary brought in the police band to play and breakfast was provided. They were out on the patio. The primary did dances and songs in the cathedral. The infants are preparing a show for the first week in July, just before we break up for the winter holidays.



The primary held their inter school sports competition the following day. A few days earlier they had a press launch and the Paraguayan basketball team alongside the captain of the men's team who had been a pupil for a few years with us, came along. They invited about 14 other schools to our sportsground for football and hand ball. The day started out very cold but warmed up and they had a great day there with lots of people turning up. Mags enjoyed being the photographer.



LAKE IPACARII

It was a very busy few days as the next day we drove out to the countryside to be with friends. The wife works with us and the husband had been in rehab for 6 months and was about to leave. The centre is run by Mennonites and they held a final service for him. He'd asked if we could say a few words at the service. It was a lovely service. The centre is in the middle of countryside. The drive out was beautiful. The sun came out and we enjoyed the views. On the way back we stopped for lunch by the lake. It felt like being on holiday.



The winter holidays mean the end of our term and reports. The pupils in primary and secondary have all been on exams and now reports are due so we have been working on them too. The parents in pre school came in to see how our new maths and reading platform is working. It was good to see they were impressed with it and pleased with the work we are doing with their children.

Health



Communications

Public Works



The future president, Marito, has been choosing his ministers. So far the new minister of health, the minister for communications and the minister for public works are all ex pupils and classmates of Marito. We are waiting to see who else he'll choose to work with him. He will take over in August.



Building work continues



The work on the buildings continues. The internet is now almost completed. We have better internet. The telephones also run on the internet. They have recently put in new filters which should be useful for us. The security cameras are also up and running. The work on the piece of land is doing well. The floors have all been poured and they will now dig out underneath to level the ground. Then the bricklayers and plasterers will move in to make walls for offices etc. Hopefully, it won't take so long now! Mags was up on the roof (3 floors up) the other day taking photos.



Our papaya which we grew from seeds.



Martin, an ex-pupil, was invited to the World Cup in Russia by the World students in Sport. He has started a union of Sports teams in the university here.



We are ready for the two week holiday. We plan to go to Brazil for a few days and then to have time at home. Our animals are all fit and well. Mags takes Splash out each day and it's paying off as recent blood tests have shown. Gwen and Vikingo go occasionally!! This comes with thanks for all your prayers and support. God Bless and love from Gwen and Mags xxx

The next day was Gwen's assembly in the secondary school. This was followed on the next Sunday by our service in the chapel and Mags' assembly the next day. All this meant a lot of preparation but we managed it!

