

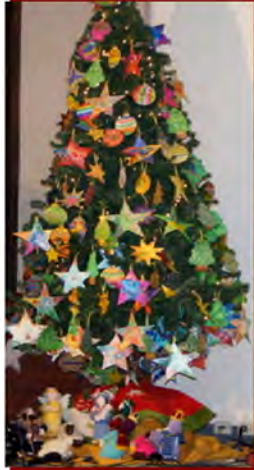


News from Paraguay



November 2014

Dear Friends



It's amazing to think we are at the end of another year! It has been a month with a lot of activity as we finish off the school year with exams and also end of year services and shows. The children all finished school at the end of the month but the teachers continue!

At the beginning of the month almost all the school, apart from the infants, were on exams. The infants finished a week before everyone else with their own special shows. The older infants did a nativity show about a star, in English, and it went down very well. Sally Bartlett spoke at that one, the hall was packed and folks listened well.



This last week we had our 9th grade finishing with their special service. This marks the end of their official primary education (to 15 yrs old). This was a service led by the pupils and Pastor Donald spoke at that one. They all went on to a party arranged by their parents and to which we were also invited. It was very nice but we didn't get home until 1am and then needed to be up for the next day. That next day saw the plower primary service in the cathedral. They did a little drama in English and sang some carols before the 6th grade received their reports to be sent off to 7th grade, a new stage in education for them next year. The oldest pupils have their service and graduation next week.



Eva's service

Eva, the head of primary is retiring at the end of the year after 34 years in school so last week we had a surprise service for her. All the primary children came as well as parents. Her husband was also invited. She was very surprised when she saw everyone in the cathedral but I think she really enjoyed it. It was a lovely service and she was showered with presents. The other week we named her successor, Jorge Vera who has been teaching with us a few days a week and was in the lower secondary. We were all impressed with him and he accepted the new role.



9th Grade





Retirements

The school administrator, Miriam, is also retiring after 24 years in school and we plan a surprise for her too with all the office staff. She will be replaced by maura who is a trained accountant. Maura was one of the first people I met when I came to Paraguay as she was a pupil at our annexe school and used to come to our midweek service where I taught the "Sunday" school! It's great to see how she has moved on.



Water Day in Secondary

We were amazed by the rainbow around the Sun.



Artwork - copying Paraguayan artists



In fact we have a number of people leaving us this year for a variety of reasons. Sadly, noone has appeared from the Uk offering to teach with us but we know the Lord is in control. Deborah, the Canadian lady who stayed with us for 2 months last year when she broke her leg, is coming to teach with us in 2015. Then we have a new helper who arrived at the start of the year. Natalie in English, married to a Paraguayan and she and her family came to live in Paraguay from England and so she was helping in school. Natalie will take over our first grade next year.

Annexe School

Our annexe school has also had its end of year events to which we have been. The infants did a play about Noah just as a storm started around us! The school patio has a roof but no walls. It was fine at first until the wind swirled round and the rainblew in. The children carried on regardless and just about finished their show before we had to abandon the patio! Their 9th grade finished on Thursday too.



A mum from the Annexe died giving birth to a 4th child. The classmates of the older one collected food and money to help the family.



We had our Leader's Camp to prepare next year's 6th form. Unfortunately it poured with rain the day before so we had to have it in the Cathedral and the school. The kids were very enthusiastic anyway and joined in well. We looked at different aspects of Christian leadership. It finished with a bonfire and time of prayer committing them to serve next year.



Leader's Camp



As the holidays get nearer we have been planning for work to be done on school in the next few months. We are planning to move the canteen to a new area to make it much bigger and nicer. We also plan to build a ramp to the higher floors and this involves changes to the entrance. Then, we hope to start to put a roof for a sports hall at our sports ground. The walls etc will come later. We are just about to send out a letter telling the parents of these things and of the rise in fees...which won't go down too well!!



We finish school on the 12th and plan to go on holiday for a week from the 15th arriving back just in time to celebrate Christmas and to take the Christmas service! The chapel will then close for a month as so many people will be away. Thankyou for all your prayers and support. They mean a lot to us. We hope you all have a very special Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.
Lots of love Gwen and Mags



6th Form Sausage Sizzle with staff at our house.

