

SAMS

UK & IRELAND

South American Mission Society

Jan 2015

Looking ahead at the new year

Paraguay News



Dear Friends,

This comes to you from a very hot and humid Paraguay. We seem to have had more rain than ever before in January and so the atmosphere is always humid...and not very comfortable. We are very thankful for our airconditioning!

It's been great to have no school this month, to spend time at home pottering and getting on with projects and to rest and spend time with our pets. We have spent time sewing, mostly making yo yo Monkeys (made with discs of cloth), apart from other sewing repairs and alterations. We have knitted quite a number of baby garments for staff who have babies during the year and a few other

children's jumpers for friends' grandchildren. We have washed and ironed all the curtains in the house. The washing and drying is the easy part, ironing not as pleasant in the heat. Mags has also baked a lot and we have made lemon curd with our lemons. The lemons seem never ending, so, despite making jars of jam and giving them away by the bagful the tree remains full of fruit! We have also taken up swimming in the school pool. We started off slowly but managed to swim a mile last Monday which seemed like a great achievement for us!



Church

We also took the service in church last Sunday. That was the first this year. We had Bible study in church the other Sundays in January and had about a dozen people there each week. People are now returning to the city as the holidays are drawing to an end.



Cleaning a cupboard we found old photos of the laying of the foundation stone 1912

We were amazed to find that hard Rock Cafe had come to Asuncion.





Entrance work



Ricardo

Workmen

We haven't been completely cut off from school work over the weeks. The lawyer has been twice and we continue again this week. The work is coming on but takes time. We have also been working on the documents with the security Company and had another conference call with them last week. They will do some training (via internet) for us when we all start back. As we have been in school to swim we have also seen the re modelling taking shape. The entrance is now almost complete and the dining room still has a way to go but looks really good. We have been able to see the architect a few times and talk things over. The ramp itself will be started after clases start but the work will be outside and not affect the pupils. The work inside for Access to the ramp is now almost finished.

Please pray for all our school workmen too as they work through the summer heat. They have staggered holidays but the workload at this time of year increases as does the heat! Please pray for Ricardo in charge of the team,. They are a great team and well appreciated by us.

Heads

We start back on Feb 2nd with a heads' meeting and this will involve a change of people. We thought it would be a good idea to introduce all those involved to you. We are both on the team. Patty Meyer is the coordinator for the oldest pupils. She has worked in school for 33 years and been in charge of her area for about the last 12 years. Analia Yebran is in charge of the infant area. She is an ex pupil and has had responsibility for this group for the past 13 years. Victor SantaCruz is overall head of the Paraguayan National curriculum. He has been in this position for the past 2 years but was head of the Annexe before that. Victor came into the college 2 years ago with the plan that after 2 years we would decide with him whether he would stay or return to the Annexe. We were very glad he's decided to stay in the college



Victor
The Heads
Patty



Jorge
Analia



Maura
Catalino





New dining room

We now have new people to add to the team:-Eva retired as head of primary in December and we are very happy to welcome Jorge Vera as the new head of primary. Please pray for him as he settles into his new role and gets to know the staff, parents and pupils. Our administrator, Miriam Greco, also retired in December and her place will be taken by Maura Ortega. Miriam has been training up Maura for the past year and so she knows the routines etc. We are pleased to have her there too as Maura was in the primary at the Annexe when we came to Paraguay and she went on to higher education and is now a qualified administrator. Please pray for her with her new responsibilities. As Victor is staying in the college, Catalino Bogado, who was acting head in the Annexe for the past 2 years, will now become head there. He has settled in well and is doing a good job there. Please continue to pray for him too.

First Day

We would value your prayers for our new school year; that the Lord would be glorified in the school. Please pray for the first day of classes which can be quite a challenge. We have enough staff to cover classes...just!..but we could still do with at least one more English teacher. Please pray that the Lord will bring the right people to us. We also have quite a number of new staff joining us especially sports staff!



We had a trip out to Aregua to look for a baby Jesus for our Nativity Set

The staff return to school on February 3rd and we start with a service in the cathedral. Straight after that we have the lawyer to talk to the staff about legal matters concerning the pupils. The pupils start back on the 12th of Feb. The staff will be preparing their classrooms and lessons before then. We also have staff training lined up in that time as well as parents meetings for the parents of those who start a new level in school, such as a move to secondary.



The old train station



Many thanks for all your faithful prayers and support,
God Bless,
Love Gwen and Mags xxx



Poppy aged 15