

# News from Paraguay

October 2018

Dear friends,

Greetings from Asuncion where it's either beautiful and sunny or pouring with rain! We seem to have 3 or 4 days of each every week. We are now on the run down to the end of year. This time always fly by as the

children start exams and the little ones practise for their end of year shows.

The IGCSE's started at the beginning of October and the year 11's have been doing them ever since.



They also have end of year exams to follow. Even so, they have only been in to take the exams. The IGCSE examiner turned up the other day. She arrived in the pouring rain and in the middle of a power cut! Fortunately the power came back on and she was able to see the exams were conducted properly and we got a good report.



OMAPA final



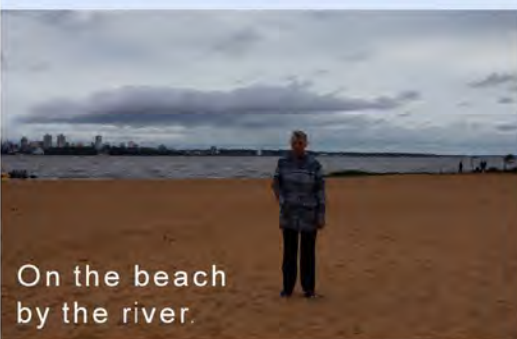
Our pupils took part in a national maths competition and the younger ones got their medals last month. At the start of the month the older ones had their finals in the south of the country, in Encarnacion. We had only one competitor in that. Mags had to go as she had to have a maths teacher with her. Gwen went to tag along as it's over 30 years since we visited Encarnacion and it's changed dramatically as half of the town was flooded and a hydro electric dam built between Paraguay and Argentina. Our pupil, Angeles, went with her dad and he took us in his car too. It was very cold and damp all the time we were there but Angeles won the gold medal even though she's still a year younger than many of the competitors. So we were delighted for her.



120 000 students started the competition and these were the gold medallists



Argentina across the river



On the beach by the river.



# Water Day

As the secondary pupils are about to start exams they went to the sports field for their final visit this year and had water day.

Fortunately it was a warm day as they all got

wet. Talking of water, the swimming pool in school is now back in use and the class of 4year olds were finally able to get in the water and start to swim. The school is almost finished now. They say it will be done by the start of November. The school hall looks amazing and



the kids were peering in and delighted with it last week. There are just finishing touches to add to the entrance area at the side of school and to finish the sand pit and then it will be finished. It's taken almost a year but the result is great.



With the rain come power cuts. We had a big one at the beginning of the month which lasted from 8.30 am until at least 3pm depending on where you lived. We had to send the kids home at lunch time that day as they were hyper, hot and couldn't see much and so couldn't work well. Our plans all along have been to get a generator but we hadn't got it then nor the next time we had a power cut. So, in the second power cut we hoped we could keep all the



Before and After



pupils in school. Fortunately the power came back within the hour so school could continue. Our generator should be installed in this next week...we hope. The electricity Company says there will be cuts in summer as airconditioners use so much power and the cables etc aren't good enough. Yet we have power from the Itaipu dam.



# 6th Form

In the last week of the month the 6th form finished lessons and had their last day of classes. Their last day of classes was on the Friday and we hoped to keep them busy so they didn't get up to mischief. They hadn't had their trip to the Chaco so off they went on the Monday. Mags went along too and they were to stay at a ranch belonging to an uncle of one of our pupils. The aim was to repair a wooden bridge and paint a school.



The journey was very long and they were over 3 hours from the main road and on a sandy road. On the Tuesday they were to work but the sky didn't bode well. They helped to start work on the bridge and to paint but had to pack up quickly to get out before the rain came. They were stuck in mud a few times and had to be towed out with the boys pushing and the girls making weight on the truck. They made it in the end ...a great adventure and answer to prayer.



## Last last day

They came back to school on Thursday afternoon where the 7th grade gave them a farewell party and then there was a special service for them with the whole of secondary in the cathedral. Their parents were invited to that too. The next day was their last day.



The parents chose a verse for their Tshirts

They arrived on bicycles and other forms of pedal transport! They were very well behaved. First they had a breakfast with their parents present and the staff gave speeches as did parents and kids. After that they went to pre school where the little ones sang to them and gave them pictures that they had drawn. Then the little ones danced for them. After all this the 6th form went home and exams begin on the Monday.



Praying for the kids





# Ex-pupils' party

The ex pupils were holding an end of year party and invited us. It turned out that Bishop Greg Venables( head of school in the 80's) was also visiting at that time with his wife Sylvia and so they were invited too along with Bishop Peter and Sally. There were so many ex pupils there, some of whom were hard to identify as they change hair colour, go bald, get bigger etc. We had an amazing evening. They thanked us for our years in school and



gave us framed drawings of the chapel. They then recognized all those in positions of importance in the country such as

the president of the country, and those in his cabinet, alongside the president of the Conmebol (the South American version of EUFA) all of whom are ex pupils. There must have been about 10 people on the list! It was such a privilege to be part of their history. There were a few hundred people there most of whom we'd taught at one time or another!

## Micro Businesses

The 9th grade had a morning to show off their work in handicrafts in their small businesses. They set up stalls and sold their goods in aid of a charity. Their parents and others came to buy.



Exam time for the whole of primary and secondary is about to start in November. By the 12th of November we go on to half days for the children as it gets hot and they are coming to the end of exams. They will all finish just before the end of the month and will then prepare their end of year presentations. The staff carry on until mid December.



Thankyou for all your prayers and support. We plan to return to the UK at the end of February and will visit all our supporting churches in the following months as we will still be working for SAMS for 6 months. God Bless and love from Gwen and Mags xx