



Infants' diplomas



Flooded houses near the river



Our street flooded - 1cm off coming in the house



Infants' shows



Annexe



# NEWS FROM PARAGUAY

November 2018

Dear Friends,

We're almost at the end of the school year and, as usual, it's been very hectic and it's still not quite over.

At the beginning of the month Mags found a gap in the calendar and was able to take the year 10's to the Chaco, finally! They were unable to go before due to rain. They had a great time painting a classroom in Rio Verde, digging a pit for rubbish in ground like cement and moving stones and sand to the nearby church. Even when it rained they carried on working and we were all amazed to see Mags finish painting a door with no paint!!! They visited a community and played with the kids. The girls tried teaching the little ones to skip!! They really enjoyed themselves and there wasn't a sound all the way back on the bus - they were so tired!!



Getting water from a well



As some subjects finished, like work in the library, the pupils did an exhibition of their work. The year 11's organized a vote for their next year's president of the students. They invited the people from the electoral committee to come and oversee their elections, complete with their indelible ink!



They say the Chaco was once a sea and this crab makes you think that's possible



# Preschool



The pre school class invited their parents into school two weeks before the end of term so that they could see them get their certificates to show they had completed the infants and are ready for first grade. They sang for their parents and then we showed a video of them in school. The infants finished all their classes before the others. First we had the nursery class show as the children sang and danced for their parents. The next day the other infant classes had their show about the star that couldn't shine. They also sang and danced. They did so well and their parents were thrilled. We were able to go into our new school hall for these which really helped.



The Annexe also had their Arts festival to close activities.



The little star of the show



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The 6th Form also had the lovely idea of doing lunch for ALL the staff. They did a big BBQ with the food chopped up on little grills as finger food. It was very good and well appreciated by everyone especially maintenance and Admin who are often left out. The kids wanted to thank everyone for the part they had played in the time at school.

## Ordinations



The other week we had 3 ordinations to deacon in the Anglican church. One of the ordinands was Esteban Romero, an ex pupil from school and another had worked in maintenance. It's good to see the church preparing new leaders. All 3 of the candidates has been studying for the past two years and some of them are going onto further study.



We only have the leavers' services left for December now. The new head also joins us on December 3rd. We have been in constant touch with him and had lunch with him today. There are no pupils in school now except the leavers for their practices. The staff finish December 12th. So the end is racing towards us. We will leave here at the end of February but have a lot of clearing out to do in the meantime.



*This little one is the 3rd generation. Granny and mummy are both ex-pupils*

*Thank you all for your support and prayers over such a long time. We are very thankful for them and hope to visit you all in 2019. We will still be with SAMS till the end of August. Best wishes for Christmas and every blessing for the New Year God Bless and love from Gwen and Mags xx*



The following week we had the primary service for the end of year. The 6th grade led the service and acted. The other classes all sang. The next day we had the 9th grade service as they now finish their official primary education. They all had certificates to show their achievements.



The next day we had the leavers' party that their parents give them. We were invited to that at a party venue quite near home which was good. The room was decorated like a forest and looked very nice. The boys all wore dinner suits and the girls, long white dresses. Each family invites their family and friends so there were a lot of people there. We left at 1 am but the party carried on!



On a smaller scale, we invited the leavers round to our house for a sausage barbecue. The staff came too and we invited the new head and his wife. We had a great evening together.



Eilyn and Prof Ceci. Her dad was Prof Arsenio who died earlier this year. She has an amazing faith.



This lady is a granny now but was one of the first mums to put their children in school.





## Farewells

In between all these activities we had two surprise farewells! They were early as some of the older pupils had finished exams and wouldn't be in again. The first one was a farewell with pupils, staff and parents! We walked in to the band playing and a big applause. We were both glad we weren't on our own! The children sang and danced for us and we were showered with gifts from various classes and parents. We felt like film stars with all the photos we had taken posing with different people. The second one was a farewell service in the cathedral where we were prayed for and given a present from staff. The bishop led that.



## FEISA

At the end of the month we were invited to the graduation ceremony of FEISA, the teacher training faculty in the same building as us. Lourdes who is now the Head of FEISA used to work in school with us.



The bishop had to wear robes as well.



We were invited to a wedding of one of our ex pupils by his family who we know well. The wedding took place in the big catholic cathedral. It was a very nice wedding. The following week we were invited to their house for lunch. They invited another school family too. We spent a very happy afternoon with them all.



We had the Remembrance Day Service in church with the British Ambassador, the French Ambassador and the German Ambassador. They rang the bell for the two minute silence in line with all the UK. It was very special.

