

March 2017

Dear Friends

Greetings from a slightly cooler and calmer Asuncion. Although the events of Friday night reached the BBC we didn't hear about it till we received messages from England. On Tuesday a group of Senators set themselves up as their own parliament in order to pass a bill to change the Constitution so that the President could be reelected. It was seen as a Parliamentary coup and there has been unrest since then because it is seen as a return to dictatorship. It all happened in the centre of Asuncion and we have been unaffected by it.



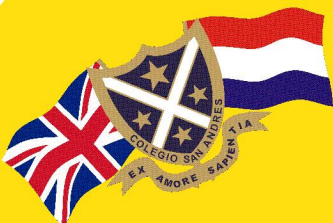
Mags ended February and saw March in at camp with the 7th and 8th grade classes. They were camping at our sports ground and had a great time out there. Pastor Ronnie went out to do the talks which really seemed to go home. He spoke on the Golden Rule - Treat others the way you want to be treated. The rest of secondary went to camp a little further away and their time involved climbing a hill and for the older ones to sleep on the hill and make their own food up there. A great time was had by all.



Annexe

A week later 5th and 6th grades went to camp, going to a retreat centre and enjoying their time there. Last week the Annexe took their 7th to 9th grades to camp at our sports ground and they had a great time there too.

Sleeping on the hill



Anniversaries

On the 17th we went to the Annexe to celebrate their 45 years anniversary with them. There was a service in which pastor Donald spoke and then we had some singing and dancing by some of the pupils. It was a lovely service.



Three days later we celebrated 54 years of school. We had our service in church with Pastor Ronnie speaking. The children, especially first grade, joined in really well. After that we took the whole school out on to the pitch for a photo. One of the dads brought his drone to take pictures alongside Mags. We've never had a whole school photo before so it was great to finally have one. We'd asked everyone to come in navy or yellow (school colours) tee shirts on the day. The sun shone brilliantly and we roasted as the photo was being taken but finally we got it! Then we sang Happy Birthday to school stood round a table with 54 cup cakes on it. Then the cup cakes were passed out! Mags spent all of the Sunday afternoon before that making cup cakes. She only managed 112 before time ran out so more were brought in. Gwen spent Sunday afternoon making the bunting and threading it all together...a busy weekend.



School has since settled back into routine now all the camps and celebrations are over. The secondary seem a lot calmer this year...so far! The primary also seem well settled. Mags is thrilled to have Sarah back to help with Maths. Gwen is enjoying her 10 minutes a day with the little ones plus a 6th grade class once a week. Gwen also had a reading class for pre school parents last week to explain how we teach reading in primary and how they can help too. It went down well. There is still the sports camp in Brazil for the older pupils coming up. They leave at the end of the month for 5 days of competitions.

Happy Easter Church

Dogs and cats

The month started with a shock for us when both dogs had been ill and were then diagnosed with Ehrlichiosis, a disease from ticks.

Apparently 80% of dogs here have it and there's a plague of it come in from Argentina.

Splash, the youngest dog, had been quite ill and was kept at the vets whilst Mags was at camp. (Why do they get ill when Mags goes to camp?)

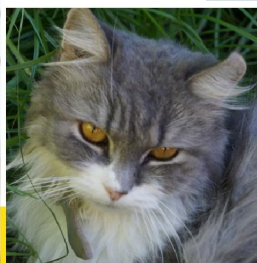
The cats were then tested and also had it. So, for the last month they have been on antibiotics and liver protector. It's been a very difficult task, first to catch the cat and then to get the medicine in her. They seem to know when we are coming for them and climb up high. The dogs are easier to deal with. We are now on the last week of medicine and hope it will have all cleared up.



We are on the church rota and we took the service a few weeks ago and will take it again this Sunday. The church keeps going with a small congregation but often with visitors each week from all over the world.



Operation Smile : helping out



We have another week in school and then have a week off for Easter. Mags' brother and his family will visit us in that week. Mags will go to Brazil to meet them in the border town and take them to the waterfalls before bringing them back to Asuncion.



Thankyou for all your prayers and support. They mean a lots to us.

This comes with best wishes for Easter, that we may all know the joy of the Risen Lord.
God Bless,
love Mags and Gwen xx

