

NEWS FROM LA ESCUELITA - FEBRUARY 2019

2019 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

And with a Big Burst of Energy!

The 2019 School Year began on Monday, February 4, with 81 students registered and more parents coming in every day to register their children. This year schools are required to be open to register new students until March 4, or at any time when new people move into the area.

It was an exciting first day of school, with by all the confusion of new children the excitement of returning students, the separation anxiety of the littlest children (and their parents), and the exhaustion of the teachers. Currently, the teachers are working to involve the parents more in the life of the school, including asking parents to take turns as "Teacher's Helpers."

The last two weeks before school began were a very busy time, as the teachers cleaned up and prepared the school and registered students in the evenings, while spending every day from 8:00 to 5:00 in workshops and training sessions through the Ministry of Education.



Even with all of the confusion of the first week, every child is welcomed and helped to feel at home. Each child also receives a backpack with school supplies. These supplies are quite expensive in Nicaragua and the public schools do not have these supplies, even for the teachers, much less each child. This is made possible only by gifts from people like YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS YERIS



We have mentioned Yeris Romero in our newsletters before. He is the young man who wanted his education so strongly that he used to sneak into classes without having the money to register as a student. He is the person who went to classes with his arm in a cast after a motorcycle accident. His lifelong ambition has been to become a Civil Engineer.

We send a huge congratulations to Yeris upon his graduation. Through the Dreams To Reality Scholarship Fund, and with help from people like YOU, Yeris has been able to complete his education and is ready to put his dream to work as a Civil Engineer. He sends his immense thanks to all of YOU who helped make this education possible.

PROGRESS ON NEW MURAL ON ONE WALL



With the work that needed to be done to prepare the wall, and with the illness of the artist's father, the painting of the new mural has been slow. But now the work has begun.

The artist, Gerardo Arias, is a well-known Nicaraguan muralist, who has also painted several murals in the US, including Lewsiburg, PA, Cincinnati, OH, and Davidson, NC. He is also the person who painted the original mural on the wall which was damaged during the 2015 earthquake.

The teachers and the people of the neighborhood are very happy to have the mural back, and they thank the donors who made this special project possible.

Donations Can Be Sent To

CEPAD-USA
c/o Beverly Kirkman
5605 Groomsbridge Court
Raleigh, NC 27612

AND OTHER WALLS HAVE PROBLEMS

With everything else that has happened in Nicaragua and at La Escuelita this year, the last thing that the school needed was damage to the outside walls.

But just before the end of the school year the next door neighbor noticed a problem with the shared wall between the school and the next building. The neighbor had a leaky water pipe that had slowly washed away a lot of the dirt under the foundation, and the wall was starting to sag and was in danger of cracking.



The concrete floor had to be broken up, and a lot of digging was needed to get to the pipe for repair. The damaged pipe was the neighbor's drain, which luckily did not cause a problem with the water supply for the children.

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