

NEWS FROM LA ESCUELITA - SEPTEMBER, 2020

Increased Costs, Decreased Income

The last two years have been very difficult in Nicaragua and the expenses of the school have increased in many ways even as our ability to raise funds is limited.

Food prices rose suddenly during the civil unrest of 2018 and they have not gone down.

The cost of educational supplies has increased. In some cases the teachers have been able to create their own, but many things still need to be purchased

US sanctions on Nicaragua have led to a large increase in bank fees. The cost of withdrawing money for the school and scholarships has increased to almost \$100 a month.

It has not been possible to take a medical group to Nicaragua for two years. In the past, these groups have raised about \$2000 for medical follow-up expenses. We have a Nicaraguan doctor who visits the children, but we have to raise money for follow-up. Also, because of COVID, we also are not able to do our usual presentations to community and church groups.

We continue to look for monthly donors so that we can help keep La Escuelita open.

Please contact us for information about becoming a monthly donor. Thank You



Other Activities, special Days

Along with learning and lunch, the children are also doing art projects and celebrating the special days of the Nicaraguan School Year. Because of COVID, there were no big September activities involving children from other schools to celebrate Nicaragua's Independence Days.

The teachers used the Independence Days to teach the children to make their own very simple piñatas, using the Blue and White of the national flag. Here two of the little girls show off their handiwork.



Look For Us Online

www.littleschoolnicaragua.com

Facebook - LaEscuelitaNicaragua

YouTube - La Escuelita Nicaragua

**Donations Can Be Sent To
CEPAD-USA**

**c/o Beverly Kirkman
5605 Groomsbridge Court
Raleigh, NC 27612**

**Please earmark for "School" or
"Scholarship Fund"**

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School is Still Happening in Nicaragua

COVID has taken a heavy toll on education all over the world, and Nicaragua is no exception. Schools are officially still open, but many private schools have shut down and many parents are not allowing their children to go to school in the government schools. This leaves a small community-based school like La Escuelita in a strange position. The school receives no government funding, but it does use government supplied curriculum. Therefore La Escuelita is still open and holding classes.

Children still need to learn. They need the social skills that come from being together with other children. In the case of La Escuelita, these children also need the meal that is served every day.

Printed teaching aids are expensive, so the teachers create a lot of things on their own, like the numbers chart shown here. These pre-school age kids are learning to count and to write their numbers.

COVID has taken a heavy toll all over the world. It has had serious effects in Nicaragua, but La Escuelita continues to care for the children of the community.



One Teacher Hit By COVID-19



Leonor Najeras, one of the teachers of the school, missed several weeks of school in May-June – tested and diagnosed with COVID-19. She was not hospitalized, but cared for at home by her loving family. Some evenings she was able to help with creating some of the teaching aids, but not always.