



# La Escuela Cooperativa

DE SAYULITA

Issue Two – February 2018

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## Quarterly Newsletter

Escuela Cooperativa is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Thanks to many generous donations and volunteers, we continue to operate a tuition-free cooperative preschool in Sayulita, Mexico. We started the year with 12 families, and we now have 18 with several more starting soon.



The children are very active and love to run around the playground and could swing for hours! Despite their high energy level, within minutes of returning to Escuela from recess, they are busy at their tables. Over the last six months, we have seen a very strong group dynamic develop among all the children. Under Dulce's excellent guidance, they are learning to work and play together.



We receive requests weekly for enrollment information and have started a waiting list for next fall. The current parents have all told us they are all re-enrolling their children next fall which is an excellent outcome for the first year. Attendance is close to 100% every day.

The parents also have a strong group dynamic and continue to offer their skills to the school. The children have a three-course hot lunch every day thanks to the parents' efforts. The classroom is cleaned at the end of each day thanks to the parents who schedule themselves to come in and sweep and clean the lunch dishes. During the Christmas break, the parents shared the costs of buying paint and created a very warm environment by covering the institutional white walls with yellow. The painting was

done by a father in the evening after working all day while his son, Bryan, napped on the classroom rug.



across the playground as they become more conscious of being responsible for keeping their environment clean.



In December, all the parents came to the school for a government-sponsored course in basic first aid. That was made possible by one of our wonderful staff members who also works with the government. They all received a certificate in Primeros Auxilios Basicos. The 100% participation rate was really impressive.

## WINTER ACTIVITIES

### La Posada

As part of the Christmas tradition in Mexico, La Posada is celebrated each night for nine days before Christmas. Families get together and share food and small gifts. The families of Escuela gathered at one of their homes to share a potluck meal, a Santa pinata and everyone had a “secret Santa.” Fun was had by all!



### Basura! Basura!

Whenever we go to the playground with the children, we bring trash bags and ask them to fill the bags with litter before they play. They come screaming, “basura, basura,”

## Parent Night

An important part of the Montessori approach is for the children to show their parents how they work with the Montessori materials and what they are learning. In November, the families were invited to come to Escuela in the evening to participate in this activity.

Various stations were set up and one-by-one the children took turns demonstrating their amazing focus and concentration through the pink tower and wooden rods; scrubbing a table clean; pouring liquid from a pitcher into a small container; threading beads and matching small disks to numbers. These all exemplify math and practical life skills, primary focal points for Montessori.



## High School Interns

For the next six months, Escuela is fortunate to have three high school students interning with us. They were assessed



by our professional development staff member for their interest in working with young children, and they were very excited to be selected. Dulce will assign and supervise their responsibilities every day.



With your continued support, we hope to sustain the quality education we currently offer and continuously add additional services for the children.

Please visit our website at <http://www.escuelasayulita.org/> and contribute to the children of Sayulita  
Muchas gracias!