



La Escuela Cooperativa

DE SAYULITA

Issue One – November 2017

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Quarterly Newsletter

It's hard to believe that Escuela Cooperativa has only been in existence since August. Thanks to many generous donations, we continue to operate a tuition-free cooperative preschool in Sayulita, Mexico. The children, teachers and parents are significantly engaged around the activity of learning.



You will see from the photos and stories in this newsletter that the children are not only happy, but they are learning! When we asked the parents what they liked best about the school, they all said, "Our children love coming to school!"

Since September, the parents have organized 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. In addition, every day a parent comes and delivers a one-hour learning activity to the children. One day it is English; another day it is art, and they also lead sessions in music and physical education.

FALL ACTIVITIES

Releasing the Tortugas

Sayulita is a center for saving the turtle population in Mexico. During the months of August and September, volunteers scour the beach looking for turtle nests. They rescue the eggs from predators and protect them until they are ready to hatch in October and November.



We sponsored a nest for Escuela Cooperativa, and one evening all the families gathered at the school with the children to walk to the beach and release the eggs from our nest. As we walked through the streets, the children shouted to anyone who would listen, "Tortugas!"



Day of the Dead

The Day of the Dead is a significant celebration in Mexico, and Sayulita was no exception. The parents of Escuela got together to create an altar to commemorate loved ones who have passed away. For weeks, they made paper flowers at the school and brought items to enhance the altar.



When the day came, a parent painted the faces of all the children as well as the teacher. The town judges the quality of all the altars, and Escuela Cooperativa brought home a 2nd place trophy in the design of a cross with the traditional beads of the Huichol community.



Revolution Day

Revolution Day is a national holiday in Mexico. Families prepare traditional meals, and children dress in clothing representative of the revolutionary time. Little boys often have mustaches painted on their faces, and the girls wear colorful dresses with baby dolls wrapped in slings.



Sayulita comes to a halt as a parade with dancing horses takes over Revolution Road, the main entrance to town.

The families of Escuela decided to celebrate with a Mexican afternoon at the playground. They prepared a feast that included chile rellenos, chicken mole, pozole and multiple fixings for making tortillas. The children played together, and the celebration lasted past sunset!



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!