

# Bi-monthly Newsletter January-February 2017



## LAVOSI Las Voces Del Silencio Events

### THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: PROFESSOR ÁLVARO D LEÓN CRUZ

IN THIS ISSUE ISSUE #3

Hello Friends of LAVOSI, I hope this finds you all well?

At the beginning of the new school year, we have been blessed because of the hearts of good people, American brothers and sisters who have opened their doors ... to help us financially. Blessings to them; John Swinmurn and the Nursing Heart Foundation Inc. They and other good people, as well as donations from some parents, make our school go forward.

I also want to introduce you to new students this year, Jonathan, 15, from Chimaltenango, Pepo, 10, from San Lucas Sacatepéquez, Neymar 6, from Chimaltenango.

We are also excited to add a new teacher, Salem Ojer for our primary grade. She will bring new energy to the school.

We now have 12 students in seventh grade. We hope in God that this year we can become accredited for the level of Basic Education in our school. It is not easy, but I think we will fight to achieve it.

There are good and high expectations for this year. May we meet another time.

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#### **January and February Highlights**

Start of New School Year 2017  
 Professional Development for Teachers  
 Roadie the Clown's visit  
 Alvaro De Leon Espinoza's 40th  
 Valentine's Day Party  
 Cascarón Carnival  
 New Garden and Library



Roadie the Clown and Pepo hamming it up!



Our Students & Roadie the Clown



### Grades 1-2: Maestra: Maria Lourdes Romero "Malu" and Salem Ojer

These months we worked on number identification up to the number 60. The students are strengthening their skills in mathematics.



Art! One of the favorite classes of the students, is where we learn ways and techniques of painting and drawing. This unit we are learning the technique of wood crayon we have done different works using lines and colors.



### Mayan Numerical System



### 3-4<sup>th</sup> Graders with Nelson

#### Grades 3-4: Maestro: Nelson Vivar Catavi

This month we worked in mathematics: Mayan numbers, writing and comprehension of ordinal numbers, numerical series, greater, less than, equal to, and created the elaboration of Mayan numbers with recyclable material. In languages, the use of the dictionary of syllable separation, writing of the days of the week, writing and characteristic of each month of the year has been worked on.

In science the importance of the body and its parts, osseous system, muscular system, body senses, characteristics and needs of living beings.

In social studies the types of family and types of communities, as well as responsibilities, rights and obligations as citizens.

In artistic expression elaboration of geometric figures and the correct use of the ruler and the compass.



### Grades 5-6: Maestro: Alvaro De Leon Espinoza

We are teaching the months of the year and the days of the week and the holidays in Guatemala with the students of third and fourth grade. Fifth and sixth grade students learned punctuation, capitalization, synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms in the communication and language class. They also learned a family tree in social studies class.



### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes: Maestros: Alvaro DeLeon, Malu Torres and Nelson Catavia

**Malu:** This unit is in communication and language, we practiced some rules of writing and also learned about what people native in their countries are called, the students also made a mural to help with recall.



**Nelson:** This month, I am working in math class to develop critical thinking of students, using the theme of false or true propositions and the relationships they have to use a picture of truth with their respective connective logic, so they develop thinking, memory and relationship between one element and another.

In the natural sciences we have learned some theories about how life began on our planet, respecting different scientific and religious beliefs, also about the different branches of scientific study.

**Alvaro:** In accounting class students learned how to do household budgeting, in the art class we learned chromatic colors and in social studies we learned about natural resources in Central America.

### New Developments:

#### Professional Development for Teachers

This year for the first time, professional development opportunities for the teachers were offered. The first was a one day Teambuilding workshop offered by Axel Alburez of "BalamBe" at LAVOSI which was very beneficial. A two days workshop on "Innovations in Teaching" at Fray Pedro Ponce de Leon through the Comité Pro Ciegos y Sordos given by Brenda Aron, PC Volunteer, and recently a three days training workshop on "Small Projects Management" in Quetzaltenango given by the Peace Corps. A bi-monthly professional development opportunities for teachers are being planned.

#### New Garden, Library and Playroom

A playroom for the primary grades, a new library and roof-top garden was set up at Lavosi. The students have enjoyed utilizing the new library and playroom. Storytime and plant science have been added to classes at all grades. Caoba Farms in Antigua was generous in donating some vegetable seeds and plants.

#### New Class Schedule

Teachers' schedules have been revised to allow teachers time to prepare lesson plans, and for weekly teachers' meeting to touch bases.

#### School Board

The LAVOSI school board now regularly

meets once a month on the second Sunday of the month

#### Service to the Community

LAVOSI has offered monthly workshops for Interpreters for the Deaf in Guatemala. The first workshop was on Deaf Culture in February. There will be a workshop on Ethics in Interpreting Saturday, March 11. Workshops for the Deaf Community and others are in the works.

### **Spotlight on: Juan Lobos and Salem Ojer**



Juan Lobos, our eight grader began working in the kitchen of at Panza Verde hotel and restaurant in Antigua when he was only 14. He has worked there for 5 years. He has moved up from kitchen preparation to baking bread and cooking breakfast. He enjoys his job. Interview with Juan: What is your favorite hobby? I like to watch movies, play football and spend time with my family. What is your favorite color and your favorite soccer team? The color, blue and "Real Madrid" football team.

What is your dream for the future? First, I want to be a chef of my own restaurant specializing in Guatemalan food and secondly offering cooking classes to others.

What is your advice for deaf youth? Stay at school and continue your education. Learn all you can. Do not use bad language and learn Guatemalan Sign Language!



Salem Ojer comes to us from Sol Brillo school. She will be teaching in the primary grades. She will bring new energy to the school.



### **Donors and Sponsors**

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**Thanks to all our donors and sponsors for their donations to LAVOSI**

## Our School Cannot Exist Without Your Generosity



Workshop on Deaf Culture for Interpreters for the Deaf in Guatemala



### Upcoming events:

- March 6: Swinburn Foundation and Nuevo Vida visits
- March 12: Board Meeting
- March 15-17: Actuality Media will film, focused on schools that make a difference
- March 27-31: Exam Week
- April 10-14: Holy Week, school closed
- SAVE THE DATE: Monday June 5, LAVOSI'S 8<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
- Next bimonthly newsletter: March and April 20



Stretching Exercises



The Community Outreach Specialist, Len Aron, PC Volunteer and Alvaro DeLeon visited with the Ministry of Education and the Comite for the Deaf and Blind to create partnerships. The meetings were very positive.



Celebrating Alvaro's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday



The Three Supermen



Garden in honor of John, one of our major donors for 2017.

Ninos playing with new toys



Basico Students



## LAVOSI LAS VOCES DEL SILENCIO:

Please visit our revamped website, if you wish to support LAVOSI, please visit the page: "Who We Are"

<http://www.lavosi.org/contactus.php>

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For more information about our school and to donate:

<http://www.integralheartfoundation.org/lavosi.htm>

