

# BOLETÍN MENSUAL



AGOSTO-2018



[WWW.ESCUELACARACOL.ORG](http://WWW.ESCUELACARACOL.ORG)

 **escuela**  
**caracol**  
San Marcos La Laguna

# BOLETÍN MENSUAL



AGOSTO-2018

Letter from a Visitor  
Joshua Wilson

It is a unique experience to arrive at your home as a visitor. That's in many ways what it feels like for me and my daughter, Mirabai, to come for a short visit during our spring break vacation. We were both rather nervous as we entered the front gate of Escuela Caracol, but the shouting of our names from across the garden and the warm hugs quickly put us at ease. Mirabai joined her class almost as if she had never left. They welcomed her like family. For those who know the school but who have not visited recently, I am thrilled to report that this little school with a big heart is filled with shining faces and vitality. It is still "the school where the students are happy;" it is still la Familia Caracol.

After our family's departure last July, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect on this visit. What I found is a school that is vibrant yet grounded. I was struck by how human and authentic it feels, even as it is teeming with diversity — of language, culture, ways of seeing the world. It is such a stark contrast from the typical North American experience. Something special, something magical is slow-cooking at Escuela Caracol.

The day I arrived the students were preparing a song, "El Nuevo Dia," (the new day) to perform the following Saturday in town. After that rehearsal, the fifth and sixth grades practiced guitar outside under the shade of some trees. Meanwhile the pedagogical director was in the kitchen preparing chocolate for an activity with that same group. The kids were on vacation during Semana Santa (Holy Week), so this week the older students were hand-making chocolate eggs to hide in the garden for the younger students. The kindergarten classes were going on hikes, the second grade was studying fables, the fifth grade Ancient India, and the next day the third grade had its first swimming class down at the lake. So much activity, yet the air was not tainted by stress.

The rehearsals were for performances at the Movimiento Caracol, a fundraiser the teachers are planning to hold in the center of town. There will be a variety of concerts and performances, handcrafted goods for sale, as well as food prepared by parents.

If you can contribute in any way, perhaps sponsor a student, raise awareness in your own community or simply forward this message on to friends and family, it can make a great impact.

I am convinced more than ever that the world needs Escuela Caracol. It is pioneering the work of the future with its intercultural emphasis and its impulse toward a new consciousness that unites the social wisdom of indigenous peoples with the modern awareness of the individual. In many ways it is fighting to survive on the physical periphery of the Earth, but in a more spiritual sense it is living in fullness at the center of hope.

Thank you, Escuela Caracol, for the riches you have given to my family and to so many other families. Thank you for being the salt of the earth and a light on the hill.

With love,  
Joshua Wilson

## Fairy Tales:

Fairy tales are one of the preferred activities of kindergarten students, they are told four times, students participate in all of them in different ways. Teacher Sandra Pérez says: "The principal objective of this activity is to nurture children's imagination and to socialize new words within their vocabulary", Students grow and gain self security during the process.

On week one, the teacher tells the story in an oral way; on week two, the tale is told with help of puppets handled by the teacher; on week three,

teacher tells the story and the students handle the puppets, on week four, the tale is told using the theatre resource, students play the parts assigned by the teacher, who narrates the story while children act. Parts assignment is decided by the teacher, who analyzes the section they are studying and each of the students special needs.

The tales are chosen according to the section being studied and the groups special needs at the moment.



Kindergarten teacher, Sandra Pérez, with her group of students in the fourth week of the fairy tale.

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

12 - Cine Caracol

15 - Independence Parade

17 y 18 - Days off.

28 - Actividad del Valor

WWW.ESCUELACARACOL.ORG

escuela  
caracol  
San Marcos La Laguna



AGOSTO-2018



Teacher Gloria Elena says that the exercise of form drawing develops order, dexterity, space abstraction, self-control and self-confidence.

Anastacio, fifth grade student, comments that from this exercise he enjoyed installing the form drawings into ropes tightened from trees to observe the sunlight projected on the floor. He also indicates that at, some point, he would love to replicate the exercise to install the “stained glass” on his house surrounding trees.

### A world filled with colors.

Fifth grade students made an awesome exercise of “form drawing” in which they made something like a stained glass with colored cellophane and paperboard to project sun light trough, filling the whole place with colors.

The exercise is part of the Form Drawing course, students drew planes with straight and curved lines until finding the forms that would be filled with cellophane paper of many colors.



### Visit from Universidad Rafel Landivar psychology students.

On June, the 27th, we had the visit of a group of psychology students from Rafael Landivar University, they came escorted by Msc. Fabiola Hurtado, Coordinator of the Landivarian Center of Psychology (Centro Landivariano de Psicología).

Within their visit, they had a tour on our school, observed the pedagogical process on classrooms and received a conference where they learned about Waldorf pedagogy, the importance of the first two septenniums in human

development, and an exposition of students handworks.

The main subject of interest studied during the visit was how alternative ways of education can avoid learning issues, frustration and learning rejection from students.



### Sixth grade students travel through the solar system:

After researching the solar system within their block of astronomy, students prepared an exposition to share with their peers all concepts learned. The principal tools used to communicate their newly obtained knowledge were models or designs created with amazing creativity and artistic abilities.

Students learned about the solar system as a whole and about each of the planets. Atmospherical composition, life research outside the earth, among other really interesting subjects were mentioned by all the children.



### Flute delivery act

Recently, the flute delivery act took place in the first grade classroom, children were given their first pentatonic flute. Diego, their teacher, indicates that the flute gets to become a friend for children, and that at a pedagogical level, it is a great tool to develop movement coordination, rhythm and memory. For the children, receiving their first flute is an unforgettable memory, for being a personal gift and the first melodic instrument they’ll ever use.





AGOSTO-2018

## Eurythmic experts visits Escuela Caracol.

Eurythmics is one of the main subjects Rudolf Steiner suggested as a part of the regular education every person should cultivate. Escuela Caracol had the visit of two expert eurythmists, Siebe Martínez Bloembergen and Ruth Bloembergen Martínez.



Between 2010 and 2011, Siebe and Ruth studied a Bachelor in Pedagogical Eurythmics as a Social Eurythmics Program in La Haye (Netherlands), Lugano (Switzerland), Nant-y-cum (Wales) y Sekem (Egypt) and have been working eurythmics together since. Currently they live in El Salvador and work at the “Escuela Nacional de Danza” with children, teenagers and teachers from public schools; they also work an anthroposophy project at “Tutunichappa IV” community.

They arrived to Escuela Caracol on July the 30th and stayed for almost a week, sharing all their knowledge with teachers, students and rest of the community.

During their visit, they worked independently with each of the school grades; they also gave an introductory workshop on eurythmics to teachers and community members.

As a final activity and a special present to Escuela Caracol, our rhythmic friends prepared and produced the play “sleeping beauty from the forest” by the Grimm brothers; Siebe was in charge of musicalization and special effects; Ruth directed the play, and all of the first grade students played the roles. This was performed at “la Palapa” with the whole school as an audience.



## Sound healing.

On august the 17th, Escuela Caracol had the visit of Maria Castells, expert in sound healing, she gave a workshop to the group of teachers from Escuela Caracol about using sound as a healing element for students and for themselves.

Through practical exercises, teachers learned how to use nature sounds and their own voice as a tool to handle in a better way the different situations that could come up in the classroom.



## Kinder garden students experiment the complete process of making bread.

“With the white flour, we are making delicious bread beren bren bread”

Kitchen is one of the regular activities in the classroom for the smallest ones, this gives them the opportunity to develop will, calmness and to experiment a complete process, in this case, “bread making”

They begin by getting to know all the ingredients needed, then, they prepare the dough, after that, the raw product is carried to the school kitchen to be baked, the learning experience finishes with the most expected part of it, eating together.

While singing, riming and having lots of joy, students develop head, heart and hands.

