

Mayatan School News

Mayatan School

Copan Ruinas, Honduras

Folklore Day celebrates Honduran Heritage

A fun Folklore Day earlier this year provided some great photo opportunities as our students celebrated Honduran heritage. Each grade represented a different cultural group and showed what a wonderful variety of traditions and experiences contribute to the rich mix of today's Honduras.

Traditional foods, costumes, dances and music were enjoyed by all students, staff and parents. Everyone put huge effort into the celebration and the day was a great success. A colorful and exciting atmosphere encouraged true appreciation of cultural history and we hope to repeat the event in the future.

Well done to all costume makers and cooks! SG

Three days in June saw a very special group of tourists in town. Archeologists and anthropologists from around the world met in Copan Ruinas for an important Archeology Congress. The famous Mayan Ruins have long been a draw for both international tourists and experts. In addition to their historical significance and stunning beauty, 'Las Ruinas' also



Mayatan's Work recognized by Ministry of Tourism

play a key role in the local economy. As Mayatan School and students are fully aware; if you can speak English, there are many business opportunities waiting out there! The Honduran Ministry of Tourism recognized the bilingual skills of Mayatan students by requesting that 8th and 9th grade students assist during the Archeology Congress. Our students welcomed visi-

tors and showed them around the town. A great honor not just for the individual students but for Mayatan School itself. The Ministry arranged training for the students and each participant received a diploma. We are extremely proud that our students were able to act as guides for visiting guests and act as ambassadors for Mayatan School and the community.

Summer Issue
Jul 2007

Special Thanks

- George Fox University
- The Crawford Family
- Frank Hopkins at 'Hope for Tomorrow'
- To all Honduran Staff
- To 06-07 foreign teachers
"Thank you for your dedication and effort, don't forget us; we wish you all the best for the future!"

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NeuroNet Program on Track for Self Sufficiency

As visitors to the School and avid readers of this newsletter are probably aware, the 'NeuroNet Program' is a school-wide system of mental and physical exercises. The exercises are designed to improve students' concentration and mental co-ordination; vital for effective learning. The program involves hearing tests to identify those who may require additional assistance, one-to-one sessions with individual students, and has in general been welcomed by parents and teachers.

There is much anecdotal evidence of improvement in once struggling students. Parents and families have noted a dramatic difference in children's behavior, attention span and performance, and put this down to the effectiveness of

the NeuroNet Program in conjunction with standard education methods.

Mayatan School is now pleased to announce that a local committee of interested and dedicated parents has been formed to guarantee the continuation of the NeuroNet Program in Copan.

The involvement and support of the parents' group has enabled a local woman named 'GERLIN ROSSEL' to travel to Guatemala to begin training as an official NeuroNet Therapist. Once qualified she will continue to provide NeuroNet instruction to individual students here in Copan, be able to conduct the essential Hearing Tests to the wider community and oversee the training of Mayatan teachers for classroom exercises.

Having a local qualified instructor will be a great step forward and has already enabled the current NeuroNet co-ordinator from Tegucigalpa to cut down the number of her visits and limit her role to one of intermittent supervision.

This is good news for the future self-sufficiency of Copan's education community and shows how novel methods can be successfully introduced alongside traditional teaching techniques. The move has strengthened the skills of the local population and brings the town one step closer to community-wide hearing tests. Grassroot Development in action!
SG

Anyone interested in assisting the NeuroNet Parents Committee can contact them via the school email

Update on Our Book Drive - Thank You Everyone!

We've had a good response to our ongoing quest for books, so thank you to everyone who's helped out over the past few months.

Special thanks must go to;

- Paul Schroeder and Logan Puck of 'La Comunidad Hispania' in Pennsylvania,
- All at the International Book Project,
- Pat Orme from the UK,

- Bill Richey for his tireless research and enthusiasm,
- John Weber who has yet again humbled us with his generosity,
- Karen Adamson and all at Maret School, Washington DC - (read all about their book project on page 4).

We are optimistic of sourcing more textbooks and with the new shipping options now available (see back page) we

may soon succeed.

Please get in touch if you can help locate sets of 20 or more new or used TEXTBOOKS in any subject for any age group - We know they are out there!

Let us know the details, we will try to arrange shipping!

Voyage of Discovery - Our Trip to 'Tegus'

In March, the 6th Grade Social Studies class took part in a school exchange with students from 'Discovery School'; a large and prestigious bilingual school in Tegucigalpa.

A trip to the capital of Honduras is in itself a big adventure; especially so when for some students this was their first time in the big city!

Students and teachers at Discovery School made everyone very welcome and the trip was a great success. New ideas were shared, new friends made, city culture explored and young minds opened.

The challenges of being away from home and staying with a host family presented valuable lessons to be learnt and we hope this educational and enriching experience can be repeated for future 6th Graders.

Mayatan students got a good taste of city life, visiting;

- National Museums
- Congress
- The Theatre
- Discovery School, where they attended classes with their host students
- The Mall

- A Bowling Arcade
- Zamarano Agricultural College
- Science Exhibitions
- A Clothing Manufacturer
- and of course, Pizza Hut!

Many thanks to all staff and parents both here and in Tegucigalpa who made the trip work! Special thanks to Prof. Rudy and Mr. Emory - probably Mayatan's bravest teachers who accompanied our students on their voyage of discovery!

I wanted to share just a few of our students' impressions with you, so I hope you enjoy the following, in their own words!
SG

"The thing that most impress me was that how the families receive us." (receive)



'Best Things'

"Staying with exchange partners"

"Bowling was really exciting"

"Chiminikee - the science place for children"

"Visiting Congress"

"Bowling, that was fun and I learn to do something new"

"Going to the maquila (Clothing Manufacturer) because now we know how Honduras export clothes and other things to places like USA or Paris"

"I make friends in the school"

"When we went to the maquila and they gave us some cookies and coke"

Continued from previous page...

'Surprises'

"The Discovery School was so big"

"My host family and student were nice"

"When we went to the congress and we saw that it was very big and we sit on where the president of the congress sit"

"How many stores and how big the school"

"I didn't think I will like to stay with a 7th grader but was ok"

Maret School Book Project - 'The Continuing Story'

The following article is written by Asha Anderson and Marta Del Cid, two 8th Graders from Maret School, Washington DC, who visited Mayatan School earlier this year as part of a continuing partnership

'Book-Kits with the Mayatan School' - Last year, the eighth grade Service Learning students at the Maret School in Washington DC made book-kits to foster the love of reading among young students. Back in the United States, our school put together several book-kits for younger children, which included books, games, and activities. This year, during our Intensive Study Week, several eighth grade students took these kits over to the Mayatan School in Honduras to share with the children there.

The Maret students who went to Copán this February chose our favorite stories to share. We all partnered up to work together in teams. We chose to read *Where the Wild Things Are?* to our group. Interacting with the kids of the Mayatan School was very exciting. We enjoyed working with them because they were friendly, interested and sweet.

After Marta and I finished reading the book, we had the girls act out the story with sock puppets. They did a wonderful job with the acting! After we finished with the book-kit, we gave the girls prizes for their hard work. These prizes included chewing gum, which they called "¡chicles!", crayons, headbands and hair clips. They loved it all!

'Would I like to live in a city?'

"Yes, it's so big and cool"

"Yes, now I know I can make friends"

"No I like to live in Copan because is were I was born and were are ruins from Mayans"

"No, I can died by an accident with cars because Tegucigalpa have many Transportation"

"Yes - in a city we can see new people and there are places that in a town are not"

"I like living in Copan—is a little town were save of robbers, and all is very together, the places."

"I like the malls but I think there are a lot of robbers in the city"

Afterwards, we played a short game of duck-duck-goose and had a "photo shoot" with the girls. We all enjoyed this exciting experience very much.

At the end of the activity we donated the book kits to the Mayatan School library. We hope that the Mayatan students continue to enjoy reading and exploring these books and related games.



Marta and Asha reading *Where the Wild Things Are*

Mayatan Talent-Show Fundraiser - Music to Our Ears !

What a talented bunch our students are! In May we put their love of performance on display and their skills in drama, dance, music and poetry to the test in a showcase for the whole community. Teachers, parents and students put in weeks of hard work; learning lines, practicing scores and choreographing routines. The photos

shown don't do justice to what was a truly inspiring series of high quality performances. Everyone involved should feel extremely proud. The event held at the 'Salon Municipal' in the centre of town was a roaring success and importantly raised some much needed money towards the Mayatan 'Music Fund'. Ticket sales

and donations enabled us to purchase a new keyboard and some music stands - vital to developing the music department's capabilities. The event certainly opened the community's eyes and ears to the talent we have at School - a very big round of applause to all who took part! SG



Making Music at Mayatan School - Can You Help???

Our Music Facilities are in need of improvement and this is an area Mayatan hopes to focus on over the coming years. We have the potential to make a real difference; enhancing the creative lives of our students and increasing the appreciation of both traditional and modern Honduran music. However our 'Music Program' is held back by a simple lack of instruments.

Prof. Rudy Dubon (of Tegucigalpa School Trip fame!) and our resident music teacher, would love to have sufficient instruments to allow students from all economic backgrounds to take part in learning and performing music. At present there are not enough instruments to go around and as you can imagine, teaching music is therefore a frustrating business for Rudy and his students. As demonstrated by the recent Public Showcase, there is much talent waiting to be harvested at Mayatan and we are missing the opportunity to both enhance young lives

and ensure their musical heritage continues.

The ability to put on small concert performances for the community, to take part in competitions with other schools and to raise both the school's profile and funds for further projects are some of Rudy's dreams.

We believe we can make this happen with a little help from our friends. Please get involved if you can.

The initial music 'wishlist' is shown here and we hope that our growing network of international supporters may be able to help us in one of two ways.

1. By allowing us to find a new home for a good-condition instrument you may have at home. Dust off that trumpet your daughter no longer plays and ship it off to Mayatan!
2. By holding a mini fundraiser towards the cost of a new instrument we can buy here in

Honduras. (The respective costs of these items have, at the time of writing this newsletter, still to be confirmed - so standby for a 'music fund' update shortly).

We're looking for...

- Tambourine (x3)**
- Clave (x6)**
- Triangle (x6)**
- Cymbals (x3)**
- Sleigh Bells (x5)**
- Flugelhorn (x2)**
- Trumpet (x2)**
- Clarinet (x1)**
- Recorder (x15)**
- Flute (x5)**
- Violin 1/2 size (x5)**
- Violin 3/4 size (x5)**
- Violin full size (x5)**
- Glockenspiel (x1)**
- Acoustic Guitar (x5)**

We're also hoping to source all types of **sheet music**. Please get in touch if you can help or need more details.

Many thanks.

SG

Student Spotlight - super students needing sponsors.

Please have a read through these student profiles - six great students; different needs, different family backgrounds. What they have in common is the support of Mayatan School. We are really proud of these kids and we're confident that each will make the most of their education.

You can make a direct difference to these young lives today, so please show the photos to your friends and help us work together to give these kids the opportunity they deserve.

Thank you. As always, please let me know if you need any further information. Sarah Griffiths



JOSE ADELID - Second Grade

Everybody loves this kid! The smallest boy in his class, Jose works really hard to prove himself. He has a very sweet nature and always offers to help in the classroom. His mom, Eva, is employed as a cleaner by Mayatan School. She is probably the hardest working and most giggly of all our staff! A single parent, Eva is very supportive of Jose's studies and helps where she can, but is unable to assist her son with written homework, especially if it is in English. Jose is a dedicated student and is happy to stay after school three days a week to re-enforce what he learns. He has shown great improvement recently and although his written and comprehension skills need more work, we are very pleased with his progress.

Can you give this little chap the opportunity he needs by funding his education? He is a 'full scholarship' student and is looking for help with the cost of Tuition, Books, Registration, Uniform including shoes, Lunch and Transportation.

(\$1710 this year)



FANNY CAROLINA - Second Grade

A model student, Fanny will start in Second Grade in September. She is responsible, respectful, a great example to her peers but can be a little shy at times. She has a 94% grade average and loves the security and friendship she finds at school.

Can you help her with the cost of school Tuition?

(\$850 this year)



JEYMY NOELIA - Second Grade

Jeymy is a lot of fun to be around. A smart young lady; she enjoys language-based subjects and talks a lot too. She has a great work attitude and always does more than asked. Jeymy is the best in her class at reading, is creative and likes to write stories. Her favourite day of the week is 'doughnut day' at the school caseta.

Can you give Jeymy the support she needs and help with the cost of Tuition, Books and Registration?

(\$1040 this year)



FRANKLIN - Grade 5

Franklin has a complicated home-life and lives with his grandmother these days, but puts any family issues behind him when he comes to school. He is a star student and has a great future ahead of him. His teachers say he has 'the whole package'; personality, drive, sensitivity and intelligence. He is top of his class for reading and math, a 'brilliant' student who could succeed in any chosen direction. Franklin needs a little help now to ensure that his bright future awaits him.

Can you step up and help out with the cost of Tuition?
(\$850 this year)



ERLIN - Grade 5

Erlin is a winner; despite being a full-scholarship student he has not let social disadvantage hold him back. His teachers are full of praise for Erlin's dedication, maturity and empathic personality. Sometimes it takes a while for him to catch on to a new topic but his determination to understand always sees him through. Erlin is an above average student and a good reader; he is also a superb athlete but not to the detriment of his academic studies. Erlin shows potential for playing a key role in the community—he's one to watch for the future, but he needs a hand up today with school costs.

Can you help? Tuition, Books, Registration,
Uniform including shoes, Lunch and Transportation
(\$1710 this year)



CARMEN - Grade 3

Kind and friendly, Carmen is a good example to her classmates and always tries her best. She has a great work attitude, pays attention and her homework is never late. Carmen's teachers are very pleased with her progress and dedication and have high hopes for her future. Following the sad loss of her father in 2004, Carmen needs assistance with the cost of Tuition.

Can you be Carmen's sponsor?
(\$850 this year)

Sponsoring a student at Mayatan is a rewarding and enriching experience. Sponsors receive school newsletters and reports and the children write thank you letters and can send emails and schoolwork. The minimum time commitment for sponsoring a specific child is one year, although many students have the same sponsor throughout their schooling. Please take a moment to consider whether you can change the life of a Honduran child. Thank you.

If you would like to learn more about any of these students or how to become a sponsor, the first step is to send me an email. Thank you. You will be making a real difference to the lives of these children.

Sarah Griffiths director@mayatanfoundation.org

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School Mailing Address

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Email: director@mayatanfoundation.org

Web: www.mayatanfoundation.org



Mayatan School - Providing quality bilingual education to students from all walks of life!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our work here at Mayatan, please let me know. We value your opinions and welcome your feedback!

Sarah Griffiths - Director of Development
director@mayatanfoundation.org

Donations - US tax-payers, please note that YOUR GIFT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Please use our 501(c)3 registered organisation in the US for all financial donations instead of sending checks to the school. You will then receive a tax receipt. Every cent you donate will come direct to Mayatan School. Thank you.

Make checks payable to 'Hope For Tomorrow, Inc.'

Address - Frank W. Hopkins, 'Hope for Tomorrow, Inc.' 4 Brady Loop, Andover MA 01810 3224.

Tel 978 470 0702 hopetomorrow@comcast.net

Donations from outside the US - Please send your dollar check to the school address made out to 'Mayatan School' Thank you

New Shipping Options - Please contact Sarah at Mayatan School first before shipping any item

Option 1. via DOLE PURCHASING - GULFPORT

If you can mail your package to GULFPORT, Mississippi, by UPS, DHL, Fedex or Airbourne Express (NOT US Postal Service) - we have a contact who can arrange to get the package from there to us in Copan, for \$50.

Computers, Books, Sport Equipment etc have all been sent via this route in the past. Just wrap the goods extremely well. (If we are lucky the shipping company may decide not to charge us, but we need to have the \$50 standing by just in case.)

Please contact Sarah at Mayatan BEFORE you send your item to Gulfport.

We'd like to suggest that you send a \$50 donation to Hope For Tomorrow to cover the possible costs. Thank you.

The address for your package will be; ERIK SPORLEDER, Dole Purchasing (Honduras), c/o Port of Gulfport, WHOSE 53, East Pier, Gulfport, MS 39501

Option 2. via 'Francisca Envios' - MIAMI

This shipping company in Miami charges by the pound. Check the weight of your item and call them in Miami for the price. 305 325 0102 or 305 235 0592.

When you are ready to mail the item to the shippers, send Sarah at Mayatan School an email to let us know a package is on the way, and please call the company again to make sure it has been shipped. Once you know for sure it has arrived in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, let us know and we can arrange to collect it.

The address for your package will be; FRANCISCA ENVIOS, (MAYATAN SCHOOL), 1749 NW Terr. Miami, Florida 33142

(Company owners in Miami; Francisca and Omar Cabrera)