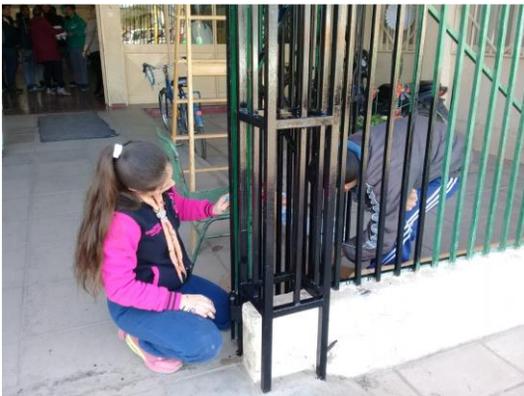


Dear Everyone,

Greetings from our two weeks of Winter holidays in Argentina. Joni and Danny are taking Mummy camping to Miramar for a few days this week and hoping that night-time temperatures don't drop below freezing.



These photos are from a Scout service project at the 2 de Abril school which Danny attends. In Argentina, being a state school means that staff salaries come from the government, and everything else needs to come either from fundraising or the parents. So every so often we get a little note asking every child to bring (for example) a toilet roll and ten sheets of A4 printer paper. A few weeks ago, the school was broken into and computer equipment stolen. So they raised some money and installed these new railings. One of the mums had then volunteered to paint the railings so that they don't rust, except she never did the job, and the school had already bought the gear, but didn't have money to pay someone to finish the work, so a small team of our Scouts stepped in. We hadn't quite factored in that square rails have four faces (doh!) so the job was bigger than we planned for and took up an entire bank holiday. But now they're done and they look great and the school are very happy. Which as Danny's parents might also give us some credit against his plentiful and creative misdemeanours...

Meanwhile, in another story, La Flaca's court case is progressing. The good news is that her mother has now officially withdrawn her participation from the case. This should have resulted in the whole thing being thrown out of the window. However, the case was to decide whether LaF is mentally competent to manage her own affairs, which means that she now has an official question mark over her competence, which might make the state technically responsible for her as a vulnerable person in her mother's absence. Which all means that the thing has to be played out until it reaches some sort of official conclusion. Last week LaF and I went to her medical hearing. This involved she and I being grilled in minute detail for an hour and a half by three people who didn't introduce themselves. It is right that they are being thorough. It would have been nicer if we had had some idea who they were, even just a job title might have helped. Then one of them came to do a second interview at our house, and we thus discovered that she is a social worker. Apparently the next step is that they write up all their findings and present their report and recommendations to the judge who makes the final decisions. If the judge decides that La Flaca needs some ongoing support, it is likely that we, Hazel and Martin, would be called upon as her named guardians. While we understand that this would mostly involve doing what we are doing for her anyway, we would rather avoid the relationship being inscribed in stone, and we have said that before we signed anything for the court we would be requesting a meeting in order to clarify exactly what would be expected from us. The blog can be found at www.frostmartinhazel.org and we are also on Facebook, Whatsapp, Skype and Email, so do get in touch. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support.

Love From

Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

Latin Link 

