

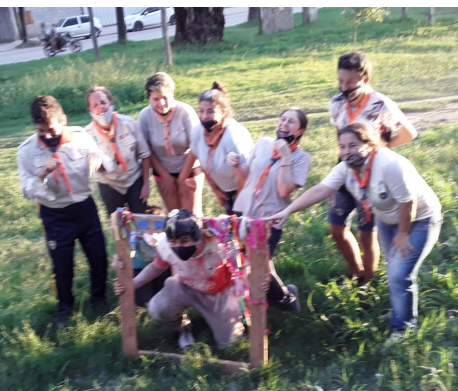
Dear Everyone

Greetings from Autumn in San Francisco. I am trying to write this while it is still April (and still Autumn). This week was complicated by me falling off my bike a few days ago (Hazel) and waking up in intensive care, but they have let me out today so I'm trying to tick off a few jobs that can be done without moving too far.



Some educational themes this month. At home we are now in a settled schedule of Week A and Week B according to who is at school and when. Week A works quite comfortably, week B is like juggling plates while riding a bicycle. Hazel's main aim for the B week is for everyone to make it through to Friday afternoon; anything else will be considered a bonus.

During lock down last year, we made a good link with Danny's school (photo above) through his current teacher, so we are looking for ways to build on that relationship. She, the teacher, this year has become the secretary of the "co-operadora" (bit like the English PTA) so Hazel is joining her small band of helpers. This is a school which finds it difficult to attract support from parents and community because of the social context of the neighbourhood, where anything "official" is instinctively distrusted, and many of the parents feel themselves to be educational failures. So it feels important both to support the school, and to try and work on strengthening relationships between the school and its neighbourhood.



Some readers might remember a story from a couple of years ago, featuring one of our older Scouts "Rodri" who we suspended for a term, and then worked with him, with support from his school, to reintegrate him into the group. His latest news, apart from that he is still Scouting, is that he has now finished his secondary school certificate, which is a huge achievement, and so important for his future. We shared a little celebration with him at Scouts on Saturday (photo left). The next chapter opening is that Rodri is hoping to do some further education locally this year, which also means that we get to keep him with us at Scouts for a bit longer.

In a final school story for this month, Teen and her Boyfriend have just restarted at adult night school. Teen hasn't been in school for the last two years, since the brief period when she wasn't living at home. For her, the decision to return to school has been a big process of thinking and talking. Her main fear is failure, or more accurately, of being confirmed as the failure she already feels, and this runs so deeply that mostly she would rather not try, than risk being exposed. On their first day, she came home stressed by some work that she didn't understand, so we had a talk about looking at the achievement; you went, you copied down the work, and even though the situation was uncomfortable, you stayed with it, and you didn't get mad, or walk out early (both of which would have occurred in other years). For those who pray, please do pray for Teen and Boyfriend, that they would keep on sticking with it, and for those supporting them, both in and out of school. Thank you for reading, and for your ongoing prayers and support. Have a good month!

Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

Latin Link

