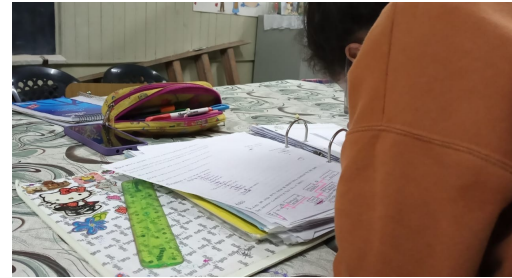


Dear Everyone

Greetings from goodness knows what season in San Francisco. Last week it was freezing, this week it is 30 degrees, and the lapwings in the riding school have hatched out four eggs already.

A new venture this month. We have joined a school support scheme being run by a group of teachers associated with the Catholic church, in the same neighbourhood where Danny did his primary school. Hazel went to have a chat with them, partly to see if they could help Danny with some of his outstanding subjects, and also to offer her services. The teacher in charge exclaimed, "The Divine Provenance!" Which we took as a sign of welcome. They have a room on the side of their building (small open door in the white/grey house) which is set up with furniture and a blackboard and they are offering free help with schoolwork two afternoons a week. The deal is very simple; to work with whoever



comes along, with whatever they need help with. In practise, this means that we sometimes find ourselves trying to do simultaneously primary maths homework with a small person on the left, and secondary school English with a bigger person on the right. But it is all friendly and amicable and seems like a benign way of supporting kids with their schooling. For us it is also a nice way of staying involved in this neighbourhood after the legwork that we had put into building relationships with the families in the lead up to our school trip project. It is also the first time that we have been directly involved in anything with the Catholic church, although Hazel has sometimes been to Mass at Scout events; she can even do the liturgy and responses in Spanish when she is concentrating hard enough.

In more macro-level news this week, Argentina's already dishevelled economy took a new battering with the surprise win in the primary elections of one Javier Milei, leading to an emergency devaluation of the peso on Monday, and another hike in inflation, which was already running at somewhere near 120%. Milei is variously described as a right-wing radical/libertarian/anarchist – depending on one's point of view, and definitely very few people imagined that he would emerge as the front-runner from this first round of voting which is seen as a significant indicator for October's presidential elections. For more erudite analysis in English, search for Argentina or Milei on your favourite news channel or check out this from the BBC <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-66496816> On the streets in San Francisco prices have taken a new leap, and signs have appeared in some shops stating that ticketed prices may be updated at the checkout. Others are withdrawing certain products from sale until shop owners know how much their wholesalers are going to be charging. And today the Scouts were trying to obtain quotes for buses for a camp that we are organising, but we were told that forward planning is no longer a thing, and that we should ask again in October. However, Argentineans are fairly philosophical, or possibly just resigned, about their country's regular economic woes; the mood among the mostly middle-aged dog-walkers in the plaza this afternoon was a communal shrug of the shoulders, and a "We'll get through it. Again. Like all the other times."



Other stuff of life; church and its related activities, riding school, English teaching, Scouts, kids in school, the wider family, are all chugging along much as usual. The Scouts are holding a sale of *locro* (see photo) this weekend – traditional stew based on maíz, beans and offal, to raise money for the camp for which we can't yet estimate a cost! Thank you for all your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.



Joni & Daniel

Hazel X Martin



Latin Link

