



# COLEGIO ANEXO SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

Bogotá, Colombia – Summer 2022

Dear CASFA Friends and Collaborators,

Here we are again, eager to share with you some of the events and activities of the past semester at CASFA!

Every year, our boys and girls carry out a community trip in order to prepare to be leaders that transform their society. Our goals are to sensitize, generate consciousness and build commitment (depending on the students' age) with respect to the situation of our society and the dehumanizing and humanizing dynamics that are present in it.

The following is a report of the community trips that were made this year. Preschool students visited Soratama Ecological Park, where they learned about the native animals and plants of Bogotá's surroundings. First grade students went to La Matucana farm and met with a group of grandparents with whom they planted trees and learned about medicinal plants. Second grade students went to Coopevisa, a co-op located in the barrio where they live. The students learned about the history of the co-op and the barrio and programs that the cooperative carries out to support women in increasing their income to support their families. Third and fourth grade students shared a day with the Sesquile Indigenous Tribe of the Muisca; learning from their Muisca ancestors who have newly returned to the land to safeguard the beliefs and culture of their ancestors. The seventh grade students had an



experience with the Eco-neighborhoods of Bogotá in the Usme neighborhood - the children were able to see how the inhabitants of the area have connected with nature and have constructed an eco-site in collaboration with their neighbors. Eighth grade students - Fundación Casa B - learned about a community organizing project in the Belén neighborhood, a very deprived sector of the city, where women, heads of families, come together to develop cottage industries, a community garden, projects to support the youth academically and artistically, and create a support system for themselves and the common good. Our ninth grade students shared with the youth that are part of Codo a Codo Foundation. They were able to get to know the neighborhood of

Soacha, which lacks basic utilities like running water and sewage, and share with young people who have founded a space for community organizing, develop a music group, and a community meal program, among other projects. The tenth grade students visited the rural area of Usme, learning about the different dynamics of the neighborhood and the danger of the urbanization projects directed by the Colombian government. Our eleventh grade students gathered at 10:00 p.m. in downtown Bogotá with the Pocalana organization, which serves street people, to share stories, bread and a hot drink with the homeless, visiting different sites of

homeless encampments. After the past few years of enclosure due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to be able to share with the communities in these places! It brought “fresh air” to the school and allowed the students to get to know different realities.



### “NOCHE ARTISTICA”

After a three-year hiatus, on March 25, at 5:00 p.m., the stage curtains opened to celebrate the long-awaited Artistic Night. "We All Live Under the Same Roof" was the name of the show, inspired by the story of Noah's Ark, with a script written by our former student, Santiago Ramírez, music and staging composed and created by our teacher Nicolás Rozo, choreography directed by our teacher Angélica Rodríguez, and scenery and costumes, designed by our Art teacher, Liliana Díaz.

It was an unprecedented musical full of color, joy, music and dance! From start to finish, each group gave their all to achieve an unprecedented and unforgettable Artistic Night, to live on in the memory and hearts of all. Everyone, both adults and children, enjoyed each presentation, dance, staging and singing.

The main actors were Iván Silva, from ninth grade, and Valentina Velasco and Paula Fajardo, from tenth grade, who played Noé, Anna (Noe's wife) and Dina (Anna's sister), respectively.

The band was formed by Miguel Pantano on the piano, Esteban Quemba on the marimbas, Samuel Barrera on drums and Juan David León on the accordion—all from tenth grade. They provided the live music of the festival—A FIRST IN OUR HISTORY!! The choir was composed of the students of third and fourth grades. Our soloists were Santiago Patiño and Luna Blanco from ninth grade, and Astrid Junca from tenth grade.

Each grade interpreted a group of animals that were invited to Noah's Ark. The pre-kindergartners were the nightingales; kindergartners were the peacocks; transición students were the tigers; first graders were donkeys; second graders were pigeons; third graders were turtles; the fourth graders were deer; and the fifth graders were snakes. In high school, sixth graders were herbivores and carnivores; the seventh graders were the cows; eighth graders were rabbits; ninth graders were wolves; tenth graders were butterflies; and eleventh graders personified human beings. Each animal had to enter the ark dancing and presenting its greatest characteristic.

View the video at: <https://youtu.be/YginmTm33kA>



### MATH OLYMPICS

Our school was represented by students participating in two Math Olympics. The first one was at Sergio Arboleda University where TEN of our juniors and seniors were invited. They participated with other schools and first-semester students of the engineering and mathematics careers. The first three places were won by Samuel Barrera, Sofia Pantano and Kevin Suarez! The second, the Colombo Gales School, held the IV Mathematical Olympics virtually, where more than 2,500 students participated. Nine of our students, from seventh to ninth grade, made it to the finals!

## OUR ANNUAL FORUM

Since 2016, through the Social Studies and Spanish classes with the pastoral team, the ninth grade students have been developing a series of meetings in which experts, workshop leaders, social organizations, entities, parents and, especially, young people from public and private educational institutions of the city, have dialogued, constructing a new perspective about the recent history of Colombian society relevant for youth.



This year, the forum was a memory reconstruction exercise that aimed to bring locals and strangers closer to the issue of forced disappearance in Colombia as a crime against humanity. This crime has occurred throughout the decades, with victims from all over the country, and it has fragmented the social fabric. The gathering aimed at listening to the different voices of the families of the victims who are still claiming their relatives.

People from the Centro de Memoria de Paz y Reconciliación y de la Unidad de Búsqueda de Personas dadas por Desaparecidas (Center for Memory, Peace and Reconciliation [CMPR] and the Unit of Search for Disappeared Persons) who have a high level of knowledge on the subject, participated in the event. The day started with a presentation guided by the question "Why do we have to talk about Colombian history in school?" Through six different workshops, the leaders from the Center for Memory invited a reflection on this phenomenon, taking into account the different problems of the country and especially giving a voice to the victims of forced disappearance. This was followed by other activities, such as the drawing of a mural, dancing hip hop and printing t-shirts. The day ended with an exhibition called "Portraits of an Absent Colombia," and the reading of the monologue called "La mujer Bauti" (The Bauti Woman), based on the life of Nidia Erika Bautista. On this day, the participants were our students from the eighth to eleventh grades, as well as students from Saludcoop school, Red 7 schools (San Benito, Ana Restrepo del Corral, teachers from Santa María school) and the Fundación Codo a Codo.



## BAZAAR

We are pleased to announce very good news for our entire beloved educational community. After so much time without meeting physically, without seeing each other, without sharing as families, some grades without even knowing each

other because of these two years of pandemic and the time operating virtually from home, we want to share with you what we did to close this school year with a wonderful and unprecedented Fair



(Bazaar) to celebrate Family Day. It took place on Sunday, June 5, at the Fundación Jeymar facilities.

On this day, we were all able to meet under the same roof, to celebrate life, share with the children and

families, and with the children's friends and colleagues. We were together to laugh, play, have lunch and eat delicacies made in our kitchen. This activity was led by the Parents' Council and our directors, teachers, general services and administrative staff of the School, who rolled up their sleeves to serve, monitor, encourage and entertain all visitors.

We had many delicious foods to eat: *ajjaco* (a typical 3-potato soup), tamales and rice with chicken, as well as drinks, desserts, empanadas, gummies and *obleas* (large wafer "sandwiches" with caramel and mora-berry sauce). And, for fun: two wonderful bingos with good prizes, a relay race, typical Colombian games (like mini-soccer), and "Frog" (similar to horseshoes), dances and live music with our school band and an alumni band. We want to recognize the teachers for all their work; without them this day could not have been the same. Their energy, dedication, and love were essential in leading a successful Family Day. Likewise, we want to thank all the parents, children, siblings, students and grandparents who participated in this special day.

## GRADUATION AND CLAUSURAS

How are we light to the world? Our students from Transición and fifth grade held their "Closure Retreat" on May 25 at the Jeymar Foundation facilities. Also, our ninth grade students attended their "Retreat Day" on May 20 at the Sisters' farm located in Faca, about one hour from Bogotá. During these two days, our students worked on their values of teamwork, leadership, trust and respect, which points to the profile of the a CASFA student; that is namely, they are students who have critical thinking that makes them capable of analyzing their society and being participants in its transformation, oriented towards justice, equality and valuing difference.

Our children are finishing three very important stages of school: preschool, which is the stage of awareness of the relationship with others, the knowledge of the world and the interaction with the things that surround them; the elementary, the stage of awareness about how I can interact with the world and the people around me; finally, middle school, a commitment stage about what I can do to change and impact my environment.

This preparation ended on June 9th, with the Closure Celebration. This day our students received the Tau cross, a Franciscan symbol that is at the heart of the process of transformation and change. Finally, we announced the choice of this year's "Franciscan Student." This recognition is given each year to a ninth grade student who has fully lived these Franciscan and Clarian values: has built community; is supportive, collaborative and inclusive; a protector of creation; a critic and builder of justice; and a positive and cheerful leader. Voting is done by ninth grade students and teachers. The student chosen for this recognition for 2022 is Sara Leyton.

On June 10th, our high school graduation ceremony was held for the eleventh grade students.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH for your wonderful, faithful support that makes all of this possible!!**

Rochester, Minnesota: Robin Stearns -- [mission.assistant@rochesterfranciscan.org](mailto:mission.assistant@rochesterfranciscan.org)

Bogotá, COLOMBIA: Sister Carolina Pardo -- [pardomc@hotmail.com](mailto:pardomc@hotmail.com)

