



# COLEGIO ANEXO SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

Bogotá, Colombia – January 2025

Dear Friends and Collaborators of CASFA,

We wish to extend a warm greeting and express our deep gratitude to each of you. Your continued support and commitment to our work have been fundamental to our students' learning and comprehensive development.

Today's Newsletter will share with you some of the most memorable moments that marked the beginning of this new 2024-2025 academic year. Here you will find academic initiatives, sports competitions, spiritual gatherings, and social projects. Each moment reflects the impact of your generosity and dedication to our educational mission. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

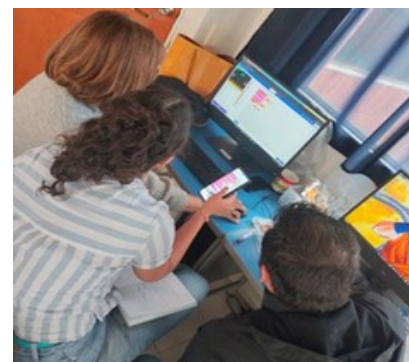
## Robots took over CASFA

Thanks to generous donors, we now have fifteen robotics kits in our institution. This has allowed us to introduce a new area of learning, opening the doors to technology and innovation. Now our students have a new opportunity to develop key skills

in programming, design and problem solving, which will serve them in their academic and professional futures.

We expect that access to these kits will not only enrich their educational experiences, but also spark our students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). By being able to work hands-on with robotics, young people can begin to envision new career possibilities and understand the importance of technology in

today's world. We are deeply grateful for this invaluable contribution to developing the future leaders and innovators of our society.



## Commemoration of Saint Clare's Day

We began the academic year with a first-time commemoration of Saint Clare's Day with a whole school Mass. It was a day marked by unity, spirituality, and commitment to the values that she represents. These are the bases of all our efforts toward the education of the student community at CASFA.

Students, teachers, and collaborators gathered to reflect on the legacy of Saint Clare through artistic activities, classroom workshops, and a moving celebration of the Eucharist. Every corner of the school was filled with joy and learning!

The community experienced this day as an opportunity to strengthen bonds and renew our spirit of service and solidarity. We thank all those who participated and contributed to making this day an unforgettable event.



## Educational workshops for parents

We had the privilege of offering two workshops to parents, with the aim of supporting them in their task of being guides and examples for their children. The first workshop, “Flexible as bamboo, strong as its roots”, invited parents to reflect on the importance of adapting to daily challenges without losing sight of fundamental values, such as flexibility and inner strength. Through this reflection, the importance of patience and love in parenting was highlighted.

The second workshop, “Educating beyond punishment”, addressed how to educate with respect and empathy, promoting loving boundaries instead of resorting to punishment. Parents learned to see children’s mistakes as opportunities to teach and strengthen family relationships. The most beautiful thing about the meetings was the mutual support between parents, sharing experiences and learning together. The experiences of both the participants and the professionals who guided us with warmth and wisdom remind us that education begins at home and that, working together, we can create an environment full of love and values.



## Celebration of St. Francis Day



The celebration of St. Francis Day at our school is always a special event, filled with joy, spirituality, and a deep sense of community. During Franciscan Week, we reflect on the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi, putting into practice his teachings of love, humility, and service. The week began with a warm agape, in which we shared moments of togetherness and strengthened the bonds that unite us as a Franciscan family.

One of the most significant experiences was the day of service, in which we went out to bring hope and solidarity to those who need it most, following St. Francis' example of love for the most vulnerable.

We blessed creation by renewing our commitment to care for God's handiwork, and we paid homage to our grandparents, those pillars of wisdom and love, who help us keep alive the values of service and compassion. The week culminated with a moving Eucharist, commemorating the life and teachings of St Francis.

The example of St. Francis remains a powerful guide for all of us, reminding us of the importance of living with peace, humility, and love.

## Christmas at CASFA

The end of 2024 was full of activities that allowed us to share moments of unity, faith, and joy as we prepared to welcome the new year with renewed energy. Each event was an opportunity to reflect on what we had experienced, to be thankful for what we had learned, and to strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community.

The celebration of the Immaculate Conception vigil night (Candles Night in Colombia) was a magical moment in which students, teachers, and collaborators gathered to kindle lights of hope and gratitude. In an atmosphere full of peace and warmth, we shared prayers and messages that reminded us of the importance of being a light in the lives of others. The lit candles illuminated our school, reflecting each CASFA member's commitment to love and solidarity.

The Christmas novenas brought the spirit of Jesus' birth to different sectors of our *barrio*. At each area, we shared with different populations, bringing joy, prayer, and moments of reflection. These traveling novenas became a living testimony of our educational and social mission, reminding us that faith transcends the walls of the school and becomes action.

The general novena was the finishing touch to this special season. Families, students, teachers, and collaborators gathered in a sense of oneness which filled our community with life and spirituality. With Christmas carols, prayers, and gestures of fraternity, we lived an experience that strengthened family bonds and the union between all of us who are part of CASFA. It was a moment of encounter that inspired us to enter the new year with faith, joy, and hope.



## Sports Day

We celebrated Sports Day full of energy and good vibes, remembering the importance of movement and physical activity as fundamental pillars for well-being. It was a day in which students, teachers, and collaborators came together to enjoy shared activities that promote health, and strengthen values such as discipline, respect, and collaboration — all elements essential to our goal of providing a comprehensive education.

## Other important things to mention

This year we offered new extracurricular classes in English, music, and programming. These gave students the opportunity to explore their interests beyond the classroom.

Thanks to donations from our community, we implemented board games during breaks. The get-togethers for students from 1st to 11th grades offered valuable moments of strengthening the bonds of friendship through shared recreation and fun.

We also had the honor of paying tribute to our teachers who have given five, fifteen, and even twenty-five years of tireless dedication to the school.

These initiatives have all continued to unite our community in its commitment to the comprehensive well-being of our students in their academic, personal and social development. We are grateful for everything we have experienced this year!



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**MANY THANKS for your wonderful, faithful support and care that makes all of this possible!!**

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