

Activities

Every afternoon the children have the opportunity to participate in activities, where they learn about different topics and also have the chance to manifest their interests, creativity and have fun while they learn.



Computer Science

In the mornings there is a group of children that are motivated to learn to use the computers; even though they cannot reach them from their chair, this doesn't stop them from practicing what they learn every day.



Math Competition

One of the subjects that is least attractive is mathematics, and this is why we are motivating children to love it by having competitions.

A notice was sent out to all elementary schools in the area and there was participation from 5 schools: Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta No. 2, Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta Carlos Wyld Ospina J.V., Colegio Mixto Santo Tomás, and Colegio Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles. Twenty two 6th graders participated. First place went to a student from Colegio Mixto Santo Tomás; 2nd place to the student from Colegio Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles and the 3rd place went to the student from Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta No. 2. Each participant was given a kit with pencils, ink pens, eraser, pencil sharpener and crayons. Winners got a scientific calculator and the first place winner also received The Baldor Algebra textbook.



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Spelling Competition

The first spelling competition had 37 participants from 5^o and 6^o grades from the following schools: Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta No. 2, Escuela Privada Salvador Falla from Finca San Sebastián, Colegio Mixto Santo Tomás, Colegio Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles and Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta Carlos Wylid Ospina J.V. The first place went to a student from 6^o grade from Colegio Mixto Santo Tomás; the second and third places went to 2 female students from the Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta No. 2, from 6^o and 5^o grade respectively. Every participant received a kit with pencils, ink pens, eraser, pencil sharpener and a small spelling book. Winners received a set of spelling books, and the first place winner also received an encyclopedic dictionary, while the second and third place winners received a reading book.



Mathematic Activities

During the spelling competition, the teachers did a mathematics activity, while the children worked on the exam and waited for the results. These activities consisted of building geometric figures, as a way of learning other techniques that allow to understand faces, vertices and edges. This is a dynamic way to make mathematic calculations by using these figures.



Teachers doing math activities



Students doing math activities

Help start a business

Julio is a student that received a scholarship and studied baking at Intecap (Instituto Técnico de Capacitación), in Escuintla. Together with his brother, Luis, they have been baking different cakes and breads to increase their income. However, up until now they had not built a formal store, but they only did it in their free time and with their little resources. This is why we intervened so they could get economic support in the form of a loan to initiate a more formal business. They invested the loan money in buying an oven, industrial mixer, baking pans and other necessary implements to increase their production. Although they don't have a completely established business, they have been working with schools and other intermediaries to sell their products. They have already reinvested part of the loan money and they want to continue to build their business. Before giving them help, they received training in Open Windows Learning Center about how to start a business, cost management, handling of raw material, productive processes, how to promote your product and how to make a profit and avoid losses. This was very beneficial for them because they had been doing things empirically, and now they have more elements to manage their small business.



The brothers Luis and Julio



Desserts and cakes made by Julio

Building a house for the Otzín family

A group of volunteers from DWC built a room with bathroom for the family of Hamilton Otzín, his wife, Miriam, and their two children, ages 3 and 2.

The lack of adequate housing in San Miguel Dueñas is a problem that must be overcome; people are living in conditions that cause respiratory disease in children due to the dust and cold at night. A way in which Open Windows collaborates is with groups that are willing to give their economic support and manual work so that families can improve their housing conditions.





Hamilton's house

Meeting with parents of scholarship recipients

Ever since the scholarship program started, there is a monthly meeting with the parents of the students to give economic reintegration, and also to verify students' academic progress and their grades.

This year, different topics are also being discussed with parents: the importance of parent involvement in their child's formal education, communication in the family, and aspects that parents must take into account when educating children at home, among others. Each month, after the end of the informative meeting, there's time left for learning through PowerPoint presentations and telling of stories to improve interfamilial relationships and have greater involvement of parents in the integral education of their children.



Building of kitchens

Improvements were made to the kitchens of three families. The family of don Juan and doña Flor live in inadequate conditions for their age and health. This is why a room was built where they can have more space, comfort and protection from the environment.

Two more adequate cooking spaces were built for the Beltrán Chajón family and Rodriguez Cachupe family, because they were cooking outside. Now they have an adequate place to enjoy their food.

Kitchen of don Juan and doña Flor



Kitchen of the Beltrán family