

Ecuador

By Stephany Tritt



Ecuador is divided into 4 regions: Coast, Mountains, Eastern and Insular Region or Galapagos Islands. People, food and culture are different in each region. Ecuador is located on the equator – called: Middle of the world.

Quito, the Capital, is located in the Andes Mountains. From Quito you can see several snow covered mountains such as Cotopaxi, Cayambe, Antisana and Ilinizas. Also, You can visit the Museum of the Middle of the World where there is a great monument. Before, people thought that this location was really the middle of the world, but with GPS technology, it has been confirmed that the true center of the world is located 240 meters north, however is impressive to visit !!

My mom is from Quito and we traveled frequently to visit our family. We love going to Ecuador and visit the several beautiful places of our country as the city of Mindo, known for the variety of birds and butterflies. In the East of Ecuador you can find the Amazon rainforest, known for the flora and fauna. Actually, you can still find several indigenous groups maintaining their own culture and language. On the coast you can find beautiful beaches with a variety of marine life. In the Galapagos Islands we can find a lot of flora and fauna such as the famous Galapagos turtles, penguins, sea lions, red and blue liguée birds, iguanas and more. Charles Darwin collected a lot of material here to develop his theory of evolution.

Ecuador really is an amazing country!



English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Update

By Lorena Yépez Hernández

This past April 2016, one of the communications we had with the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) included a letter of support to be sent to the California Department of Education (CDE) so they can consider the following recommendations in the report of the new ELPAC examination:

- Adding a "pass / fail" somewhere in the report
- Providing a number instead of only a category in each section
- Adding a line that states that the test results will expire at the end of each school year
- Making the test results available in other languages, such as Spanish

I am happy to share with you that the CDE has responded to the letter and I will have a conference call with them to explore how and what can be implemented during the transition process from the CELDT to the ELPAC. I hope I have good news to share in the coming weeks!

Meet Our ELAC Families: Margarita Chong



Where are you from? Tell us a little about your family. My parents met in Pomona, CA 35 years ago and started a "Chexican" family of Mexican and Chinese roots. My mom is sonorensense with Yaqui roots and my dad is cachanilla with Chinese roots. I grew up knowing both cultures and hope to teach the same to my three children.

What traditions do you celebrate? Traditions in my family are not as "traditional" because we have created a mix of them. For example during the New Year (January 1) my family celebrates like Chinese New Year. We share red envelopes with money that represents prosperity and luck. We also make a party where we eat Chinese food but there is always mariachi or banda. My family had mastered the idea of meals fusion. To give you an example: Chinese taco creations, or egg rolls with carnita. Being part of a blended family has been very different from a typical traditional family, because we always include a little of both cultures.

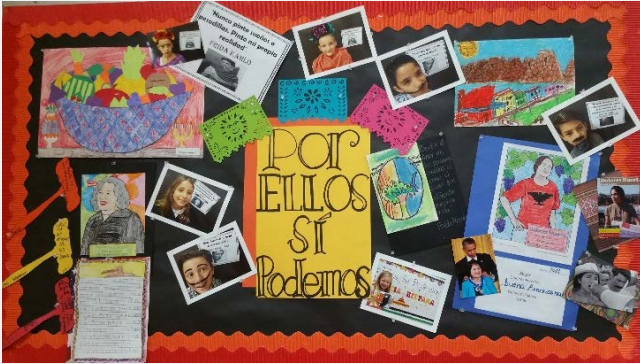
What entertains you, or do you like to do with the family in your free time? Having three boys in my life as a woman is unique. I imagine that like other families, many of our activities are around the children. My kids really like the physical, fun and creative activities. We like to visits parks near the mountains or go the beach to play baseball, hiking, or just play in the dirt. My kids also like to eat different types of food. Usually they choose foods from Asian roots as Thai food, korean, Japanese and only like to eat Mexican food at grandmas. So in summary, in our free time we play and eat.

What has been your experience at San Rafael? Why did you choose this school? Coming from a mixed origin, I know very well what it means to be different from others. So, when I was in the process of choosing the school for my children I was looking for a place where the difference in culture was appreciated. At the same time, in our house we only speak Spanish, then also it was important to find a program that could help my children with the transition from one language to another. When I did the research about San Rafael, I knew that this school could give the balance that i was looking for them. We have been very fortunate to be part of a very proud and united community. Above all, the experience we have had in San Rafael has been exceptional. The teachers are very professional and affectionate with children. The other families accept the differences of cultures and languages and are also excited to learn more.



First ELAC meeting of the 2016-2017 school year.

Hispanic Heritage Month

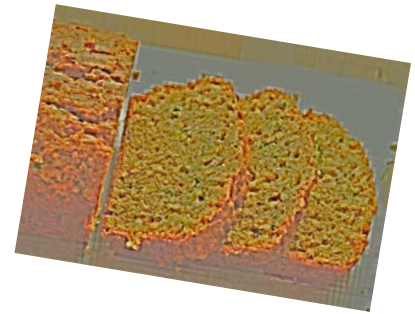


Over the last couple of weeks, Angie Arzili has worked with teachers on a project to promote Hispanic Heritage Month. The work of our students can be seen in the auditorium and in the office. Angie worked in great detail to development the educational plan and its implementation. With the help of our administration, teachers and Ana Diaz, she has given us a cultural treasure to admire as we move through the different corners of our school. Thank you, Angie!

Monthly Recipe: Zucchini Bread

By Ana Maria Diaz Baker

3 ¼ cups all purpose flour	1 ½ cups brown sugar
1 ½ teaspoon salt	1 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg	4 eggs beaten
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1/3 cup water
½ teaspoon cloves	2 cups grated zucchini
2 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon lemon juice



Preheat oven 350 F. in a large bowl, combine flour, salt, nutmeg, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and sugar. In a separate bowl, combine oil, eggs, water, zucchini and lemon juice. Mix wet ingredients into dry. Bake in 2 standard loaf pans sprayed with oil, for 1 hour or until tester comes out clean. Alternative: bake in 5 mini loaf pans for about 45m, or 24 cupcakes for about 25 minutes.

Thank you to all the volunteers who supported the PTA and helped make the Fall Festival a success! Thanks to our Principal and a special thank you to Susan Rangel, Kathryn Winslow and Andrea Fetterman for their leadership!



ELAC Board: **President:** Lorena Yépez Hernández, **Vice-President:** Patricia García, **Secretary:** Martha Castañeda, **Parlamentarian:** Sebastián Andrés Hernández, **Advisory Group:** Guadalupe Catalán y Susan Wong

Questions? / Suggestions? This newsletter is produced by ELAC for the San Rafael Elementary School community. We want to hear from you. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us. In person, stop by the main office. By telephone, call (626) 396-5790. By e-mail: HernandezL@runbox.com.