

The Papaya

Sunday 24th July

Hello and welcome to the first edition of The Papaya!

This is our fortnightly newsletter to keep you all updated about our antics and adventures in Peru!

Our team consists of (from right to left): Hazel- Team Leader; Adam- Spanish Interpreter; Pamela- Skilled Specialist; Semhar -Community Liaison; Imtiyaz- Faith Liaison; and Bridget and Georgie- your media representatives!

Over the next eight weeks we are going to be working with:

- ECOREC- an environmental organisation that works to promote ecological awareness and sustainability
- CEDEC- two schools, one with morning classes for children ages 3-6 and the other for first grade students in the afternoons, the latter being known for its excellence in sporting activities
- Fe y Alegria- a primary and secondary school

Enjoy!



Feliz Dia Peru

On Sunday 17th July, in Barranco and Miraflores, Lima, a corporate event was held in the form of a street parade. There were many floats and performances from different organisations and schools. The following are just a few snaps of the day...



Highlights!

Saturday 9th July- WE ARRIVED!!

Monday 11th July- HIV/AIDS talk with Doctor Jorge Martinez; a former development worker, now working in the institute of Health, Sexuality, and Human Development

Tuesday 12th July- Lucien Chauvin, Peru correspondent for The Economist amongst other leading newspapers, gave a talk about Peruvian politics and a brief history of the country

Thursday 14th July- visit from Cindy Krose, a former Progressio development worker and anthropologist

Friday 15th July- a visit to the Indian markets in Miraflores (Georgie got her hagle-hat on!)

Saturday 16th July- a trip to central Lima with Maria-Isabel (one of the Spanish teachers) and an unfortunate meal in a restaurant found in a train carriage!

Monday 18th July- talks from Sonja Bleeker and Charlie Smith, both former development workers for Progressio

Wednesday 20th July- moved to Villa El Salvador and met our host family!

Friday 22nd July- first day on placements

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July- volunteered with and attended the Fiesta Miscelanea

Fact of the Fortnight

Peru is the leading producer of silver and asparagus in the world!

Useful Spanish Phrases

¿Puedes ayudarme?
Can you help me?

¿Dónde está el baño?
Where is the toilet/bathroom?

¿Qué hora es?
What is the time?

Ahorita
Sometime/Soonish

Fiesta de Miscelanea

Villa El Salvador, our host community, is a district on the outskirts of the capital, Lima, that was established just 40 years ago. To celebrate its anniversary, the 'pueblo joven' (new village) gathered in the school grounds of Fe y Alegria to watch a series of performances from the local children and young people. There were dance routines, singing recitals and even comedy acts, all with very beautifully-made and striking outfits. Around the performance area there were also a collection of food stalls offering many delicacies typical to the region including beef-heart skewers and 'picrones' which were deep-fat-fried batter rings that were then smothered in honey- yum!

The day before, our volunteers had helped to hang decorations including a series of posters advocating the need to protect the environment and the importance of community. It was the latter of these messages that really struck our volunteers for the obvious sense of community was exceptionally prominent among the attendees of the festival. Not only had a large group of parents, teachers and other local people set up the event and got everything in order, the next day when our team returned to start painting the mural, another group of people were already there (bright and early!) tidying up after the previous day's festivities. It is this sense of community that our team is really excited to be a part of and hopefully we can learn a lot from it as well.



Profile of Semhar Menghis

Why did you join the program?
I joined to help people and to experience a new culture.



What are you most looking forward to?

Seeing the end result of our work and learning more Spanish.

What is something that you're missing from home?

Hot showers!!

What has been your favourite food?

I have enjoyed every meal so far.

What has been your best moment so far?

Watching the parade in Miraflores!

Weather Forecast

Apart from one day of sunshine (in which one our Scottish volunteer, Dion, got sunburnt!) and a few moments of drizzle, the weather has been consistently cloudy for the entire fortnight.

Yippee for us...



Funny Moments and Times to Remember

- Seeing the live music in Barranco
- Dion's love of the Metro and peapods!
- Semhar using Bridget and Jameela as bodyguards against the 'rabid' dogs
- Vitalie and Jenny going for early morning swims- crazy people!
- Bridget constantly asking for 'pan y salsa de carne' (bread and stew sauce)
- Talking about meals we like to cook and Portia saying that the best meal she can cook is toast!
 - Watching Dave being stalked and molested by a dog!
 - Adam and Portia playing crazy snap
 - Playing Monopoly Deal
- Semhar finding Georgie trying to hide Nelson (the small dog) under the cover
- Having dinner at the awful train restaurant- most of the food was late and some didn't even turn up!
 - Hazel and Imiti's 'cooe and yoo-hoo'
 - Cake club!