

CCC AMAZON LIBRARY

FALL 2011



Dear Library Friends.

Greetings from the Amazon! I hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying crisp fall weather somewhere. It is hot here of course! Things have been busy at the library since Nancy's departure in July. For me personally, the past few months have been amazing. I feel so fortunate to be able to continue Nancy's legacy. I came to the Amazon for the first time as a teenager and was immediately hooked. I returned many times with my mom, a teacher who brings students to the Amazon every two years, but I have always wanted to stay. It has been my dream since I was 17 to live and work here, and it has turned out to be more than I could have ever imagined. I love the beauty of the rainforest, (I have the most breathtaking "commute" to work of anyone I know), but the children have stolen my heart! Their laughter as we play a game or as we read a book, fills me with joy. So, thank you Nancy, for starting this dream, and thank you to all of the friends of the library who have continued to support this dream over the years. I am so grateful for the children's sake, but also for my own! I look forward to being a part of the library for many years to come.

Thank you,

Megan Thomas



CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN

NEW READING CORNERS

The last of our 3 new reading corners was completed in August with students from Global Explorer's Learning AFAR program. Students from Chicago, Houston, and New York City donated 1,500 books in a partnership with the Pearson Foundation called We Give Books. For each book that the students read back home, a book was donated to the students in the Amazon, a great way to get everyone reading! While visiting the Amazon the Global Explorers students completed service projects with CONAPAC in the communities of Santa Isabela, Manati I Zona, and Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas. In each community the students built book shelves to house the new books, and when the work was over the students had a chance to practice their Spanish, reading the new books with the children and playing soccer of course! Thank you to Global Explorers for helping extend the library's reach to these new communities.



READING CORNER IN MANTI I ZONA

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Our music program has expanded! CONAPAC received a donation of 3 violins and a viola in April, and as luck would have it, our fabulous music teacher, Angel Paz is also a talented violinist. He has begun teaching a few sessions of violin lessons, staying an additional day in the jungle each week. The choir just completed their second concert, during the community of Palmeras' 25th anniversary celebration, accompanied by the guitar students and a flute student as well. We are busy making arrangements for the final concert in Iquitos in December. We hope to be able to continue this wonderful program in 2012!



CHOIR CONCERT IN PALMERAS

WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

By the end of 2011, both library branches will have mini-water treatment systems installed by CONAPAC to provide purified drinking water. Thank you to the Fremont Michigan Rotary club for donating one of the water systems. CONAPAC will conduct workshops at both libraries to teach about the importance of drinking clean water, as well as the maintenance and use of the systems. We have been bringing bottled water to drink to the main branch, and Sapo Playa has been without drinking water. Now, we will be able to treat water directly from the river and from our rain catchment system to drink. We are also hoping to be able to install a rain catchment system in Sapo Playa for the dry months when the closest water is a half hour walk away. We are also looking into the possibility of building ecological latrines at the Sapo Playa branch.

FIELD TRIPS

In September and October students from both library branches visited Iquitos. In September, 18 primary school students traveled to Iquitos for the day, visiting the ACOBIA Manatee Reserve and the Quistococha Zoo. Student fed baby manatees, they explored other Amazonian species at the zoo, and ended the day swimming in the Quistococha Lake. In October, 9 high school students visited Iquitos for an overnight field trip. Thank you to Carlos Acosta of the Hotel Acosta for donating two rooms for our students to stay in. We visited the Iquitos School of Music, UNAP (the National University of the Peruvian Amazon), and SENATI (a national technical training school), and went to the movies that night.



JEYSON AND ROBINHO
FEEDING MANATEES



AT THE IQUITOS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

INTERNET CLASS

Thanks to Explorama Lodge we are now able to offer internet classes to our advanced computing students! Once a week we walk to the Lodge with our laptops for class. We started with the basics and have worked our way up to Facebook. On Facebook the students have connected with students in the States who will be visiting Peru in 2012, not only giving them an opportunity to explore the technology, but also to practice their English!



STUDENTS EXPLORING THE WEB
AT EXPLORAMA LODGE

2012 WISHLIST

In addition to our yearly operating costs including salaries and library maintenance, these are some projects we are interested in for 2012. If anyone would like to fund one of these projects, please contact me directly at mkthomas25@gmail.com. Please remember that your donations are very important to continuing all of the library's programs. Donations can be sent to the Detroit Zoo c/o Claire Lannoye at 8540 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067, be sure to indicate that your donation is for the CCC Amazon Library. In 2012 we will begin to send our library newsletters by e-mail only. Those of you who only receive our newsletter by traditional mail, please send us your e-mail address so we can update our mailing lists.

2012 Projects At a Glance:

- ❖ *Scholarships*
- ❖ *A second mini water treatment system*
- ❖ *Rain catchment system for drinking water in Sapu Playa*
- ❖ *Ecological Latrines in Sapu Playa*
- ❖ *An outdoor classroom maloca (gazebo) for the main branch*

Scholarships: In 2012 we hope to be able to offer 3 scholarships for students who wish to continue their education in Iquitos. We already have three great candidates from Yanamono and Palmeras. Jhan Berty Saboya is

from the community of Yanamono and has been coming to the library since he was a little boy, now he is 17 years old and getting ready to graduate. Jhan Berty has expressed an interest in continuing to study English, a seed that Nancy planted long ago, and he would also like to study to be an electrician at Iquitos' technical school, SENATI. Jamileth Santana is 18 years old and from the community of Palmeras. After growing up near the Clinica Yanamono, run by Dr. Linea Smith, Jamileth dreams of becoming a nurse and returning to Palmeras to work at the clinic. Dr. Smith has shown a lot of support for Jamileth and is very excited at the possibility of having her return to help carry out the clinic's mission. Ariana Perez Hoyos is from the community of Yanamono. She is 17 years old and would like to study English and Tourism. Ariana is a very bright student and has been coming to the library for many years, often lending a hand with day to day activities. Her cheerful and friendly personality is contagious, a trait that will take her far in tourism.

¿Maloca?: In 2012 we are considering building a maloca, or thatched gazebo in the library's yard. The maloca would serve as great additional classroom space. Currently, we use the teacher/volunteer house for all special classes, however, we also have two teachers living there most of the week! The space available in the house is limited, and with the tin roof, it gets very hot in there! We would use the maloca for English class, choir practice, art and science activities, and of course reading too.

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to our beloved volunteer Sue Melvin, from Leicester England. Sue was with us at the library for about two months, for the second year in row. She was a huge help to me personally as I had various commitments that kept me from the library during the months she was here. Thanks Sue, we hope to see you next year!

Thank you to Pam Bucur de Arevalo of Explorama Tours and Global Explorers for giving one of our students, 14 year old Andrea Asipali, the opportunity to participate in a Global Explorers student workshop. Andrea spent the week with students from Houston, Texas and Dr. Phil Wittman, exploring the rainforest and making new friends. Since Andrea would like to be a naturalist guide in the future, this was a great chance for her to see what being a guide is all about!



ANDREA HANDLING A TARANTULA
FOR THE FIRST TIME