

Dear Everyone

Greetings from sunny San Francisco! It was the last day of the holidays and we were gathering equipment and paperwork for the great return, when one of the mums in Joni's school began a one-woman protest. We knew that the school is cramped. What we hadn't known is that they are short of six whole classrooms, that the population continues to grow, that appeals to authorities have been falling on deaf ears for years, and that lessons are taking place in every corner of the corridors, including two groups trying to hold different subjects simultaneously in one science lab, and two other groups similarly sharing the dining room. So Hazel responded and asked the mum what we could do to help, and she said "Make a noise!" That afternoon we formed an action group of several parents and made a plan. Hazel was designated as the person most apt to write an online petition on the *Change* platform (presumably by being the only person who doesn't have Spanish as a first language!). We put it up and sent links out to the local media. Twenty four hours later, with only a hundred or so signatures, the *intendente* (local political leader) appeared on TV to announce the construction of six new classrooms, and we were invited to a meeting with the schools inspector for our region.

Edificio digno para la educacion de nuest



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Hazel Cant S

Firma porque...

Mostrar públican
esta petición

Hazel Cant lanzó esta petición dirigida a Intendente Damian Bernarte (Intendente, San Francisco) y 2 otros/as

¡Hola! Me llamo Hazel y soy mamá de Jonathan, alumno de tercer año de la Escuela ProA Técnica en San Francisco, Provincia de

The meeting consisted of the inspector, the school head, ten parents, and three representatives for the *intendente*. It was long but cordial, despite the inspector being clearly annoyed. There are some issues that cannot be easily resolved, but we now have some basic agreements, and we believe that the authorities have understood that we will continue to be on their backs. National elections coming up next year may also help the action process. In the meantime we have decided to keep the petition live until the building is complete. For those interested in reading and/or signing and sharing, you can find it at <https://www.change.org/escueladigna>

One potentially good outcome is that Hazel and the head teacher have now made eye-contact. She seemed to be especially pleased to see me at the meeting. I had already been thinking and praying about how we could be more involved in both of our schools. I am not naturally an "establishment" mum, and we are also an unknown entity as the only foreigners, and we have perceived the school leadership to be dancing warily around us since Joni started there, so maybe this unexpected chapter might lead to a more active and fruitful relationship.

Other activities are starting up again. Danny has chosen riding and robotics as his after school clubs. Joni is doing riding and boxing. Last Saturday we held a work party in the riding school, and invited the kids to participate in painting, fixing and cleaning, and everyone shared a hamburger BBQ afterwards. Child labour or bribery and corruption? They all seemed to enjoy it anyway. This Saturday we will repeat the operation with a different set of kids at the Scout group. Church activities are also happening. Martin preached yesterday on the Levitical verses about loving your neighbour. Hazel has a sermon to write for the 27th, on an as-yet undiscerned theme. Oh for a lectionary! Thank you for all your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.



Hazel X Martin

Joni & Daniel

Latin Link

