



Summer 2010

GALLO PINTO

Monteverde Friends School

Walk-A-Thon - Finishing Together



Joy! Freedom! Love! What does this photo say to you? Four highly competitive athletes approach the finish line of a grueling 13K run and they choose to cross the finish line as one rather than race for individual glory...amazing! This photo embodies the spirit of the Monteverde Friends School where friends help each other learn and grow across generations and cultures. It's this spirit, combined with the hard work of parents and volun-

teers from the Monteverde Friends School community, that helped raise over \$9000 in this year's Caminata...congratulations to all who participated and donated!

The Caminata is the annual fundraiser organized by the parents of local and international students to raise funds for the school's art and physical education programs. Over the course of 13 kilometers participants climbed steep hills, descended into lush valleys, took in beautiful vistas and worked up a sweat in the process. Thanks to the volunteers manning and wo-manning rest stations along the way, not only was everyone encouraged towards the finish line and properly hydrated, they were also physically nourished by the delicious snacks provided by our local families. Everywhere you turned there was support and nourishment, qualities that also embody the Monteverde Friends School and made the whole experience one to savor.

What was the real pay off for this year's Caminata? Was it the breathtaking view of the Arenal Volcano? Was it sharing time with a friend walking and soaking in the beautiful scenery? Was it sharing a laugh with one of the station volunteers or enjoying the picnic lunch at the end with a new friend you met along the way? It's hard to say if one outweighs another. What is evident is the mutual sense of accomplishment that was palpable as people gathered at the end of the Caminata to celebrate a beautiful day that was a success in so many ways. That we met our financial goal along the way was the icing on the cake of an exquisite day.

Coming Events

August 9-13
Faculty Orientation

August 15
Mother's Day

August 16
Orientation
for International
Students

August 17
First Day of Class

August 26
Open Door
Parents visit classes
4:30 to 6:30 PM

September 15
Independence Day
no class

September 25
Pizza & Talent Night

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Here
to Donate](#)*

Graduation - Class of 2010

Bunches of blue hydrangea blossoms adorned the benches of the meeting room, and banners hung from the walls with quotations of Paulo Coelho, Confucius, and Abraham Lincoln.



On June 4th, Randy Jesús Picado Fallas, Sandra Pamela Madriz Olivares and Daniel Rood-Ojalvo received their high-

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Your Financial Support Matters

Thank you! Donors like you have provided scholarships to 43 of the 115 students enrolled during the 2009/10 school year. Let's get a head start on our scholarship appeal for next year. By making a financial contribution today, you will enable us to continue to provide financial assistance for those families who value a Quaker education and can afford to pay only part of tuition. We appreciate your support.

Click [here](#) and donate now

If you prefer to pay with a check, click [here](#) for our donation form you can print, fill out and mail to Monteverde Friends U.S. in the United States.

Monteverde Friends U.S., is a tax-exempt organization in the United States that supports the Monteverde Friends School as one of its highest priorities. The full amount of each contribution is deductible for federal income tax purposes in the year it is made, to the extent permitted by law.



With your scholarship support, more students receive an education based on Quaker values.

Graduation - Continued

school diplomas from the Monteverde Friends School. Ruby Brinkeroff, another twelfth grader, was also honored, though she will graduate from her high school in Pennsylvania.

The ceremony brought together people from many sectors of the community: teachers, students, family members, alumni and meeting members. John Blount introduced the ceremony in his calm, clear voice, both in English and Spanish. He explained that graduation would consist of meeting for worship, speeches by the students, a second period of silence for individuals to share messages, and presentation of the diplomas. A warm, deep silence followed, and the room pulsed with energy. Tim Curtis spoke about how the group of twelfth graders exemplified the process of accepting change and finding one's place in a community. Ruby began her speech with a poem by Henry Van Dyke, "Parable of Immortality" which uses the journey of a ship to teach lessons of coming and going. Showing confidence and courage, Ruby continued her speech in Spanish, expressing her gratitude to the Monteverde community for shaping her experience the past semester. Daniel's speech was brief and deliberate.



He said that a year ago, in New Jersey, he thought that he would never graduate from high school.

Daniel then said that when his father had visited him during the first semester, he had commented that in Monteverde, Daniel seemed to be himself. It was apparent to everyone in the Meeting House that Daniel's time at MFS had been transformative and inspiring. Pamela spoke of learning to value the silence in Meeting, the time for reflection and the shared space. She said that being at MFS changed her perspective on life, and commented that her class's trip to an Emberá village in Panama had been especially eye-opening for her. Randy commented that the Monteverde Friends



School was his second home, his second family, and a large part of his identity.

As the graduates claimed their diplomas, teachers and administrators lined up to congratulate the students. It was a powerful reminder of how MFS is blessed with such capable and caring educators. Carlos Acuña, the high school Spanish and Estudios Sociales teacher, said that the ceremony had confirmed that the Ministerio de Educación Pública examinations were unnecessary, that the education that students receive at MFS cannot be revealed through standardized test bubbles.

The ceremony closed in a moment of spontaneous affection when Pamela, Randy, Ruby and Daniel left the Meeting room hand in hand.