

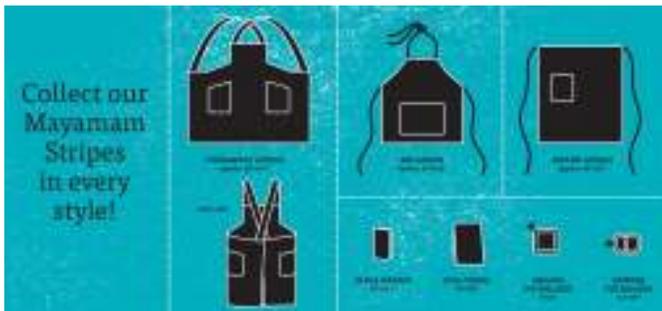
Grupo Cajolá Update



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Vacation School

The quality of Cajolá's public schools is quite low, and even many children graduating from 6th grade have trouble reading. The school year in Guatemala runs from January through October, and there is little for the children to do during their vacation. Thus was born the idea of a vacation school to help the children improve their reading and math skills. Four volunteer teachers are helping about 20 children for 2 hours three days a week. We are targeting children at the first three reading or math skill levels, regardless of their grade in school. The interest was so great that we reached capacity just talking to the members of Grupo Cajola. Based on this success we would like to begin an after school tutoring program in January.



"Let's walk together so that no one is left behind."

Grupo Cajolá
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Drum Roll for Cajolá's Very First Doctor



Well deserved congratulations are in order for our very own Walfred Molina, who received his degree as a doctor and surgeon last month from San Carlos University, the very first person Cajolense to do so. A member of Grupo

Cajola, Walfre has been supported by our scholarship program throughout his studies and has contributed his time and knowledge to our preschool during this time as well.

Thank you to all of you who support our scholarship program, special thanks to the Maya Educational Foundation, and Felicitaciones to Walfre.

Time to Donate!

We are a small community based group and we do not have a sophisticated fund raising program. But we ask you to please remember us as you make your year end donations. In particular we need your help to **expand our scholarship program** to the family members of Grupo Cajolá, to **run our preschool**, and because of the success of our vacation school we would like to start an **after school tutoring program** when school starts in January. Education is an amazingly powerful force for development — we need your help to increase our impact.

Tax deductible checks can be written to Peaceworks/Grupo Cajola and mailed to Grupo Cajola, 50 Cutler St. Morristown, NJ 07960



"Grupo Cajola"

XNQ School: Closing of Another Year!



We closed the fifth year of our preschool this past month with the traditional spiritual ceremony and picnic. The parents' program has been very active this year and the mothers took the responsibility for planning and preparing the barbeque lunch up on the mountain where the ceremony was held. 19 of our students are moving on to public school this year. We are collecting anecdotal information from the primary school teachers who receive them whether there is a difference in how they enter school compared to the children who have not had the same opportunity.

(cont'd next column)

Post Election: What's Next?

Although we won't really know the exact dynamic that we will experience until after Trump's inauguration, it is clear that it is time to work together and hard towards the country and world that we want.

For undocumented immigrants, it is time for a refresher on rights and precautions. For social justice advocates, it is time to protect the gains we were making against private prisons.

For those defending the planet against climate change (which had better be all of us) you know that it is especially time-critical to work towards solutions and organize against the climate deniers and fossil fuel industry.

For all of us, time to defend #NoDAPL, respect our treaties, the right to water, the right to life.



The teachers held enrollment during week following the closing ceremony. Because the interest in the school exceeds our capacity we had decided to give priority to the families already in the school and those working for one of Grupo Cajolá's projects. And after that, first come first served. We had 15 spaces available and have a wait list of about 20 families. For that reason we have started working on the plans to expand the school. Stay tuned!

Reverse Migration

We were pleased to be part of the making of a wonderful short documentary for NewestAmericans.com (a project of the Center for Migration and the Global City, faculty in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media at Rutgers University Newark, and VII Photo and Talking Eyes Media). As part of their celebration of the myriad of cultures residing in Newark, Grupo Cajola helps them tell the story of migration and immigration and the connections and the dreams between "here" and "there."

The documentary is available at newestamericans.com/reverse-migration/



Photo from newestamericans.com

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Sunday Reading Circle



How do you ignite a love of reading in a mostly illiterate community? We are hoping that our newly initiated Sunday reading circle will be just the thing. We have converted the back room of our Internet Center into a space which welcomes children. We have a supply of children's books and some puzzles, and with our Sunday reading circle we hope to plant the seed of reading as enjoyment and the library as a cool place to go. The Sunday reading circle offers children and their parents and siblings a chance to hear a story (or two) read to them on a Sunday afternoon.

We would welcome donations of puzzles, games, and Spanish books for children.

You can send them to
Grupo Cajolá
50 Cutler Street
Morristown, NJ 07960

Dream Realized Scholarship Program

Grupo Cajolá is pleased to be collaborating with some teachers and former teachers at Morristown High School who work towards providing scholarships for undocumented students. At the same time, we are working to spread the word to those same students about the many scholarships that exist to help undocumented students achieve their dreams of attending college.



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