

Back to School “Guatemalan Style”

January was back-to-school month, at least in our part of the world. Parents are frantically looking for that last notebook, lunch box, and backpack. Kids nervously await being reunited with old friends and making new ones. In our country, parents are given a list of school supplies that have to be purchased before school begins. Everything from tape to play dough to pencils and pens, the list is two pages long and detailed down to the brand of eraser that the child must have. Parents spend hours going from store to store purchasing all the items on the list. Whatever happened to my American value of efficiency?? Uniforms are also a must for school here. Some days the girls wear their PE uniform and other days their normal uniform.

Our school, Suger Montano El Cortijo, is a private bilingual Guatemalan school. By the way, the educational system is mostly privatized in this country since the public school system is no good. This year Suger Montano has implemented a new “no homework” plan, so the kids get home from school and have all afternoon to do what kids do best: PLAY!



Kayla smiles big for the camera.

Kayla’s Cool Comments (dictated by Kayla, typed by Mommy)

I have a book and I love people so much. At school I like to work and have fun. My best friend is Josh Eller. I like to play babies. I am learning to ride my bike without training wheels. Thank you and bye.

Mommy’s note: Kayla turns 6 this month. Hard to believe isn’t it? It seems like yesterday that she was in a little incubator at the hospital in Sacramento fighting for her life. Six years later she is healthy, loves school, loves people, and is taking cheerleading at her school. She loves to be with people and does not hesitate to jump in and make new friends.



Elena and Victoria playing in our home.

Elena’s Anecdote (dictated by Elena, typed by Mommy)

I LOVE NAYA (OUR DOG), MOMMY, MY BABY DOLL, AND KAYLA, AND DADDY AND NANA AND PAPA AND OMA AND OPA AND GRAMZY AND GREATGRANDMA. I LIKE TO PAINT AT SCHOOL AND COLOR AND WASH OUR HANDS AND CLEAN UP. MY FAVORITE THING TO PLAY IS LEGOS AND POLLY POCKETS AND TELEPHONES. I LIKE MY BIKE.

Mommy’s note: Elena turned 4 last month. She is a strong little girl who is afraid of nothing. She loves school, especially her friend Victoria. She is shy at first, but if you connect with her, you will have a friend for life.



Elena is proud of her school work.

Thank you for supporting our family,