



Escuela Susana Wesley en Anapra

Fin de Año Escolar 2024-2025

Susana Wesley School

End of the school year 2024-2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Amigos y Amigas de Anapra,

210 days of classes are behind us and have become part of our history. Behind each day of the year up to now are stories of love, resilience and commitment, many of which may forever remain known only to God. For me, it is a privilege to be the messenger who transmits to you a small portion of these stories. The Bible says, **“And the LORD goes before you; He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” Dt.31:8.** We have been able to confirm once again that our God does not lie, and that He fulfills His promises to us word for word.

Our first major achievement was that we started with a total of 144 students, exactly the number allowed by the educational authorities of the State of Chihuahua for our school, and we have ended the school year with 138, which represents the **lowest annual dropout rate in the entire history of the school**. 20 students completed sixth grade, and all of them will continue their secondary studies in local schools except for Samantha, who will return with her family to Veracruz. After the unfortunate loss of her father, who succumbed to liver



6th graders at La Rodadora Children's Museum.

cancer just a few months after it was detected, she and her family will be going back to the southern state they are from. As a sixth-grade graduation farewell party, we organized a trip to a beautiful children's museum called “La Rodadora.” There they spent their last day as sixth-grade classmates and said goodbye to their childhood to become teenagers.

The changes across Mexico for schools up to the high school level have been more significant than ever. This year, the sale and consumption of sodas, candies, chips, and all 'junk' food have been radically prohibited in schools, and starting in October 2024, we will only be able to sell at the *"tiendita"* (school store) **natural water and healthy foods that do not contain carbohydrates or sugars**. Now we sell fruit -a lot of fruit- and only healthy food. Although it was challenging to implement the changes at first, by the end of the school year, we had all adapted to these new dietary rules that have undoubtedly come to stay. Since November 2024, Juarez has been seriously hurt by the closure of many maquiladora factories. Jobs are scarce, severely affecting many parents of our school. It has been a financially difficult year for many workers in the Anapra area, and we have seen that reflected in the students, who come to us talking about the complicated economic situation their parents are experiencing at home. Despite this, the

academic standards this year did not drop when compared to the previous cycle. Our total student population also did not decrease, partly because we did not significantly increase the contributions from parents, which means that our teachers received a minimal salary increase.



A nod to healthy eating during the annual Spring Parade.



Just a few weeks ago, to nearly close the school year, our teachers hosted an **exhibit class for parents, during which** they are invited to see a typical day in the life of a classroom. Dina and I were pleasantly surprised by the academic progress each of the classrooms demonstrated, both in Spanish and in English.

And just two days ago I visited Federal Secondary School 14 located in Anapra, which will be the new "home" for most of our graduates for the next 3 years, to talk with the school officials and entrust our beloved students to them. I must confess that I returned with a huge smile of satisfaction upon hearing the Principal and Vice Principal of the school tell me, "*Maestro* (Teacher), don't worry about your students, we will take good care of all of them. We just want to warn you that we separated them into different first-grade groups because **your children have always been our best students** and we must take advantage of that."



Fotografía: Cortesía

FRONTERA Se van futuros ingenieros juarenses a Asia

Representarán a la Universidad Tecnológica Paso del Norte con proyecto innovador de robótica en China



Jocatan Roldán, SW alumni and student at UTPN received a scholarship to travel to China to take part in a robotics competition. He came back to tell younger students all about it.

We have dedicated many hours to **biblical teaching**, memorizing Bible verses, and in every chapel service we seize every moment to convey God's love, the virtue of the Gospel, and the powerful name of our Savior Jesus Christ. We have spent time praying at the beginning and closing of each school day. Educational excellence and the preaching of the Gospel are our two greatest purposes as a school.



Vacation Bible School

There's a tinge of nostalgia in my words, but it is as it should be. We have bid farewell to our beloved graduates with our right hand and are welcoming our first-grade students with our left. They are the reason for our mission. Their families and our community in Anapra are to us, as John Wesley would say, "Our parish." With humility, but at the same time with much pride, we can boast of a **dedicated teaching team**, with leadership that starts with Dina, the director and leader of the School (who is currently working 100% and even as a volunteer) and with each of the 7 teachers, who could seek better salary opportunities and positions as teachers in the state system, but have chosen to stay and give their best despite the salary limitation that this decision represents. I feel very blessed to be a part of them and to be able to serve them from behind the front line as a pastor and servant. For this new school year, we will not need to replace



Theatre class: learning the basics on scripts, set design, and acting the part of various characters.

anyone. The teaching team is intact, with faithful women who have a loving and committed heart for the students. Besides them, I must mention two great supporters, the secretary and the janitor, both equally dedicated to the school. This year, we have adopted a chant at school that says: "*¿Quiénes somos? ¡SOMOS LAS ABEJAS!*" Who are we? WE ARE THE BEES! We repeat it every Thursday to conclude our chapel. These are not just words; they are a challenge for everyone here, students and those who serve in this beautiful ministry. "Bee strong and courageous" are words that resonate in my heart and mind every morning as we

start this new school year. They remind me that if the Lord is with us, then we are victorious in Him. With burning hearts and our hands firmly on the plow, we are starting the 24th year of Colegio Susana Wesley. As I write to you, we have 140 enrolled students, which means that we are already near full capacity, and we will undoubtedly have to say "no" to many children. But we are more than committed and ready for those we get to call our students and welcome them into a new year.

At the end of this letter, you will see more photographs of the events we had during this past school year. I hope you enjoy them as much as we did. Each event represents the valuable involvement and leadership of our teachers and parents. Our community continues to join us in creating important memories for our children.

Dina and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love and support. This year we celebrate the creating of the nonprofit association that was born in 2025 in Manhattan, Kansas, to financially support us so that we can continue to move forward in our Mission, educating our students with excellence and the love of God. By the way, and taking advantage of the moment, we ask that your donations be delivered to them, and we will receive them later, monthly throughout the year. We do not want to name names, so as not to omit anyone by mistake, but God knows of the noble work you do for these, our little brothers and sisters. Thank you for the research, time and effort that went into reaching a difficult but impactful administrative goal, that the applied goals may be possible going forward. Your love and commitment remind us once more that we are here, persevering only by the Lord's grace, in service of His children.

We say goodbye, asking you to always remember that:

GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME

¡Dios es bueno, todo el tiempo!

Antonio and Dina Briones, servants of God



Parents setting up for United Nations Day, and the children enjoying the beautiful setup during the festival.



Solar System presentation by 5th graders



More pictures from the Spring Parade



International Children's Day is "Big Tent" big in Mexico!



Our friends from Fundación Integra visited the children and hosted the Awareness Workshop on Disability



Spelling Bee champions!