

# Jardín de Gracia



*Sixth Grade class of 2017*

## Goodbye 2017, you were good to us!

These kids have worked so hard! It's the end of a pretty sweet ride for them. They all plan to continue their education in some way or another. We're always a little sentimental to see them go. We started out with fresh faced little first graders and end up with a big , ready for the world 11/12 year old! Time goes so fast. We've finished up everything at the school & you can check our Facebook page for end of the year pictures and keep up with us next year by following us there.

Teachers have finished cleaning out their rooms, we have new consumables and school shoes ordered for next year. We have chosen the incoming kindergarten class and can't wait to see their little happy faces in February.

We are in the process of a lot of change here at Jardín de Gracia, not only end of the year stuff. We replaced 2 staff members earlier this year and in October, our principal and second grade teachers gave their notice as well. We will miss Delkys and Sonia but we are looking forward to what God has in store for us. He never leaves us without a better option and at this point we are only looking to hire a second grade teacher. Sarai (previously 4th grade) will be our new Principal and we have already made one new hire to fill her empty position.

It's been a great year. We had no children leave the school this year. That's only happened once in the last 6 years & we have no idea why it happens, but we'll take it!



*Katharin Floricel and her 2 sisters are students at Jardín de Gracia.*

Kindergarten finished the year with 25 graduates. They will enter 1st grade prepared and ready to learn. We had 20 children in Kindergarten learn to read this year. The others are right on the cusp.

In the picture on the left you'll see Katharine Floricel (Flor) with her parents. She finished the year reading and loving school. She is a typical case of a child in whose life we are trying to make a difference. She lives with both parents. Her mother works in the market on Thursdays and Sundays selling vegetables. Flor helps her by running around the market with a bag of veggies in hand, making her sales on the run. Her father is a security guard. They are both working hard to further their family's education and give their children opportunities that they didn't have. Jardín de Gracia is a place that she spends her days surrounded by people that love her. She is disciplined and loved consistently. She has 2 hot meals a day and she learns responsibility, kindness and how to behave through play. Reading is only one little part of kindergarten. Flor's family is proof that the lessons are deeper.

# What does the new South Campus Project mean?

The planning of the South Campus has been in discussion for years and we are excited to take this dream to a reality. *What does it mean though? What impact will it have? Why should you get involved and be praying?* These are questions we get from new visitors and new sponsors everyday. Here are our answers:

1. *What does the "New South Campus Project" mean?* In a nutshell, we are building a new 7th-9th grade school across the street where the casita (little house/teacher's house/dentist house) is currently sitting. It will take up the upper corner that currently sits against the neighbors' house behind the big pine tree. The campus project will take time and money so we plan to build in phases so we can continue construction as money is donated.
2. *What impact will it have?* In the last 5 years, Honduras has changed the laws and a child will now have to complete 9th grade to get an official diploma. When Jardín was originally built, 6th grade was the required grade level to complete a child's general education and receive a diploma. Currently, our students that graduate from 6th grade have a couple of options: quit school with no diploma, go to our village's public school, or ride the bus 30 minutes to town for public school. Currently, public school is the only option for continuing their required education. Public school in Honduras is touted as free, however; there are a myriad of fees that go along with that "free" schooling. As a mission, Jardín covers all the costs of our students' education from enrollment fees to teachers' salaries to uniform requirements in order to support the poorest families in our community and to provide a Christian education for those in need. It takes a student's parents nearly a weeks wage to cover enrollment for one child at the public school in our village. By building the South Campus, we will provide our pre-teens the ability to continue to learn and grow in a Christian environment and receive a diploma in 9th grade. As one of our recent graduates said "Jardín de Gracia is like my family. I want to be here. The public school is just a school." It is a great benefit to our students to complete their full general education with Jardín especially in the formative years of 6th-9th grade.
3. *Why should you get involved and be praying?* This is a HUGE endeavor. From the physical building to the paperwork that the Honduran Government requires, it costs both time and money. We are solely supported by individual and corporate church donations from the USA and we can't do it without you. Please be prayerful about how you can help these young adults reach the next level of education. With education, lives are changed, but with a Christian education, lives are changed and disciples are made.

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Website: [www.jardindegracia.com](http://www.jardindegracia.com) - follow us on Facebook too!

## Thank you!



I thought I would share with you the Sponsor photos that we are sending out this year. If you are a sponsor, there should be one included with your newsletter. If you are not a sponsor, I'd like to introduce you to Darwin. He is a super happy, VERY busy little boy. He just finished third grade by the skin of his teeth. He has a great attitude and is so happy to be in school but he has a hard time sitting still. This year, you have helped him get 2 hot meals a day that he probably wouldn't have gotten nearly so consistently. You have helped pay his teachers salary. You have given his mother a job (she watches a teacher's child during the day) and in that, she feels value in herself, passing that value on to Darwin & his sister Danna. You have given him the opportunity to play soccer on an organized team, and learn about sportsmanship and how we act when we lose. You have provided him with school supplies, shoes, a Bible that he can take home, a playground to enjoy, soccer balls & games to play with at recess, manipulatives for the classroom and library books. The list goes on & on. Thank you for loving so well. Thank you for believing in what is happening at Jardín de Gracia and choosing to be a part of God's plan for these children. Thank you!