

LIFE IS NEVER DULL IN OUR CLASSROOM



This week Daniel, the Yine author, proudly printed off his print-ready Grade One primer to present to the authorities. At the same time, Mercy, the Early Childhood Education specialist, was checking the final pictures for her Kindergarten Workbook (the first in the Shipibo language) while her three-month old slept peacefully at her feet. Across the room, the Ashéninka-Asháninka wife and husband team were consulting on the stories and practice drills for the Grade Two readers they are developing in both languages. Outside in the classroom, which has now dried out enough to be useable again, our computer wizards (two brothers) were conferring over yet another digital graphics problem. All our books must be illustrated with pictures appropriate to each culture...which means mostly original drawings and lots of work for indigenous artists, who are those most able to represent their regions, their artifacts, and their people accurately.

In other news: with the help of the layout men, we have made good progress towards finalizing three Spanish-as-a-second-language textbooks which have been years in preparation. At last they are on my desk for final editing. Workmen are hanging new eaves troughs and diverting rainwater away from our building—a massive improvement. We have a new door for the storage room and a new, locking file cabinet for the office. Now we can store the computers, original artwork, and master copies of the textbooks more securely. Some new plants make the entryway more inviting. Things are looking up around here.

Next week we will be pushing to finish Grade Two readers in Yine and Shipibo and supporting the Asháninka-Ashéninka team who are a bit further behind. You can pray that the teachers will be free and well enough to come. This may be the last week before some begin heading out to their schools. District mayors and the local education office continue to ask to see all the books. The Grade One books are ready. We hope to be able to show the Grade Two books soon.

We are ever mindful that we are here because of your support. THANK YOU!

- Pat Davis

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