

January 12th, 2018

Feliz Año Nuevo!!!

(Happy New Year!)

Good day Plato Family, hope your holidays were full of joy and you had a chance to relax. At Plato Academy we are full of energy and we are back on business after such a great winter break. We began our Spanish classes learning about



more traditions from the Hispanic culture. For Hispanics, the holidays don't end at Christmas, we still have two more holidays, "Three Kings day" and "Dia de la Candelaria". The first one is dedicated to the three wise men who gave gifts to the newborn king. On January 6th, we start the celebration by cutting the famous "Rosca de Reyes", a delicious sugar bread in which you may

find a little plastic toy in the shape of a baby representing baby Jesus. The lucky ones who find it in their piece of cake will have the honor to host a party for family and friends on February 2nd, Dia de la Candelaria. On this day, the families gather together one more time to close the holidays savoring delicious tamales and Champurrado, a very traditional meal in our culture. Here at Plato, the students were very excited when we cut our own "Rosca de Reyes" and each class had the chance to find the baby. This year 3 lucky students found it! Yay!!! We are still debating if we'd throw a party and how. We'll keep you posted.



Along with the excitement of this day, we learned that children from Hispanic countries leave a shoe by the window on this holiday so the wise men can leave their gifts for them. We talked about the differences between Christmas and Three Kings Day, and we learned that even though both holidays have many differences, they are also very similar and that the most important thing is that families get together.

We played a game with cards where we had to find the baby underneath the cards that are in a shape of a "Rosca de Reyes ". The students had to say the number of the card and see if the baby was there, this way we practiced our numbers from 1 to 12. We also practiced saying: Ahí esta! and No está ahí! It's there/it's not there! The little ones enjoyed this game so much they didn't want to stop playing. We didn't have enough time, but you can watch this short video that explains a little about this tradition:

Little kids..... <https://youtu.be/OO3ZkCe-egM>

Older kids..... <https://youtu.be/NxeXJoJ8Dgk>

In addition, since we are practicing numbers, we introduced a game with the oldest kids called: the nervous hand. A numbers-based card game. This is a perfect way to learn numbers from 1 to 14 and actually knowing them. Most students come to me being able to recite 1-10 fairly quickly, however, if you ask them what seven is, though, they can only get there by counting. This game fixes all that. We divide the deck of cards evenly among the students, one person starts by laying a card face up in the middle and saying UNO/one. The game continues clockwise laying down the cards and counting to 14 (Ace=1, 2-10=2-10, J=11, Q=12, K=13 Joker=14) once they reach 14 they start back to one and count up again. Anytime a number is placed in the middle that matches the number spoken, the players can slap the pile. The first person to hit the cards gets the entire pile to keep. The first student to get all the cards in the game wins. Very competitive game that we all enjoyed.

We keep on singing this song for the little ones so we can practice colors, animals and phrases,

<https://youtu.be/zjBDsWooWzo> the kids love it, you may want to play it for them. On that note, remember that we will be using a lot of songs from Singalingo, some of them are accessible on you tube. We will continue using Rockalingua, Basho and Friends and Calico, all of them have great material you can use on line for free.

On the following weeks, we will be learning the following vocabulary:

Winter weather/Winter clothes/Animals /Shapes and colors

Hope you have a great week. Hasta pronto! (See you soon!)





Soraya
Castro

