



Newsletter September 2021

Graduating class of 2021, Piñán

It's September and that means the start of a new school year. Here in Piñán this is a particularly special school year as the leading grade of students in the community have just begun their graduating year! That's right, with the help of so many supporters, the class of 2021 will be the first ever graduating class in Piñán!



Next week I'm heading up to Piñán to speak with these students and their families to discuss the next steps: career options, post-secondary studies, their own community visions and just how we're going to achieve these goals. Its a very exciting time for them as they explore a whole world of options as well as a very exciting milestone for our own organization to be reaching as well.



Classroom construction near completion

Speaking of milestones, our classroom construction project is just weeks away from completion! Designed by architects at Ecuador's University of Azuay, using traditional design concepts and locally harvested materials, the final classroom awaits the finishing touches before Piñán's high school will be completed. This project which included the construction of a computer laboratory, an open concept lecture space and bathroom facility was carried out through participation of community members and local builders. From the making of the first bricks in the fall of 2020 to its completion this September, the project created dozens of jobs, full time and casual for community members which went a long way during the work shortages in the pandemic. As we near completion, students and their families are really starting to show their excitement!



We'd like to invite you to meet the unique community of Piñán

Please don't miss the live stream we'll be airing in the first week of October for the unveiling and inauguration of the school, plus an HD tour of Piñán and a chance to meet the students and community members and hear what they have to say about the project! We'll be sure to keep you filled in on the date and details so you won't miss out.



That's all, thanks for your all of your support.

Hasta la proxima, amigos!

Simon Cretien

Executive Director

