



The weekly newsletter by Principal Kerri Nolan
just for CDS middle school parents and teachers.

Country Day School, Escazu, Costa Rica

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Celebrating Independence the Middle School Way!

Red, white, and blue, the Costa Rican flag, long skirts and embroidered blouses, *arroz con pollo*, musicians, *cimarronas*, jumping rope, bingo, prizes, soccer, and walking on stilts. That's the way we celebrated Costa Rican independence today in the middle school! Thank you to all the parents and students who brought in delicious food for our shared lunch and to the parents who stayed to help serve and clean up. Thank you, teachers, for running the games. And most of all, thank you, our Spanish teachers who planned the assembly, taught students typical dances, and organized the fabulous stands representing Costa Rica's seven provinces.

Costa Rica's Independence Day is celebrated on Sept. 15. It commemorates the declaration of independence of Central America from Spanish rule in 1821, although the news of the declaration did not arrive in Costa Rica until a month later. Civil war broke out as Costa Ricans debated whether they should become part of Mexico or the newly confederated Central American states. The first president, Juan Mora Fernandez, was in office from 1824 to 1833.





Parents provided a wonderful lunch for everyone and then students played games such as soccer, corn hole toss, jumping rope, balloon launching, bingo, walking on stilts, ring toss, and *cintas*. Since we did not have horses for *cintas*, students rode on carts! The objective was to spear a ring as you raced by it!





And we danced and sang! Ms. Montero and Mrs. Ruiz surprised students by dancing, while Mr. Morales sang. Sixth graders also performed three traditional dances taught to them by Mrs. Ruiz. Eighth grader Sofia Van Slyck sang "America."

