

ROTARY MARCH REPORT

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Hola from Spain!

This month I've been into Madrid to the main library and shopping at night. Madrid is beautiful at night but extremely busy -it is always a sea of people. I went to the Madrid Zoo which was amazing! I was fascinated with the pandas, racoons, flamingos and squirrels. My host family are organising for me to do a studying class at the Zoo for my birthday. I am very excited!

I also watched my host brother play soccer in the mountains so I got to enjoy the view.



I go to Lucas' soccer games most weekends as my host parents go every week and I enjoy watching. I go to the gym most week nights with my Aunty and her friend. At the gym all the teachers know me as the girl who speaks English so they are very nice to me. I'm enjoying it as it is good bonding for my Aunt and me.

It has been a few friends' birthdays so we have little celebrations at school and such. We are in the middle of end of year exams so everyone is busy studying. There is a soccer competition at school for the boys. Most breaks we sit and support them. They are all very good players and soccer is a huge thing in Spain.

We watch it on television quite a lot. The girls from school have shown me the lolly shop which was nice of them-Spain has great sweets.

I went shopping in Madrid with the exchange students and it was fantastic. We went to a famous bakery in SOL and got chocolate croissants which were the nicest thing you could eat! After spending hours in one shop we went and got tapas!

Due to the school girls having exams and my exchange student friends (from America and Canada) travelling, I've been able to spend good time with my host family.

I am understanding a lot more Spanish and I can also manage a conversation. Some things are still very difficult but I'm improving. More people talk to me as I speak more Spanish and I'm sure this will continue to happen as I learn more.

I am reading Harry Potter in Spanish which is hard but it helps that I know the story so well and I'm still studying off my "Learn Spanish in 3 Months" book.

I have been to a few Rotary events so I am getting to know my president well. She is a vet so we get along well. She is fantastic and so funny. The first



event was a big dinner for all Rotary members of Madrid. It was BEAUTIFUL-a Flamenco dinner hosted in a house in the park in Madrid. Most of my club members were there and I sat with my President and my host dad. The dinner was a 3 course Spanish meal with flamenco dancing and a tutorial on how to clap and sing to the music! I had a great night. ALSO I happened to be the only -Exchange student-teenager in the room. Just me and the Rotarians but it was a great night and I loved being about to get dressed up for a formal event.

The second Rotary event was a concert which was opera! There were five singers and they were from different back grounds. They sang a few songs each in Spanish, French, German, Korean and English. I got introduced to another exchange student from America. He and I were the only exchange students who attended but we had fun.

WELL..... I am very happy to say it is holidays next week!!

First we have two public holidays only in Tres Cantos. So if you work in the City you still have to go. Then when Easter holidays start my family and I are going to Northern Spain!!- with my host parents, brother, aunty and grandma. I will see their home town Burgos and go to the top left corner of Spain and then across east to another zoo!! In total it will take around a week and then back to school until summer holidays.

My birthday is in a month!!! So I am very excited to finally be 18.

Take care.

caitlin

