



### BPP's Budding Entrepreneurs!

**Students prepare to pitch their ideas to a panel of successful business owners on Saturday** (From left to right: Eliezer Marin, Kevin Castillo, Paul Speed [teacher], Shelly Jassin, Eyner Marin)

Running a small business can be a profitable venture in the tourist town of San Juan del Sur, and in BPP's Entrepreneurship Class four students ages 15-18 years old are exploring this idea. The year-long course focuses on how to take a business from "idea to success", and teaches students essential skills that will open up options for life after school. From generating ideas to financial planning, semester one concludes with a mock competition this Saturday at our Community Fair. Based on the popular US TV show 'Shark Tank', each student will pitch their idea for a fictitious business to a panel of judges. They must convince the judges, who are experienced local entrepreneurs, to invest in their company based on their business plan and projected earnings. In November at the end of our second semester, students will pitch plans for their own potential businesses to RAKlife, an organization that performs random acts of kindness around the globe who will provide a micro-loan to the successful candidate to help make their plans a reality! [Read the bio](#) of one of our judges, Sanjuanefeo Richard Morales who will also give a motivational speech about the endless possibilities of entrepreneurship



### Feature Teacher: Manouche Dumonceau

#### Enhancing our Curriculums & Creating Partnerships!

Manouche is a dynamic and creative young Belgian woman who has a Master's Degree in Participative Education for Social Change and Community Empowerment. Her experiences teaching children and organizing social projects while traveling ignited her passion for education & empowerment. She fell in love with Nicaragua while working with an NGO in the capital city, Managua and Manouche now lives permanently in San Juan del Sur.

At BPP, Manouche teaches two English Games Classes, Advanced English, and Pre-school English. Recognizing the need for a more structured pre-school curriculum, Manouche created teaching methods based on different units of study which allow the children to be immersed in the English language while learning through playful activities and art.

In her grammar classes, Manouche uses a variety of materials to focus on the four language skills: reading, listening, writing and speaking.

"My class is interactive and engages all the students in the learning process. I value their ideas and ask for their opinions. I encourage their creativity and self-expression through writing and speaking activities. I also try to challenge my students and to enhance their critical thinking skills through debates and analysis of documents."



In addition to working at BPP in the afternoons, Manouche also teaches in the mornings at San Juan del Sur Day School, an international primary school. Last week she helped organize a cultural exchange with the day school which included ice-breakers, participation in our elective classes, and a piñata! All of the students had a blast during this enriching experience of peer diversity and had the opportunity to practice speaking a second language in a real life situation. In the photo above, students conclude the cultural exchange day with a piñata. Check out more [photos](#) from the afternoon with San Juan del Sur Day School.



### Volunteer in the Spotlight- Paul Speed

Paul Speed jumped on the opportunity to give back to his adopted community of San Juan del Sur as a Volunteer Mentor for Entrepreneurship Class. Paul's professional life has always been about learning. He spent two years teaching English in Tokyo, Japan, and worked with an international franchising company coaching business owners for eight years in Vancouver. Recently, Paul and his wife Anne decided to do some learning of their own and moved to San Juan del Sur last June with the plan to learn Spanish and experience life in Nicaragua. When Paul's not teaching at BPP or struggling with irregular Spanish verbs, he can be found learning to surf and working on his golf game, both of which he says are in need of improvement. We guess he better plan on staying in San Juan del Sur for a while! Interested in teaching at BPP? [Click here for more info.](#)



### Wrapping up our First 2016 Semester with a Fair, Class Performances and a Fashion Show!

If you are in San Juan del Sur this Saturday, June 18th, come down to the Escuela Integral for an afternoon of family fun and class showcase! Stay tuned to our [Facebook page](#) for photos of the event if you are unable to join us.



### Star Student: Mayra Chavez

Mayra Chavez is 9 years old and started classes at BPP this year. Translated from Spanish, she explains why she loves BPP:

"I come to BPP because I like to learn English and at the same time I am learning from my teachers. I hope one day I can teach English to the kids in my neighborhood and if one day I have a job where I need to speak in English, I will. I enjoy my dance class a lot as it makes me feel more confident when I dance in public. In my yoga class I learned how to do the bird position and it's my favorite, and my fashion design class increases my creativity. That is why I love being at BPP."

Since Mayra began classes in February, she has a 99% perfect attendance rate, takes three hours of classes in the afternoons and has demonstrated a strong commitment to learn and grow each and every day!

[Make a Donation to BPP](#)

The Barrio Planta Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to Help a Child Grow through free access to classes that promote creativity, communication skills and confidence. To learn more, make a contribution or get involved, please visit our website: [barrioplantaproject.org](http://barrioplantaproject.org). #HelpaChildGrow

