



**GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS**  
Changing the world



**MOVIE TALK**  
It's a love/hate relationship



**UNI**  
Mi unicornio precioso



**PAPA NOEL Y DOCE UVAS**  
Celebrations around the world

# MI CLASE ES TU CLASE

## Lower School Spanish Newsletter



### Google Expeditions! Changing our World

December 10th was the most incredible day of my career! I had the opportunity to travel with my students all around the world. Google Expeditions is running a pilot of their program and our school (thanks to Mary Lee Saucier) was one of the privileged to play with this new technology. I went on virtual field trips ALL day with all of my babies. I watched as first graders pretended to make snow angels in Antarctica, and second graders swam with sharks in the ocean. I took all of my fifth graders to Machu Picchu and led a lesson and discussion (half in Spanish! EEEK!) as we explored the ruins together. The best part about this experience was the freedom the kids had to explore individually and look at what they wanted, when they wanted. It was absolutely magical, and I cried happy, emotional tears about 5 times! I am so lucky to work here!

**"I loved the experience! I got to travel the whole world and not leave the room! I am so lucky and so glad that we had the opportunity to do this, and I hope they come back to St. Martin's soon!" - 5th Grade Student**

## Movie Talk

Movie talk is the latest addition to my classroom. The idea is I find a VERY short YouTube video of my choice and every 1 -2 seconds I stop the video for the class to talk about what is going on in Spanish. This usually means that a 2 minute video can last the whole class period! The students both LOVE and HATE this! They can't stand it when I pause, but they love the anticipation of not knowing what is coming next and MAESTRA loves that we can stay 100% in Spanish to talk about the cartoon or video! At the end of class, their reward is watching it from start to finish with me standing FAR away from the pause button.

## Uni- Mi Unicornio Precioso

Many of you have heard throughout the year about my classroom pets. I have many. We have a mini lizard friend who lives in my window and uses it as protection from the birds. He is very low maintenance and feeds himself. His name is Billy.

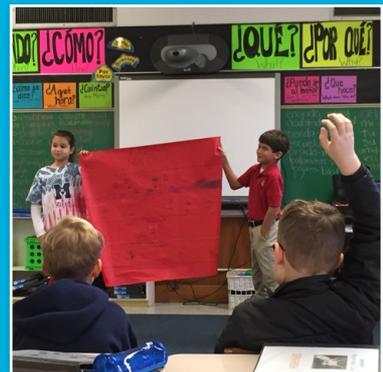
Then, there is Tommy the Toro (bull) who hangs from my ceiling, Carlos el Cocodrilo (crocodile), and Penelope the Penguin. Carlos speaks Spanish and Penelope speaks English.

Our newest friend is Uni, who remains attached to my finger 24/7 and helps me teach every lesson. Uni is a beautiful Unicorn who loves to dance and prance and his favorite food is fruity pebbles. We are doing a relay enrichment together, after school on Mondays, at the end of this month! :)

## Papa Noël y Doce Uvas: Celebrations Around the World!

Before Christmas break, we loved learning about Papa Noël (Santa Claus) and other traditions that are found in cultures around the world to celebrate Christmas. The older students did a movie talk with Santa that was only a minute long and very fun! Since we have been back to school, we have learned about New Years celebrations in Spain. Adults and children alike celebrate bringing in the New Year a little differently than we do here in America. At midnight, it is a lot less rowdy and much quieter as everyone is focused on eating one grape per second (doce uvas). With each chime of midnight, everyone puts one grape in his/her mouth, representing the 12 months of the year. As they do this, they make a wish for a blessed and prosperous, new year! The kids loved this idea and laughed at the thought of people trying to stuff their mouths full of so many grapes! We talked about the importance of not trying this at home, since it might be dangerous. (Especially with our giant American grapes!) Yay for cultures and traditions different than our own! ¡Feliz año nuevo! (Happy New Year!)

*¡MUCHAS  
GRACIAS!*



This was my first Christmas in New Orleans and my first Christmas without snow! The St. Martin's community was so generous, and I received so many wonderful gifts and handmade cards from all my students and their families! I am so grateful and SO blessed to work here with your wonderful niños. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! Much love!

*Don't forget to find  
me on Instagram!*

@lamaestraloca