To our kind donors:
Librarians Without Borders is pleased to provide a recent update of the Guatemala Librarian Stipend project that went underway in February of this year. Because of your donation, we were able to bring a trained librarian to the Asturias Academy in Guatemala for the entire duration of the school year!

In March, Asturias Academy announced that Nicholas Newlin, most recently working at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, would be coming to Asturias Academy. Since then, Nicholas has been diligently working with Dorita (Asturias teacher-librarian) on various library projects and activities at the school. Nicholas plans to train Dorita on an Integrated Library System for Asturias this Fall.

During our recent service-learning trip to Guatemala in May, 13 participants had the chance to meet the new librarian at Asturias Academy. The group worked closely together with Nicholas to discuss several library projects that have been in development throughout the 2011-2012 year. In addition, while in Guatemala, the group and Nicholas planned and hosted the first Library Day at the school. The Library activities included scavenger hunts and theatre games. The older students were also invited to learn about book maintenance and repair. To present, the Guatemala project team continues to work remotely with Nicholas on the library projects and maintains regular meetings.

Nicholas has expressed that he has learned a lot since he has been at Asturias Academy particularly working in a school environment and with children. He enjoys seeing the students get excited about the library. When there is a reading period at the library, Nicholas is pleased to see the students enthusiastic about reading and recognizes that this opportunity may not be available to them at another school. “The library has been a huge part of their learning experience and it gives the students the opportunity to read what they like and study something that they wouldn’t otherwise get the opportunity to do,” says Nicholas. Nicholas continues to make guest posts on the Librarians Without Borders Guatemala blog. If you would like to keep up with the work Nicholas has been doing at Asturias, you can do so by visiting our blog: http://lwb-online.org/?cat=27.

Librarians Without Borders would like to thank you again for your generous donation to the Guatemala Asturias Librarian Stipend Fund. Librarians Without Borders is committed to assisting Asturias Academy with achieving their mission and goals of building a sustainable community library in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. It is because of your support that Asturias Academy is able to ensure the library remains open and accessible to the students and staff.

Warmest regards,

Librarians Without Borders