



Feliz
Navidad

**A Pilgrimage
to Mexico**



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY





Dr. Deanna Oliver

Assistant Regional
Superintendent



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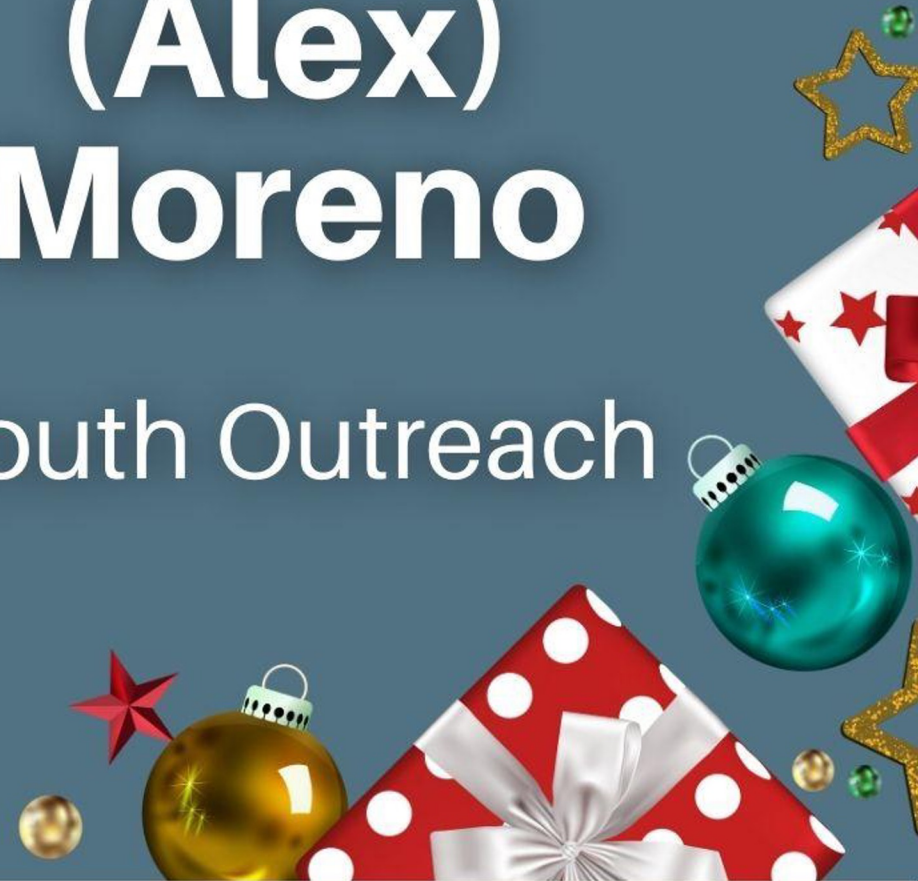


@DeannaDoliver



Alejandra (Alex) Moreno

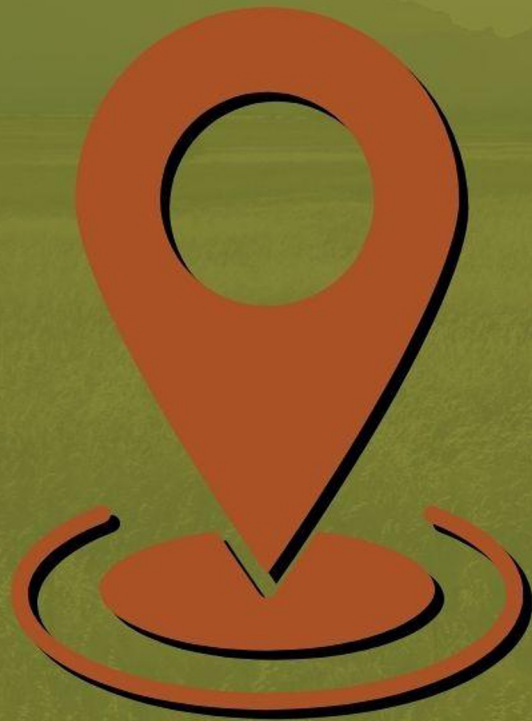
Youth Outreach



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY



amoreno@kaneroe.org



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KANE COUNTY

28 N 1st St

Geneva, IL 60134

www.KaneROE.org

Geneva is in Kane County, Illinois.
It is located approximately
40 miles west of Chicago.

OBJECTIVES

- Gain a better understanding of the cultural experience of holiday celebrations in Mexico.
- Obtain a stronger understanding of why the pilgrimage to Mexico is valuable to families.
- Learn how to support students who are absent from school because of the pilgrimage.
- Transfer the knowledge of this presentation to other cultures.



RATIONALE



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TRIP OVERVIEW & PLANNING

Holiday Dates: December 16 - January 6 *(approximate)*

Overview of Experience

- Multi Day Religious & Cultural Experience
- Different towns in Mexico have varied dates/experiences
- Opportunity for celebration, prayer, faith, giving to others

Decisions

- Dates of Travel
- Method of Travel
- Ticket Purchase(s)
 - Flying- *Airfare cost*
 - Driving-
 - Caravan Coordination
 - Temporary Vehicle Importation Permit (TIP)
 - Mexican Government Authority-Banjercito
 - Proper Vehicle Insurance



ILLINOIS

MEXICO



Flying (Non-Stop)

4 Hours



Personal Car

27 Hours



Bus (Greyhound)

50 Hours



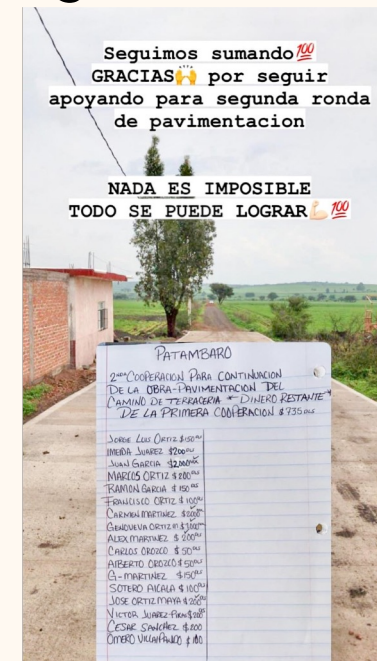
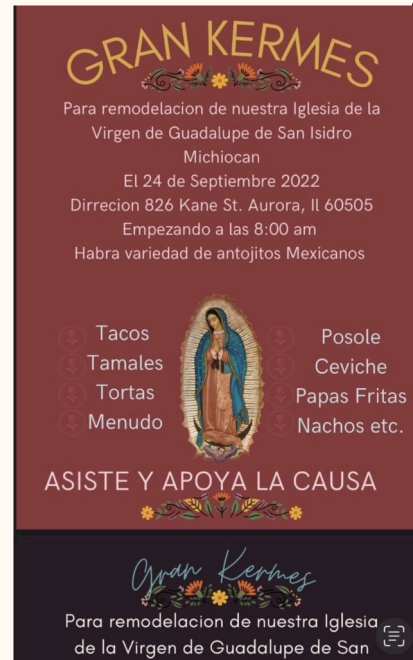
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Fund Raising

Funds Needed For...

- Traveler
- Cash in the vehicle
- Event expenses (*Sponsorships*)

- Fiestas Patrias
- Repairs for Village Roads, Schools, Church, Waterlines, etc.
- Christmas gifts for children in the village.



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FIESTAS PATRIAS

Banda baile 12/28/22	\$ 60,000.00
Grupo 12/29/22	\$ 7,500.00
Misas	\$ 3,000.00
Cantante 11/29/22	\$ 5,700.00
Cuetes	\$3,200.00
Bolas de luces	\$ 10,400.00
Estudiantina/Musica para misas	\$ 4,500.00
Limpieza/Ayuda	\$ 2,000.00
Total Gastos en pesos	\$96,300.00

Total recolectado en USA de acuerdo al cambio en pesos	\$86,336.00
Total recolectado de rifa y donaciones en Mexico	\$17,000.00
Total the dinero recolectado en pesos	\$103,336.00

Cantidad restante despues de gastos en pesos	\$7,036.00
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EXPENSIVE FLIGHTS



\$2,672 for 2 Plane Tickets

Reservation details

Flight date	Departure / Arrival time	To / From	Flight
Monday 26 Dec 2022BGB113DORDGDL	01:11 AM W / 05:34 AM W	Chicago, O'Hare T5 (ORD) - Guadalajara, Miguel Hidalgo T1 (GDL)	Y4 973
Wednesday 04 Jan 2023BGB113DORDGDL	07:40 PM W / 11:39 PM W	Guadalajara, Miguel Hidalgo T1 (GDL) - Chicago, O'Hare T5 (ORD)	Y4 972



TRAVEL CONCERN

- Safety
- Travel Delays
- Difficult Road Conditions
- Cell Phones
- GPS
- Group Travel



SO YOU HAVE ARRIVED IN MEXICO... NOW WHAT?

No Beach



No Parasailing



No Frozen
Beverages



No
Sun Bathing



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This is not your typical trip to Mexico...
Get Ready for Las Posadas

POSADAS: DECEMBER 16 - 24

- Las Posadas represent the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe shelter where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.
- Hosted in a different house every night from Dec. 16 - 24.
- Guests are invited to eat a traditional meal, pastries, beverages, music, and a piñata for the kids.

CONCURRENTLY...

As Las Posadas occur each day, other events are being held.



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE VIRGEN de GUADALUPE?

- Symbol of Mexico's Catholic faith.
- Represents: unconditional love and protection, miracles, healing.
- Mandas (Offerings) = A good time of the year to honor Mary
(Some people crawl on their knees toward the church, into her alter, as a way of giving thanks for prayers answered).
- Passing on tradition to the next generation.



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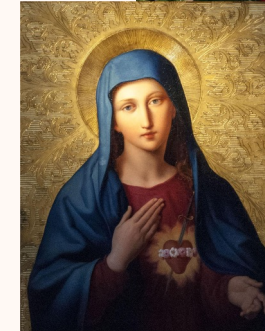
NOVENA/NOVENARIO: DECEMBER 20 - 28

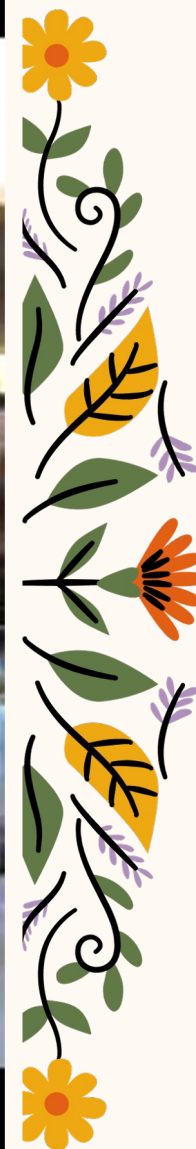
DAY 1 - December 20

- 4:30 PM Mass
- After Mass, community members walk with the Virgin of Guadalupe to the designated family's house where the novena will be held for the following 9 days.
- Offerings, such as Candles and Flowers are accepted

Next 8 Days

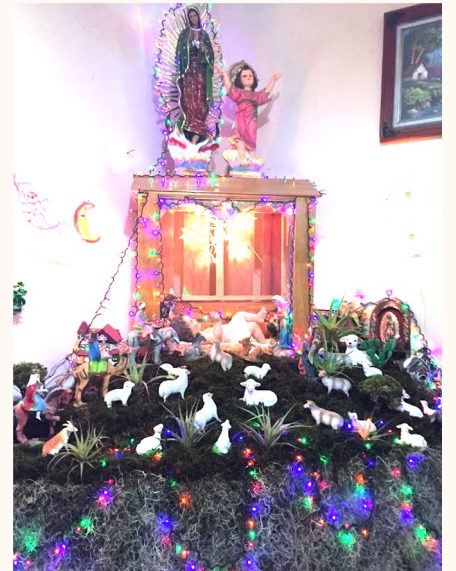
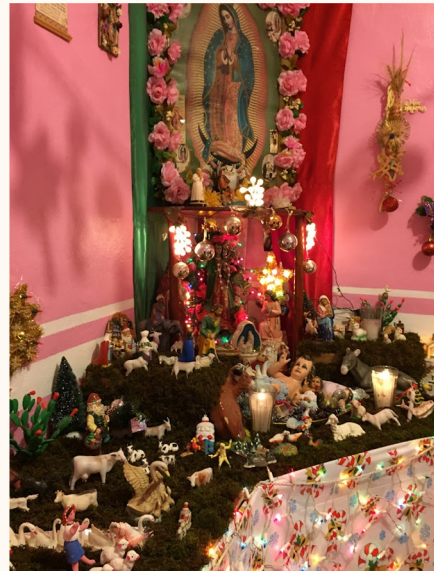
- At 5:30 PM, everyone in the village is welcome to come and prays the Rosary.
- After the Rosary, the family hosting the novena will provide pastries and beverages for every person who attends.
- Entertainment is optional (*Baile Folklorico, Danza, Music, Mariachi*)





CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24

- The last posada is held in the village church.
- At Midnight, visit and kiss Baby Jesus at each house that has a nativity scene display.
- Receive an Aginaldo
(Goody bags, grateful to the community, modest treat, equivalent gift for kids, that the Kings brought for baby Jesus upon his birth).



CHRISTMAS DAY: DECEMBER 25

The godparents gather at the church to give all children in the village a gift.



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FIESTA PATRONAL

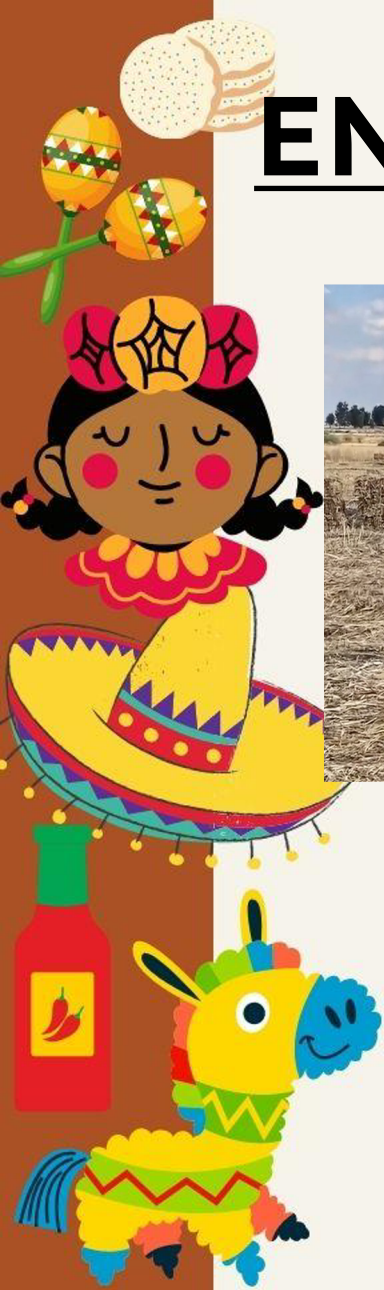
- Mexican tradition - honor their patron saint.
- Both a traditional religious activity and a lively secular celebration centered around the village church and plaza.
- Give thanks to the Virgin of Guadalupe for the blessings given upon the people and the village.



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ENTERTAINMENT RACES: DECEMBER 26



- Family friendly event.
- Horses, ATV's, Adults, and Children.



ENTERTAINMENT JARIPEO (RODEO/ BULL RIDING) DECEMBER 27



- A full day event of bull riding and family friendly entertainment
- Merchants set up to sell food, games, goods



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FIESTA PATRONAL - DAY 1:

DECEMBER 28

- 5:30 PM last rosary at the hostess house
- The community members gather to parade the Virgin of Guadalupe through the entire village, with the last destination being the church.
- 7:00 PM Mass
- 9:00 PM Dance





FIESTA PATRONAL - DAY 2: DECEMBER 29

- 7:00 AM The community members gather at the church, community members will walk through the entire village with a band, firework are set off
- Some people will set up a hot beverage station outside of their house. The band will stop at each house with a station and play music.
- The band will circle toward the church
(They will likely play for the duration of 12 hours)
- 2:00 PM Mass
- 7:30 PM Traditional Dance Performance
- 9:00 PM “Castillo”
 - *A firework tower display is set off*
- 9:00 PM Dance Starts







“DIA DE LOS REYES MAGOS” THE THREE WISE MEN JANUARY 6

- Children place their shoe outside of the door and receive gifts from the Three Wise Men
- A Calvagata de Los Reyes Magos is arranged to symbolize the arrival of the kings.
(Men ride their horses and parade through the streets of the village.)
- Celebrate with “Rosca de Reyes” /Kings Cake
- Attend church
- Levantamiento del Niño Dios/
Waking Baby Jesus Dressing him up.



GETTING READY TO SAY GOODBYE TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS...

- Prior to returning to the states, community members will sign up for a raffle. The raffle is to determine who will sponsor religious events for the following year-
 - The main prize being the Virgin of Guadalupe at their house
 - Church decorations, Castillo, Band for the Virgin of Guadalupe, Dance Performance, etc.
- All of this, to demonstrate gratitude to the Virgin of Guadalupe.
- Let the planning for next year begin!



So....What do we do with this information?



- Share Perspective w Others
- Adult decisions not the children
- Tradition rooted in Religion & Mexican culture.
- Punish the Students-Does this work?
- Embrace & Adapt–digging in heels - make the best of it

- Not about excused or unexcused absences–this is about the opportunity to learn
- Attendance Policy Equity
- Are children treated equally-parental requests for time out of school including Disney, regularly missing for non-sponsored school activities such as hockey, gymnastics, etc.



Tips for Successful Learning



- Open lines of communication with Parents-avoid judgment
- Schools needs to be prepared to have students absent-look at overall student population
- Understand the limitations of access to Internet, Phone, Etc...

- Discuss options for children to present their experiences at school
- Offer special assignments related to trip
- Manage student's other attendance related issues that need to be addressed outside of this one time a year issue



SUGGESTIONS FOR FAMILIES/STUDENTS

- Avoid other absenteeism throughout the school year
- Communicate in advance with teachers/school about trip
- Discuss challenges of completing standard homework assignments and consider options for sharing their experience
- Incorporate discussions of school content areas into the planning and participation of the trip to Mexico
- Make up required assignments in a timely manner
- Double check supplies before leaving (notebook, highlighter etc.)
- Journal the experiences (paper/pencil)
- Research the destination
- Independent reading book for the trip
- Find ways to have children calculate mileage, budget, other expenses



WHY SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE MATTERS? FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Do the school staff provide a feeling of belonging—sense of acceptance, respect, inclusion & support in a learning environment by embracing the culture of the students served?
- Do you perceive that family trips help children to feel connected through a shared experience, exploration, patience, creativity, tolerance, and new learning.
- How is diversity universally accepted or ignored in the classroom?

ADIÓS

Q & A

Contact Information:

Dr. Deanna Oliver- doliver@kaneroe.org

Ms. Alex Moreno- amoreno@kaneroe.org

Photo Credit: Google & Alex Moreno



Sources:

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