

# OUR FAMILY NEWSLETTER

February 22, 2006



## BULL RIDING FESTIVAL *BY: NICOLE*

The Raihn family and us went to a carnival in Parrita. There weren't a lot of rides but it was still a lot of fun. First, Jessica, Jennaka and I went on this really fast ride where you are in this car and you spin around really fast. Once it was over, we were very dizzy. Another fun ride was the bumper cars. After we ate we went to the main event. It was bull riding. This was my family's very first time to a bull riding event. (Except for my dad). The very first bull rider stayed on until the buzzer went off and he jumped off the bull. The bull came charging after him and stomped on him. It was scary, but exciting. Most of the bull riders were able to stay on until the buzzer went off. It was a lot of fun to watch all the crazy people that were actually standing in the bull ring. They let anybody that wanted to stand in the bull ring. One guy was very crazy and kept jumping in front of a bull. He sometimes would even slap it. I also enjoyed watching the lasso men that had to lasso the bull after each ride.



*Nicole enjoying a ride at the festival (Jennaka and Jessica behind her)*



## OUR UNEXPECTED TRIP TO NICARAGUA!

We were planning on taking a fun trip to the Caribbean side of Costa Rica and then on down to Panama. It turns out, while planning, someone here said the Panama border is much stricter about your passport being up to date than the Nicaraguan border. So we decided, being illegal here and everything, we better quickly get to Nicaragua. One can only stay in Costa Rica for 3 months at a time and we were already here for 5 ½ months! Our scare was passing two check points on the way. We knew that if we were stopped, there was a chance they would put us on a bus and send us flying home. The night before we were to leave, we couldn't find Raphael's passport anywhere. We stayed up all night looking for it. You can imagine how mad the kids and Monique were with him! We had scheduled to start driving at 6am. Finally, at 7am we found it under a mattress. What a relief! So we all set out on the 4 ½ hour drive to the border. We were so scared! Luckily, at the first stop, a bus had been pulled over and we were able to just drive through. Then we made it through the second. I think all of us were holding our breath. And then.....a 3<sup>rd</sup> checkpoint! Yes, we got through and stayed for 3 nights in San Juan del Sur. It was

a quaint little town. It was very windy and rained often. We did a little shopping, put our feet in the Nicaraguan ocean, played cards, and watched some American T.V. Unfortunately, this is when we heard about the Post Office tragedy in Santa Barbara. We were very sad to hear about the lives lost. Not much was happening in this town. We were happy to get back home and live legally again!



### VALENTINE'S DAY BY: MAYA

For Valentine's Day I was excited. I made cards for everyone and put it in a bag and I put little chocolate hearts in the bag too. We still had school on Valentine's Day. After school the kids went up and made the parents dinner. Why? The kids are making dinner the parents go all dressed up and then they went up. We had them sit in the rancho and we served them wine. When we were done making dinner we sent the parents in. We had candles and flower petals on the table. Everyone had their own waiters and I got to be my mom's waiters. We served them spaghetti and salad and bread it was delicious. After dinner the parents danced a little. After they danced the kids served dessert. For dessert we served them cheese cake and chocolate dipped strawberries. We made the cheese cake and it was so good. During dessert we handed out our Valentine's cards. It was fun to get lots of candy and to get cards from our friends. Then we went home.

The End.



### COSTA RICAN COOKING BY: RAPHAEL

Our nice cleaning lady, Isabella, or Matcha to her friends, gave us a couple cooking lessons. Yum! Our first lesson was how to make the very common dish here called Arroz Con Pollo. It's not just plain old rice and chicken, it has amazing flavors. We love this Costa Rica special!!! Another time, after cleaning our villas, she took a couple of fresh fish, just caught that morning here at our local beach, and showed us how the locals fry it up. It was delicious. She has become a real special lady. We enjoy trying out our Spanish on her, she is VERY patient!



*Leading our parents in to dinner.*

### PUPPY'S LIFE BY: HANNAH

I am going to tell you about the puppy's we had to baby-sit. The puppy's mom died ...she got hit by a car. The puppy's don't even have their eyes open. They are about 2 or 1 weeks old they are so small. The smallest puppy paws are as small as my thumb nail. There are 3 puppies by the way. My family baby-sits for only 1 day. We had to bottle feed them every 3 hours. With a type of formula. And they make funny noises like when they go to the bathroom. These puppies could DIE. I don't want these puppies to die.



*The biggest puppy our friends named "Benny"*



## JESSICA'S 15<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

BY: JESSICA

Instead of a birthDAY, I got a birthday WEEKEND. On Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, the Raihn's and we had a little dinner party for my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. First, mom took me shopping for my birthday present. Nicole came along as well. We went to a thrift store in Parrita. I got many shirts and a pair of shorts. For dinner we went up to the Raihn's house. First I got to open presents. From my family I got a nice jewelry box, two more shirts, and a pair of earrings. The Raihns gave me a beautiful skirt. Tiana made me matching earrings and Jennaka made me a bracelet. My favorite dish, Chicken and Mole, was served with fideo, salad, homemade beans and lemonade. After dinner the Raihns surprised me and got a piñata. We

broke the piñata and scrambled for the candy. It was a lot of fun watching everyone blindfolded while trying to hit the piñata. I laughed when they missed the piñata when they swung. Following the piñata, we played Pictionary. I got to be a team captain to choose my team. I chose Jennaka, Kurt, Hannah and my mom. We won the first game. Because I don't like cake much, we had brownies for dessert with ice cream. I didn't get time to make a wish because everyone was rushing me to blow out the candles because the AC was blowing them out. The dessert was very rich and yummy. After another game of Pictionary, and another win by my team, we headed home. It was a great night full of laughs. The next morning, my real birthday, everyone packed up their beach gear and headed to a nice beach called Manuel Antonio. The drive was long, about an hour, with lots of rickety bridges to go over. We stopped along the way to get pipa juice from a street vendor. At the beach we played on the Wild Thing which is a raft, surfed, boogey boarded, suntanned, and relaxed. The kids got to eat snow cones while the parents drank cool drinks. At first, the waves were really small, but as the day went on, they got bigger. Raphael spent the day trying to learn how to surf. He got up a couple of times which was good. Monique surfed for a little as well. We had a lot of fun and were beat by the end of the day. After packing up our cars, we headed to a little chicken restaurant. There we had chicken for dinner. On the way home we all fell asleep, exhausted.



Morelos  
Jaco Puntarenas  
Lista de Correo  
4023 Costa Rica  
Fax - (506) 778-7189  
Rapmorelos@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.tranquilocostarica.com](http://www.tranquilocostarica.com)