

¡VIVA ARGENTINA!



EL DIA DE ESPAÑOL

No one wants to go to *la escuela* on a Saturday. But *es obvio* that we have very little say in these things, after all, we're just *estudiantes*, but I digress. The essence of this report or whatever you want to call it is to encapsulate our experience at the third annual *dia de español* at our school.

All we were told is that the theme was Argentina, which meant we had to dress in blue (*azul*) y white (*blanco*) and that we required a pen and a dictionary. This didn't sound very promising to me. However, I am happy to say that I was 100 percent *incorrecto* because, not only did I learn; I genuinely had a good time!

We began with watching a film, '*Imaginando Argentina*' which boasted an impressive cast *con actores* such as Antonio Banderas y Kuno Becker. I won't go into much detail but I will say that it is a very well made *película* that is about the Argentine struggle for independence from the dictatorship it was under in 1976.

!!Viva Argentina, Viva Tango!!

Mumbai

The Spanish department of Dhirubhai Ambani International School, recently ranked as number 1 international school in India, has hosted its third annual Spanish Language and Cultural Workshop this September in conjunction with the Consulate General of Argentina in Mumbai and BTangoConscious team in Mumbai. The focus of this event was the culture of Argentina and 34 IB Spanish students experienced a full day of total linguistic immersion via interactive activities led by Nitika Gupta, Spanish Coordinator of DAIS, and her colleague, George Mansur. The students had an opportunity to interact with the Argentine Deputy Consul Guillermo Alberto Simunovich, Tarana Puri (Public relations officer) who gave the students deeper insights into the Argentine culture and fascinated the students with the mesmerizing beauty of Argentina.

For these 17 year old students an event which they particularly enjoyed was the Tango Workshop conducted by Roberto Santucho, Aditi Jaiswal, Shannon Benjamin of the BTangoConscious team.

"Cross-cultural appreciation is crucial in shaping globally minded citizens. Therefore, our school always emphasizes broadening students' knowledge and understanding of other countries' unique attributes and culture. We are sure this Spanish workshop, organized with the wholehearted support of the Argentinian Consulate, will go a long way in enhancing our students' appreciation of Argentina as a geographically endowed and culturally rich nation."

NITA M. AMBANI
Founder & Chairperson, Dhirubhai Ambani International School

As it turns out; we were so *maravillioso* that we were featured *en el revista de* Free Press Journal, which is *muy famoso*.

This was followed by our first special guests – Mr Roberto Santucho and Ms Aditi Jaiswal of the BTango-Conscious team - who had planned to teach us about *un aspecto importante de cultura* of any country – dancing. In this particular case, we were learning Tango. Most boys were not particularly keen on this, for obvious reasons. To make matters worse, there was a ban on speaking *ingles*, so communicating the steps to us was not a cakewalk for anyone. However, we managed quite well, even the boys got into it once they realized they were dancing with *las chicas*! But in all seriousness, we all got pretty good at Tango while also learning about the culture of Argentina, along with the romanticism and unbelievable energy embedded in the dance form.

Por la tarde at one pm, we broke for lunch. We were treated to the delight of the Mexican cuisine, complete with enchiladas and traditional rice. *Me gusta mucho!*

After lunch, we were treated to another surprise, a visit from the Argentine Deputy Consul, Mr. Guillermo Alberto Simunovich, *un hombre muy guapo, a las chicas les encantó!* We watched a short clip on Argentina after which we began an interactive session on Argentine culture. At first, he spoke *muy rapido*, which made it difficult for us to properly understand, but that changed soon. Obviously, the conversation was inevitably directed towards football, which the *chicos* enjoyed.

After this, we were made to tango again, which puzzled us. However, as it turned out, there were awards for the best dancers, the winners of which were a surprise to everyone. All I can say is that I'm going to use my gift card next week (take the hint). To wrap up our *dia*, we were split into *grupos* and were made to prepare short skits on aspects of *la cultura de Argentina*, which was a good recap of everything we had learned.

In summation, we had a day that was unexpectedly very fun and informative for all of us, which also enhanced our Spanish speaking skills greatly. *Muchas gracias a nuestros profesores (Señora Nitika y Señor Mansur) y Señora Tarana Puri de Consulado de Argentina para un gran día!*





**Consulate General and Promotion Centre of the
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