

Meraki, a three year trip around Latin America to promote reading amongst children

LOCATION: Bollullos de la Mitación, Seville

LENGTH: 1'55"

SUMMARY: Ángel Arana and Aurora Asensio are two primary school teachers from Bollullos de la Mitación, in Seville. In the summer of 2017 they are beginning a three year trip with their three children that will take them to every corner of Latin America in a bus that has been converted into a 'library school'. Their project is called Meraki and they aim to promote reading amongst children and learn about the innovative educational projects being carried out in the subcontinent. The initiative is being supported by several Andalusian businesses, amongst them a number of publishing houses specialising in children's literature.

VTR

Aurora and Ángel are two primary school teachers from Bollullos de la Mitación in Seville, who are going to travel through Latin America for three years, in this 'library school' that they are currently looking at on the computer and that is already waiting for them in Argentina.

ÁNGEL ARANA TEACHER

"It's a place where we can share learning and where we can bring our teaching resources. For that reason, it's a 'library school', not just a library. And aside from being a place where we can promote reading, it's a place that we can fill with adventures from the places we visit."

There are only a few days to go until they leave, and here they are, choosing the books for their 'library school'. But they aren't going alone. They're taking their 10 year old son Miguel, who is packing his bag, 12 year old Dani, who has a talent for drawing, and of course little Valentina, who is also getting ready for the trip, in her own way...

Ángel Arana Teacher

"They were the first ones we asked about it. Aurora and I sat down and talked to them. We said to them: 'We've thought about doing this. What do you think?'"

Daniel Arana Ángel and Aurora's son

"It's such a long trip, three years, of course wanted to go."

So, they started to plan it. Over these three years they will travel with their 'library school' all through South America, daydreaming and exchanging educational experiences with local schools that will enrich their work as teachers when they return.

Aurora Asensio Teacher

"There are some wonderful little schools that are expecting us, made by teachers and by families, that are self-sustainable. Then there are the educational projects that are being carried out, all connected to values, to solidarity, to us being citizens of the world, to the fact that there are a lot of worlds that fit into this world."

They have named the project 'Meraki'. What does this mean?

Aurora Asensio Teacher

"It's a word with Greek origin that means doing something with love and creativity and putting your soul into it."

And with love and creativity, they will go round leaving dens of children's books like this in the communities that they pass through, to encourage reading amongst young children.



Ángel Arana
Teacher

"We will certainly use it to pass on other values and ideas to our children and to our pupils, who are our children."

Happy reading and bon voyage!

For more information or support please email info@andalusianstories.com