

Lora Tamayo Week 2



After a great, welcoming, and fun Week 1 at Lora Tamayo, Week 2 was full of energy and celebration. We were there on Wednesday (February 25th) and Thursday (February 26th), where we were able to not only help run the sports camp but also take part in celebrating Día de Andalucía.

On Wednesday, we had the privilege to run an all-day sports camp for 4th graders. Week 1 involved coaching older kids, so the youth of the 4th graders was another challenge. They spoke less English and were less familiar with games such as volleyball and basketball, so we had to make our instructions easier to understand. The 4th graders also had less stamina than the older kids, so we had to balance the intensity of the activities with their fatigue. Despite these newfound challenges, we adapted with each round of activities, and by the end of the day, neither we nor the campers had any energy left. Recreo (recess) is always a time of high energy where the entire school comes out to play. We are bombarded with kids asking for our signatures or challenging us to games of tag. By the end, we were all in need of a siesta.

Our experience at Lora Tamayo was drastically different on Thursday as the entire school was celebrating Día de Andalucía. This local holiday commemorates the 1980 referendum on the Statute of Autonomy of Andalucía, in which the Andalusian electorate voted to make Andalusia its own autonomous community of Spain. The key themes of this holiday are regional identity, culture, autonomy, and the celebration of Andalucía's vibrant history. Throughout the region, markets and town centers are filled with people celebrating and sporting Andalucía's traditional green and white colors. While this tradition is specific to a much smaller region, the holiday could be compared to 4th of July celebrations in the United States, as people congregate to celebrate a shared identity and national pride. Our group felt incredibly lucky to be in Seville for this holiday and witness the festivities.



The school felt more like a small festival than a Thursday. There were small stands set up around the school, run by parents and teachers, selling little trinkets and creative items so that the kids could walk around and buy things with coins. We were able to participate in the celebration, explore the stands, and even purchase a few things ourselves. It was a fun way to experience Spanish culture firsthand and see how the school community comes together to celebrate an important regional holiday. What stood out most was the sense of community. Parents, teachers, and students were all involved, creating a welcoming and joyful environment. It was a great opportunity for us to observe how cultural traditions are celebrated in schools here in Spain.