

¡Muy Buenos Dias, Mrs. Tucker's class!

I am so excited to write you this first e-mail telling you a little bit about my experiences so far here in Buenos Aires. It has been the end of summer here for the past 3 weeks. Right now, it is the beginning of fall, so the nights are starting to get cooler. I know it is going to be strange for me to have winter in July.

I have gone to see several of the sights in Buenos Aires while I've been here. There is a beautiful rose garden, which is my favorite site so far. I am hoping to tour inside the Casa Rosada (Argentina's white house) tomorrow. Another thing that I enjoyed was seeing tango dancers in Plaza Dorrego in San Telmo. Argentina is known for tango dancing.

It has been interesting using different money. One of your questions before I left was who the people are on the money. They are the important past presidents of Argentina. You also can tell the importance of certain people by the buildings and locations named for them.

There is a subway system here which is incredibly easy to use. Some of the subway stations are named after famous people from Argentina's history. It is nice to have good public transportation since I don't have a car here. I also take the bus or taxis from time to time, too. The bus system is harder to figure out, though, and I got lost the one time I tried to return home on the bus. I mostly stick to the subway.

I really like the food here. Argentina's food has influences from Italy and Spain so there is a lot of steak, chicken, pasta and ice cream all around. If you want a taco or a quesadilla, you have to find a Mexican restaurant somewhere in the city. The food is really good here.

Sometimes I forget that I'm not in the USA because there is often American music playing in different places like restaurants or shopping malls. Probably the funniest thing to me is that a couple of times already people have thought I was a local Argentine because they start asking me a question in Spanish on the subway or out in the street. They only realize I'm a foreigner when they hear my American accent when I start answering their question.

The people in Argentina have a mixture of looks. It is very much an immigrant country like the United States so there isn't one characteristic that describes a person who lives here. I guess that's how I can pass from time to time as an Argentine. It is actually quite flattering that I can blend in. It is also nice that people wear a lot of jeans and casual clothes here just like we do in the USA so I blend in by the way I'm dressed, too.



Jane Smart, a North Carolina Rotary Scholar, with children at San Antonio in Argentina

I have made some good new friends since being here. I have met people from London, Switzerland, Norway, France, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and other states in the USA. It has been amazing to get to know these people.

I am looking forward to hearing what you have been doing in your class with Mrs. Tucker. Have you been working on your AR points? Is there an incentive this marking period for good behavior and good work? Please let me know what questions you have.

Talk to you soon,
Jane