

“YOUR Ideas” “YOUR Initiatives”.

! Forbidden crossroad;

Three years ago we were invited participate in the contest “YOUR Ideas” and “YOUR Initiatives from Renault Foundation. In our first participation in 2016, we were focused on creating an institutional project “Soy Autónomo, amigable y sostenible con mi entorno” (I’m autonomus, friendly and sustainable with mi environment) that was based on research to develop the project. Some teachers, students and the school government worked on this project; the starting point was to observe the students’ behavior when entering or leaving school,



break and lunch time in the common areas such the school cafeteria and restaurant, halls and stairs in the buildings and the parking lot. The team identified that students and parents had troubles moving around and some risky behaviors in terms of mobility; afterward the team implemented surveys to analyze and validate what they had observed previously. The result of this work was to mark the pedestrian paths in the stairs, the halls, and the sidewalks all around the school to show students the way they have to move around without troubles. It was also implemented two crosswalk in the parking lot so people can walk safely when cars are moving. Teaching mobility and how to prevent accidents ended up in the creation of “Festival de la Seguridad” (Security Festival) and different campaigns.

In 2017 as product of the work done the previous year and the intention to continue it, a group of students guided by research, science and technology teachers created the SemoC, which is a group of people intended to develop certain activities in a research context to produce a change in the community. The goal this year was to continue promoting the autonomous, friendly, and sustainable with my Environment project and to make it part of the community culture through school communication medias like the school newspaper “La Caldera”, the radio station “Ondas Caldista”, the youtube channel “Bloque C”, and the school social networks (facebook and Instagram). Guided by techonology teachers, students have developed technological tools and digital games through gamification and programming tools. We tested the effectiveness of the actions from the previous year in a mobility drill which was a success. Since the school community is involved in this project, the actions and results have been shared through different media.

2018 brings a new challenge and with it the opportunity to serve our community.

YOUR Ideas

As team work and after checking the actions we have implemented and the objectives we have achieved in terms of mobility. We have observed a new situation that is creating jams when the school starts or ends. The school is located on a two-way street which is marked with double yellow line and means that drivers are not allowed to turn left to enter school. However, many drivers turn left blocking the way for the cars leaving the school and the cars entering on the right way. We have called this situation the forbidden crossroad and thought of some alternatives to avoid the chaotic traffic. Due to this situation affects not only the school community, but also the school neighbors we need to ask for support to the “Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga” and the Bucaramanga Municipal Traffic Department. Some strategies we have consider are listed below:

- We have thought about the mobility problems in our school keeping in mind what we have done and the situations we have observed.
- Reflected on the access difficulties resulting from the risky behavior of some drivers that enters the school to leave or pick up students. When drivers make the forbidden turn to the left to enter the school, they cause jams and affects the normal traffic flow of about 80 cars per hour.
- It would be interesting to propose a school access only for drivers entering the school without disturbing the others.
- We are going to make a formal request to the Bucaramanga Municipal Traffic Department presenting the alternatives to improve the mobility around the school and asking for the school zone demarcation in the surrounding area.
- We are going to teach the school community (drivers and pedestrians) to comprehend the importance of obeying the traffic signs through digital games in mobile applications and augmented reality, pedagogical and interactive campaigns regarding the progress of the project using messages, digital leaflets, websites, training for the community.
- We want to invite Bucaramanga Municipal Traffic Department representatives to teach the community the importance of mobility and how it can prevent traffic chaos or accidents.
- We want to propose research projects intended to solve mobility problems in our school, the surrounding areas (mall center) and some other places in the city.

YOUR INITIATIVES

After brainstorming ideas to improve school mobility and traffic, we selected the following activities to implement on this version of the project:

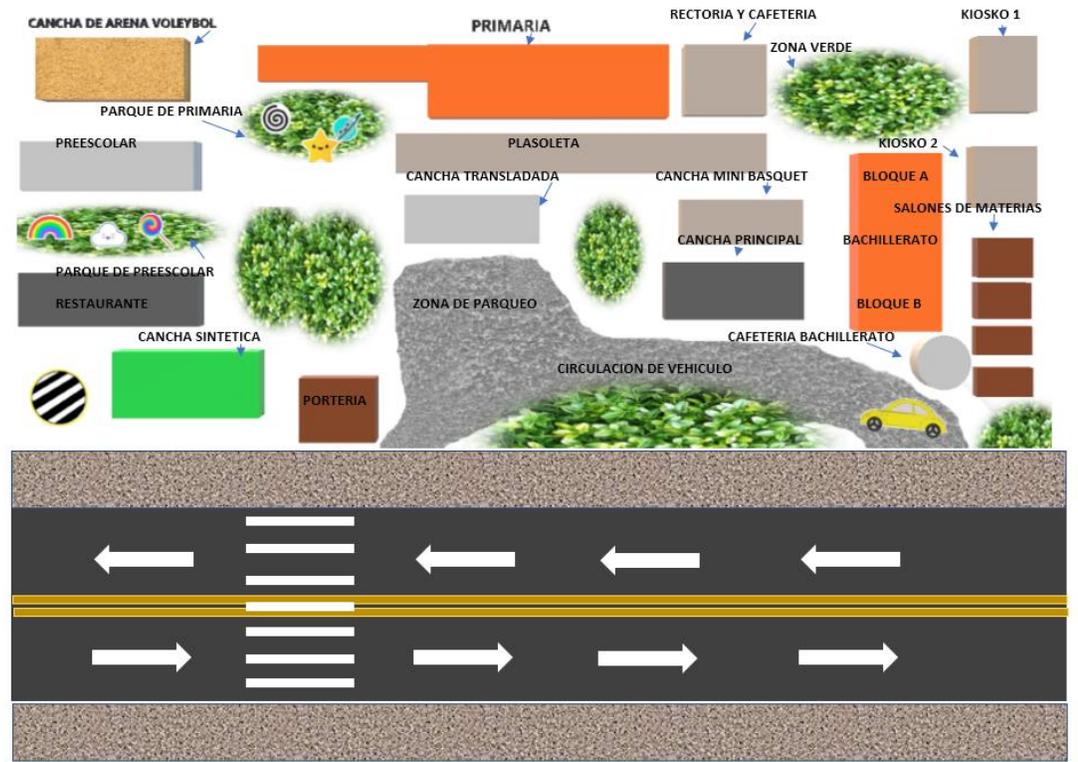


Solutions to the forbidden crossroad

- We implemented a pedagogical campaign to show the proper way to enter the school without breaking the traffic law using leaflets that we gave to students, parents, drivers, neighbors and any pedestrian walking by the school. In the leaflet we show that our solution help drivers to avoid the fine and possible accidents.



- We presented a school access proposal for drivers to the school board using a mockup of the school and the surrounding area to show how our proposal enable drivers to enter the school without breaking the traffic laws and affecting the normal flow of cars. We hope after presenting our project, the school board considers to take it to the founders' board at the University, so it can be included into the improving and investment budget.



- We create a research project bank that looks for solutions to mobility problems in our school, the surrounding areas (mall center) and other places in the city. Our solutions include the implementation of different strategies such as using gamification and creating mobility games using scratch, mobile applications and augmented reality. We have also implemented pedagogical and interactive campaigns using digital leaflets, websites, workshops and trainings that let us show the progress we have done in terms of a sustainable mobility.



Data Access to materials we have developed

Link: <https://panel.genial.ly/>

Username: arangel441@unab.edu.co

Password: SEMOCALDAS

Scratch: <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/228073345/>



- We invite to Bucaramanga Municipal Traffic Department representatives to join and support us to develop our proposal to improve the traffic and mobility around the school and to mark the school zone in front of it.



To sum up, all these actions have allowed us to make progressive and considerable changes in our “Instituto Caldas”, and we have become the main actors of the mobility education at school and we have transformed the troubles into a sustainable culture for the community. We started by learning at home what mobility is and how traffic should be, but our final goal is to impact with our actions an extended community to the school, the surrounding neighborhoods and the city.