

# **Whirlwind Missions**

Ashley's Dispatch

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Spring has sprung and I LOVE it! With this nice, warm weather the kids and I can do something we've been waiting all winter for: play outside! (and not freeze our noses off.)

I've really enjoyed getting to know the guys better through playing sports and I know they love teaching me all the football plays. On Monday DiAngelo brought a tennis ball and told the rest of us to go find a bat. There we were about 6 boys and me searching through the woods trying to find the perfect stick, I mean "bat."

"Found one!" Tye calls. We all run back to the parking lot, break up into teams, (my team was the Sharks) and put rocks as bases in place.

I pitched the ball and SMACK! It's off and flying with all the kids running after it. We still need a few more lessons on staying on the bases.

On Tuesday we played football. This is fun because the girls can get involved too. I teach them a cheer, "Our team is red hot. R-E-D red! H-O-T hot! Once we start we can't be stopped!" They loved clapping and cheering on the sidelines.

Dajuan huddles the team together, crouches on one knee and gives us the play. We all put our hands in the middle and shout, "GO SHARKS!"

We're off! Dajuan, the QB, looks for an opening. I'm running and trying not to run over the little guys. Dajaan throws the ball to Dean who catches it with all his might and takes off running towards the goal. He makes it! Our team goes crazy. DiAngelo on the other team says, "Ok, Ash. We let you guys have that one but it stops here!" Just a little friendly competition.

On Wednesday I brought my big pink yoga ball. It's bigger than some of the little kids here. No, we didn't all do yoga together but we did play giant soccer. I was so impressed with how organized the kids were. We quickly split into teams on the tennis courts, drew our goal lines and started the game. The girls were really into this. Janiya runs up and steals the ball for the much older, DiAngelo, and stars running full speed ahead towards the goal. Oh no! Interseption from Jaquel. The ball gets kicked into a corner and all the kids cluster up around it. The balls going nowhere until Niquown gives one good kick and it's flying through the air. Towards my goal! I get ready and WHAM! Kick it back towards the other goal. The kids are running back and forth like crazy. They're going to sleep well tonight.

It has been so much fun for me to be not only a teacher but also a team mate. After the kids have run off their built up energy it's much easier to get them to settle down and exercise their brains. Thank you for all your support. With your help we're able to buy all the sports equipment we need to keep team Sharks on the move!

