



OLMatters



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Rio de Janeiro, Feb 2008

“To educate the Whole Person for Global Understanding”



CHANGES IN PLACE

by John J. Majka

The semester began in the first week of Lent. At the opening week's school Mass Monsignor Andre spoke about changing our evil ways. Lent very concretely invites us to change what does not build or heal, whatever habits or attitudes do not help transform the world we live in.

In Julia Gavras' delightful and insightful film *Blame It on Fidel!* the political changes of the 1960's in Spain and Chile are seen through the eyes of a ten-year-old French girl. Her parents are activists for change in consciousness. As her seven-year-old brother takes on the changes naturally and wholeheartedly, she rebels and questions. The stories and teachings of successive Cuban, Greek and Vietnamese baby-sitters and coming to know other activists who would meet in her home help her reconcile herself with the changes she and her family (and society) were going through.

Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men* (and the excellent film based on it) presents an aging, about-to-retire sheriff reflecting on the evil and violence in the world. He suspects that it started when people began to stop treating each other politely, as *Sir* and *Madame*, with *please* and *thank you*. There is no citizenship without civility

The Presidential Primaries in the United States have made *change* their banner. Hillary Clinton and John McCain have taken their cue from Barack Obama's campaign-- *Change you can believe in*. Thousands of new voters have registered and thousands more have appeared at political rallies. Coffers are fuller than ever from donations of people who feel the moment for change is now.

At OLM changes were initiated in 2007 to create easier access for the personal sharing and bonding necessary to promote the joy of learning. Teachers started mentoring one another as they committed themselves to being more reflective in their teaching. The 9th Grade *Freshman House* and the 6th Grade *Me, Myself*

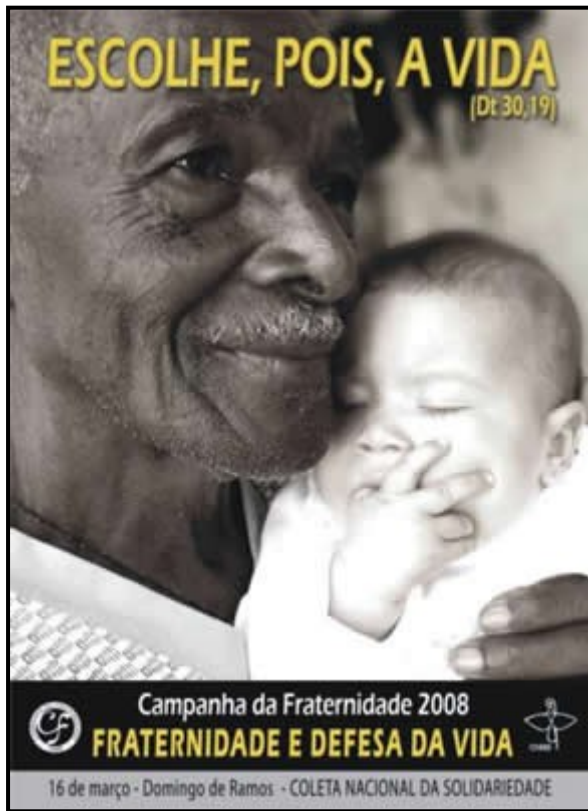
and I projects of last semester offered the students an environment to be more united in the common purpose of discovering truth together in dialogue with and respect for each other. The projects are continuing enthusiastically.

Only by remaining firm to the changes implemented at the beginning of the school year can they evolve dynamically as they must and root their spirit into the consciousness of the participants. Bottom line: change takes place in the heart.

ABOUT CHANGE

Nathalia Nunes ('09)

To change is to improve the person you are
To accept your mistakes and pull them apart
You may not like to change
But you'll never grow if you always stay the same
Playing again and again the same old, boring game
People change because it refreshes their soul
People change to be a better person and achieve their goal
There will always be a reason for changing
Either because they want to or because they need to
With time, you will remember all the troubles you passed through
Seeing that all the effort has improved you
But there will always be someone questioning if it was worth it
Was it? Maybe yes, maybe no
You will never know if you don't try
Be yourself, changing all the time
Not who you are
But things that you will never forget
Nor regret.



POSTER OF THE CAMPANHA DA FRATERNIDADE 2008

Katia Souza

As soon as carnival gets to an end, the Catholic Church starts its major time of preparation for its most important feast, Easter, on Ash Wednesday. Lent, a period of forty days, helps us grow spiritually by encouraging sacrifice and prayers; all to give us a renewal in faith. Lent reminds us that we have to be in grace to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also during Lent, that the Catholic Church in Brazil launches the "Campanha da Fraternidade". This year its

theme is *Fraternidade e defesa da vida (Brotherhood and the defense of life)*, and its motto: *Escolhe, pois, a vida (So, choose life)*. The theme is a wonderful opportunity for all of us, Christians and non-Christians, to reflect about the importance of life in all its implications.

Do not be afraid to participate in the campaign by promoting Life in all its possibilities. After all, Easter symbolizes the eternal life we have in the resurrected Christ. A fruitful Lent!!



WORTH WAITING FOR!!

Lucas Alencar Rundle was born 5:00pm on Saturday, January 26th. He weighed in at 3.3kilos and measured 48cm (that's 7lbs 4oz and just under 19inches for the yankees). Both Lucas and Adriana are doing well and have been home since Monday morning.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SENIORS

John Majka and George Smith.

The double period on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 analyzing and discussing Shakespeare's Sonnet 73 was one of the most memorable and exhilarating classes ever. Your participation was enthusiastic, enlightened, realistic, and eminently human as you pursued the deep layers of meaning behind the sonnet. It was truly marvelous to be a part of it and makes us glad to be your teachers.

HOW GOOD IT IS TO HAVE STUDENT TEACHERS

(From left to right)

Jesse Thomas: As a future Social Studies teacher, it is only natural for me to have an interest in history and culture. It is that interest in history and culture that has led me here to OLM. While I am here I look forward to both teaching history and learning about the



Brazilian culture. I just hope the students get as much from me as I feel I will get from them.

Jana Fuhrmann: I'm from Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been studying Art at BGSU for the past several years. I love to paint and make installation art. I am very excited to be teaching at OLM. I hope to learn more about Brazilian art, music, and culture while I am here.

Heather Valley: I am from Cleveland, Ohio and I live with my parents and younger brother. I will be teaching Math here at OLM. I look forward to meeting everyone and hope to have a successful semester.

George Smith: I'm so excited for my time here at OLM! Although I have been here for only a short while, I am still impressed with the intelligence of the students along with the receptive welcome we have received from the faculty and student body alike. I look forward to getting to know you all on a more personal level and furthermore cannot wait to take advantage of my time in this incredibly beautiful city.

THANKS... AND GOOD-BYE FOR NOW

Luíza Osório ('14)



I have always loved OLM, and now more than ever. OLM is not only my school; it is my second home, where I meet my dear friends and teachers. OLM is a very special place to me, and I will miss every single part of it... the anthems on Monday morning, the front court, the cafeteria, the chapel, the library, the classrooms, the

subjects, and mostly, the people. OLM is part of my life, one of the most important parts of it! I remember good and bad moments there, but of course, most of them are good. My friends sometimes say that I'm crazy, because I love to go to school, but how could I dislike it??? There, in OLM, I had the happiest moments of all my life with my friends, my teachers, in the classes and in recess. I always had a VERY good time laughing and playing with my friends, and talking to my teachers... I just wanted to say that OLM is the best place in the world!



Now, I would like to leave a message to some very special people: my dear friends and teachers. I know that I have only known some of you a little while, but I already love you all. All of you (at least most of you) were always kind and lovely with me, and I hope I did the same thing to all. I love every single friend and teacher, and I will always remember you all. The time I spent in OLM was the most valuable part of my life, all because of you. If I was bad or if I did something wrong with anyone of you, I'm very sorry... you are all very special to me!



F4 (you know who you are): You are the best friends I could ever have, and I hope you know how much I love you. You are very special to me. When I came back, we'll still be the F4 right? I hope so! **F4 4EVER!**

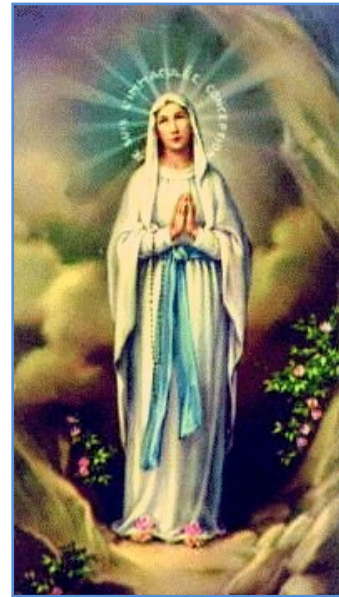
Class of 2014: You are all very special to me!!! Everyone of you! I hope you never forget me, because I'll never forget you! And when I come back, I'll be glad to be called 'nerd', because then I'll know I'm back home.



Ms. Miranda, Ms. Ghiotti, Ms. Xavier, Ms. Melo, Ms. Camila, Ms. Prado: You 6 people are some of the people I love the most in this whole world! You are all very special to me, and I hope you never forget me, because I'll never forget you, be sure of that. When I come back I hope to catch up with your news. I love you VERY much! **Mr. Ramos and Mr. Rundle:** You taught me a lot of things that I'm sure are important. You're very important to me. I'll never forget you!!! My other friends and teachers: I also love you very much, and I'll never forget you. **I LOVE YOU ALL VERY MUCH!**

MARY'S CORNER

Ms. Katia Souza



It is appropriate to remember that venerating Mary, our Most Blessed Mother, in all her titles and feasts throughout the year is a way of showing her our devotion and confidence in her intercession with her Son, our savior Jesus Christ. **If we ask the mother, her Son will listen to her.**

The month of February begins with **The Presentation of Mary in the Temple** on the 2nd. One of Mary's most known titles, **Our Lady of Lourdes** celebrates the 18 appearances to Bernadette Soubirous, a peasant girl, at Lourdes, France, in 1858. Ever since then the grotto has been the site of cures and conversions. The feast of the patroness of the mind, heart, body and soul is celebrated on the 11th. On the 25th Mary is honored with the beautiful title of **Our Lady of Victory** and on the 27th, she received the title of

Our Lady of the Light. For further information about other feasts of Mary in February, check: <http://iskandar.com/ourlady/blessedvirginmary.html>

THE SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Irenilda R. Fontoura - Society Administrator

The Society of Our Lady of Mercy reminds the OLM Community that the Society lost a dear Board Member, Mr. José Antônio Patrocínio, who died of a heart attack last December. Mons. André Sampaio celebrated a Mass in his memory on Sunday, December 16, 2007 in the OLM School Chapel. We encourage all of you to continue praying for his dear family!

RELIGION CONTEST FOR FEBRUARY

Katia Souza

Be the first to answer the following questions and get a prize. Valid only for the first correct answers brought to the Religion Department.

- 1- When did Lent begin? (Day of the month) When will it finish?
- 2- What are the theme / motto for the Campanha da Fraternidade 2008?
- 3- What is celebrated on Easter?
- 4- What is Palm Sunday?
- 5- What is understood by "The Stations of the cross?"

Good luck !!!

LUCAS MUTTI ('07) WRITES FROM USA

My first semester at Iowa State University (ISU) was harder than I expected! At the beginning I was extremely sad about leaving Brazil and all my friends and family. Now am happier and I have clearer plans for my life that keep me from getting too homesick.

The cultural diversity over here is awesome; my best friend is from Vietnam and I know several people from Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Mexico, China, and India. This is a life growing experience!

About the political caucuses: I saw them all gathering together (and everybody was very excited, despite the cold) but as I am not an American I couldn't vote. I came home for Christmas break and was supposed to go back on January 14, but as I needed some root canal work I had to stay in Rio until the 23rd... Isn't that too bad??

FIELD TRIP – CASA DA CIÊNCIA - UFRJ

Julie Medeiros and Larissa Freire (13)



On November 30, 2007, the 7th grade went to the Casa da Ciência to participate in an exhibition called "Caminhos do Passado: Mudanças no Futuro." We enjoyed the trip a lot because we saw the formation and structure of our planet and how this affects us today. We realized how scientists work hard everyday and we could apply what we learned in our Science classes. We had a good time learning and left with a souvenir: a sample of petroleum!

GOSSIP COLUMN!!

Ms. Xavier

During extra-curricular activities our OLMatters staff (*Thiago Queiroz, Maria Eduarda Leitão, Manuela Almeida, and Ms. Xavier*) witnessed and epic event that will change the lives of our readers everywhere. Apparently there is such thing as a 9th grader not understanding simple grammar. After realizing that *on behalf* was actually not *on the half* she threatened the teacher that she would report her to Guidance if this fatal error were published!! **Modern times! ;)**

OLM's BUSTLING SCIENCE LABORATORY

Gloria Santos



9th grade students looking at a demonstration of the electrical conductivity of ionic compounds.

The lab functions effectively due to the work of Lab Technician **Flávia Ghiotti**, who assists the teachers by preparing and organizing the laboratory.



11th grade students discovering DNA

The 3rd floor laboratory plays a very important role in the Chemistry Program. There, the students are able to see through demonstrations and experiments of what they learned in the classroom.

PROCURANDO APARTAMENTO?

"Vendo ótimo apto., 70 m², cond. Portal da Barra, Av. Américas 411, em frente ao Citta América e Downtown. Sala, quarto, varandão, sol da manhã, vista para o mar; mobiliado. Área de lazer com 20.000 m²: piscina, quadra de tênis, etc. Ônibus para cidade e balsa de acesso à praia. R\$ 190 mil. Tratar com D. Neyde: 2255-0960 / 8855-0960 ou Armindo: 3814-4823 / 3814-4090."

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TEXTOS INSPIRADOS NA POESIA "VIDA" - JORGE LUIS BORGES

SAUDADES

Marusia Alves ('11)

Se eu pudesse voltaria no tempo.
Aproveitaria mais o momento.
Numa doce esperança de voltará à infância e
voltar àquele apartamento para aproveitar nosso último momento.
Teria dado o abraço que ela pediu, mas agora já não é mais a hora e ela partiu.
Saudades de ser criança,
Saudades de não ter noção do que é *não*,
Noção do mundo lá fora,
Noção de que nada é perfeito e que é errando que se aprende.
Saudades de ser criança.
Sei que não há mais tempo de mudar nosso passado
Mas meu futuro está logo à frente em minhas mãos
Com apenas 14 anos posso mudar sem estar preocupada com o aqui e o agora.
No futuro, olharei para atrás e não terei a vontade de mudar nada mesmo...
Saudades de ser criança!

VIDA

Rafael Moreira ('11)

Se eu pudesse voltar ao tempo, queria aproveitar mais minha família.
Não tentaria ser tão sério e frio.
Queria poder falar mais e acabar a escuridão dentro de mim.
Correria mais riscos com meus amigos.
Acabaria com o medo, pois é assim...
É assim que é a vida
Vida cheia de riscos.
Queria ter vivido
na década de 80 para ver Cazuza
e acabar com minha angústia.
Se eu pudesse voltar ao tempo, queria ter visto a seleção de 70,
Pelé e os outros; era tudo uma festa
Queria viajar pelo mundo
Japão, Coréia, mas que absurdo...
Hoje, tenho 14 anos e já estou acostumado com minha vida.

GISELE GETS MARRIED

Marcela Ceva ('06)



Our Business Manager, Gisele Trindade, got married to her fiancé of seven years, Leonardo Amorim, on Saturday, February 16, 2008. The ceremony took place at a house in Joá. As Gisele walked down the aisle with her father, the groom sang *Oceano* by Djavan – bringing many of the 200 guests to tears. She looked stunning in a delicately embroidered bridal gown, holding a pink bouquet of rare flowers. A delicious banquet was served, including "escondidinho de



carne seca" and "bobó de camarão", which, alongside the music, entertained the guests until late. Congratulations, Gisele, on such a delightful party - we wish you all the best!

UN NUEVO BEBE

Daniela Molina ('08)

¡En la comunidad de OLM hay una profesora que trae un nuevo bebe al mundo!
Te deseamos lo mejor y esperamos que disfrutes tu vida con este regalo tan maravilloso y con todo el apoyo de la comunidad, amigos y familiares. ¡Muchas felicidades!

MORE BABIES ON THEIR WAY

Ana Mirian from *Accounts Payable* in the Business Office is five months pregnant.

Mariana, estagiária de Nutrição, está grávida de 6 meses. Maria Clara chegará no final de maio !!!

Editorial Board:

Teachers:

Elizabeth Barros
John Majka
Kátia Souza
Sandra Xavier

Students:

Clara Freitas ('11)
Maria Eduarda Azeredo ('11)
Mauella Almeida ('11)
Thiago Queiroz ('08)

Photographer: Mônica Tinoco

AN ACTION OF LOVE

*Antonia Teixeira (*11)*



On December 12, 2007, the 9th grade class went to Casa São João Batista da Lagoa, an institution where parents who do not have the financial conditions leave their children to stay for the day. In the beginning, we were a bit apprehensive, yet excited about the visit, probably because we did not know what to expect. We ran three raffles to make enough money to buy a huge Medieval Castle slide set

for the kids. When we got there, all kids were very nice and loving, and we played all afternoon. When Santa Claus gave them the presents, they were euphoric. We went there with the objective of helping the kids and getting some social service hours, but everybody loved spending the day with the kids, even though we felt bad about all the things we have and they lack. The kids taught us a big lesson: sometimes helping others is even better than being helped.

Other comments from classmates:

Jorge Hernandez "I think that the party at the *Casa São João Batista da Lagoa* was terrific.

The kids there had so much fun, playing and listening to stories. The thing that they liked the most was Santa Claus (Victor dressed up in the costume and looked really funny). I think that this was a gratifying experience for us the Freshman House and for the kids from the "creche" too. I hope that we have the chance to do other activities like this one"

Sondre "I learned from the Project that helping other people can sometimes be its own reward"

Giovanna Miranda "The feeling of being able to make someone happy and pleasing those little kids was indescribable".

Amanda Brasil "It was a great experience and very rewarding too."

"I learned that doing an unselfish action just to do it can make you and others feel good."



César Miranda "I was very happy to go to that institution because I could help some kids to be happy at least for one day."

Jorge Huang "The Best experience was to see the happy faces of the little kids."

Marusia "Help others. Make a change".

"It was a great experience because we all left satisfied and happy due to the action of solidarity with the kids. "

Louise Marie "I was fascinated, because it was a new place, new background, and, best of all, I loved playing with and hugging all those little kids."

Giovanna Franco "The feeling of being helpful and loved by making someone happy is the most incredible feeling of all."

Maria Eduarda L. "Ajudar e conhecer outro ser humano ultrapassa todos os outros sentimentos."

Kim Lee "That was the best place I've ever been."

Clarisa Molina "I enjoyed the experience very much, because I noticed how these kids are grateful for everything that is given to them."

Victor Barbosa "Maluco, 'life is made of experiences'!!! Esta minha nova experiência, que foi ter a oportunidade de me fantasiar de Papai Noel, seguiu de um modo inesperado. No começo, achei que seria um fracasso, usaria uma roupa horrível e as crianças não acreditariam que aquele era realmente o Papai Noel. Após a chegada na Instituição, observei cuidadosamente o olhar e a expressão de cada garoto e garota. Imediatamente, notei que todos estavam super felizes com a nossa visita, e muito ansiosos para nos conhecer. Brincamos, pulamos e jogamos futebol. Era uma alegria só!! Depois de comermos todo aquele banquete preparado pela Ms. Souza e por ajudantes, o teatro estava prestes a começar. A hora esperada estava chegando. Fui então me fantasiar de Papai Noel, mas não para participar do teatro. E sim fazer uma aparição para as crianças. Já vestido me senti nervoso e inseguro. Quando vi as crianças todas juntas aguardando a minha chegada, surtei! E pensei "Agora, danou-se!!!" Em poucos instantes já me sentia o máximo!! As crianças me AMARAM!!! Todas elas pedindo mais abraços e pedindo coisas de presente de Natal. Foi muuuuuito emocionante!!! Nunca vou me esquecer deste dia e espero que tenhamos mais visitas à Instituição. Essa foi uma das experiências mais bem sucedidas, alegres e divertidas que eu já tive. Eu me amarrei em ser o Papi Noel, e podem ter certeza que , se puder, eu serei até o Coelhoinho da Páscoa!!"



CHRISTMAS 2007

Aline Izecksohn



Every year, when I begin thinking about our Christmas Party, the same challenges come up, always requiring new ways to overcome them. How to choose a repertoire that pleases all the kids in time so that the students may review it and give their suggestions? How to make the fifth graders sing the Christmas Carols without thinking they are making fools of themselves? How to make these kids understand that in the future these memories will be precious to them? How to help pre-school students memorize

long lyrics with a lot of new words? Besides all that, how to solve the two greatest challenges? Help the students overcome stage fright and help them bear the tedious rehearsals.

The strategies, always very creative, came up little by little. This year we had a contest and the prize was a free music class for the most enthusiastic groups. The outcome was amazing! The rehearsals seemed to be a party. When the presentation was really close, we could count on another important ally: the Christmas spirit. The children started worrying about providing a special moment for their parents. The little ones also did everything to please Santa Claus himself. My concern with the kids was added to my concern with the great number of professionals involved in the event, working to make things happen in perfect harmony. The stage, lights, sound, audio-visual resources, decorations and a delicious snack were essential to the glitz and glamour of a party that our students and their families will long remember.

On the day of the show, after their beautiful performance, what was left was more than a sense of mission accomplished. Trying to understand the special success of the 2007 Christmas party, so positively evaluated by the parents and colleagues, I closed my eyes and the image I saw came up with the answer: the kids were so happy on stage, smiling, hugging



each other and singing their hearts out. It was, without a question, the great magic of this Christmas. May Christmas magic be in our memories forever.



THE FOLLOWING SENIORS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO THE UNIVERSITIES STATED BELOW:

Eduarda Tavares – FGV – Direito

Gabriela Freire – IBMEC – Direito

Julia Allevato – ESPM – Comunicação Social

Larissa Balestrero – PUC – Desenho Industrial

Luciana Fortes – PUC – Desenho Industrial

Marina Sodr  – PUC – Comunica o Social

Nicole Daniel – PUC – Comunica o Social

Pedro Pinto – PUC – Engenharia de Produ o

Thiago Queiroz – The University of Tampa – Pre-Med Psychology

Tracy Lee – Penn State University – Business Management

Victor Costa – IBMEC – Rela oes Internacionais

Victor Moreira – FGV – Direito

Yuri Vidal – Ithaca College – Computer Science

ME, MYSELF AND I

Dr. Charles R. Lyndaker



The Sixth Grade, this academic year, has begun a new program which has as its goal to better prepare Middle School students for entrance into the expected profile of a High School student in three years. Special care was taken and study completed concerning the psychological and cognitive development of this age group of students and their curriculum was adjusted, as well as the class layout, furniture and locomotion of students. Teacher teams meet on a regular basis to discuss the programs and the students so that the *Joy of Learning* returns to the students and so that they feel secure and well skilled for their studies in the high school.