



Volume I Number 8

OLMatters

“To Educate the whole person for global understanding”



Educate the whole person for global understanding!

Rio de Janeiro – June/July, 2006

COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION, COMMUNION

Editorial – *John J. Majka*

Is the coffee sweeter if you first pour it in your cup or if you start with the sugar or sweetener? Does it make a difference? Maybe not. But if you apply sun block *after* some time out in the sun, it may make a painful difference. Some things simply have a natural progression.

Communication breeds cooperation and they breed communion. It’s a psychologically chemical equation. We remain in the fantasy world of wish fulfillment if all we talk about is communion, and not strive for the mutual understanding and working together required to get there.

For communion in the world, a forum like the **United Nations** is needed where nations can communicate to each other about who they are, what’s important to them, how they can cooperate with each other to solve conflicts and challenges. It’s been imperfect, riddled with corruption at times, but it has successfully put onto the world scene the concerns of the smallest brother and sister nations. And once the smallest are listened to, world harmony and peace have a chance.

The **Student Council** has a similar goal: to bring students and staff together in a spirit of respect and cooperation. It will take a lot of

communicating, the heart of which is done in committees. Committee work is gathering data, studying and reflecting on issues of importance to students. The school can only truly achieve its goals if the students buy into its mission and unique character, at the same time calling the school to task when it loses sight of its student-centeredness. Students, Staff and Administration need to communicate if there is to be a spirit of mutual cooperation and growth. “We’re in this together!” perhaps says it all. It would not be a bad slogan for the year to come.

Orkut communities, **blogs** and simple **e-mails** attest to the need to know-- to share knowledge, feelings, opinions, ideas, suggestions and complaints. The *morning announcements* are filled with information and inspiration that have become a regular source of daily communication within the OLM school community. Last year’s *IT* magazine and this year’s *OLMatters* answered the call for a vehicle of publishing what especially the students, teachers and parents were anxious to share with each other in printed and online form.

And so *OLMatters* celebrates 40 years of **World Communications Day, May 28**, (ever since the end of the Second Vatican Council). We are proud to have ended our first year of publication, hoping that we have offered a base for communication that will promote cooperation and, ultimately, communion, within our educational

community. We extend an invitation for all to use us to get out the word, to bring people together so we can accomplish our school mission.

Quiz Bowl Winners

Thiago Alvim Farias ('06)



It is the second time that I take part in the competition. The Quiz Bowl was a very good

experience for me, not only because of my friends and I got the prize last semester, but also for making you read more about important facts that happen worldwide. I hope it keeps on happening. More students should try it once, to see how it is, getting a group of friends together and trying to go the right answers. It’s fun, educational and profitable.

Good-bye, Seniors!! 😊

AN OPEN LETTER FROM AN OLM MOM

by Beth Freire (Math Coordinator)

First of all, I would like to congratulate Ms. Xavier and Mr. Majka for the wonderful work that this newspaper represents for Our Lady of Mercy School. We have been witnessing their effort, their joy and the amount of extra hours to produce this “precious” paper.

Using this valuable communication tool, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to OLM for the great opportunity of being a part of this group of teachers that with the cooperation of all its members improves each year. The OLM staff insists on making OLM a center where students grow not only academically, but they receive a broader view of what the world offers to well-prepared students. We expect these students to be able to express their ideas orally as well as in writing; to respect other people's religions, beliefs, races or just different opinions. These students know how to look for the information they need, as they are aware of all the techniques and varied technological tools the new era offers. Our students are conscious of the responsible actions required from alert citizens toward the vast environmental changes our world will confront very soon.

I would like to speak as the mother of a Senior. At this point I realize that I took the correct decision when I decided to have my son in this school. If I could speak for the other mothers, I would say that our sons and daughters had the chance of living a unique experience at this school. They will never forget all these years at OLM. They participated in a number of different activities such as visiting the ZOO (pre school), Science fair (since elementary), Sports Tournaments, Friendship Festival, the Museums, *Fazenda de Café*, *Peugeot*, Spirit Weeks, June parties, First Communion, Fashion Shows, Talent Shows, vestibular Simulations, Model United Nations in New York and the unforgettable Thesis period. In addition, let's not forget that when we chose OLM, we ended up choosing their close friends. I want to thank each one of you, seniors, for being around our children as their friends when they needed you. You have represented their second family and these friends will always remember you in a very special way. Finally, I would like to thank the OLM staff for their never-ending patience and when I say staff, I mean every member of the OLM community that has been involved in the well being of all these students for such a long time.

For you, Alexei, my son, my “*companheiro*” for so many years driving into school: I hope you choose your path wisely. Your brother, your sister and I wish you good luck. With love, Mom.



The new sensation among OLM students!

Paula Filizola & Maria Clara Antero ('06)

Age, gender, or grade – don't matter - it's official; the World Cup album is the new sensation among the OLM students. The album contains all the teams participating in the championship with their respective players. Students gather in the halls during Brunch and Lunch time to exchange stickers. The most wanted is Ronaldinho Gaucho, elected by FIFA: the world's best soccer player 2 years in a row.. This created a good interaction among students because when it's time to exchange, the grade doesn't matter (even for SENIORS!!!!). Rodrigo Branco, graduating senior, made a deal with a 4th grade student, Anna Luiza, in which he received 50 stickers in exchange for the completion of the kid's album. This proves that Brazil is really the nation of a soccer, aiming for the sixth championship.

Where Does “To Kill a Mockingbird” take you!

Luciana Fortes ('08)

“To Kill a Mockingbird” takes me to my childhood, to simplicity and to a time where I probably had the most fun in my life (well, so far at least). When I was a kid I had no worries, no responsibilities, and no preoccupations on my mind, just like Scout and Jem. Everything was an adventure, and I amused myself with the simplest of things. It seemed like everything was possible, because my imagination was all rich, unlimited, and it flourished so rapidly that I could fly if I wanted. This was all possible because I was a kid, the best thing in the world. For a kid, complex is an unknown word, an unfamiliar word. The world is pretty because it is filled with nature and people. That's it. And that is the fuzzy and warm feeling “Mockingbird” brings me, because due to all of this, being a kid also means that you are still in the arms of the person who is the most comfortable and safest place to be in the world: mom.

The Feast of Pentecost - *Kátia Souza - Religion Teacher*

On June 4th, 2006 we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. This day will mark the lives of four OLM students and two OLM parishioners and one ex-OLM student who, by receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are called to give witness to Christ wherever they are. Congratulations to Carolina Moreira (9th A), Luca Panajotti (9th A), Thiago Marques (9th A), Larissa Machado (10th), Tyller and William Knapp (parishioners) and Gabriela Mendes Borba (ex-OLM student). If you are a Christian Catholic looking for the meaning of your faith, willing to strengthen your spirit by building strong values, think about joining CONFIRMATION classes this August. Confirmation Mass at 10 a.m., in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro, Av. Chile, s/n. Downtown.

Diabetes Mellitus

Ana Carolina Sá Lucas ('07)

Diabetes mellitus, perhaps the best – known endocrine disorder, is caused by a deficiency of insulin or a decreased response to insulin in target tissues. Pancreas, which is an organ that works for the endocrine and digestive systems, regulates the level of glucose in our body. Pancreas secretes insulin when there is a higher amount of glucose, making our liver and muscle cells store this extra amount as glycogen. When there is a low amount of glucose the pancreas secretes glucagons in the bloodstream, which interacts with liver cells that break down the glycogen and then release glucose. There are two main types of diabetes with very different causes, but each is marked by high blood glucose. *Type I* destroys the persons ability to produce insulin and usually appears during childhood. *Type II* is characterized either by a deficiency of insulin or, more commonly, by reducing the response of target cells. This form of diabetes usually appears after age 40, but young people that are overweight and sedentary can also develop it. During the week of May 14, the 11th graders had two lab classes with Ms. Braga to analyze the synthetic urine of a diabetic person, because diabetics usually have a higher level of glucose in their urine due to the failure of the kidneys in reabsorbing this extra amount of glucose. The other Lab activity was to measure our glucose blood level using a digital glucose detector. All students blood levels presented a normal level that is 90/100 mg/mL.

2006-07 STUDENT COUNCIL ALREADY OPERATING

Maria Florência Monsalve ('07)

During this last year the StuCo has worked on ways of changing, and improving, so that more things can be done to improve the student school spirit. These changes were presented this year to be legitimated and operating for next school year.

The ideas for the changes of the StuCo organization were already in mind for some time, but it was during the beginning of this second semester that the StuCo and Mr. Zsolt started working on them. They were made due to the many complaints the students had about different aspects of the council, and the lack of recognition the Student Council had, as a mediator and representative of the student body. These changes have been made to enhance the student council's mission in the school.

In an exclusive interview for *OLMatters* Adviser, Mr Dennys Zsolt spoke of what we can expect for next year. A major change was made to the StuCo Constitution: it was amended to be based and formatted upon the Constitution of the United States. The **class representatives** will represent the legislative power of the school, and the **Executive Committee** will represent the executive power.

StuCo has the power to legitimately represent the student body before the administration, concerning any aspects that concern the students. This way, if there are any complaints about any student related school problem, the students would go to the StuCo to be represented before the School Administration.

The new constitution provides that the Student Council may implement taxation, and organize ways of raising money to buy books, uniforms for tournaments, graduation parties, etc. These taxations will be done under a referendum, in which the entire high school will express its opinion. Through this process the Student Council will also assume responsibility for other major calendar events, like Halloween parties, Strogonoff dinner, Bake Sales, etc. To be more easily recognized on school grounds StuCo members will be asked to use special pins, or perhaps have a different school uniform.

The election for the StuCo Executive Committee was held during the second week of May, as it is going to be done always in the future. On Monday May 8, the candidates gave well-prepared and rousing speeches at an assembly to set the political tone for the week in which the students had time to decide who they were going to give their vote to, and on Friday May 12 the elections were held during Brunch and Lunch breaks. Before school ended the results were spread around and the winners were officially presented at Monday's Flag Raising Ceremony:

Lucas Mayall ('08), President; Bernardo Colin Gomes ('07) Vice- President; Luciana Fortes ('08), Secretary; Lucas Mutti ('07) Treasurer.

The newly elected Executive Committee was presented to the entire Student Body during the **Awards Ceremony** last May 26. School spirit is high as the new StuCo has already started working for the benefit of all students, and to have a better organization in the school.

Saints Peter and Paul († 67 a.D.) - The Saints of June called co-founders and pillars of the Church – Kátia Souza – Religion Teacher

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Seniors Thesis Defense 2006

As every year Seniors have to present a Thesis; below are the themes of each student for 2005-2006 academic year. Congratulations! *by Sandra Xavier*

Alexei Freire

“A study of public school students’ knowledge and beliefs about creationism and evolution.”

Andre Levy

“A study of the methamphetamine epidemic in the United States of America.”

André Saboya

“A study on the influence of Internet on the lives of teenagers.”

Axel Hassmann

“A study on the causes and consequences of global warming.”

Bruno Santos

“A study of how the Armenian genocide affected Armenian youth today.”

Carlos Filipe Gomes

“A study on the consequences of the FTAA (ALCA) to the Brazilian economy.”

Celine Libihoul

“A study on how psychology influences anorexia in western culture adolescent girls of the 21st century.”

Daniel Bydalek

“A study on performance enhancers in major league baseball and how they have affected the game.”

Daniel Mayall

“A study on the Treaty of Waitangi and its consequences to the Maori on the years following its signing.”

Eduardo Woo

“A Study on what’s the appeal Evangelical Churches have to grow so much nowadays in Brazil. A Case study in Rio de Janeiro’s ‘Igreja Universal de Deus’.”

Guilherme Pierantoni

“A study on the relationship between oxytocin effects and happiness.”

Henrique Braga

“A study on the policies taken by Israel’s prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon regarding the peace treaty on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

Janaina Stewart

“A study of the way the human organism responds to ultraviolet radiation.”

Juan Loaiza

“A study on the impact of dollarization in Ecuador.”

Julia Heringer

“A study about people’s perception of winter influencing their development of seasonal affective disorder symptoms.”

Juliana Aguiar

“A study on how negligent parents negatively affect their children’s interpersonal relationships in school.”

Karyn Cella

“A study of aesthetics and its affects on products purchasing.”

Luciana Almeida

“A study of whether gender affects the characteristics of a leader in the workplace.”

Luiza Moreira

“A study on the relationship of an astrological sign to a personality trait of an individual.”

Luiza Tavares

“A study on the effects of the implementation of the Plano Real in June of 1994 to the level of poverty faced by the Brazilian Population during the 1990s decade.”

Manuella Maya

“A study of how the vulgarization of violence influences high-income adolescents of the city of Rio de Janeiro.”

Marcela Santos

“A study on how people benefit from the placebo effect without the knowledge of what it is.”

Marcella Ceva

“A study of the feeling of relaxation produced by endogenous opium-based chemicals in the brain after physical exercise.”

Maria Clara Antero

“A study on the baby’s brain stimulation and the approach mothers have toward the subject.”

Melanie Siqueira

“A study on the ethics involved in the research of non-somatic human stem cells.”

Natasha Betts

“A study of the evolution of jeans from the 19th to the 21st century.”

Paula Filizola

“A study on the relation of the social and economic policies of the Vargas Era and the development of Brazil during that time period.”

Pedro Ruffier

“A study on the etiology of obesity.”

Renata Pereira

“A study on the influence of the quality of Rio de Janeiro State’s public educational system on the life quality of its population.”

Rodrigo Castello Branco

“A study on the relationship between events leading to and including WWII and Italian Cinema during the period.”

Thiago Farias

A study on the interest of youngsters from lower social classes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in becoming soccer professionals.”

Vinicius Martins

“A study of whether capital punishment is the most cost efficient way for the State to punish criminals.”

Au Revoir!

再见

Tschüss!

Adieu!

Adios!

Chao!

Sayonara!

Arrivederci!

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Students: Maria Florência Monsalve, Samantha Guimarães

Parents: Marizi Carneiro, Rodolfo Porto D’Ave

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