



OLMatters



"To educate the Whole Person for global Understanding"



SACS – SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & SCHOOLS COUNCIL



Michael Allen, Henry Cade, Steven des Roches, Derrick des Vignes, Dr. Lyndaker and Monsignor André Sampaio

**CONGRATULATIONS
OLM!**

**ONCE AGAIN
ACCREDITED AND
NOW... ONWARD!**

CAPOEIRA: MESTRE DAVI MICO PRETO

Certa vez perguntaram: O que é Capoeira? A resposta a essa questão pode ser encontrada na vida de Mestre Davi Mico Preto em uma bela história.

Voltando aos primórdios, a história da capoeira se inicia no século XVI, na época em que o Brasil era colônia de Portugal. Tempo de escravidão. Os negros trazidos da África, sobretudo de Angola, eram resistentes e extremamente musicais. Em meio a repressão e as dificuldades da vida como escravos, eles criaram uma arte marcial, adaptando o ritmo e os movimentos de suas danças. Tudo isso acompanhado de músicas cantadas que, por inúmeras vezes, serviam para passar mensagens cifradas aos outros escravos.

Essa luta disfarçada de dança - pois os senhores de engenho proibiam lutas entre os escravos - foi a forma encontrada por esses escravos de trabalharem seus corpos e mentes, sobreviverem e se defenderem da violência dos capitães-do-mato que os vigiavam e, quando fugiam, tentavam capturá-los com métodos bárbaros.



A capoeira tinha como funções principais: valorizar a cultura africana, aliviar o estresse do trabalho árduo e manter a saúde física dos praticantes. Muitas vezes, as lutas ocorriam em campos com pequenos arbustos - chamados na época de capoeira ou capoeirão. Esta é a origem do nome. Assim nasceu uma luta-arte que envolve a música e a dança em sua execução. Fruto da criatividade, disciplina e vontade de viver das pessoas que buscavam a liberdade e uma melhor qualidade de vida.

A capoeira segue através dos séculos, sendo praticada em todo Brasil mas por diversas vezes proibida. Até que na década de 30, o presidente Getúlio Vargas, ao ver um apresentação de Mestre Bimba, um exímio capoeirista que aprimorou as técnicas da capoeira, exclama: “Esse é o único esporte realmente nacional.” Liberando a capoeira, de uma vez por todas das proibições que anteriormente sofrera. E assim, elevando-a, oficialmente, ao *status* de esporte nacional.

Mestre Bimba - criador da capoeira regional - e mestre Pastinha -mantenedor do estilo tradicional da capoeira angolana - são nomes que se destacam entre uma constelação de grandes mestres dessa arte. Criatividade, disciplina, vontade de viver, luta, dança, música, cultura, saúde, esporte e orgulho brasileiro são definições de capoeira que traduzem a vida de Mestre Davi Mico Preto. Nome este

escolhido por ele e por seu mestre, no início de sua carreira, pelos seus impressionantes saltos.



Cynthia Howlett e Davi Mico Preto já nem ensaiam mais de tanta sintonia. Há 8 anos desfilam como a porta-bandeira e mestre-sala do tradicional bloco de rua carioca Suvaco do Cristo, que sai pelas ruas do Jardim Botânico.

Davi, **caçula de cinco filhos**, nasceu e cresceu no Horto - bairro do Rio de Janeiro - em uma família de poucas posses. Ainda com cinco anos, saía da escola e sentava-se à beira da porta de uma escola de artes marciais, onde estudavam os filhos de famílias mais ricas. Ali, da soleira da porta, ele assistia aulas e absorvia as técnicas de judô e outras lutas orientais. Até que, ao ver a perseverança do menino, o professor o

convidou a treinar, custeando seu aprendizado.

Nessa mesma época, Davi, sempre observador, também começava a chamar a atenção dos adultos pela enorme facilidade que possuía para a dança. Isso se dava nos ensaios tradicionais de carnaval do Horto – berço do bloco Suvaco de Cristo.

No mesmo bairro, havia a capoeira do grupo de mestre Garrincha e, Davi não perdia tempo, observava também aquela arte. Tamanha era sua facilidade, que começou a imitar os adultos e treinar a capoeira.

O menino Davi era disciplinado e perseverante. Seguiu com a capoeira, a dança (tornando-se um dos mais novos mestres-salas do bloco Suvaco do Cristo) e o Judô até adulto.

No Judô, treinando com Marco Aurélio Gama e sendo amigo de Flávio Canto, Davi destacou-se como campeão carioca, brasileiro e sul-americano. Assim, tornou-se faixa preta e medalhista de ouro. Como podíamos esperar, Davi, além dos esportes, seguiu seus estudos e formou-se em Educação Física pela Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

A partir de então, segue como professor e preparador físico, transmitindo seus conhecimentos em grandes escolas do Rio de Janeiro. Além da OLM, do Franco-brasileiro, do CEAT, entre outras e, especialmente, da Grãozinho, onde leva suas técnicas às crianças com necessidades especiais.

Além mares, Davi torna-se um conhecido professor: dá aulas de capoeira e dança na Itália, na França, na Dinamarca, na Suécia, na Noruega, na Holanda, na Espanha, entre outros países europeus.

Com toda essa formação, Davi também tornou-se ator de teatro, participando de importantes peças em que as técnicas de dança e capoeira estavam sempre presentes, a saber: Capitães de Areia, Água de Beber, Mistério Bufo entre outras. Juntamente com o grupo Intrépida Trupe recebeu ótimas críticas da exigente Bárbara Heliodora.

Assim, o filho caçula de uma fisioterapeuta e de um capoeirista, carioca do Horto, tornou-se Mestre Davi Mico Preto.

Davi, **Mestre**, abraçou a Capoeira em seu caminho de vida e segue semeando e cultivando nas crianças e nos jovens, a capoeira do futuro!





Os 'Juniors' desembarcam no centro... e começam a caminhada!



Helena, M. Eduarda e Fernanda 'decoram' a Igreja da Antiga Sé

RJ - CENTRO CULTURAL

Giovanna Miranda e Maria Eduarda Roche ('11)

No dia 19 de maio de 2010, nós, os "Juniors", junto com Ms.Barros e Ms. Menezes visitamos o Centro Histórico do Rio de Janeiro. Dois guias nos acompanharam, mostrando e ensinando a história do Rio Antigo.

Começamos o passeio com uma caminhada cultural na Praça XV de Novembro. Aprendemos com uma exibição de pranchas e painéis, a evolução da nossa cidade desde a descoberta. Continuamos a visita passando por vários monumentos antigos como o Chafariz da Pirâmide, o Paço Imperial, o Palácio Tiradentes, a Igreja São José, o Convento do Carmo, o Monumento General Osório, a Igreja N. S. do Carmo, o Beco dos Barbeiros, etc.

Ao meio-dia chegamos à Confeitaria Colombo e conhecemos um pouco melhor a história do restaurante. Foi fundado em 1894 pelos portugueses Joaquim Borges de Meirelles e Manoel José Lebrão. A decoração "art nouveau" com espelhos belgas, bancadas de mármore e vitrines em jacarandá é memória viva de "belle époque" e do Rio Antigo. Durante anos, a confeitaria foi palco de famosos de todas as épocas, fossem atores, presidentes, poetas, famílias ricas para o chá ou cocotes com seus coronéis. Hoje em dia sua fama continua e é considerada uma das melhores confeitarias do mundo.

Após desfrutarmos de um excelente almoço, seguimos para a Igreja do Carmo da Antiga Sé, onde assistimos ao espetáculo de Som e Luz. Projetores produziam sombras de personagens históricos como D. João VI, D. Pedro II e Carlota Joaquina do Brasil Império.

Voltamos para a escola mais instruídos sobre a nossa cidade maravilhosa.



Giorgio e João Rodolpho 'atravessam o tempo' diretamente pelo Arco dos Teles.

A decoração 'art nouveau' com espelhos belgas, bancadas de mármore e vitrines em jacarandá é memória viva da 'belle époque' do Rio Antigo!



Teacher of the Year 2009-2010

Josh Rundle



It is with great pride that this year's Teacher of the Year goes to one of Our Lady of Mercy School's finest professionals, an exceptional human being who made his way from the auspices of his position as an American school administrator to become one of the most cherished and highly regarded teachers of both Math and Science in Middle School. Over the last five years at OLM, this teacher worked his way through the arduous process of learning what his teachers in his old school in the US knew well: the art of reaching students, keeping them interested, and getting them not only to learn, but to supersede their own expectations.

Untiring in his dedication to master the art of teaching, steady as an airline pilot in demeanor and resolve, both inside the classroom and out, this teacher has been a special inspiration at Our Lady of Mercy School.

As part of the OLM community in the broader sense, this is a father of two OLM students, a participating member of the OLM Parish, a choir member, both singer and musician. He performs at every Mass he can and participates in every Talent Show! Over this last year, he took on the position of Science Department Chair where he has been highly effective. This teacher has designed his own "Doing by learning" constructivist approach to teaching Math to his 8th grade class. His students have shown highly positive results both in performance and in attitude; his students are enthusiastic peer mentors. In March of this year, this teacher motivated his students to compete for the first time in OLM History at the American School of Campinas "MathCounts! Competition"; he keeps OLM in step with the leading trends. Humanistic and warm of heart, this year's Teacher of the Year is overall a great guy, a teacher's teacher, someone you are proud to call your friend and colleague, a teacher his students will remember forever, trustworthy, honorable, fair, and knowledgeable. This teacher will not let you down; he will do the right thing. He is attuned to the Middle School soul and does not lose sight of his responsibility in the formation of his students as capable, interested young people with potential to accomplish anything.

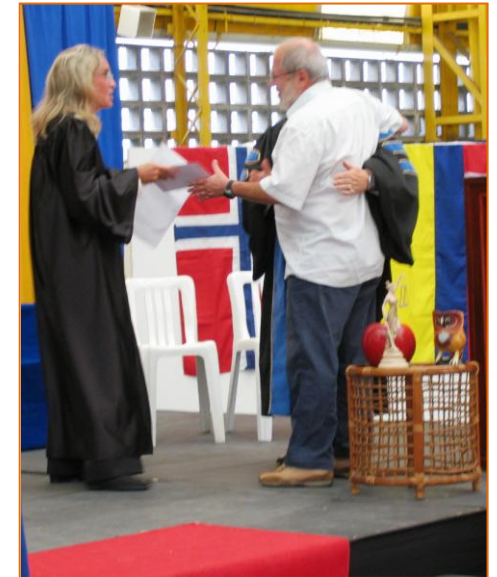
Thank you, Mr. Josh Rundle! **Peace!**



Honored High School Teacher 2009-2010

Emil Medeiros, Ph.D.

It is with tremendous satisfaction that the OLM award for this year's honored high school teacher goes to a professional who has functioned at his best during his entire professional life outside OLM among extraordinary experts at the top of his field, both within the context of the university educational system, and as a participating member of Brazil's "center for research in physics" where he is an esteemed, published academic, highly regarded by his colleagues and by other professionals who rely on his deeply knowledgeable expertise.



Since he began at OLM twenty years ago, this year's honored high school teacher took the new task seriously and dedicated himself to learning about the functioning of science teaching at the high school level. It was a rough road, a whole new mind to adapt to which required serious structural changes in his professional approach both in teaching subject matter, applying conceptual evaluations, understanding differentiation, and truly making every effort to reach every student.

This teacher trained long and hard to incorporate the American high school way of thinking, based on holistic learning, to become one of the best high school teachers OLM has ever had. Over more recent years, this teacher shed his cloak of traditional education standards to replace it with an understanding of his students from a humanistic perspective. He holds his students to his high expectations and wants them to show their best work, but he also demonstrates an important change in attitude towards his students who he holds as young men and women, ready to take on the challenges of today's world, and willing to do whatever it takes to keep alive their intellectual curiosity and to give them whatever they need to succeed.

We thank Dr. Emil Medeiros for his fine service to Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Honored Middle School Teacher 2009-2010

Charles Richard Lyndaker, Ph.D.



After 40 years of a brilliant career in education, from his Peace Corps days in Northeastern Brazil, as university professor and chair of the Department of Education at the University of Campinas in São Paulo, in addition innumerable master degree level course professorships, and as lead professor in São Paulo for preparation of Secondary School Principals in Brazil, commended and publicly recognized many times over, this year's honored middle school teacher

thought he had experienced it all until he became an OLM high school sociology teacher two years ago.

But little did he know that the best was yet to come.

In August of 2009, this teacher set himself up for professional goals in a whole new arena: that of Middle School! There he faced his richest, most demanding, most challenging, and most fulfilling experience of his teaching career – that of OLM's Teacher of 6th grade English!

In addition to an ultra-rich curriculum, this teacher's students read more books than any other middle school class; he practiced cooperative learning, and basically aimed for the stars. This teacher created the school's master Moodle page, which has become an OLM icon and, along with perfect formatting and a natural appreciation for perfect form, his Moodle became the model for every other teacher in school.

This teacher's professional habits, though always ambitious, not only benefitted his students, they were also living examples of perfectionist production, models to his fellow teachers who hold his work as their standard. This teacher walks the pedagogical walk he talks. Highly developed student learning expectations pushed his 6th grade students to exceed their potential. From well-developed original class materials and management, to the creation of animated, professional-level support for students, to researching and posting materials of trend-setting interest, and writing personal notes on each 6th grade student in monthly progress reports for their parents, this teacher has stood head and shoulders over all of us!

We are proud to name our mentor and fearless leader this year's Middle School Honored Teacher. Thank you, Dr. Lyndaker!



National Honor Society 2009-2010

(Community Member)

Kátia Souza

This year, the Committee of the OLM Excelsior Chapter of National Honor Society Committee had the pleasure of naming one of the school's most active and inspirational leaders of the school mission to join the ranks of the Honor Society as this year's Honored Community Member.

Ms. Kátia Souza has dedicated over ten years to Our Lady of Mercy School from within the Religion Department where she is



Day care – Creche da Tia Maura

dearly loved by her students and imparts Catholicism as it relates to real life on every level, in all middle and high school grades from 6 through 12.

Whether it be in class teaching her students, or motivating students to become active, Christian, civic-minded citizens, giving back by participating in Community Service events from producing parties in orphanages of small children, to conducting garage sales to raise money, and taking part in Operation Smile, or hiking up to the peak of *Pedra Bonita* with children from a local day care center, Kátia's work has been all about offering support and care to people of all ages.

We are proud and honored to call Kátia Souza one of our own. She puts her work with the students and the community ahead of herself every day. She is the living breathing mission of Our Lady of Mercy School who leads with her warm smile and generous heart.

Congratulations to Ms. Souza on this well-deserved recognition!



Operation Smile – UFRJ

By Ms. Claire Collins

Honored *Elementary School Teacher* 2009-2010

Angel Biggers



Ms Biggers is a responsible and reliable professional and is well respected within the community. She demonstrated strength and courage when faced with the loss of Ms. Heloisa Carvalho, the 4th grade A teacher, and was key in helping the students deal with the loss, move forward and successfully complete the school year.

Ms. Biggers is always willing to help others and has given much time and energy in helping the new 4th grade A teacher adjust to the school and students.

She has worked hard on the 4th grade curriculum and the adoption of a standards based approach.

Ms. Biggers dedication to her students is obvious as she makes constant adjustments in her teaching strategies to better serve each of her students' needs. She is patient and caring with her students and the mutual respect between them is evident. It is a pleasure to work with such a competent professional.

Honored *Pre-School Teacher* 2009-2010

Ms. Adriana Lourenço



Adriana Lourenço é uma profissional que tem como meta o desenvolvimento global de seus alunos. Trabalha com amor e muita dedicação, demonstrando prazer e alegria por ter escolhido ser uma Educadora.

É muito bom tê-la como parceira de trabalho.

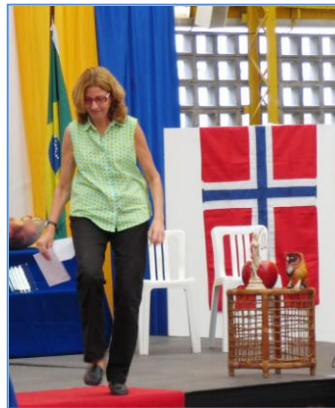
Parabéns pelo prêmio como Professora Destaque da Educação Infantil.

Você faz por merecer!

By Ms. Marisa Vieira

Honored *Elementary School Helper* 2009-2010

Elizabeth Zaluski



Ms. Zaluski, or better known as Ms. Zaza, is a patient, caring and gentle helper. She knows just how to deal with the 2nd graders and handles all of the responsibilities that go with this grade level with efficiency and grace.

Ms. Zaza is loved by all members of the community because of her generous nature as she is always helpful, cooperative and prepared to step into emergency situations in a matter of moments.

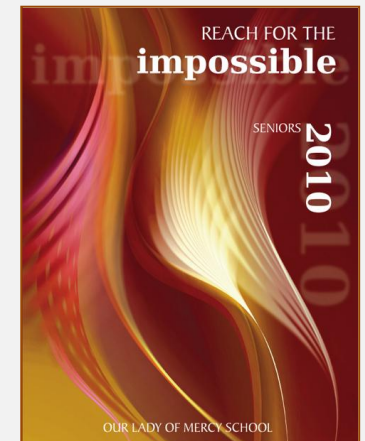
It is a pleasure to have such a wonderful person as a member of the Elementary team!

By Ms. Barrie Muzbeck

YEARBOOK 2010

Actually the title theme of the **2010 OLM Yearbook** says it all: It is virtually impossible to do everything a yearbook purports to do. And yet every year's senior class and yearbook staff succeed in making a significant addition to the historical record of the school.

The individual participation of most of the teachers, many students and even alumni, makes OLM's annual book special. The uniqueness of the school comes out in its producing a yearbook that is a constantly improving version of itself, doing ever greater justice to the accomplishments of students, staff, teachers and parents. *[J]M]*



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL & PARISH CELEBRATE THE HOLY SPIRIT TOGETHER

Ms. Kátia Souza

On May 26 of the present year, the OLM community had a very special reason to be proud of its people. Five Catholic teens received the Sacrament of Confirmation after a year of preparation. It was a touching celebration in which we could see the action of the Holy Spirit upon those who want to bear witness of Christ in their lives. Among the five, there were two students from the school and three from EARJ who belong to the OLM Parish.

The bishop confers the Sacrament of Confirmation, but this time Monsignor André Sampaio was given permission from the Archbishop to minister the sacrament. It was another blessing. He acted as a bishop. If we consider what strengths we need simply to live our Christian, Catholic lives in our present society and to make moral decisions in the face of serious temptation; it is easy to see how we need wisdom and strength. Few, if any, of us may live in circumstances that demand we lay down our lives for our beliefs. Yet there is seldom a day when we are not faced with difficult choices that test the authenticity of our faith. **Congratulations to Aaron Barbato, Allison Barbato, Giovanna Miranda, Christina Andersen, and Matheus Larangeira.** May the light of the Holy Spirit always guide you!!! God bless you!

Matheus Laranjeira began his religious life because of his parents' influence: they wanted him to be a Catholic but with the passing of time as Matheus began to become involved with his parents' religion he himself found the desire to follow it. He began to take interest and be more active during religion classes. He asked for the sacrament of Confirmation because of his own beliefs and his own faith.

Receiving Confirmation put him, as he said, "one step closer to God", reinforcing his faith and his belief in his religion. He feels the responsibility of having received this sacrament and will do his very best to attend Mass frequently and to pray every day. Having this sacrament Matheus feels that he must now be an example of a Catholic citizen and act accordingly. He knows that he is a person people will look towards from now on, when they think of Christianity and he must demonstrate maturity. His message to all young Catholics of OLM is that if you choose to truly become passionate about your religion, then never give up and keep faithful to it no matter what anyone says. Today the biggest problem for a young Catholic is the fact that society is not as religious as it once was that people no longer have deep and unquestionable faith. This makes it hard for one to be serious about religion because of what others might think of it; yet Matheus is not worried and sees that his new sacrament will help him by making his bond with God stronger and independent of what others think.



Giovanna Miranda decided entirely by herself to become a Catholic and to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. She felt that she most identified herself with the Catholicism and found faith in its teachings. She is passionate about her choice and is proud to have received Confirmation. She now feels after receiving this sacrament and having attended the

religion preparation that she is even more in tune with her religion. All her doubts and misunderstandings have been cleared and her faith has grown stronger. She now feels that whenever she encounters difficulties in life and that, whenever she may lose her way, God will always be there to guide her. She does not pay attention to what others say or feel about her religion. She will follow her faith in her own way without caring for what others say. Her message to all young Catholics at OLM is that you should never follow a religion because of what someone else told you; you should follow it because you have faith and passion for it. Giovanna finds that people no longer value

religion as much as they used to. This is a great challenge to those who do and have to put up with the fact that people around them may find it weird to believe in God. Yet her faith does not waver and she continues to remain strong. Now with the sacrament of Confirmation, she is even more dedicated to her faith and faces this challenge without worry.

Ivan Varella ('11)

VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH



Gabriella Lopes

Good Evening distinguished guests, families and this year's graduating class.

When writing this graduation speech, a single word stood out on my paper: *Dream*. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.*" I proudly stand up here today as a member and representative of the class of 2010. A class full of dreams, goals, friendships, happiness, laughter, courage, and the list

can go on and on. These students behind me have not only become friends and spent some of their best years together, they became a true family; bonds have been formed, moments have been treasured and memories have been created that will last a lifetime. Old friends left and new ones entered, obstacles were surpassed, lessons were learned, and now the day is finally here: graduation. This is the ending of an unforgettable chapter, but the beginning of our lives.

15 years ago tiny kids took their first steps into OLM, not knowing where they were and what would happen. Today, we are taking our first steps into the world, still not knowing where we will be and what will happen. During senior year, we had to make one of the hardest decisions of our lives: our future. We were lucky to have made this decision together, one helping the other. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, businesspersons, economists, but most importantly, hard workers. Ahead of us is a road full of rocks and holes, but I am sure that with everything we have learned and each one's strength, they will be overcome and will be filled with accomplishments. Yes, it will be hard, but as we said "Reach for the impossible".

All of this would not have been possible without the support and love from our families. No matter the day or hour, we know that you will always be by our side in whatever we need. Even though sometimes we might not show or say it, you can be sure that each one of us up here today

loves you more than anything and that we are who we are today because of you. Thank you all for always being there and for giving us what we call our second home: OLM.

These years would not have been the same without some very special teachers. Learning biology with amusing power points, geography with funny and entertaining discussions, physics with Dr. Medeiros's crazy examples, chemistry full of jokes, trying to focus on Portuguese, John's Shakespearean discussions on "to be or not to be", and making hard math problems easier with Ms. Freire's faith in us and Mr. Portilho's discipline. In general, amazing teachers that stuck with us through it all, bad days full of laziness and wonderful days with exciting classes. Thank you for believing in us and never giving up on anyone.



57% (12 out of 21 students) together at OLM since First Grade.

We went from being known as the dark horse of classes, to becoming a class that won Spirit Weeks, had every student complete their thesis, conquered the affection of all teachers and most importantly; graduated. You can be sure that it will be hard to find teachers like you all, and that we will never forget you.

8 hours a day and 5 days a week we were at OLM. It will be hard to leave this place, as we will never be a part of a school like this. We are not only students; but part of a dedicated community and tight family.

Some have spent almost their entire life at OLM, others only some years, but every one of us that had the opportunity to be a part of this school will leave with wonderful memories and with a tight heart. OLM transformed us into what you are seeing up here today; kids and teenagers that are now young men and women, ready for what is in front of us.

What would have been the class of 2010 without the uniqueness of each member? Marcela's sneeze, Gisele's laugh, William's jokes, Felipe's excitement, Bel's craziness, Arli jumping around, Erik's technology, Christian's polemic discussions, Corinne's helping hand, Deborah's sounds, Fernando's humor, Joao's patience, Vitor's friendliness, Kotaro's brains, Nathalia's acting, Mariana's drama, Raissa's voice, Aderbal's skills, Giovanna's smile, Jose's wise comments, and my nerdiness.



We have some of the most distinct personalities, although some of these differences fall apart when we are together. Every moment we have spent as a class was full of laughter, and some arguing; it could be in class trips such as Búzios and Ranchão, or even just in class. In college, we will meet new people and have other classmates, but none will compare with the connection we have as a class. It is going to be hard to leave, but I am sure no one will forget. In 20 years, we will be showing our kids our

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

yearbook still saying, “These are my friends”. I would like to thank the class of 2010 for being the best class anyone could ask for. I will miss you all deeply.

Now it is time to say goodbye, each one will go their separate ways. Some will be continents apart, while others will be a car ride away. No matter where in the world, we will always have each other in our hearts and thoughts. This is only the beginning of something new, not the ending of the unforgettable. I would like to finish by saying that this whole experience was truly remarkable, thank you all for being a part of my life. Never forget: *“As we made it through, we proved that we can: together our dreams came true — we are the class of 2010”*

ANOTHER GRADUATION PASSES

It ended with a class cheer and a pose onstage for a final group picture. The Graduating Class of 2010 wanted to leave their own special mark and they did just that. We teachers and the rest of the audience of parents and friends were treated to 2010's attempt at not ending the party, not breaking up the unity they felt.

But even as we were feeling proud of their accomplishments, in the speeches, the bound theses and the diplomas, we were already thinking ahead to next year. What new challenges will the Class of 2011 provide? How will they fare in comparison to the classes before it? What do they need to complete their initial preparation for more responsible, independent scholarship and all-around living? What will best provide 2011 with the baggage they will require to get into their university of choice and the profession of their dreams?

Each Senior Class symbolizes the final product of our Teacher Councils, department meetings, internal debates on curricula and programs, courses for accreditation or updating and our ongoing in-service training sessions in January and July. We teach what we have learned and we learn from teaching: the cycle of education goes on.

[JJM]

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Catholics usually get married in the Church and receive the Sacrament of Matrimony. Their union is subsequently recognized legally. For a number of reasons and circumstances Vania and I, though Catholic, remained married legally for almost 16 years, but without benefit of the sacrament.

Who can understand the heart better than God (and the prayers of my parents over the years)? On the occasion of my parents' 65th Wedding Anniversary we joined in their example and were married during a Mass celebrated in their living room on Pentecost Sunday.

“Fr. Charlie”, their Pastor, had decided to allow my mother the chance to assist Mass in the home, since she hadn't been able to go to Church for years and previously attended Mass and received Communion daily. (She attends Mass for shut-ins on television three times every day.)

In setting up the date and arranging for the ceremony Fr. remarked in an e-mail how he wanted to bring joy to our new beginning and to our families. Monsignor André prepared us officially for the Sacrament at OLM with his knowledge and gentle humor.

The joy of the sacrament is still fresh in our hearts. Matrimony is the sacrament, the sign and power, of God's personal, intimate love for each of us and for the Church, the “Bride” of Christ.



Mr. John Majka

In English the word for what we did is “canvalidation”, spiritually validating the civil union: it has a legal tone to it. In Portuguese the term used is “santificação”, making the civil union holy.

To sanctify a loving, marital relationship on the feast of Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit of the love between the Father and the Son, is a special grace—unforgettable both in its gift and its challenge. The power is given the sanctified couple to grow in love, mutual fidelity, and commitment to the mission to live the Gospel as a couple.

Does it make a difference? Yes, we can feel it in the tender, more understanding way we treat each other—in the decision to see things in the light of our love for each other. What may have brought on anger or disappointment three weeks ago is now faced with more dialogue and a search for a solution either immediate or gradual. After all, the world around us, our home, our jobs, everyday routines of life have not changed. But we have.

Faith in the power of the Holy Spirit present in our love grows with every new awareness of that presence, and that has to be good for us, for the society we live in and the people in our lives who love us and whom we love.

Recently I came across a site that touched a base for what our life needs to strive to be now. The subtitles are as follows:

Bring joy to your spouse.

Maintain pleasant rituals and traditions of love and friendship.

Speak openly and honestly with one another.

Be skillful in difficult matters and smart in communication.

Always turn to the other.

Let a mutual life be inspired by a mutual vision.

Keep up mutual prayer.

We ask for prayers to be able to carry out this sacramental phase of our relationship, with hope and joy.

<http://www.europe4christ.net/index.php?id=606>

FIOCRUZ

Jéssica Marrucho & Carla Cosenza ('14)



On March 3, 2010 8th graders went to *Fundação Oswaldo Cruz*, a well known scientific institution in Rio de Janeiro. Despite of the scientific research and production of vaccines and medicine, **Fiocruz** has a special scientific program for schools that



allows the visit of different areas of the institution. When we got there, we visited the “**Parque Científico**”, where there were several hands on activities. After, a place called ‘*Biodescoberta*’ where we learned about the history of **FioCruz** and we were able to see different living things such as microorganisms, spiders, toads and snakes all of them alive!

NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Ms. Monica Tinoco

As a part of the OLM social program campaign, Nursery A/B teachers decided to develop the sense of charity in their students. We also offered to their families the opportunity to get involved in this activity by sending their children belongings to school. We collected several items such as books, clothes/shoes, and toys to donate to young children from “*Casa São João Batista da Lagoa*”. They classified and organized them by age, size, and number of children. This project provided an environment for our students to learn how to develop their own voice and sense of direction in life by bringing them in contact with other children, resources, and messages that are life changing. We helped them to build on social skills, and thinking skills, values and a positive identity that continue to allow them to be empowered to shine. Our students invited them to sing a very special song: *“I love you, you love me, we’re happy as can be, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won’t you say, you love me too”*, and to participate in a group game, called “tug of war”. At the end, they realized that everyone reached the same goal... they learned how to share love and get together!!!



“Our vision is of a world where all children and young people have a sense of belonging, and are loved and valued. A world where they can fulfill their potential, shape their destiny and experience the joy of life.”

NON VERBAL COMMUNICATION THEME FOR NURSERY A CLASS

Ms. Monica Tinoco



Life can be challenging, especially for those who see the world in a different way. Ms. Xavier visited our classroom with two middle school students – 8th - from her Libras class. They allowed our little ones to experience communicating with nonverbal communication signs and body language. They had fun and sharpened their powers of observation. Libras is a

powerful tool that will help them connect with others, express what they really mean, navigate challenging situations, and build better relationships. They learned that non-verbal communication expresses an open and positive attitude, which leads to a supportive and collaborative atmosphere.

OUA – ORGANIZAÇÃO DA UNIDADE AFRICANA

Mamudo Djanté



O dia 25 de maio é celebrado em todo mundo como o dia da África e da união de todos os países africanos. O tema escolhido pela União Africana para sua comemoração deste ano é: “Promover a Paz através do Desporto” (devido à Copa do Mundo na África do Sul).

De acordo a Bíblia e a comunidade científica, a África é o berço da humanidade, onde surgiram os primeiros homens no mundo, as primeiras civilizações, tecnologias e formação de cidade-estado.

A África não é um país só, nem uma região só, mas sim um continente com 55 países. É o continente com maior número de países no mundo, é o segundo continente mais populoso e o terceiro maior em território. Um lugar que possui

muita riqueza humana, natural, cultural, mineral, etc. Dentro de cada país africano, existem pelo menos vinte etnias com língua e cultura diferentes. Lembrando que além destas línguas, ainda se falam Inglês, Português, Francês, Espanhol e Árabe. Existem cinco países na África de língua oficial portuguesa – Angola, Cabo-Verde, Guiné-Bissau, Moçambique e São Tomé e Príncipe.

A África não pode ser vista como um continente sinônimo de guerras, doenças, fome, pobreza, atraso civilizacional e outros, pois a África tem muito mais de bom e de melhor do que podemos imaginar. As riquezas materiais e culturais são incalculáveis em todos os aspectos. Infelizmente a mídia – TV’s e Rádios - só passam pra gente as partes ruins da África, manipulam as informações e escondem o verdadeiro valor deste continente, deixando assim interrogações e dúvidas para as pessoas. O que leva muitas pessoas terem concepções erradas sobre a África, pensando que ali só há miséria, tristeza e epidemias, porém construindo uma visão negativa do africano, associando-a com canibalismo e paganismo.

Mas espero que essa oportunidade de realizar uma Copa do Mundo de Futebol em solo africano, e que está colocando o continente no centro das atenções mundiais, seja uma oportunidade para ajudar a desfazer uma série de visões equivocadas sobre a África como um todo.

Embora as pessoas persistam em uma visão pessimista sobre o que dizem a respeito do continente africano, felizmente essa perspectiva já está mudando. O

quadro caótico dos anos oitenta e noventa já não se firma mais. Vários conflitos civis já foram superados e a paz voltou a reinar em muitos países que viveram guerras e horrores. Ainda nos finais da década de 1990, a maior parte dos países africanos conseguiram retomar o crescimento econômico e a estabilidade política, revertendo um período de profunda crise e exaustão. Hoje, a realidade africana é bem diferente, embora em algumas regiões e países a situação de crise persista. O crescimento econômico e o incremento do comércio internacional vêm aumentando significativamente os investimentos estrangeiros no continente, demonstrando a confiança dos investidores na África. Acima de tudo, os próprios africanos estão repensando sua trajetória política e econômica, agindo de forma mais positiva com relação ao presente e ao futuro. As elites da política africana estão preocupadas com o desenvolvimento econômico, com a democracia, com os direitos humanos, com a questão social, ambiental, etc., sobretudo preocupadas com a industrialização e construção de uma África mais desenvolvida e segura. O Brasil tem acompanhado essas transformações de perto, aumentando seu comércio, investimentos e rede de embaixadas na África.

A União Africana só se consolidou após o Pan-Africanismo, a Conferência de Bandung e a Organização de Unidade Africana (OUA).

Primeiro, durante a escravidão até o colonialismo, o povo africano só podia exprimir suas liberdades sob a forma de revoltas. Então o pan-africanismo do século XIX promoveu um movimento político e social para unir todos os povos africanos, tanto na África como na diáspora, e reagrupar as diferentes etnias, divididas pelas imposições dos colonizadores, através de congressos. Assim, durante o quinto Congresso Pan-Africano de 1945 em Manchester – Inglaterra, foram propostas reivindicações para uma independência imediata, completa e absoluta dos povos e territórios colonizados através da ação direta, de resistência não violenta.

Segundo, promovido pelos asiáticos em abril de 1955 em Bandung - Indonésia, a “Conferência de Bandung” reuniu 29 países africanos e asiáticos e 36 convidados. O que tornou-se um marco para o processo de descolonização, e teve significado histórico tão grande quanto à das Nações Unidas, em São Francisco, pois representou quase 60% da população mundial. Gana se tornou o primeiro país africano a tomar sua independência pacificamente dois anos depois desta conferência, assim como outros posteriormente. Mas, alguns países só se tornaram independentes através de lutas armadas.

A resolução da XV Assembléia Geral da ONU em 1960 aprovou a Declaração de Garantia de Independência dos Países Coloniais, começou com a onda de descolonização na África e deu condições aos novos Estados africanos de pensarem na promoção de instituições capazes de possibilitar o desenvolvimento econômico e político do continente. Portanto, as iniciativas de Kwame N’krumah, Amílcar Cabral, Leopold S. Senghor, Abdul Nasser, Seku Touré, Agostinho Neto e outros, com a iniciativa do Imperador etíope Haile Selassie, foi criada no dia 25 de Maio de 1963 a Organização da Unidade Africana

(OUA) em Addis Abeba, Etiópia, por representantes de 32 governos de países já independentes. Já nos finais de anos 70 todos os países africanos conseguiram suas independências menos Saara Ocidental e Somalilândia, que até hoje não são reconhecidos como independentes. (Etiópia foi o único país africano que não foi colonizado).

Mas durante quase 40 anos de sua existência, embora tivesse um grande papel na luta pela descolonização da África, na luta contra a apartheid e na criação blocos sub-regionais de cooperação econômica e monetária, a OUA não conseguiu evitar os inúmeros conflitos que assolaram o continente, muito menos punir os responsáveis por esses problemas, nem promover de forma efetiva o seu desenvolvimento.

Devido essa incapacidade de resolver os problemas do continente, em julho de 2002 a OUA foi substituída pela União Africana (UA). Uma organização baseada no modelo da União Europeia. Com 53 estados membros, cobrindo quase todo o continente africano exceto Marrocos, que decidiu não participar porque Saara Ocidental foi aceito como membro. Mas a Guiné Madagáscar foram suspensos depois dos Golpes de Estado de 2008 nestes países, e Níger também foi suspenso depois do Golpe de Estado de 2010. Seu atual presidente é o Bingu wa Mutharika, o atual presidente de Malawi. A União Africana trabalha com seis línguas oficiais que são: o árabe, o francês, o inglês, o português, o espanhol e o suaili (uma das línguas oficiais do Quênia, da Tanzânia e de Uganda). Seu principal órgão decisório é a Assembléia Geral da União Africana - formada

pelos chefes de estado dos países membros, que se reúnem ordinariamente ao menos uma vez por ano. Possui um Conselho Executivo; Comissão da União Africana; Comitê de Representantes Permanentes da União Africana; Comitê de Paz e Segurança da União Africana (2010 foi declarado Ano da Paz e Segurança em África); Conselho Econômico, Social e Cultural da União Africana; Parlamento Pan-africano; Tribunal Judicial da União Africana – (Ainda não foi estabelecido); Comitês Técnicos Especializados e Instituições Financeiras (que ainda estão em fase de construção).

Da mesma forma, a UA propõe a criação de um banco central regional e tem o ambicioso projeto de criação de uma moeda única para a união o “Afro”, cuja data de sua aplicação está marcada para 2023. Estão igualmente previstos a constituição de um Banco de Desenvolvimento Regional e um Tribunal Supranacional de Direitos Humanos. Além de promover às seguintes organizações regionais:

- CEDEAO - Comunidade Econômica dos Estados da África Ocidental
- CEEAC - Comunidade Econômica dos Estados da África Central
- CEN-SAD - Comunidade dos Estados Sahelo-Saharianos
- COMESA - Mercado Comum da África Oriental e Austral

- EAC - Comunidade da África Oriental
- SADC - Comunidade para o Desenvolvimento da África Austral
- UEMOA - União Econômica e Monetária do Oeste Africano e outros.

Como cada bloco é autônomo, uma crise inicial em um pilar não afetará diretamente os outros que sustentam o programa de integração continental. Os objetivos da União Africana são inúmeros em relação à promoção da democracia, direitos humanos especialmente no desenvolvimento da África, nas resoluções pacíficas dos conflitos entre Estados membros e cumprir os oito objetivos do milênio posto pela ONU. Mas, a União Africana ainda enfrenta uma série de dificuldades financeiras e estruturais, desde surgimento da OUA. Por outro lado, o desenvolvimento do continente africano está progredindo de uma forma

acelerada, a copa do mundo na África do Sul está mostrando um pouco disso. Embora os problemas do continente sejam muito mais profundos do que as más políticas e insuficiência financeira, é bom lembrar que a Europa levou séculos para conseguir se desenvolver, por que deveria a África obtê-lo em algumas décadas, especialmente depois das distorções do colonialismo?

Tem muitos africanos contribuindo para uma África e um mundo justo, uns dos exemplos são estes ganhadores do prêmio Nobel da Paz:

Em 2005 - Mohamed El Baradei (diplomata egípcio), "por seus esforços em prevenir o uso da energia nuclear com objetivos militares e por garantir que a energia nuclear para fins pacíficos seja usada da maneira mais segura possível"; Em 2004 - Wangari Maathai (ativista ambiental do Quênia) "por sua contribuição para

o desenvolvimento sustentável, à democracia e à paz". Em 2001 - Kofi Annan (ex-secretário geral da ONU) "por seu trabalho por um mundo mais organizado e pacífico". Em 1993 - Nelson Mandela e Frederik Willem de Klerk (ambos ex-presidentes da África do Sul) "por seu trabalho no fim pacífico do regime do apartheid e por assentar os fundamentos de uma nova e democrática África do Sul". Em 1984 - Desmond Mpilo Tutu (ex-arcebispo anglicano da África do Sul) "por seu papel como figura unificadora na campanha para resolver o apartheid na África do Sul". Em 1978 - Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat (ex-presidente egípcio) e Menachem Begin (ex-premiê israelense) pela assinatura de um acordo de paz entre os dois países em 1978. Em 1960 - Albert John Lutuli (líder negro sul-africano) por sua luta contra o apartheid.

Além destes, tem mais africanos que estão lutando a cada dia para o bem-estar do mundo, sem contar que das oito ex-secretários Gerais das Nações Unidas dois são africanos (Boutros Boutros-Ghali de 1992 a 1997 e Kofi Annan de 1997 a 2007).



Símbolo da União Africana