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OLMatters



“To educate the Whole Person for Global Understanding”



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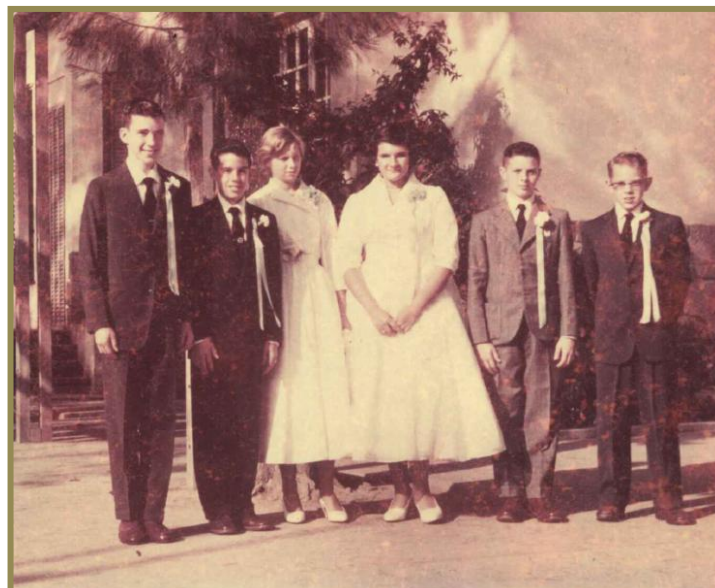
OLM...BEYOND OLD TESTAMENT, LANGUAGE, AND MATH

By Ted Callaghan, Class of '66

Editor's Note: *At a voluntary meeting on April 25 of teachers with Administration (at which most teachers were present), Dr. Lyndaker and Msgr. Sampaio presented the parameters of a continuing discussion about the identity, philosophy and mission and of Our Lady of Mercy School. The following school days memoir adds to who we are now by letting us know what we were from the beginning. Hopefully more such articles will be sent in by OLM Alumni.*

I attended a wonderful primary, middle, and high school in Rio de Janeiro. When I walked into kindergarten in 1953, OLM was a very different place. The property consisted of a very large and elegant two-story mansion with a beautiful garden and a pond with large goldfish. It was located where the basketball court is today. The back lot was a barren playground with a long wooden building that served as a Church. In between, there was an open shack with a zinc tile roof that was a combination of first and second grade. The sides of this structure were open in 2 places and occasionally closed with canvas. It leaked when it rained, was hot in the summer and cold in the windy winter months.

The school was created and developed because people wanted a Catholic English-speaking school to exist in Rio. They were people of vision,



This was the first 8th grade graduating class at OLM in 1957. Left to right: Jeffrey Donahue, Bobby Cardoso, Kare, Jean Callaghan (my sister), John Trunek. The background is the original mansion on the property.

determination, and sacrifice. Through endless fund raising, *tombolas* (Christmas Bazaars) pledging etc., money was finally raised to begin the “saw tooth” building. It was constructed in two or three phases. I remember my father taking a second job to afford the pledge he had made to the building fund.

I learned my multiplication tables with a circular saw in the background. Putting up with noise was a challenge, but it was sometimes convenient. If one did not know the exact answer to the teacher's question, but was smart enough to time one's mumbling to the length of the board being cut, one might get away with not having read the assignment.

Through the course of my 13 years at OLM the vision was completed. Classrooms and buildings were constructed just ahead of my progression. The high school building was the last major piece of the mosaic.

OLM was way more than just a set of buildings. Our classmates, schoolmates and teachers were the soul that provided life and personality to the brick and mortar. The student body and teachers came from all over the world. I remember classmates from Japan, U.S., Canada, Poland, England, Egypt, Bolivia, Columbia, France, Cuba, Venezuela, Peru, Denmark, Holland, India, Brazil, and China. Even though the capital had moved to Brasilia, Rio was still very much the diplomatic center of Brazil. Students' families had all sorts of backgrounds, business, military, diplomatic, and local. We had a teacher from Puerto Rico and our gym teacher had fled Hungary

to make a life in Brazil. Many of the Felician Sisters that taught us were from first or second generation American-Polish homes. It was a culturally rich environment.



High School graduation 1966. Top Row Left to right: Betty Courrege da Silva, Lillian Faria, Verne, Betty LeMaitre, Donna Loupe, Ana Maria Winter, Carol McKechnie, Richard Bosco, Eileen Tilly. Lower Row Left to Right: Patricia Machado, Martha Souza, Anna Dzieciolowski, Anne Marie Brady, Cole Arrowsmith, Margie, John Hortum, Ted Callaghan. In front of stage is the Junior class.

World events impacted our small community. We had families from Poland and Hungary escaping the Iron Curtain. Castro's takeover of Cuba brought Miguel and Silvia to us. Kao Ching's family escaped Communist China during the Mao years. Turmoil in the Mid East brought us two Jewish-Egyptian families.

Some of the school's extended family went on to impact world events. Francisco's father, Xavier Perez de Cuellar, later became Secretary General of the United Nations. Dan's father was sequestered and executed by the Motoneros in Uruguay. Some thought he might have been with the CIA. I remember him as a stern but incredibly kind and fair softball umpire. One of our classmates was imprisoned and tortured by the Brazilian dictatorship in the late 60's.

While OLM was a predominantly Catholic school, we had schoolmates who were Protestant, Shinto, Buddhist, Jewish and Hindu. OLM was small as schools go, but the variety of backgrounds

and frequent turnover provided for a hearty and healthy cultural exchange.

Yes, I went to a great school. I got a lot more out of my experience than just becoming proficient in Religion, Language and Math. I am very grateful. I hope that by reading this you will look at your school from a different perspective. I hope that at least one of you will look at your schoolmates and teachers differently. Appreciate them for who they are. Hopefully you will consider how you can enrich their lives and how they might enrich yours.

“LANCERS, LANCERS, TEAM, TEAM, TEAM!!!”

Thiago Queiroz ('08)



This was the team cheer before every game that led the boy's futsal team to a place

on the podium at the Inter 8 tournament which took place at 'Acampamento Nosso Recanto 2'. After almost 15 years without placing for a medal, the futsal team was finally awarded the very much deserved bronze. Much dedication and many hours of training was put into achieving this third place, both from the team and their coach, Mr. Walmir de Souza, who was constantly showing support and confidence in the team's capacity to become champion.

Competition was tough; moreover, two important players from the team suffered injuries before the trip, and were not able to participate in the tournament this year: Felipe Castello Branco ('08) and Christian Pedrosa ('09). They were deeply missed during the tournament, share in the accomplishment, and should definitely consider themselves winners. Only the British School and EABH showed to have a better team on the field,

winning second and first place, respectively. Congratulations to all.

The girl's volleyball team, coached by Mr. Marco Teixeira, also participated in the Inter 8 tournament with the same enthusiasm and commitment, putting forth their best efforts during all the games, but unfortunately placed fifth. Special recognition to Captain Marina Sodré, from this year's graduating senior class, for her continuous devotion to the team and the tournament as a whole, both on and off the field. Her constant shouted directions and excited cheers during the games unquestionably motivated the entire team into playing their best.

Furthermore, she again won the Sportsmanship Award in volleyball for OLM, while Renan Vidal ('09) won for the Futsal team. At the end of each match, the teams would give a green card to a member of the opposite team they judged to have played with the most sportsmanship, and at the end of the tournament the player awarded the most cards won. Congratulations to both for this special acknowledgement.

Credit also goes to Ms. Kátia Valente, Coordinator of the Physical Education Department at OLM, for making all this possible year after year by demonstrating trust in both teams during the games. Personal thanks, as well, for allowing me as an editor of **OLMatters** to accompany the trip to



the Inter 8 Tournament. Congratulations, finally, to all the students of the Class of 2008 for their

enduring and significant participation, involvement and perseverance as OLM Lancers throughout their high school years. For those who stay, the best of luck during future tournaments and competitions. The Lancers will continue to be a respected team as well as winners. **LANCERS FOREVER!**

Video Indoor Soccer - Inter8 '08 - OLM Lancers at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD68qoKoHbk>

MY SISTER'S VISIT

George Smith

March 28, 2008: Kelly Smith delivered two lectures on her studies in ecology to the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. Kelly left the topic of her lecture open to the choice of the students, allowing them to decide whether they would like to hear about sea turtle conservation efforts, rattlesnake tracking, or steam-powered energy plants.



Students were shocked as Kelly described nearly "smacking" a poisonous snake in the face, disgusted as she recalled standing waist deep in dead fish, and intrigued as she provided details about protecting new born turtles avoiding predators on their rush for the ocean!

After her stay at OLM, Kelly was amazed at the maturity and intellectual capacity of the students in her audience. At one point, Kelly even commented that the students were more intellectually stimulating than the college students in her lab! She returned to UC Davis to continue her pursuit for a doctorate degree in ecology, but with the warm memory of her time in Rio de Janeiro.

MENSAGEM DE UM PROFESSOR PARA OUTRO...

Marvelo Câmara – Music Teacher

Sinto-me feliz em escrever sobre minha colega e amiga Aline, ou **Mrs. Izecksohn**, como é conhecida aqui no OLM. Começo por dizer que sua discrição, o que considero ser uma de suas inúmeras qualidades, esconde de nossa comunidade a grande pessoa que ela é: mãe dedicada de dois filhos (Gabriel, 13 e Mariana, 10), esposa delicada e querida de um longo e feliz casamento com Carlos. Aline começou

na estrada da educação musical em 1988 no CEAT. Além disso, ela também possui o título de bacharel em piano (instrumento que domina com perfeição) pela UNIRIO. Frequentemente sou surpreendido ao entrar em nossa sala de música e escutar uma *fuga* de Bach, uma *sonata* de Brahms ou um *noturno* de Chopin, impecavelmente, executados pela discreta solista, à espera de mais uma de suas turmas.

Com o tempo, Aline conquista mais e mais o carinho dos colegas e seus alunos e isso pode ser observado no pátio da escola, no refeitório ou mesmo pelo número de ovos de páscoa que, literalmente, "transbordaram" pelas janelas de nossa sala recentemente. Ela é 'chocolatra', embora controle-se com muito equilíbrio, outra de suas qualidades.

Sua vinda para nossa escola, assumindo a educação musical da Pré-Escola e do *Elementary* (suas faixas etárias favoritas), possibilitou minha dedicação exclusiva ao Middle e High School (minhas faixas etárias favoritas) e tenho muito a agradecer-lá por isso. Ao dividirmos a mesma sala, conversamos sobre vários assuntos desde economia doméstica à psicologia, e ela sempre demonstra um grande senso de justiça e sensatez em suas colocações. Poucos sabem, mas, recentemente, Aline descobriu

um novo talento (sob o incentivo de outra colega) que a transformou em uma destemida "jipeira" que desafia muita lama e pedras no caminho, pilotando seu Pajero ou



assumindo a responsabilidade de ser a navegadora oficial de seu marido e filhos. Quem diria! Espero que com esse pequeno depoimento eu tenha revelado um pouco mais do belo ser-humano que é Aline Izecksohn. Gostaria de lembrar a todos que tê-la conosco, é um enorme presente.

STUDENT TEACHERS

Ana Carla Scavarda – 3rd Grade Teacher

Having a student-teacher in the classroom brings



great benefits to all involved in the process. It helps teachers re-evaluate their everyday activities as these student-teachers bring new ideas and different parameters to

work with. It helps the students as they are exposed to native speakers. Last, but not least, it also helps teachers-to-be to reflect upon each experience and develop their own teaching styles. It was a pleasure to have Ms. Idsvoog as a student teacher last semester. Nevertheless, we only had the chance of meeting each other after the semester had started. It was a blessing to find out that we shared so many things in common, that we could work so well together, and that she could create such a strong and lasting bond with the students. Then, last semester, we were lucky to have a future student-teacher come visit BEFORE coming to work with us. Michaela was with us for only a very short period, but during this brief time she did wonders! Her sincerity and spontaneity won the children's affection immediately. We look forward to having her join us. Welcome to the OLM community, **Ms. Michaela Isaacs!**

SPELLING BEE - A SYMBOL OF OLM

John Majka and Rita Niederer

As many regular events in school life, like the **Quiz Bowl**, the **DNA** (*Desafio Nacional Acadêmico*), the **Model United Nations**, regular editions of **OLMatters**, the monthly school **Masses**, the yearly **Talent Show** and musical productions like *Peter Pan*, *Cinderella* and *The Wiz* and the regular school parties, April's **Spelling Bee** is symbolic of what makes OLM a good-to-great school. All the segments of the school were involved willingly, enthusiastically and creatively.



The announcers, scorer, time keep, and technology operator (all teachers) and the sound technician tested the equipment and took their places.



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPION
Amanda Esteves,
with Larissa Freire and Kushagra Bosamia

Finally the stage was set for the student participants to enter, not as nervous as could have been expected, but enough to make the competition exciting for its entire seventy minute duration. Over three-hundred classmates cheered them with every correct word, sighed anxiously with every misspelling. *So close!* The high school even had a tie-break conclusion. Nobody gave up, scrapping for every point. They were the show—as it should be.



HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS 10TH GRADE
Aderbal Sabrá Filho, Daxton Wilson, Raissa Nejam

The school exists for the students to shine, to show what they know and have learned. Everything OLM produces and does is a teaching/learning moment. Congratulations to the students who showed up and made all the community proud.



ELEMENTARY CHAMPIONS :
Felipe Carneiro (4A) Maria Haniya (4B)
Camila Negreira (5A) Satya Kahale (5B)

Right after Easter, students started studying their words, teachers prepared them for their *Bee-offs* and the English Department involved itself in putting together the power point production central to the action on stage. The Supervisor and the teachers responsible for the event drew up the design for the events coordinator, who, supported by the carpentry shop, the electrician, the technology and sound people and the cleaning personnel, assembled the stage and the isolation booth for the finalists.

On the morning of the Spelling Bee everybody came early to put the final touches on the activities, including the Superintendent, who made sure the trophies and medallions were ready to be handed out to the deserving winners.



GOD'S LOBBYIST

John J. Majka

Benedict XVI's first visit to the United States in Washington, D.C. and New York City (from April 22-27 of 2008) was as typical as it was surprising. As John Paul II, who made a number of memorable visits, Benedict XVI did not say anything new, really.

He called for a respect for life, denouncing abortion, war, capital punishment.

At *Ground Zero* Pope Benedict prayed in silence and gently consoled some families who lost loved ones on 9/11, giving an example of how to best fight terrorism.

He thanked Americans for their spirit of generosity, while warning about the dehumanizing effects of materialism.

He expressed his admiration for the principles of freedom upon which the USA was founded and the religious liberty so evidently practiced all around him. At the same time he celebrated Masses in the Cathedrals of the Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick, as well as in secular Yankee Stadium, with thousands of Catholic faithful and guests. Faith is the only answer to disbelief and desperation.

He met a gathering of thousands more young people on the seminary grounds, enjoying their vibrancy and singing their songs. He reminded them, however, that the task uniquely theirs—removing poverty and injustice from human existence—could not be resolved with songs and good will alone. The Gospel was calling them to self-sacrifice and dedicated service to the Church and to the world.

The humility, affection and enthusiasm with which Benedict delivered the Gospel message, however, surprised many Catholics and non-Catholics alike. There were courageous, telling moments of his pastoral purpose.

Throughout his visit he expressed his outrage and disappointment at the distrust engendered in the Church and in the world by the child abuse scandals of the clergy. The mission of

the American Church has been seriously compromised and it will take time to heal the wounds from this painful episode in Church history.

The Pope did not evade the controversy. With remorseful determination not to have them repeated, he spoke of policies that would change the way seminaries filtered and prepared candidates to the priesthood. He showed sincere concern for the victims, by meeting with some of them and their families.

He spoke of the contributions of immigrants to American history and called for compassion toward illegal immigrants, rather than walls. At every assembly there was a message in Spanish that was as obviously deliberate as it was well-received by the congregations. Hispanics are an important part of the Catholic World in the USA.

There was great pageantry in the liturgies, reminiscent of the Church's past, through which Benedict XVI supported his continuing message that warns against the relativism ruling the customs and mores of popular culture and thought in Europe and the Americas.

The message is the Church's Good News throughout the ages: To love God is to discover how God loves us; loving ourselves the way God does shows us how to love our neighbor.

The Pope's next trip will be in June to Sydney, Australia for **WORLD YOUTH DAY**. Thousands of faith-filled young people will gather to listen to their personal spiritual trainer encourage them to also be lobbyists for the Creator, out of love.

NOSSOS GUARDIÕES

Clara Freiras & Maria Ednarla L. ('11)



A presença dos porteiros na entrada da escola nos proporciona um ambiente de trabalho mais

tranquilo e muito mais agradável. Não há sistema sofisticado de segurança que substitua um alegre e



cativante **'Bom dia!'** Ser recebido com um sorriso nos mostra a atenção com que Sr. Airton, Sr. Wilson, Sr. Vitor e Sr. Fernando nos

recebem a cada manhã.

Nossos guardiões são incansáveis ao receberem as crianças, sejam elas pequeninas ou já adolescentes, ajudando a sair do carro ou do ônibus e, muitas vezes até, carregando no colo. Estão sempre preparados e



atentos a tudo o que acontece a sua volta. Eles vigiam a entrada e a saída de pessoas e automóveis, são responsáveis pelas correspondências e encaminham os



visitantes. Precisam ser discretos e pacientes pois algumas vezes presenciam fatos inusitados e outras convivem com pessoas de temperamentos e jeitos diferentes. ***OLMatters parabeniza esses guardiões!!!***

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AWARDS CEREMONY – 2008

Claire Collins - Supervisor

Our Lady of Mercy School is honored to have been able to recognize so many exemplary students for their outstanding citizenship and academic achievement at the Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to our most deserving Honored Teachers who are the hub of the wheel, making the magic happen inside the classroom every day, in every way. You are IT. At the heart of everything we do!

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl winners, to the OLMatters staff, to the OLM Combo musicians, the Freshman House pioneers, our own Lancers and OLM cheerleaders, our Award Winning actors, singers and dancers, the DNA teams, and to the new Model United Nations students who are willing to go the extra mile next year! To every student and teacher who has stood out this year in hundreds of ways big and small, we see who you are and know what you do. Thank you so much for your invaluable contributions to the quality of our school!

National Honor Society Community Citizen 2008 - John Majka has been at OLM since 1994. What can you say about a teacher whose merits are so vast; they escape the classical parameters of the traditional concepts of excellence in teaching. This year the National Honor Society Community Member Award is honoring the person John is within the OLM Community. He has been nothing less than an exemplary human being whose joy for life is a series of highly positive attitudes that he brings with him into school every day in every way. This teacher fervently believes no peak is too high and no quest impossible to achieve. He appreciates fully this world as the creation we have received as a gift from God meant to behold. John Majka has dedicated his life to a deep intellectual philosophy of doing good, believing in other people, giving the benefit of the doubt, reaching for the moon, always wanting more. He is someone who will put his name on the line for a student he knows has potential; he sees every student as a potential Pulitzer Prize winner and is generous with his grades and perception of the greatness of every single one of his students. This is a person who has his eye on the Big Picture in life and operates from there. John Majka, we are proud to have you as part of our National Honor Society.

Middle School Honored Teacher: Beth Barros, at OLM since 1996, has gained the trust and respect of her middle school students and coworkers through years of consistent dedication on every level, untiring enthusiasm, and her high level of competence in her subject area, the Portuguese language. Always willing and ready to take on a challenge, she is one of the kids herself. Beth is the embodiment of our OLM Middle School student profile. She relates to her students, first, as a respected professional who seriously enforces the OLM rules and then through her quick, snappy sense of humor only her students know her for. This teacher is always one step ahead of her students, gets into their minds and hearts. We love her.

High School Honored Teacher Lúcia Helena Oliveira, at OLM since

1988, has consistently been one of the OLM mainstays for her ability to be the teacher her students remember by name years after they graduate from OLM, for the riveting classes she gives year after year, every single day. This teacher has no down time; she needs no textbooks or props or gimmicks or support for her material

100% of the time. This teacher infects students with the greatness of the responsibility of 'knowing', and makes especially sure all sides of every question are fairly stated. This teacher reaches her students at every grade level, in every subject she teaches. She lines herself up with high expectations and draws out the best in her students, come what may. She gives her students lots to think about their whole lives through and is dedicated to educating beyond dedication. No project is too big or too small if it will benefit a student. There is only one like her.



*Ms. Miranda, Ms. Barros, Ms. Lúcia Helena,
Mr. Camera e Marisa Menezes*

Outstanding Artistic Contribution Award - Marcelo Camera, at OLM since 2001 is a professional everyone wants on their team. (See his article about his colleague, Elementary School music teacher Aline Izbecksohn in this edition.) Well-liked by all, cooperative by nature, the first one to think of everything, to understand the dimensions of the project at hand before anyone else, he is also the most creative, the most dependable, the most willing to teach, to share, to orient, to encourage, and to make it happen – no matter what it is the school wants to produce. The job this teacher does the 100th time is exactly as good as what he did the first time. He is original, a recorded artist in his own right who made a conscious decision to leave the corporate world of IBM to dedicate his life to teaching students about music. After a 28 year wait, we finally have an OLM Combo because this teacher made it happen. We have a choir that includes singers from every sector of the OLM Community. We have a beautiful Christmas Celebration and great sound for our mega-OLM productions that we all have so much fun being part of, because this teacher works behind the scenes most of the time. If he needs to sing the anthems Monday morning a cappella, he does it. If he needs to use his own equipment to ensure better quality, he does it. OLM is culturally richer because of this teacher. Marcelo Camera, we thank you.



When I was asked to write about Ms. Cruz, I mean. **Goreth**, I started to think of the years we worked together. So many.... During 9 years we shared the same classroom, I always considered her a reliable person that shared with me her thoughts and ideas as an educator. Her relationship with the students was always friendly and at the same time strict if needed. Whenever they had a loose tooth they always came to her. She was our private dentist and many students in OLM lost their first tooth with her help....As the years passed by a friendship started to grow and I am very proud of it. I am happy for the award received by her this year. She surely deserved it. Congratulations! From a true friend, *Simone Souza*



**Goreth Cruz
Adriana Lourenco**

Goreth has been an employee of Our Lady of Mercy School for over twenty years working the preschool. We are proud to award her for her outstanding work and dedication to the school and its principles. Goreth has always been hardworking, highly motivated, and an example for her work. It is a pleasure to award her as **Helper of the Year 2007-2008**. *Dr. Charles Lyndaker*

Durante o tempo que trabalhamos juntas conquistamos amizade e cumplicidade muito grandes. **Adriana Lourenço** tem um jeito carinhoso, seguro e conquistador. Assim, sabendo lidar com as crianças e comigo, transformou nossa sala em um ambiente feliz. Continue conquistando. Não pare! Da amiga, *Rita Ribeiro*.



A arte de educar é uma bela missão, afinal é a Educação um dos meios pelo qual o ser humano tem a oportunidade de crescer. Felizes daqueles que têm a oportunidade de se doar educando! Parabens a você, **Ana Carla**, pelo merecido prêmio, pois soube aproveitar o dom que lhe foi dado por Deus - o de ensinar. Com carinho e admiração, *Marisa Vieira*.

Welcome and congratulations to the new Middle and High School students inducted into the highly selective **National Honor Society**. You are the ones who set the standards for the rest of the school and we are proud to have you!



Congratulations to the victorious new High School **STUCO** for being up to the challenge! We look forward to a strong alliance with you next year.



Flávia Malouk se formou na OLM em 1984. Começou a trabalhar aqui na escola em 1992. Durante esse período foi uma professora exemplar. Sempre responsável e preocupada não só com seu crescimento profissional como também com o desenvolvimento de seus alunos. Trabalhou de 2003 a 2005 nos Estados Unidos com classes de Pré-Escola (Educação Infantil). Em 2005 voltou e este ano, para a nossa satisfação, foi escolhida "Teacher of the Year 2008" pelo excelente trabalho realizado ao longo desses anos na OLM. *Jaidir Barbosa, Supervisora*

TO WORKERS EVERYWHERE

An Ode to May 1

Monday morning's
procession of lights
My brothers and sisters in arms
Ready to do battle
bosses and deadlines
clients and demands
colleagues and discussions.

How many of us love what we do
Think it's important what we do
Would even die for what we do,
I wonder.

I step into the van
Where the darkness is warmed
By the breath of fellow travelers,
Some sleeping,
Some listening to music,
All of them knowing :

Without us
There would be
Less light
In the workday world.

WHY WORK *10th Grade reflections*

Work encourages us to become better and smarter so that human progress can endure and become more complex and useful. **William Prada**

With work people have something to do, an objective in life. They try to reach something and, more importantly, they always try to be better, to achieve their own goals.

Domingos de Paola Neto

The only reason you work is to make money so you can live. If no one had to work, they wouldn't.
Daxton Wilson

In today's world you need money to have a fine life, and the way to get money is working.

Vitor Brandão

People only work to get money and survive. If we didn't need money people wouldn't work.

Jose Francisco Maron

You have to work in order to get money. You are rewarded according to the amount of work you do and its quality.

João Antonio Fonseca

People work to make our society function in a better way. Every job in our society has an impact on all human life; the main purpose of work or having a job is to try to make the world, or where we live, a better place. **Gabriela Planchart**

We can apply physics to analyze work, which is equal to force applied times the distance it is applied. We can only obtain a huge amount of work if we put a lot of force and for a good distance of our lives. **Priscila Machado**

Work is important not only for education and to construct our future, but to create a better self-esteem. By working we are helping prepare ourselves for what is ahead, and, by knowing that, we feel better about ourselves because it brings us hope for the future. **Giovanna Rajão**

We must work to live, but besides that, work is good to keep us out of trouble. **Arlindo da Motta**

In ancient times work was meant to fulfill the needs of society: agriculture gave food; the army, protection; different professions, necessary services. **Erik Figueiredo**

Work is essential for our daily lives. If we did not have work to do, people would not know what is going on in the world, parents would not be able to support their families, and life could not go on.

Maria Isabel Almeida Lima

CAUGHT AGAIN BEING GOOD

10TH Graders do it again. Twice!

I didn't realize how much hurt I was feeling lately for seeing my father struggle with Alzheimer's disease, but in class one day the 10th grade did. They empathized with me out of love and solidarity. They encouraged me to talk about my pain; they listened; they cried with me; we prayed together. Just the fact that a person listens to what you have to say already brings comfort to the soul.

Lots of people say that young people are not mature enough to demonstrate any kind of concern for other people's problems. "They are too selfish and too into their own problems to worry about others". This 10th grade showed exactly the opposite. The affection they showed me made me prouder than ever to be their teacher. Religion is best taught when it is practiced in the simplest actions of love. Thanks for being so supportive and compassionate!! You will always be in my prayers.

• **Kátia Souza**

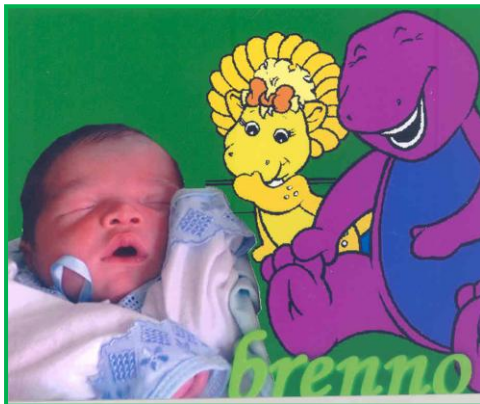
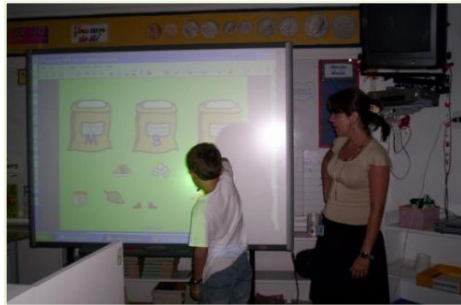
As I entered the classroom there were groups of sophomores excitedly discussing a Physics problem, including some, celebrating with Dr. Medeiros something they had solved. Though Emil apologized for going over I told him there was no problem, and even allowed the students to continue for a few minutes to finish their work. The spirit of that class spilled over into my double period in which the students approached their reading and analysis of *Siddhartha* with the same enthusiasm and dedication. It was a great class, as well. Thanks, guys, for the contagious scholarship.

John Majka



**Second Graders had lots of work
and tons of fun this year!
We wish our students all the best in
Third Grade!**

Second Grade Team



*OLMatters parabeniza os mais novos
'novos' da escola!!!*

Mário (almojarifado) está muito feliz com a chegada de seu neto **Brenno Gabriel**. Ele nasceu no dia 11 de Abril, pesando 3.550Kg e com 56cm. (at left)

Lucia Helena, High School Honored Teacher, is very proud of her grand-daughter, **Maria Luiza**. She was born on May 6th, weighting 2,750Kg and measuring 48cm. (at right)





From left to right: visit to the nursery room, visit to the 2nd grade room, and Fashion Show



Junior Kinder Parades the Seasons

During the month of April, Junior Kinder students learned all about the seasons of the year. They had a special activity: to visit the other classrooms wearing clothes according to their favorite season. Many students and teachers guessed right away what the season chosen by the kids would be.

They also had a Fashion Show just outside the cafeteria wearing their favorite clothes. The whole school stopped by to watch. It was so much fun!

Ms. Souza & Ms. Menezes

QUIZ BOWL COMPETITION

Our Quiz Bowl is over for this year and the winners are to be congratulated for their effort and knowledge. It is no small thing to give up part of your lunch time every other week to answer questions about current events - not only in English but also in French and Spanish, as well as Portuguese. The team who takes part in the organization of the QB works hard but the results are truly worthwhile. Not to say that it is a lot of fun!!! Congratulations to Priscila Machado, Gabriela Lopes, Daxton Wilson and Deborah Canepa!

Way to go to all of the participants!

Ms. Carmem Maia





TAKING THE DARE

Ms. Freire & Ms. Xavier



Ready, Set, Goooo!!! The DNA is just around the corner!!!

Desafio Nacional Acadêmico is a highly structured and competitive virtual academic project. Our high school student teams: 'BioLords', '...Lost', 'Cotonete Inflamável', and 'Free your mind' (grades 10, 11, 12) will be competing with more than 1,000 schools in Brazil, unraveling daily problems based on the *WEBQUEST* philosophy of research, quick thinking, and resourcefulness during the month of June.

Challenge example (Vestibular area):
"Somando Eu com a sigla do Alagoas,
você irá encontrar a sua resposta!"



A WARM, PERSONAL THANKS

Thiago Queiroz (08)



Thiago receives a special award for his work as a student editor of OLMatters for the last 2 years.

Just after entering OLM in early 2006, I had the pleasure of being invited by Mr. John Majka to become a student editor here for OLMatters. Little did I know what it was about, but without reluctance I immediately accepted the offer, with the thought that writing is something which I enjoy doing and that it would be a good start for me at the school. I later came to know Ms. Sandra Xavier, who throughout these two years, together with John, proved to be two people who are extremely interested and dedicated to assuring that each month a different and exciting edition of the school's newspaper is out, and on time. It may seem simple to the readers, but the effort that is put forth by us student and teacher editors into interviewing, writing, correcting, formatting and finally publishing the paper is very big, and requires a full 30 days of time-consuming work.

After these two great years of being the senior student editor for the paper, the time has come for me to say goodbye. Graduation has finally arrived, and I have nothing left to give but warm, personal thanks, to John and Ms. Xavier, for this wonderful opportunity which has been given to me, and which I am so glad to have accepted. The amounts of things I have learned are uncountable, and some of the writings have surely become memorable. Without a doubt I have become a better writer, reader, and interviewer. I am sure the paper continues to be in good student hands now that I am leaving, with Manuela, Clara, and Duda, all from the class of 2011. As for you three, the dedication you put forth in the paper today will surely pay off in the future, as it has for me. It truly is a very rewarding and gratifying feeling when you see the month's paper printed; it's just great to think that you had a part into accomplishing that. I promise to keep in touch, and guarantee this is not the last article I write for OLMatters. There will be many more to come, with the minor difference that I will be writing personal news as an alumnus, and no longer as a current student. I wish the best of luck to all of those who are somehow involved in the creation of the paper, and I am sure of its growing success with each passing edition.

LUXO E HISTÓRIA

Texto: Amanda Esteves & Fernanda Machado - Fotografias: Alejandra Louiza ('12)



Após quase dois bimestres sem passeios, nós do 8th grade nos surpreendemos ao saber que haveria um passeio ao Palácio do Catete - o Museu da República. Acompanhados por nossas professoras de Português e Estudos Sociais Brasileiros e por um pesado temporal, chegamos lá. Muitos não têm conhecimento disso, mas o Palácio do Catete servia de residência para o Barão de Nova Friburgo e sua família nos tempos de Dom Pedro I, quando foi construído. Após o barão e sua mulher morrerem, o Palácio do Catete foi deixado para seus filhos.

Depois de trocar de mãos várias vezes, chegou a ser a sede presidencial de Prudente de Moraes e os presidentes que o seguiram, até Juscelino Kubitschek. JK inaugurou-o como Museu da República em 15 de novembro de 1960.

Logo ao entrar, nos impressionamos com o esplendor e luxo da antiga moradia dos nossos presidentes. Os tetos obtiveram muitos “uau!”, “nossa!” e “olha!” dos alunos maravilhados com os detalhes trabalhosos e as pinturas de deuses-romanos, moda muito popular naquela época. Em várias salas encontram-se portas falsas e espelhos enormes para dar simetria ao espaço e impressionar os convidados.

Porém, nos entristecemos com o estado em que o museu se encontra. A chuva pingava de goteiras nos lindos vitrais acima da escada, e havia baldes em algumas partes do museu. Também foi um pouco decepcionante saber que muitas salas e objetos estão sendo restaurados e se encontravam indisponíveis para nós naquele momento. Por causa da chuva, não conhecemos o jardim. Esperamos, ansiosamente, o retorno ao museu para recapitularmos o que foi visto e aprendermos mais sobre o Museu.



ESTÍMULO - Carlos Miller, da Avina, em uma cabana no Amazonas. Ele incentiva projetos de educação e preservação no norte do país
Foto e entrevista completa: Revista Época - Edição nº 523

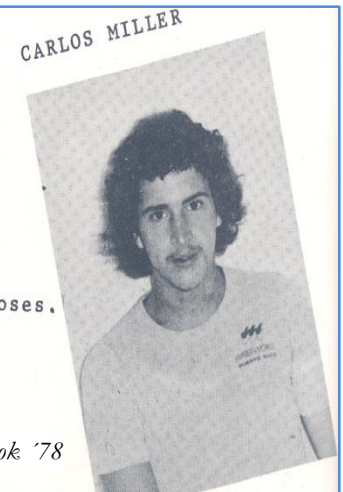
We are proud to present **Carlos Miller ('78)**, an OLM alumnus, who was recently featured in **Época**, a national newsmagazine, for his contributions to saving the Amazon rainforest. He represents what OLM tries to instill in its students: global responsibility and care.

Born in Rio de Janeiro. 2 years at OLM. Senior class vice-president. 2 years in basketball and soccer. Plans to attend college in the U.S.

"Bom Bril di Oro" is what we may call the Senior's portrait drawer. You can always see him drawing one of their faces on the board but of course they'll all have long noses.

Carlos will be seen in the near future on television showing and teaching people of Brazil how to use hair.

OLM Yearbook '78



SPENDING TIME AT VILA DO SOL NURSING HOME

Freshman House students

"It was a great experience. It was a lot of fun and I think everyone liked it." - **Patricia Sá**

"Our visit to *Vila do Sol* was a great experience. I learned how to deal with older people and I had a great time." - **Fernando Pinto**

"I really enjoyed it, and felt very good giving the residents an enjoyable afternoon. I would like to repeat it or do something similar." - **Clarisa Molina**

"A visita a Vila do Sol foi muito bacana, pois tivemos a oportunidade de entrar em contato com pessoas carentes e levar um pouco de alegria para esses idosos." - **Eduarda Ferraz**

"As a personal experience, the visit to *Vila do Sol* was excellent. The elderly had so much fun that made me proud of our class. A good experience that I will never forget." - **Nathalie Haddad**

"It was great! To see the sparkle in the eyes of those people was touching. They see that people care about them." - **Louise Dias**

"I thought it was fun and a great experience. I could see happiness in people's faces, especially when we sang the "marchinhas" - **Helena Machado**

"I think that going to the Nursing Home was really good for us, especially to see that people are not always mistreated." - **Maria Paula Leite**

"The visit to the Nursing Home was a cool experience making the old people happy." - **Victor Barbosa**

"Our visit to *Vila do Sol* went beyond my expectations." - **João Victor Galhego**

"It was a great pleasure to visit those wonderful people. There are no words to describe the feeling. There's no price for what we saw.

Hope to go back soon." - **Clara Freitas**



"The experience of visiting the elderly was great. We were able to learn from them things that we might not learn in our lives." - **Maria Eduarda Leitão**

"The visit was both sad and happy. It made me upset to think that they are old and alone. That was my first thought, but then I saw they are not entirely alone. They have each other and I saw some true friendship and care. I really learned something from the people there." - **Amanda Brasil**

"It was a good visit, everybody helping the elderly." - **anonymous**

"I thought that *Vila do Sol* was very interesting. The people are very friendly and were delighted to see us. It was an unforgettable trip. I hope to see more of them." - **Manuela Almeida**

"My trip to *Vila do Sol* was very enjoyable and I had a great time with the elderly. I enjoyed playing bingo with them most of all." - **Ivan Varella**

"Foi emocionante ver a alegria que alguns alunos, em poucos momentos, proporcionaram aos idosos do asilo." - **Heloisa Niemeyer**

"I think my visit in *Vila do Sol* was really nice. Arriving there I really saw how much they need this attention from us. How they need to have fun and have someone to help them. We should do this more often." - **Natalia Porto**

"It was cool. The elders were very excited and animated with the bingo and the songs we sang." - **Leandro Araujo**

FUTUROS ESCULTORES

Os alunos de Português da **4ª série A/B** além de leitores e escritores são também excelentes escultores.



Após a leitura do mês de abril, cada aluno pôs em prática o que aprendeu na unidade de adjetivos, descrevendo, com detalhes, três personagens da história lida.

Para enriquecer o projeto, as crianças esculpiram os personagens descritos por elas. Aprenderam e se divertiram ao mesmo tempo. Que belo trabalho!



Friendship Festival has been taking place for 11 years now at “Nosso Recanto”. The camp was founded in 1953 with the objective of providing participating youngsters with a friendly environment. The festival takes place every year when classes are still in session. This is not a coincidence! The festival achieves some of the specific objectives of the Middle School curriculum. Although participation is not mandatory, the event is carefully planned so that all kids can participate, not only those involved with athletics. Students return from **NR** more integrated and self-confident!



“Espero deste torneio novas amizades, mas também me aproximar dos meus velhos e eternos amigos. Quero passar felicidade para a minha escola, e também me divertir muito.”

Yasmin Parada (13)

**Soccer, Cheerleading,
Volleyball, and Basketball
Teams in action!!**





In love with horses ever since she can remember, Daniela Molina ('08) started horse back riding as a sport (show jumping) 4 years ago. With some difficulties and time off when moving to Brazil, she continued riding and began competing, winning several of the different competitions in her category through the year 2007. She won 1st place in the ranking of the category in the Marapendi Club for the 2007 season. She continues practicing in the hope of classifying in the 2008 season. - Clarisa Molina ('11)



MODEL UNITED NATIONS (NHSMUN) UPDATE

28 Lancers to be in New York City in March 2009

Rosana Paes

For over a quarter of a century, the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) has simulated international diplomacy with the mandate of educating high school delegates from across the globe about real-world solutions to some of the most eminent crises that threaten the political stability of our increasingly-globalized society. Always a conduit for consensus and compromise, the **NHSMUN** conference offers the most ambassadorial "education through simulation" experience in the Model United Nations arena.

The **NHSMUN** conference hosts over 2,500 high school students and takes place each year in New York City. Its mission is to provide the most well-organized and intellectually stimulating conference available to high school students. Because it is a non-governmental organization, delegates are able to engage in debate at both the Hilton New York and the United Nations International Headquarters.

In March 2009, 28 High School students from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade of Our Lady of Mercy School will have the privilege of being part of this event. They have already begun working and the countdown has begun. We are all looking forward to participating in the conference and for sure our school will be represented in its excellence.

MARY'S CORNER

Kátia Souza

The Blessed Virgin has allegedly been appearing every evening to a number of teenagers (now in their late 20s!) in a village in Bosnia for almost 16 years....An official Vatican investigation reached the unprecedented decision of not being able to conclude that anything supernatural was happening there, nor being able to conclude that anything supernatural was not happening there!

The message Our Lady has come to bring is not different in substance from the messages she has brought previously, convert, do penance, pray the Rosary daily!

However, the message is becoming more intense. Our Lady requests that we pray all 15 decades of the Rosary every day, not just the customary five. She asks us to fast on bread and water alone on Fridays (and also Wednesday if possible) rather than merely asking for special penances on those days.

There have certainly been hundreds of thousands of conversions because of this apparition, if not millions. Millions have visited the shrine, particularly since the fall of the Iron Curtain. The Pope himself is thought to be sympathetic to the apparitions. And all who visit comment on the fidelity and holiness that abound in this little village.

Briefly, the history of the apparitions is as follows: On 24 June 1981, in the mountain parish of Medjugorje, in what was then

Yugoslavia, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to six young people. Next day, She appeared again to four of those six,



Our Lady of Medjugorje "Mir" –Queen of Peace

together with two others. Those six (four girls and two boys) of the second day became the definite visionaries -- their Christian names being Ivanka, Mirjana, Vicka, Ivan, Marija and Jakov. On the second day, Our Lady spoke, and ever since, She has been (with a few exceptions in the early days) appearing daily to all, or some of the six. The apparitions have taken place at various sites, and occasionally to individual visionaries while travelling

outside Bosnia. Secrets have been given to each, and there have been countless messages. Our Lady has identified herself in Medjugorje as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace, and her central message is peace - peace with God and man.

She has told the young people: ***"I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and obtain peace, you must return to God."*** In bringing the world back to her Son, Mary has been sent by the Father to help in various ways to make Medjugorje a model parish. During the apparitions, the visionaries do not react to light, they do not hear any earthly sound, they do not react to being touched. They have been subjected to many scientific tests even during the apparitions, and the findings are well documented. While with Our Lady they feel they are outside time and space.

In: <http://www.catholic-pages.com/bvm/medjugorje.asp>

TO MY MOTHER

Julia Valois('08)

*"Even in the depth of things
Below the very reason
Why and beyond
I have held you
(Tentative fingers)
Even when I'm gone
And I'll hold you
(Here, forever)
Like the words
Without the song"*

DEPOIMENTOS leia olmatters

Edição OLM
edição 2008 - ano 1
01 de maio de 2008

***Together By Fate,
We're the Class of 2008!***

Choosing this school was the best decision I have ever made.

***"I want to tell you "Thank you,"
But it doesn't seem enough.
Words don't seem sufficient—
"Blah, blah" and all that stuff.
Please know I have deep feelings
About your generous act.
I really appreciate you;
You're special, and that's a fact!"***

Thank you OLM and the Class of 2008!

TRACY LEE

During all these years in OLM, my future profession remained a mystery for a long time. Some events and characteristics led me to follow the difficult and complicated road of medicine, which, for now, will be my main goal, so that one day I will make a huge difference in people's life in some way.

GIOVANNA SÁ

I want to thank everyone at OLM for making it a place I wouldn't change for anywhere else in the world. I wish for my classmates the best of success in anything they choose to do from now on, and for those who stay, never take for granted anything that OLM can offer you.

THIAGO QUEIROZ

This school made up more of my life than my own family, but now the time has come to separate myself from what I one day thought to be everlasting. I'll keep the memories forever. There are no doubts that I'll make new friends but I will never forget my childhood friendships and in the future I hope to be able to say ***:"Comigo caminham todos os amigos que se afastaram, todos os dias felizes que se passaram. Não perdi nada, apenas a ilusão de que tudo podia ser meu para sempre..."***

MARINA SODRÉ

The Class of 2008 represents special friends that will never be forgotten, and symbolizes a word that some people spend their whole life without knowing its true meaning and importance: FRIENDSHIP. OLM has been my second home for 6 years. During this time, half of my life was spent inside these walls bearing knowledge and friendship. I will never forget the wonderful memories and experiences I lived in school and will keep them forever with me. My friends and the professional future that awaits me are living proof of the significant participation that OLM had in my life.

LUCIANA FORTES

I can't believe it's graduation time. I feel like I came into OLM yesterday. It's been great. I'm going to miss OLM, and everyone here. What I've learned here is priceless, and I'll carry the memories of this place in my heart forever. OLM truly is a treasure.

PEDRO PINTO

I want to be very successful and enjoy my life. Being happy will always be my only goal; everything else might change. Right now it's pretty hard to picture myself in the workplace; however, motivation will never be a problem. Rather than an ending, the senior year was a start. It was great being surrounded by positive people for all those years and I am sure it will make a difference throughout my life. Thanks everyone for everything.

LUCAS MAYALL

I definitely couldn't have wished for a better selection: true friends I can count on. I'm sure our friendship will resist time and distance. The famous question "what will you be when you grow up?" has never been so important. It is so difficult to choose what you want to do for the rest of your life. Several professions have passed through my head since I was a child: I've wanted to be an archaeologist, a baby sitter, an engineer... But something that was always present in me life was the desire to help people. I always wanted to make people's lives better and to leave a mark in the world. Combined with a passion for biology, developed over the years, I believe I've found what I want to do for the rest of my life: I want to become a medical researcher and do my best to change things for the better.

NINA VISCONTI

The main thing I want to say to the next seniors is: Do not leave your thesis for the last month! Senior year is a very decisive year, it's the time when we have many important decisions to make. There are many choices that have to be analyzed carefully in order to choose the right one. Enjoy your senior year, since it's your last and probably, best, year at OLM. No matter what, you will miss it.

LARISSA BALESTRERO

These 8 years at OLM were wonderful and none of it would have been possible if it weren't for my classmates. I would like to thank you all for the moments we had together, all the fights and discussions, all the laughs, all the nights out....I know that I will never see some of you again, but I wish you all the luck and happiness in the world.

JULIA ALLEVATO

I want to thank my family for all the support along my life and school years, and I also thank OLM for teaching me all good things in school. Today I am well prepared for the future. I know that I will be going to college with all the knowledge that I need, to achieve my objectives. Choosing what I am going to do in college was very hard and I had to think a lot about it, because I know that Law is the profession that will lead me to success. My future goals are to look out for my family, especially Maria Antonia and Charlie, graduate from college, be a good lawyer and help all those that need me.

GABRIELA FREIRE

I entered OLM in 2005, the middle of the 9th grade. And right away, you took me in and befriended me. I will miss you always. Even though it is a relief not to have to worry about demanding school work and tests anymore, it is strange to think that in August we will not be together anymore. These three years have been very special to me and I will remember you forever. Finally, after lots of hard work, we did it! To the future seniors of the class of 2009: I wish you luck. I know my class makes senior year look ridiculous, but it isn't. It's hard work and only by helping each other will you get through it. My experience here at OLM, I believe, will help me achieve my professional and life goals. I thank the school dearly.

NICOLE DANIEL

I've been through many different thoughts and feelings this year, but what always kept coming back to me was not to waste this last year of high school. I would say the most important thing is to live the present, the day to day, and enjoy each moment, because if you are only waiting for the future without living the present, you will be missing an important part of your life. Create memories you will enjoy remembering and experiences that will make you grow as a person. Everything you have learned will contribute in some way or another to the person you will become. I wish you all the best.

DANIELA MOLINA

So many years together, my friends. Let's keep it up! We've made history here! I wish you all good luck. Class of 2008 forever! After all these years in OLM I grew, learned, and thought about my future. I intend to follow a law career in Brazil, and would like to spend some time living and working in Europe or Australia in the future. But, life is magnificent and mysterious, and might reserve a different fate.

FELIPE CASTELO BRANCO

There were many great memories... it was good while it lasted. I hope we keep in touch and I wish you guys the best in your professional and personal lives for you definitely influenced mine. "It ain't about how hard you hit... It's about how hard you can get hit, and keep moving forward,... how much you can take, and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done." (*Rocky Balboa, 2006*) For now I'll begin studying International Relations in IBMEC, however there's a possibility of running off to Europe and enroll Record Production in London, or even Video Production, or even both. Nevertheless, my greatest professional goal would be to escape routine.

VICTOR COSTA

After moving to Brazil I started to write poetry for the first time. Immediately I became enthralled with writing, more so than ever before, and gradually I became more adept at creative writing. It seemed as if my passion for writing had been dormant inside of me and had finally broke free from the chains of distraction, which often come with living. I finally realized that I was meant to write, and after this realization I started to devote every bit of energy and passion inside of me to writing. After writing my first novel and numerous poems I began to write a romance trilogy. Now I still write, as I breathe, and all the waves of tumult inside of me, the tremulous feelings, the passion, can be perceived in the weaving of the words on the paper, and in that vocabulary sea.

We might not remember

The little things

(Years are like seconds with less memory)

But the feelings

In the dark

The light

The moonbeams captured in the folds of our minds

(Smoldering)

Will never be forgotten

There are too many stars

That will forever insist

On being counted

JULIA VALOIS

If I were to summarize my feelings about the seniors of 2008, some of the first words that come to my mind would be great curiosity, special kindness, and above-average maturity for your age and yet they wouldn't describe you completely. I sincerely hope that the five (Daniela, Nina, Pedro, Thiago, and Yuri) that stayed in my class till the end, and also the eight (Eduarda, Giovanna, Julia, Larissa, Luciana, Marina, Tracy, and Victor) that switched shifted classes, can now appreciate better what was behind my favorite phrase when you first started with me as 10th graders: "Physics is everywhere"! As for me, I know that you HAVE to leave; I wish you didn't... Good luck in all the years to come

EMIL MEDEIROS

Querida classe '08

Com certeza, jamais serão esquecidos. Aprendi muito com vocês, sobretudo a importância de ter amigos. Parabéns! Como é lindo vê-los unidos. Essa turma sempre estará no meu coração. Tenho certeza de que obterão muito sucesso na vida profissional. Parabéns pela união, pelo companheirismo e pela formatura! Tracy, Thiago, Marina, Luciana, Nicole, Giovanna, Nina, Daniela, Larissa, Lucas, Julia Allevato, Felipe, Pedro, Julia Valois, Victor Costa, Victor Moreira, Yuri, Eduarda e Gabriela.

MELISSA MARTINS



*"Amigo é coisa pra se guardar,
debaixo de sete chaves dentro
do coração"*



I would like to thank all my AP students for their dedication and attention during these three years no matter how hard the courses were. For the whole group: The thesis experience put you one step above all of the other students in any college in Brazil or abroad. Congratulations for your thesis production.

BETH FREIRE

Dear Seniors,

I wish you the best, and I hope wherever you go that you have the same warm welcome as I had here from you – my first group, my first day, my first class at OLM.

Mayall, Pedro Pinto, Yuri, Victor Costa, Felipe Freitas, Tracy, Vitor Moreira, Júlia, Marina, Nina, Duda, Giovanna, Larissa and all the others including Larangeira, Sauma, Artur Fegalli, Jason... I am sorry if I forgot some names. I love you all. Be certain. You gave me the courage to go on and since 2003, here I am.

If, one day, you ever need a Brazilian English grammar teacher, or just a friend to talk to, don't hesitate to send me an email or just call me at school.

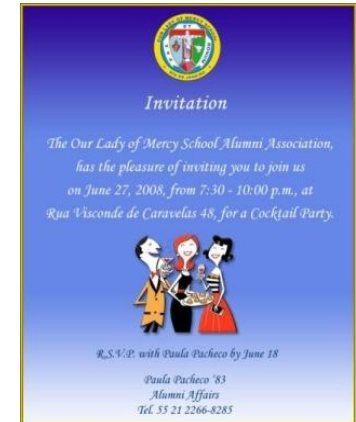
Go on! God Bless you all. LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN!!
MR. VIEIRA

As I write this message I can see your bright-eyed smiles and feel your warm affection for each other and for me. It has almost always been a pleasure to be your teacher, because you were as completely transparent as adolescents can be (since you still have a lot of wonders to discover about yourselves and transparency is only limited by the depth of mystery yet to be unraveled). I can only hope that you will use all that you have learned to be happily involved in the transformation of a world that seriously needs your academic skills and personal gifts, tempered by your creativity, enthusiasm and sense of humor. As far as I can remember you have always been a class fondly regarded by all your teachers. Expect your ears to be burning long and often, since you will be missed and we will be talking about you.

JOHN MAJKA

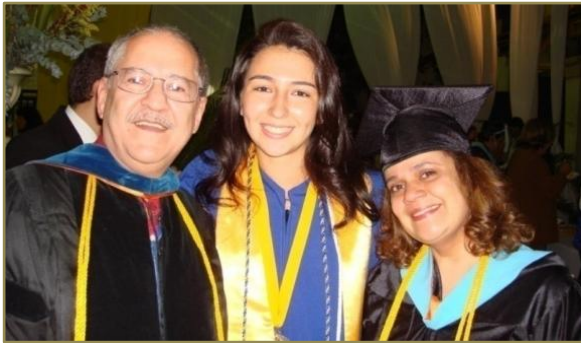
Dear Class of 2008,

It's hard to say what it is I see in you
Wonder if I'll always be with you
But words can't say, and I can't do
Enough to prove,



FROM THE VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

Nina Visconti



Dr. Emil Medeiros, Nina Visconti, Raquel Braga

Charles Dickens once wrote: ***“The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again”.***

In 1993, a class began to be formed. Throughout the years this class would prove to be the best in accepting new members. It would show that differences are just a

detail when the theme is friendship. One day, this class would become a family....

Throughout this year we had to face situations and obstacles we'd never faced before. We had to choose what we were going to do for the rest of our lives! We had to study for vestibular, for school and write and defend a thesis. However, all these achievements would have been impossible without the help of some special people: first of all, our friends. This year, more than ever, we valued the importance of the friendships formed in this school. In every laugh or pleasurable moment, we noticed how much we liked each other and it weighed upon our hearts the thought that it was coming to an end. Through the years, we could always count on a hug for support, a smile of encouragement, a moment to laugh about in this school. The next time we enter a classroom, beloved friends will not be there, and the thought of it hurts a lot...

We must also thank our parents and families, because without their support this journey would have been meaningless. You've always been there when we needed you. You've always given us the best of you and many times your effort wasn't even recognized. Even though, you never let us down, you were always there to stand up for us. You were always there to clap at our Christmas presentations, cry for happiness at the awards we received, praise even our worst drawings and works: you loved us just the way we were, no matter what. The people that we are today, our character, our achievements, are all because of you and your constant support throughout our lives. Thank you for everything.

We thank OLM for the consideration and help given to us through all these years....Much more than teaching physics, biology, history, [the] school has taught us to believe in ourselves and provided everything we need to reach our dreams. Furthermore, the connection we developed with the teachers.... goes much beyond the teacher-student relationship.... Thanks for always believing in our class and in each one of us. Congratulations for your effort and determination. We will miss you immensely.

With the help of all these people, we are where we are now, ready to receive our diplomas, ready to close a chapter and begin a whole new one in our lives. Our class has revealed brilliant minds, undaunted characters, and unbeatable athletes. Here on this stage you can see future lawyers, diplomats, doctors, psychologists, advertisers, businessmen, dancers, writers, industrial designers, judges, people that will be the future of the nation and will do the best they can to change things for the better....

There is no doubt all of us are excited to move on to college, meet new people, and begin a new life. However, together with this step, we will also be moving out of this school, our second home, for some of us, over 15 years! I can't express what it meant to wake up everyday throughout these years, knowing I would meet the people who would support me, who would laugh with me and make me laugh, who would prove each day to be my true friends.

These were years of living with people, that guaranteed us true friendships. The connection that exists between us, in this class, is inexplicable. When we are together, we are not individuals, we are a whole. Together we have shared our dreams, our complaints, our happiness, and our desires. Together, we made new discoveries. We have laughed and cried together, we have supported and helped each other, we have loved. There are so many moments to be remembered; I'm glad all of them happened, especially with these people.

Now, school is over. We won't see each other that frequently. We will miss each other, the moments we had together, our daily life in OLM. We will miss the support you teachers have given us, the recognition and consideration we have received in this school. We will miss when we were small, our hose baths, killer and detective and the “jacaré” games in playground, our Christmas and Mothers' Day presentations, the boy-girl-boy-girl line, “O Anel Mágico”. We will even miss simple moments that are barely noticed in our day-to-day: our [Room] 203, so cozy and so ours; Victor Costa's background music; the Bake Sale....uniting our class every single lunch; AP classes and Thiago's pearls; the conversations in the cafeteria; Jacira's daily good mornings; Marina's bad jokes and Pedro's even worse rebuttals in “a clear loud voice”; our team practices; spirit weeks... We will miss every single aspect of this school and everyone in it.

Life may, one day, separate us. However, the memories of everything we had together and the feelings we have for each other will remain forever. I hope, in the future, we will keep meeting each other, just to talk nonsense and remember old stories and jokes. We will laugh at everything we passed through, and miss these years. As Fernando Pessoa once wrote:

“Um dia os nossos filhos verão as nossas fotografias e perguntarão:

- “Quem são aquelas pessoas?”

Diremos que eram nossos amigos e isso vai doer tanto!

“Foram meus amigos, foi com eles que vivi tantos bons anos da minha vida!” A saudade vai apertar bem dentro do peito. Vai dar vontade de ligar, ouvir aquelas vozes novamente... (...)

FROM A SPEECH AT GRADUATION

Given by John J. Majka, English Teacher

...I graduated from a small Catholic boarding school in rural Ohio in 1963. 45 years ago! The school doesn't even exist anymore. But it laid the foundation of my love for studying different cultures, languages and history. Like many graduates from [that time]... I was filled with idealism and optimism. We believed that we were responsible for the world, that poverty, racism and injustice would one day be beaten down by love, by self sacrifice and by dedication to ideals like uplifting the downtrodden, protecting the weakest and most vulnerable, and liberating politics from the self-perpetuating actions of cronyism, nepotism, trade tariffs and war.

[By 1979] I arrived in Amazonas, Brazil to begin 6 years of community development and leadership training in river communities of the municipality of Maués, the land of Guaraná. Arizete was one of the first young people I met there. She was born in Boa Vista do Ramos, a village a few hours away.... Arizete was 18 or so and still in high school at the time, but she was involved in everything religious or civic. She taught catechism to children, read at Mass, visited the sick with the missionary sisters of the parish, and even worked part time in the Mayor's Office as a secretary to help with expenses at home. She and her group of friends accepted me right away, and gradually taught me what I needed to know about them and the people of Maués to be able to carry on my task of team building and community organizing. They were my first team and we were really good for each other.

In 1981 Arizete graduated from the state high school with honors. She and two of her friends joined a group of missionary sisters in Manaus, where she lived a period of training for religious life, while attending the *Universidade de Amazonas*. She graduated in social work and then went to Fortaleza where she entered the novitiate for spiritual training. Upon returning to Manaus a couple years later, she and two sisters moved into a simple wooden house built on stilts in a newly forming *favela* over a canal. No electric current, no running water in those beginning years, But they modeled cleanliness, simplicity and neighborly love. Gradually with the mutual support of the newly established parish they set up a city-accredited school, a first aid station, and organized the growing neighborhood politically to redress the basic comforts and security that the population required. I was truly humbled by their dedication, awed by their sacrifice, as well as proud of their accomplishments

Last year Carlos Miller received a special recognition award from *Epoca* magazine for leadership in environmental education. He represents a unique foundation called *Avina*, uniting non-governmental organizations, religious and civic groups, and corporations willing to fund important ecological projects. Its purpose is to encourage more socially responsible behavior and leadership among the poorest populations in Brazil. For a year and a half, Carlos and his team stayed in the town of Araçuaí in Minas Gerais, teaching people how to make cisterns to capture rain water and how to replant the dried out jungle and grasses.

"We want to use the town as a model to repeat this work in other places," he explained.

His present project involves teaching computer technology to adolescents in Boa Vista do Ramos....Yes, Arizete's birthplace, (and the connection that generated this speech!) The first class of 18 students between the ages of 15 and 23 has already graduated. Now there are more than 25, including some teachers from the public school system. (You can read about it in this week's *Epoca*.) Miller's idea is to teach adolescents how to use computers in their studies and to encourage them to reforest by using cuttings from the jungle around them. The classes use computers run on solar energy, in a school built by *Tectoy*. *Philips* pays the instructors' salaries. Miller's *Avina* contracted a professional educator to prepare special teaching materials. The feature article ends with this quote from Miller: "They just might be the future leaders of Amazonia. You bet [on them] without knowing the results. But someone has to invest in the dreamers."

I hope some day we will be able to hear from Carlos Miller himself what his dreams were that night in 1978 when he graduated from OLM.

At the dinner Saturday one of my colleagues said: "I know what we can do—FLUNK them all! That way they'll be with us another year." ***No teacher that has had the Class of 2008 has NOT loved them!*** The feeling is to keep you, to have you close, to continue to learn with you, to laugh and cry with you, to share gentle stories of peace and hope; to be able to tell you that in the end everything turns out right. Very much like your parents, really, whom we represent in part and, in part, complement.

As teachers, we either love our students more with every class, or we look for something else to do with our lives. We belong to a profession of faith: We believe in our students. We believe that what we do in your lives is so little in comparison to what YOU can do. We believe in the changes that will happen JUST BECAUSE YOU WILL BE OUT THERE, continuing your studies, growing in wit and wisdom, facing the challenges of a world, that is confused and lost and perhaps more desperate than ever.

We believe you will understand what OLM as a Catholic American School tried to instill in you. As your beloved Mr. Zolt said in his own way Saturday: ***Love the world enough to transform it with your imagination.***

All of us here tonight embrace you not to keep you, nor because you are leaving. Our hug is our farewell wish— do well with what you received here.

We send you out with the hopeful confidence that in the end, like Arizete and Carlos Miller, you will be successful and satisfied deep within you, knowing that the world is a better place because you lived well.

Congratulations and God speed!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

*Samantha Lacerda e Goreth Cruz
Coordenação Geral de Denise Gonçalves*



Esse Programa acontece todos os dias, das 15h30 às 17h30, e oferece Recriação Infantil para os alunos da Pré-Escola até o 6th grade. As atividades oferecidas são: capoeira, futebol, culinária, basquete, judô, estudo dirigido, dança, francês, teatro, teclado e canto. No dia 6 de junho apresentou-se a 3ª *Amostra de Atividades do Programa After School.*

*Dança com a
Professora Ana Paula*



*Teclado e Canto com a
Professora Aline*



*Teatro
com a
Professora
Lily*



*Samantha e
Goreth*



*Baby
Ballet
com
a
professora
Ana Paula*

THE 2008 YEARBOOK IS READY!



Ms. Monica Tinoco

The 12th Grade students in the Yearbook elective designed, produced, and marketed Our Lady of Mercy School's 2008 Yearbook. They chose the theme ***Back in Time As*** their teacher/advisor I was impressed by their creativity and tireless effort to help you and your family remember the best of the seniors' final year forever. Rounding out our quality professional team were Mr. Adriano Morais, the graphic designer, and Mr. Robert Judson, the reviser (**not in the photo**).

Special thanks to all the families that followed the tradition of celebrating their child's graduation by placing a congratulatory message in the yearbook, to those faculty and employees that contributed or participated in some way, and to all the members of the OLM community that submitted business and personal advertisements. We hope you will enjoy all the memories a yearbook brings for many years to come.



**The Society of Our Lady of Mercy
Founded in January of 1919**

**The Society Objectives according to
the Bylaws are:**

a) To maintain, in the diocese in which the Association has a registered domicile, one or more all-day Schools that are in conformity with the doctrine of the Catholic Church to provide general education for the children of Catholic families or other families that respect Catholic upbringing, including all services necessary for the good functioning of the School, such as cafeteria, school bus and sports activities.

b) To promote, encourage and develop social and cultural activities aiming at propagating the Catholic faith among its members.

c) To give financial aid and collaborate with other organizations that work for the propagation of the Catholic faith, whose charitable activities are necessary to provide for the physical welfare of families, children and orphans of any creed.

d) To provide for the moral and spiritual welfare of all English-speaking Catholic seamen and other foreign Catholic travelers who are passing through this city and state.

e) To carry out social work in neighboring communities of the Association and School and in other needy communities, using members of the Association and parents of students in this mission of taking aid and Christian faith to those in need.

The Society is composed by:

Society's Administrator - Ms. Irenilda R. Fontoura

School's Superintendent - Dr. Charles Lyndaker

School's Chaplain - Monsignor André Sampaio de Oliveira.

How does the Society works?

The Society Members:

- elect new Board Members to manage the Society
- approve fiscal year results
- discuss other subjects.

The elected Board Members hold monthly meetings to review results and to manage the Society.

Society Members choose the Board of Directors at the AGO - Society Annual Assembly. The current elected Board Members are:

MONSIGNOR ANDRÉ SAMPAIO DE OLIVEIRA <i>(CHAPLAIN)</i>	MRS. MARY ELIZABETH LIGHT MURCHIE
MRS. MARY MENDES DREIFUS <i>(PRESIDENT)</i>	MRS. INEZ GOMES BACELO CORREIA
MRS. MARIA DA APARECIDA GOMES PACHECO <i>(1st VICE-PRESIDENT)</i>	MRS. ANDREA ABREGU DE FIGUEIREDO
MR. JOSÉ MARCOS AMMIRABILE FILHO <i>(FINANCE OFFICER)</i>	MR. BERNARDO FERRER
MR. CONRADO HENRIQUE NIEMEYER <i>(ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER)</i>	MR. RICARDO LEITE OTTATI
MRS. ELIANE MESQUITA LARANJA DE MELLO <i>(SECRETARY)</i>	MR. RENATO KAZUA TAKASU
MRS. LEILA SODERO LIMA DE REZENDE <i>(ASSISTANT SECRETARY)</i>	

OLM SOCIETY'S ACOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2004 UP TO 2008

1. Society's communication channel has improved among its Members, Board, Parish, School and Staff;
2. Parish visibility has increased among hotels of "zona sul" and Barra, due to the hard work of Ms. Fontoura; who frequently distributes Mass invitation cards among many hotels of "Zona Sul and Barra";
3. Society, Parish and School's visibility has also increased among the foreign community of Rio and some Consulates, due to the great work of Ms. Fontoura who visited many Consulates and distributed Society and School information material;
4. Established partnership with: American Chamber of Commerce, American Society and British Commonwealth Society;
5. Participated in and hosted events in partnership with the above mentioned institutions. We also help these institutions to advertise their events among OLM's community;
6. Improved communication with the Society's Social Work Program Institution - "Casa de São João Batista da Lagoa";
7. Since 2005, the Society organized and managed the Christmas Bazaar;
8. Promoted Society's social events such as: Society Happy Hour, Cocktails, Dinners, Pancake Breakfast;

Today, the Society is much more present within the foreign community of Rio. Follow, below, some of the events directed to the foreigner community that the OLM Society participated in from 2004 up to 2008:

International Festival held at the Union Church in "Barra da Tijuca";

- American Society Monthly Happy Hours;
- American Society Pancake Breakfast and some American Chamber of Commerce Events.

Society's Targets for the Near Future:

1. Continue to improve communication with its members and encourage their participation, in Society's Activities besides the AGO/AGE, by offering Dinners, Cocktails and Brunches;
2. Establish new Society's partnerships. We encourage Society Members to come up with new ideas;
3. Will coordinate with the Archdiocese's ministry to mariners in order to help with English sailors;
4. Intend to make a Society Calendar of Events separate from the OLM's calendar;
5. Establish an English-language reading room-center and meeting place for the English-Speaking Catholic Community;
6. Give continuity to all current Society Projects;
7. Improve Society's and School's facilities over time.

Contact the Society:

For further information please contact the Society Administrator **Ms. Irenilda R. Fontoura** by phone (21) 2266-8296 or by e-mail ifontoura@olmrio.org



A gestão 2007 – 2008 do PSTC foi encerrada com um simpático café da manhã oferecido pelo presidente, Sr. Rodolfo Porto d'Ave, a todos os membros que nesses vários anos, participaram do Conselho.



Dr. Lyndaker lembrou da importância da participação dos pais em algumas decisões que nasceram nas reuniões do PSTC. Hoje todos se beneficiam com isso: o Seguro Escolar e a criação de uma taxa, que possibilitou a compra de vários computadores para a escola. Os membros do PSTC fizeram uma placa em agradecimento as várias gestões do Sr. Rodolfo. Todos os membros receberam *Awards* do Presidente em reconhecimento pela assiduidade, pela dedicação e pelo trabalho junto as turmas de seus filhos.



O PSTC agradece a todos os pais, supervisores e coordenadores e, espera que o novo conselho a ser eleito tenha o mesmo espírito, garra e dedicação que o atual grupo.

Jussara Abreu



Editorial Board

Teachers:

Elizabeth Barros
John Majka
Kátia Souza
Sandra Xavier

Students:

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

Photographer: Mônica Tinoco