



# OLMatters



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## PENTECOST CELEBRATING THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN THE WORLD

**(Editor’s Note: Our Lady of Mercy School began in 1953 when the Parish for English-speaking Catholics of Rio de Janeiro wanted to provide a parochial school. Today it is a complete school: Pre-nursery to Grade 12. The religious highlights of the school year are the celebration of the sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation/Penance and Confirmation. Arriving at a commitment to being builders of a civilization of love is a constant theme of international youth ministry in the Catholic Church. Confirmation at OLM celebrates the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our student body.)**

*(The Class of 2010 reflects upon the Holy Spirit.)*

People ask for help to the Holy Spirit when they face harsh moments in life.

People who believe in Religion or even in God know that they have a Holy Spirit and pray to Him. They believe that even others who don’t follow have a Holy Spirit.

I don’t think the Holy Spirit exists. I think people believe in God because, by feeling that there’s a bigger force helping them, they can do things. I believe you make things happen; you can’t wait for this bigger force.

At Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, who gave them the courage to start the Church. In daily life the Holy Spirit is responsible for our faith and the courage to fight.

### A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, sent to fill the universe with the power of the love between the Father and the Son. Fill us so we can be peace makers in a world of violence and conflict; sources of insight and freedom in the darkness of ignorance and exploitation; channels of communication and dialogue to comfort anxious hearts and liberate prejudiced minds; protectors and defenders of the vulnerable and the defenseless; providers of health and dignity to the hungry and homeless; forgers of justice and unity in the midst of inequality and discrimination. Make us one, caring and faithful as we commit ourselves to writing the ongoing history of our saved world.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit is present everyday, everywhere, even if you are not a Christian. It represents people’s actions; it is the greater force that guides us and leads us to take important decisions in life.

The Holy Spirit is a spiritual force connected to our souls....For me it’s better to believe in the Holy Spirit than to have faith in no one.

The role of the Holy Spirit in human life is hope. By believing that there is something more, a reason for everything, people are able to live.

The Holy Spirit is what people believe helps them in difficulty....There is no such thing. I believe that sometimes good things happen to good people and that when you really need something, maybe the chances for it to happen increase because your determination to make that thing come true also increases.

## RETIRO ESPIRITUAL

*Gabriela Planchart ('10)*

El 15 de mayo, fue realizado en la capilla del colegio un retiro espiritual dirigido a los estudiantes que se confirmaron este viernes, el 29 de mayo. Junto a la Prof. Katia Souza, el Prof. John Majka y el Monseñor Andre, lograron a través de oraciones y momentos de reflexión, adentrarse un poco más en el significado y las consecuencias que traerá a sus vidas, el aceptar voluntariamente, la venida del Espíritu Santo. Hoy en día vivimos en un mundo en el que hace falta la gente comprometida. Muchos creemos en Dios y tenemos fe, pero vivimos como si no la

tuviéramos. No damos testimonio de Cristo, lo cual debe ser demostrado no sólo a través de palabras como también de obras. Los jóvenes y adultos que se disponen a transmitir su testimonio a los demás, necesitan primero ser cristianos convencidos y aprovechar la ayuda del Espíritu Santo. Esa ayuda la recibimos en el Sacramento de la Confirmación, en el que se recibe la tercera persona de la Santísima Trinidad y con eso la fuerza del Espíritu Santo para comprometernos mucho más, como auténticos testigos de Cristo, a extender y defender la fe con nuestras palabras y acciones.



## THE VISITATION

After the angel Gabriel had announced to Mary that she was to become the mother of Our Lord, Mary went from Galilee to Judea to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth, soon to be the mother of John the Baptist. This visit is recorded in Luke 1:39-56. Elizabeth greeted Mary with the words, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary burst forth with the song of praise which we call the Magnificat, beginning, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." We are told that even John the Baptist, still unborn, leaped for joy in his mother's womb. Thus we are shown, side by side, the two women, one seemingly too old to have a child, but destined to bear the last prophet of the Old Covenant, of the age that was passing away; and the other woman, seemingly not ready to have a child, but destined to bear, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the One Who was Himself the beginning of the New Covenant, the age that would not pass away. It is this meeting that we celebrate on May 31.

*(From The Lectionary : <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Visitation.htm>)*



## CONFIRMATION AT OLM

*Kátia Souza*

On May 31 the Catholic Church celebrated Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit. This event marks the day when the Holy Spirit came over the Apostles, in Jerusalem, as well as the birth of the Church. The same Holy Spirit is sent to all those who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our school celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit upon three young people from our community; after a year of preparation they asked to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. On the Friday before Pentecost the high school student body gathered in the chapel to joyfully celebrate Gabriela Robles, Raissa Nejaim, and Thomas Anderson as they

accepted to be strengthened by the sacramental presence of the Holy Spirit. Local Bishop Dom Antonio Augusto celebrated a beautiful Mass and reminded every one of the effects of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the faithful. It was a celebration to remember! Thank you Gabriela, Raissa, and Tom for sharing your faith with us.



## FIRST COMMUNION - 2009

*Ms. Gisela Duniec & Ms. Alciane Almeida*



May 9th was a very special day for the children who received their First Communion. Monsignor André Sampaio celebrated the Eucharist for them and their families. Filled with joy and faith the children experienced the love of God in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It will be a day to be remembered.

## Honored *High School Teachers* 2008-2009 American and Brazilian Social Studies Rosana Stepanski Paes – Lúcia Helena Oliveira



Every year the choice for the most honored teacher in high school becomes more and more of a challenge as we move forward in every department on every level to meet the standards of the future. Our students need to know more, show more, speak better, be wiser, think clearly, write well, and look good!

Last year, when it was decided that OLM would be part of the New York City United Nations Model in 2009, the first words of the high school teachers who would be in charge were: 'we need to get going to prepare the students as of Yesterday!' .. and work and prepare, and prepare and work, they did .. students and teachers side by side, class after class, during lunchtime and on Saturdays, all year long.

The result of that effort is that OLM was able to attain one of its most meaningful goals as an American school with an international focus. Because of the tireless dedication of the team of both Social Studies teachers who donated time, effort, and expertise to every level to the development of thirty high school students, the best of Our Lady of Mercy School successfully contributed to the Model United Nations event as never before.

Miss Rosana Paes and Miss Lúcia Helena Oliveira are Master Teachers who have collectively been at OLM for almost four decades sharing their knowledge of the historical, social, political, cultural, and geographical aspects of every corner of the world to enhance the understanding of our students as world citizens. Their philosophies of education represent their vision of a global society and how we as an international family at OLM can contribute to it.

It is with great pride that we justly confer the honor of 'Department of the Year' to the High School Social Studies teachers, Rosana Paes and Lúcia Helena Oliveira.

*by Claire Collins*



## Honored *Pre-School Helper* 2008-2009 - Marisa Vieira

Ms. Marisa Vieira is a wonderful gift I received this year. The way she works is a model for everyone. She is responsible, extremely careful with the kids but firm when needed. Not to say that she is always in a good mood! Harmony and respect are the basis of our relationship. I'd truly say that she is much more than an assistant. She is a great partner!

Congratulations for the award! You deserve it! *Love, Ms. Tatiana Zotes*

## Honored *Elementary School Teacher* 2008-2009 - Daniela Hass

Ms. Daniela Haas is a caring, hardworking, sweet but firm elementary teacher. She loves to learn and transmits that love to her students. She is a team player. She is a former OLM student and has been in her current position for the last 2 years. She has degrees in teaching, psycho pedagogy and administration. She loves to travel and has visited many different countries. Her students are very pleased with the award. They are proud of their teacher.

*by Dulce Silveira*



## Honored *Middle School Teacher* 2008- 2009 Raquel da Silva Braga

At OLM we consider Middle School to be the most challenging time in a student's academic career. This makes the teaching of Middle School all the more fascinating, challenging, and essential to the students' attitude towards learning forever. Middle School is when the wonder of discovery occurs and the challenge to harness it and build on it becomes the focus of the excellent middle school teacher.



This year, one teacher brought together the elements of one of the most critical areas of the XXI Century and successfully prepared her Middle School students to present pertinent, current, relevant information not only about the Origins of Life, but also about how ecological functions in plants, animals, and human beings contribute to our understanding of what our universe is made of and how we need to think about where to go from here.

This year's teacher of the year in Middle School has consistently demonstrated highest academic standards and precise scientific process since she first came to OLM as a teacher 13 years ago. She holds a Master of Science degree in Biophysics from UFRJ. She is the Department Chairperson of the Science Department and this year has also successfully produced her third outstanding OLM Science Fair.

It is an honor to present the Honored Middle School Teacher Award for 2009 to Raquel da Silva Braga.

*by Claire Collins*

## Teacher of the Year 2008 - 2009

### Sônia Melo de Jesus

This year, we are honored to recognize the Teacher of the Year who not only is a teaching professional of the highest academic caliber but has also significantly contributed to Our Lady of Mercy School's reputation for educational innovation by pioneering the use of the latest, most imaginative technological teaching tools in her classroom. This is a teacher who is sincerely respected by her coworkers and her students, a professional we are proud to call our own. Consistently ready and willing to share what she knows, this teacher gives of herself and her expertise without reservation.



As a person, this year's Teacher of the Year is a living example of dedication, compassion, strength under fire, and untiring pursuit of excellence. Always one step ahead of the game, this teacher is a good sport, the first to integrate new ideas, discover better solutions and 'own' technology as fast as Microsoft can put it out. She has been a key player that keeps OLM as an American School in the forefront of educational methodology, technology, development of future goals.

A Fulbright Scholar, this teacher earned her Bachelor's Degree from UFF, her Masters Degree in American Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and is now in the process of completing her Ph.D.

Although she has been a middle school social studies teacher at OLM for only 3 years, she has also artfully mastered the balancing of American history with Brazilian history, teaching both subjects fluently in two languages, ever mindful of the similarities and differences on which her students begin to understand their place in the world - past, present, and future. This teacher is also credited with revitalizing OLM student government by leading the Middle School STUCO which has produced profitable events that promote social integration.

A true Christian teacher of solid values, we are deeply honored to present this year's Teacher of the Year Award to Miss Sônia Melo de Jesus.

*by Claire Collins*

#### Editorial Board

##### Students:

Alejandra Loaiza ('12), Amanda Esteves ('12), Marina Meyers ('12), Giovanna Rajão ('10)

**Teachers:** Elizabeth Barros, John Majka, Kátia Souza, Sandra Xavier

**Photographer:** Adriano Morais

## Honored Pre-School Teacher 2008-2009

### Simone Souza

There are so many things I would like to say about Simone Souza. I have known her since 1991, and most of those years we shared the same classroom. Simone has all the qualities of a great Educator: calm, polite, and patient with her students and all of us around her. She is always professional, yet eminently human.

In all these years of working together, I never heard her scream or yell. I like how she always talks in a low voice, even when the children are loud. As the years passed our friendship has grown. At this moment, I am proud to say, we are not just partners, but good friends. Every time I need any kind of support, she is there to help me. I am very thankful. We were split up for a short time, but now we are a team again in First Grade.

Congratulations again for the award: you really deserved it. It is a huge pleasure to work with you as a teacher and a friend.



*by Goreth Cruz*

## National Honor Society - (Community Member)

### Oswaldo Santos



Oswaldo é o Gerente de Recursos Humanos da OLM. Ingressou na Escola em 1984. Nessa ocasião, o escritório administrativo localizava-se no 4º andar, em um espaço que hoje é sala de aula. De lá para cá, não só o escritório foi transferido para outros lugares como muita coisa mudou... e tudo ele acompanhou. Durante todo esse tempo, ele é parte da história da Escola, junto à família OLM, nas alegrias e nas tristezas. Que orgulho fazer parte dessa família!

Seus filhos, Nathália e Bruno, chegaram a OLM no *Nursery* e saíram formados no *High School*. Além deles, muitos alunos que Oswaldo viu pequeninhos, o tratavam como tio... Estes alunos, hoje, são profissionais bem sucedidos e, alguns, chefes de família. Certamente, esses foram momentos inesquecíveis para ele... É, o tempo passa... Oswaldo conhece o nome completo de todos os funcionários, tanto os atuais como os que já passaram por aqui. Todos, em qualquer tempo, que estiveram na Escola conhecem-no. Oswaldo tem sempre uma história do 'baú' para nos contar. Histórias 'daqueles' tempos. É... Oswaldo! O tempo passa. Parabéns pelos seus 25 anos de dedicação e pela merecida homenagem!



*by Gisele Trindade - Gerente Administrativo-Financeiro*

## DESCOBRINDO A EMBRAPA

Corinne Sciortino – ('10)

A semana começou diferente para a nossa turma. Segunda-feira, 11 de maio, foi dia de visita à *Embrapa Solos* no Jardim Botânico.

A Embrapa (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária) é vinculada ao Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento. Nos seus 34 anos de existência, a empresa revolucionou a agricultura no Brasil. Entre outros méritos, a Embrapa provou, através de pesquisas, que a região do cerrado brasileiro poderia ser aproveitada para a agricultura. Atualmente, o Brasil é um dos maiores produtores de grãos no mundo; e o cerrado, um dos centros produtores mais importantes do país.

Fomos acompanhados por Dennys Zsolt - professor de física da OLM, engenheiro agrônomo, ex-estagiário e ex-bolsista da *Embrapa* - e por Raimundo Damasceno - professor de Química da OLM e do Instituto de Química da UFF. O passeio teve como guia Dr. Claudio Capeche, pesquisador da *Embrapa Solos*.

Assistimos a uma exposição sobre os tipos de solos e rochas, sobre a erosão e degradação do solo e também sobre a relação entre o solo e o ciclo hidrológico. Um painel que nos chocou muito foi o "**Dodóissolo**": uma amostra de solo afetada pela erosão, poluição e mau uso das técnicas agrícolas e de mineração. Dr. Capeche também nos mostrou o trabalho da *Embrapa* junto a *Infraero* na recuperação das áreas do Aeroporto Internacional Tom Jobim, na cidade do Rio de Janeiro. Imagens impressionantes mostraram o processo de nivelamento, sistematização, limpeza e reflorestamento do terreno. Após apenas quatro anos a área já estava cheia de vegetação e totalmente revitalizada! Para concluir a visita, conhecemos os laboratórios de Recebimento e Preparo de Amostras de Solo, Análise Física do Solo e Análise de Tecidos Vegetais.

O passeio foi fundamental para a conscientização de como todos nós afetamos o solo diariamente. Tendo em mente que o Brasil aproveita apenas 1% de seu lixo, entendemos como a reciclagem é essencial para a recuperação do solo e é dever de todos nós. A visita também serviu de inspiração para Priscila Machado. "Depois da visita voltei a reconsiderar o curso de Agronomia na faculdade!", diz a aluna.



## FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Larissa Freire & Alexia Figueiredo ('13)

Friendship 09 was once again a remarkable experience. 6th, 7th and 8th grades traveled by bus to *Nosso Recanto* in *Sapucaí Mirim*, Minas Gerais. As always, it was a wonderful trip. We were again able to meet friends from last year. There were games everyday, in which we would cheer for our school and play the best we could.



Carolina Faria, Larissa Freire, Julie Medeiros and Ana Carolina

The other schools that were there this year were ASA, School of Nations, PAIS, CSA, EARJ and ECJ. We had a lot of victories in the games. The girls stayed in cabins in the Village and the boys in the Poente. In the talent show the girls from the 7th grade gave a great presentation. During the day we went horseback riding, to "Tiroleza", and to the pool. Every evening there was a dance. The greencard award winners were Matheus Scuta (8th) and Nathália Crespo (7th). Unfortunately, we returned to school with test week waiting for us.

## RESEARCH LAB – AT FLUMINENSE UNIVERSITY

Raimundo Damasceno – Chemistry Teacher

On May 18, the 10th Grade chemistry students visited the Institute of Chemistry at the *Universidade Federal Fluminense* (UFF), in Niterói with their teacher Dr. Raimundo Damasceno.

There, the students attended a series of presentations on topics about ongoing research projects, such as: '*A química e os problemas ambientais na agricultura e atmosfera*' (Chemistry and environmental problems in agriculture and the atmosphere) by Prof. William Zamboni de Mello; '*A Química de exploração de petróleo*' (Chemistry and the exploration of Petroleum) by Prof. Anderson Rocha; '*A Química e os novos biocombustíveis de primeira e segunda geração*' (Chemistry and the new first and second generation bio-combustibles) by Prof. Gilberto Romero. After the presentations, they toured the laboratory facilities and the campus. The students saw, firsthand, state-of-the-art laboratory technology as well descriptions of the different career choices available in the field of Chemistry.



## MEDIEVAL TIMES RETURN TO OLM

*Wilma Ribeiro*



Hurrah to the fifth grades! During the month of May the students learned about the Middle Ages and organized a show which was presented to the parents and to the elementary grade students.

It was a time to understand more about what was happening and about life in Europe between 400 A.D and 1800 A.D. The students prepared a presentation covering topics like castles, the Crusades, customs, food, weapons, inventions, knights, knighthood, and King Arthur.

The performance was colorful and a medieval atmosphere was created by the costumes worn by the ladies and the knights who danced and sang songs. Helena Crespo and Natasha Cabernite showed their individual talent playing Green sleeves on the keyboard accompanied by Mariana Mourião on the flute.



*Helena Crespo*



*Mariana Mourião and Aline Zecksohn*



Mr. Robert *Merlin* Judson (*right*) witnesses the moment Arthur pulls Excalibur from the stone and becomes King.

To end the festivities there was a snack of grape juice, soup, cheese, and lots of smiles shared by students, parents, and teachers!

## GIORGIO WORKING IN THE CAFETERIA

*Kátia Souza*

In May, after a conversation with the Superintendent, it was decided that high school students would have an innovative opportunity to fulfill the social service hours necessary for graduation in school. Students will have a chance to put themselves in another's place.

Most of the time we may not value what the people who serve our food do for us. Staying behind the hot foods counter, facing the heat and the crowds, serving with a smile—no matter what—can be an enriching experience that we should all go through. It is necessary to learn to cooperate, by being among other people, by being fraternal, by helping without expecting anything in return.

Putting ourselves in somebody else's shoes helps us to become more understanding and tolerant and being on the other side is a great opportunity to look at oneself. Giovanna, the nutritionist, will be there to help. Starting next semester, students interested in doing this community service will be able to sign up in the Religion Department. Be ready to see many new faces serving meals!



Daniel Melo, Gisele, and Giorgio Villani

## QUIZ BOWL

*Elizabeth Freire*

**OLM's QuizBowl** originated in 2003 as a competitive academic activity involving high school students. It is an interdisciplinary academic competition involving teams of four students answering questions on a variety of different subjects. The teams compete for several rounds and the group with the greatest accumulated number of points at the end of the semester wins the cash prize. Each round happens during lunch time twice a month.

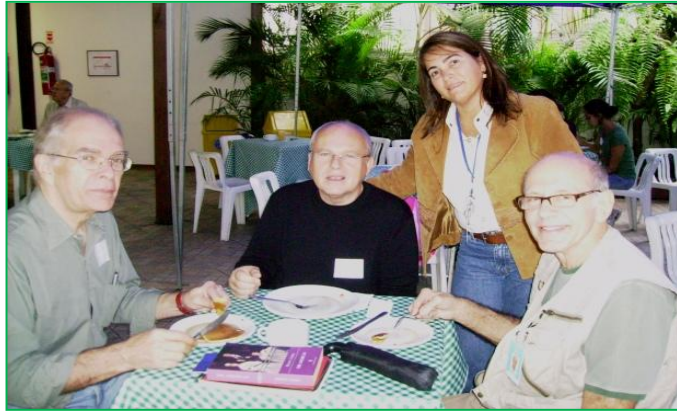
The QuizBowl Staff (Ms. Freire, Ms Xavier and Ms. Maia) congratulate the winner group of the second semester: Juniors, Gabriela Lopes, Deborah Canepa, Priscila Machado, and Corinne Sciortino.



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

By: Ms. Irenilda Fontoura - OLM Society Secretary

The OLM and American Society of Rio de Janeiro Pancake Breakfast was once again held on the OLM School grounds on May 16, 2009. The pancakes with real maple syrup, a taste of America that all nationalities enjoy, were delicious as always.



*Alan Ryan - noted New York writer, novelist and book reviewer - with Dr. Lyndaker, Ms. Irenilda Fontoura, and Mr. Robert Judson*

American Society Board Member, Mr. Gerry Eigen, and I coordinated the event with Ms. Giovanna Andrade, OLM Nutritionist and Ms. Gisele Trindade, OLM Business Office Manager. We had many special short-order cooks in the kitchen including Mr. John Callon, Mr. Jim Kappeler and Ms. Morgan Jackson (who just all happen to be American Society Board Members) making sure that the pancakes were truly just as good as those from famous pancake restaurants in the United States. American Society President, Ms. Lyndsay Duval, thanked OLM for its partnership in making the Pancake Brunch a huge success with over 100 participants!

### *Mother's Day Breakfast in Second Grade*



*Second Grade is sure a magic place! Our students became "impressionist painters" for a month. The amazing lives of many painters of this time were thoroughly investigated. Secrets were discovered and styles were discussed and*

*practiced to almost perfection. As a result, their mothers were surprised with a painting "Monet Style" when they came for their special breakfast in school. It was an unforgettable month!*

*by Simone Fernandes*

## COLLEGE LIFE

*by Ana Paula Wilson ('89)*

Today we begin a new journey into navigating your own future in preparation for what lies ahead in your lives...College. While I hope the column is helpful to all, I believe it will be particularly enlightening for those OLM high school students who wish to study abroad and perhaps attend college in the US.

I think it is fair to start by telling you a little about me. My name is Ana Paula Wilson and I graduated from OLM in 1989 after 12 years at the school.

After my years at OLM, I continued my studies and obtained a law degree here in the US, even though my real passion was always for language training and educational programs. I followed the path to my "dream job" and have worked for many years with language training and study abroad programs worldwide. I live in the city of Boca Raton, Florida.

As an educational consultant, I am often asked many questions from students and parents about college life in the US and how to prepare for it. I hope to share insights with you so as to make this journey that is filled with bumpy roads and unexpected adventures easier for you. It's all there actually, right in front of you and eventually you will find your way. You and your parents will be a lot more knowledgeable than when you started.

Utilizing some journalistic resources from Newsweek magazine, as well as educational expertise acquired throughout the years, we will discuss study abroad programs, college options, the application process, entry exams, financial aid options and many other relevant topics. We will further discuss campus life and much, much more. We welcome questions too. They make the column more tuned to your needs now.

In the next edition we will continue this journey by focusing on preparing for college life, be it in the US or any other country of your choosing. You must prepare for college well in advance of your high school graduation. We will discuss the steps suggested by many scholars for accomplishing your future goals.

See you next school year. Enjoy your vacation!

Ana P. Wilson - STUDY TRAVEL USA  
[anapwilson@studytravelusa.com](mailto:anapwilson@studytravelusa.com)

## FLIGHT AF447

A report by *Ana Tereza Lehmann('86)*,  
AP Correspondent

On Monday, June 1, 2009, the world woke up with Air France Flight 447 missing from international radars. This flight is one of two daily flights from Air France departing from Rio de Janeiro, non-stop to Paris, France.

On the early television reports, media frenzy was beginning to shape up at the airport: Television engineers uncoiled cables as the cameras were being set up, and reporters with their mobile phones were walking around, while photographers tested their equipment. No Air France employee could be seen at the check-in counter or the information desk. On the monitors AF 447 was there listed for departure at 19:00. Was that the plane that had gone missing from the previous night or the upcoming flight scheduled for that day?

According to incoming reports the plane had gone down in the Middle Atlantic between Fernando de Noronha and Senegal, Africa. It was too early to speculate about the causes and all I knew was what was being released by Air France and the French newspaper, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and later reported by the Brazilian press. First, according to Air France officials all family members of AF 447 passengers were going to be placed in a hotel in Barra; second, the total number of passengers was 228 of 31 nationalities: 58 Brazilians, 61 French, 2 Americans, 1 Argentine, 1 Austrian, 1 Belgian, 5 English, 1 Canadian, 9 Chinese, 1 Croatian, 1 Danish, 1 Dutch, 1 Estonian, 1 Philippine, 1 Gambian, 26 Germans, 4 Hungarians, 3 Irish, 9 Italians, 5 Lebanese, 1 Icelander, 2 Moroccans, 3 Norwegians, 2 Polish, 1 Romanian, 1 Russian, 3 Slovaks, 1 South African, 1 Swede, 6 Swiss, 1 Turk.

Cultural differences became less important and were replaced by uncertainty and the feeling of loss. Social and economic status was now irrelevant. The family members arriving at the airport in search of news about their loved ones were somehow emotionally contained...there was still hope--at least that was what they wanted to believe. The tears rolling down their faces found meaning in a hug from a stranger, a word of support and the fraternal feeling of solidarity in the search for their loved ones, no matter their nationalities or social and economic status. They were all brothers and sisters missing somehow, somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

As I write this essay 49 bodies have been recovered from the ocean together with pieces of wreckage from the airplane. With all the different nationalities on board that plane, we can say that this incident was never an issue just for Brazil and France; instead, during the year of **"France in Brazil"** the ties between the two countries have been further strengthened, as shown by their mutual cooperation during the recovery efforts.

In moments like this, our thoughts and prayers must remain with the families.

## CHEERLEADERS IN ACTION

By *Sandra Fortes*

*High School Team*



As the OLM cheerleading coach for elementary, middle and high school girls, I am very proud to acknowledge the effort and all the accomplishments of these wonderful, beautiful athletes.

The work with cheerleading was restarted at OLM during the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year, upon the persistence of then Junior Honor Society member Gabriella Lopes. (A big thanks to you, Gabi!) She came to me and Ms. Kátia Valente with a list of girls interested in forming a Cheerleading squad to represent the school at the athletic events at *Nosso Recanto* (NR) and also to cheer for our dear LANCERS during the games we play against other teams here at home. Cheerleading strongly embodies American culture, so Kátia asked me to lead the girls and start practices!

I thought to myself: "Oh, my....I've never been a cheerleader in my life! How can I embrace that challenge and be able to do my job well enough to honor the name of our school? My experience in the dance field will certainly help me. Discipline and commitment are requirements that I have come to value as a dancer, teacher and choreographer, and those characteristics will fit perfectly for the OLM Cheerleading team(s). Let's start from that... low profile.... Besides, there is the honor of wearing the school uniform, defending our blue, yellow and white colors, and reinforcing all the principles that come along with it. And, of course, there is the FUN! Who needs more motivation?"

*Middle School Team*



Well, research here, research there, ask the experts, observe other squads and then, do it-hours of practice! After almost two years, we have our high school and middle school teams. In addition, we have recently added our elementary squad. (They started practicing by themselves during recess

and practically demanded a coach). Needless to say...they got it!

Thanks go out to the parents for their support and for understanding that their children's participation develops values of citizenship and responsibility as it supports the school in a fun way for all concerned.

CONGRATULATIONS CHEERLEADERS! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

*Elementary School Team*







Jéssica e Ana Luiza interpretam 'Palavras que traduzem - cada uma a seu modo - um mesmo tema!'

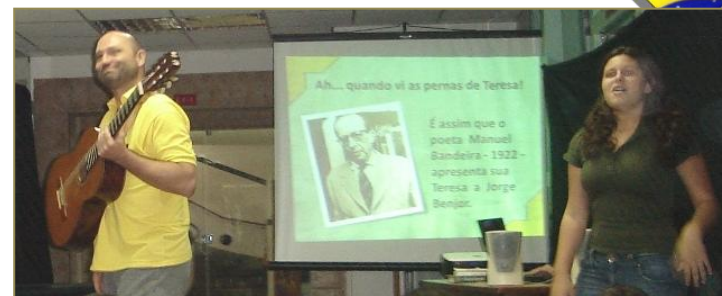
E o 'Tio Sam' - Victor - conheceu a 'nossa batucada' e a nossa baiana - Vitoria



Jorge Ben Jor traz 'sua Teresa' para viver no 'País Tropical': Carolina, Vitoria, Alessandra, Jéssica, Maria Pia e Nathalia



A emoção das *Sábias* - Ms. Miranda e Ms. Melo - cala o canto do *sabiá!*



O tempo não acaba com a *beleza das pernas da Teresa* de Manuel Bandeira e agora de Mr. Camera e Natalia Levy!

# DIÁLOGO DA PALAVRA

## SARAU DAS SETE

Encerramos o ano letivo com o Diálogo da Palavra. Diálogo, que traz em sua origem o Tratado... o Acordo... o Entendimento.

Aqui estamos para celebrar o diálogo entre alunos e professores, entre professores e professores, entre alunos e alunos e, o mais importante: entre ESCOLA e ALUNO.

**Quem pratica o diálogo, pratica a democracia!**

**Ms. Miranda**

'Mama África' compareceu a nossa festa com suas cores, seu sabor, sua alegria, e ritmo nas vozes de Carolina, Vitoria, Nathalia, Jéssica e Joana.



Isabella reverencia o 'Símbolo da Pátria'

Quando as 'mãos' e a 'tecnologia' se abraçam! Ms. Xavier e Ms. Guimarães



# COMMUNITY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

## OLM MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

*Kátia Souza*

The last week of classes in our school was marked by the community service activities of both elementary and high school. The 5th grade, for the third time, hosted 27 students from the “*Educandário São João Batista da Lagoa*”, a day care center nearby OLM. The class prepared activities to interact with the kids. They played together and drew posters. It was very touching to see the 5th grade serving lunch to the kids and helping them. Before leaving the school, they hugged each other and posed for a picture.



On June 17, the 11th grade had their Community Service day. They visited an orphanage, and a nursing home for the aged. It was a very rewarding scene to see the young people of our school making a difference in children's lives as well as in the elderly people's lives. At the nursing home, the students made a very beautiful choir singing “Old Carnival songs” that the residents could sing along; they also played Bingo and gave each person a picture frame they had decorated in class. Congratulations to both classes for the opportunity to make a change in people's lives. For sure, you spent priceless moments of charity and fraternity.

## EXTEND YOUR HAND

*Alejandra Loaiza ('12)*



On Sunday May 24, some 40 OLM students went to the zoo with children from *Tia Maura's Creche* (day-care center). We arrived at 9:00 am. We had scheduled it on Saturday, May 16, but unfortunately it rained and we had to postpone it. The project was organized by a committee of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students, with the goal of making these

children happy, as each child was paired with a volunteer. We had a lot of fun at the zoo; it was very well-organized and the children loved it. There was a delicious snack offered by OLM and the bus was donated by the Consul General do Ecuador, Monica Delgado. We thank everyone for the support.

All the volunteers used a yellow t-shirt with the name of the project stamped on it (*Estenda sua mão*). The activity centered on the children but, of course, it was good for us volunteers, too. It felt like a first step to make a better world, where children are able to have fun and be happy. One girl didn't want to go home, and the boys ran and jumped the whole time, having a great day.

The committee and directors are changing next school year; the 11th Grade will also help organize the next activities. The project involves three more activities. On August 15th, the volunteers will paint the center in *São Conrado*. In October, the same kids will spend an afternoon with the volunteers for recreational activities. Then, in December, they will have their Christmas party. It will be both a lot of work and fun for everybody involved. Can we count on your presence for the next activity? Look for the posters and notices.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

*Amanda Brasil ('11)*



*Stephanie Marie Rabang, Marusia, Amanda, and Priscila*

On Saturday May, 30 the American Society organized a barbeque to celebrate Independence Day in advance. It was a very big event that needed the cooperation of many people, and for that reason they asked for help from OLM students. Due to another simultaneous social service activity, only four people were able to attend the event: 10th Graders Amanda Brasil, Ivan Varela, Marusia Alves and Priscila Araujo.

The event took place at the American School (EARJ) in *Gávea*. Upon arriving we were assigned all types of tasks, from organizing, decorating, and helping out at the bake sale, to working in the admission, serving food, and running around to wherever help was needed. It was like stepping into a small part of the United States here in Brazil--everyone spoke fluent English, and was nice and easy to talk with. We had the chance to meet some wonderful and interesting people while helping out a bit. It was a great experience!



## NOT JUST A SIMPLE VISIT

*Ivan Varola ('11)*

Our visit to *Orfanato Romão Duarte* was a rewarding experience for all of us 10th graders. We really enjoyed our time with the kids and just as we brought happiness to them they also gave us all a warm feeling during our time together.

We all were able to connect with various children and for a few hours we all felt a brotherly or sisterly love towards each one of them.

As we performed our puppet shows we felt overjoyed at the scene we saw, all of them smiling and laughing. Each one of us will clearly remember our time there and the impression we caused by visiting them.



*Sondre Emil Nielsen and Ivan Varola*

## BROTHERHOOD DAY

*Gabriella Lopes ('10)*



The Class of 2010 spent a whole day together at *Sítio Santo Agostinho* on April 28. The bus ride to *Vargem Grande* was a time to talk and even to have a little nap. When we got there we changed clothes and had a delicious breakfast. The rest of the morning was full of activities, highlighted by a small sketch about daily problems that gave us the chance to work together in small groups and learn more about each other. After lunch we spent the rest of the day playing soccer, going to the pool, taking pictures and having a fun time as a class. It was a Brotherhood Day that certainly brought our class even closer together.

## LEARNING TO BE FRIENDS

*Ms. Renata Menezes & Ms. Adriana Lourenço*

To enrich our project “**Travelling Around the World**” the kids talked to some friends in China and had a wonderful experience. Check it out!



*Junior Kinder was collecting data for their Math chart in First Grade Class*

*(right)*



On June 5 Junior Kinder A and B spent the morning with children from the “*Creche São João Batista*” to have a “*Friendship Day*”. We presented the play “*Little Red Riding Hood*” to them. Then we went to the playground, worked, had lunch together and saw a movie. It was a wonderful day where we could host our neighbors and share our school with them.

I would ask him if I am going to be successful in my life. I am very worried about my future since in the period we go to school, our life is controlled by our parents and we are protected by them. At the moment we no longer live inside the bubble, our life is exclusively in our hands.

## What would you ask *God* about?

All of us have some questions about the meaning of life, death, the future--some of the issues that religions treat and try to answer. Is there a point to our existence, or does it all end with death? Should we try to be ethical, work to be happy, be and have friends, care about the quality of our life while we are alive and living? And so on. Do you have any of those kinds of questions and would you be interested in discussing or researching possible answers or solutions to them? Here are some questions from 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students.

I don't know if I believe in God. If God loves every human being, why do people go to hell? I don't think my father would like to see me suffering in hell.

And also, if God is that powerful, how come he does not confront the devil and end with evil???

I would ask him to leave a manual, because there are so many mysteries.... The world is so complex and most times not knowing moves people along. I don't appreciate the idea of living in fear of going to hell, but I also value it for the sense of morals it instills in people afraid to go there. Nevertheless, even though some mysteries can be good for the human race, I believe many things would be simpler if we knew for a fact what was really going on. I'm sure it would have prevented many wars.

Why do some people have everything in life while others are born with nothing? I personally believe that the ones born in poverty or in any other bad condition get more experience from life. They learn more, the hard way, and feel it in their own skins. Someone that goes through that sort of hardship and rises in life, they are the ones society should be proud of.

What really happens after we die? I understand that all religions view it differently. Some believe that you will go to heaven or hell, others that we will reincarnate, and some people simply believe that we become worm food. To discover what really happens would be comforting, and if you see death as something rational and explainable, all fear that comes with it will be gone. Suffering would go along as well, because if you knew for a fact that when you pass away you will be reunited with your loved ones, then maybe death would be a more bearable thought to people who are sick and slowly dying. I guess I really understand the comfort Christians feel with that thought, but I can't really relate to it.