

Volume II Number 2

OLMatters



Educate the whole person for global understanding!

“To Educate the Whole Person for Global Understanding”

Rio de Janeiro, September 2006

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY FOR OLM

by Mr. Majka



Anniversaries are opportunities to reflect upon an institution’s life. It ages gracefully as commitments are renewed, reworked or retired; identities are clarified, achievements are recognized, and new goals are set to complement those already fulfilled. They are a time for evaluating the past, inventorying the present and projecting into the future. It is the task of those who make up an institution to participate in its growth by acknowledging the past as an attempt to

provide an educational environment that accompanied students on the path to learning, teachers to professional fulfillment, Administration and Staff to a smooth running plant. Due to its past OLM knows how to offer students what they need, provide teachers with the wherewithal to fulfill their role and maintain a facility that seems to strain at the edges at times. As an institution OLM knows what it is doing in a world where a rounded out education is an ever more precious commodity. This past June the largest graduating class ever left its doors to enter universities that gladly accepted them.

Presently OLM has perhaps its largest student body, its most diverse and best prepared faculty, an experienced Administration and a well-directed business and maintenance staff, along with services as never before in its history, all united under one roof. For its size OLM is competitive and better. Its major asset is its students and their parents whose loyalty is as fervent as it is spontaneous. The democratic style of an American school based on dialogue and inclusion and the Catholic dimension of a mission gained from openness to God’s presence in the world are ingrained in its educational and formative traditions from the Superintendent of twenty-five years, Dr. Charles R. Lyndaker, and the various Chaplains, down.

The future is wide open. *To educate for global awareness* means accompanying students to be able to address the needs of their times. The immediate future needs

incorruptible political leaders; ecologically aware world citizens (see Yuri Vidal’s thoughts on “Nature” below); parents that are ready to raise children within the framework of universal inclusion, moral responsibility, and serious commitment to the social dimensions of one’s profession. As long as OLM takes on the challenge to be an instrument of such a new world, it will go on and prosper. *Ad multos annos!*

NATURE

by Yuri Vidal (’08)

Nature is everywhere. Nature was the starting point for life. Animals, plants and early humans are, or at least were, once sustained by nature. The life cycle depends on nature and it is nature. Nature recycles organic materials to make life possible. It provides water and food for the environment. Nature provides vital things, and, therefore, it is vital itself. The relationship among living things is nature and, at the same time, depends on nature.

As civilizations evolved, human life virtually depended less on nature. It may seem like technology substituted nature in modern life. This is not true. Without water, food, or even the oxygen produced by plants, no civilization would have ever started. It is not a coincidence that most of the big historical empires developed near rivers and forests.

For many people today, nature is a synonym for peace—internal peace. They see beach houses and forest cabins as places to relax., places to go and forget about daily life problems. Why? Maybe it is because in these places there is a chance for a greater contact and relationship with nature. There, people not only use what nature provides—as they do in cities—they come into deeper harmony with it and, by extension, with themselves.

Native Americans throughout the Americas gave supreme importance to nature and its creation. They produced myths about higher forces developing it. They saw it as the most wonderful, though often unexplainable, part of their world. The harmony and balance of all things in nature amazed them and need to continue amazing us.

One of the things that makes OLM a special school is the regular presence of student teachers from Bowling Green State University. Their idealism, enthusiasm and professionalism are clear from what the newly arrived ones and a veteran from last semester have written for this Anniversary Edition.

by Mr. Majka



R.C. Gundlach II: I was happy about my “methods placement” course in Port Clinton, Ohio, U.S.A. My two cooperative teachers in Port Clinton were two older, more experienced gentlemen, who had two different views and approaches to teaching. One was very traditional and strict and the other the opposite. They were great mentors and I would have been honored to have either of them as cooperative teacher for my student teaching. About

halfway through my methods course in Spring 2006, however, I learned about the opportunity to teach abroad in another country. I looked into it and found the opportunity to teach in Rio de Janeiro. In taking the challenge I can do what very few can say: “I did my student teaching in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.”

The only time I ever studied anything about Brazil was general geographical information, nothing more. I have always seen Brazil as the melting pot of South America. Brazil is where the cultures and traditions of various races and ethnic groups come together to form one mega culture Mecca. Since my studies and understanding of Brazil are quite limited, why not take the opportunity to learn it first hand, I thought.

I chose to do my student teaching Rio de Janeiro for a couple reasons. Reason number one: it is an opportunity of a lifetime. Reason two: I wanted to try teaching in a foreign environment. Reason three: I saw, I came, and the rest is in my hands. I took a giant step forward in my life and my future career; the goal is to make the most of this opportunity—I owe it to myself. I am always open and would greatly appreciate suggestions, guidance, and support from any of you.

Deborah Lavelle: I decided to do my student teaching in Brazil because I think the experience will help me in future challenges as a teacher for students in a multicultural atmosphere. It is important to experience different cultures to be able to adapt teaching to one’s environments. Teaching is a way to bring about learning through different learning techniques. Being in Brazil will help me show the variety in teaching that I am striving to achieve.

I appreciate the acceptance that I have felt at OLM and I hope that I can show my students the same respect and appreciation I have felt thus far. Thank you all for your help and support during the transition that I am making.

Cory Aron : Why I wanted to come to Brazil to student teach is a very easy question for me to answer. I came to Brazil because I thought it was the greatest challenge

that a student teacher from Bowling Green could take. As a teacher I pride myself in doing things in my life that might push me to my fullest potential. I believe that teaching in the United States is not as hard as trying to teach in a different country where language is a prominent problem. I felt this experience would help train me better to be a teacher than teaching in the United States. Another reason why I wanted to come to Brazil to teach is because I went to Europe for three weeks in the summer. After I accomplished that, all I could think about was going to a different country and meeting new people and doing new things. Now that I have been to Europe and have come to Brazil, I understand that everyone on this Earth does not follow the same cultural patterns as Americans. As I look to my past experiences and into the future I really feel blessed to have had these opportunities to build on as I try to develop into the teacher that I know I am capable of being.

By Abbey McCrate (Student Teacher February to May 2006): As usual I spent the summer [doing volunteer work] in the mountains of West Virginia. Our annual summer camps went off without a hitch and we had the best turn-out ever. I had a wonderful time, as always, and was able to meet a lot of interesting people.

I took a quick trip to New York City to meet a famous photographer who took pictures of the Appalachian coalmines in the 70's, and had the time of my life. It's a really long story how it all came about, but the man's name is Builder Levy. His work is absolutely beautiful. (You can google the name and see some of his work if you're interested.) Anyway, he took me out to dinner—along with one of the nuns and the woman we brought to see him, Donna, whose picture he took in 1970 when he came to Crum, West Virginia. That picture gained popularity and was being showcased at one of his gallery openings in NYC. That's how I became involved. I know Donna through my work in W.V. She didn't have a way to get to NYC or a way to pay for it. Sister Gretchen and I raised some money and I volunteered to drive us all there. We had a wonderful time exploring the city with Donna. She had never been outside of West Virginia!

I am currently getting ready to start my first "real" teaching gig at a charter school in the San Fernando Valley. It's called Magnolia Science Academy and the staff and



administration have been wonderful in helping me transition into my first year of teaching. I'll be teaching seventh grade English (please tell Mr. Ramos!!!) to a 70% Hispanic/Latino, 25% Armenian/Persian, 5% Asian/Caucasian population. I've been busy getting my room ready and planning for the year. I'm staying at school extra late tonight (on a Friday night, no less) to get ready for Open House tomorrow. I will be

meeting most of the parents of my 112 7th graders, so that should be interesting. I can't wait! I love this school and the faculty/staff. Visit the site below and see some of her photos: <http://community.webshots.com/user/sxavierolm>

O QUE DIZEM OS PAIS SOBRE A OLM

by Maria Saldanha

“Uma cabeça bem-feita vale mais do que uma cabeça cheia”, já dizia o filósofo e humanista francês Montaigne. No século 16, ele foi um dos primeiros, senão o primeiro, a defender que é melhor ensinar a pensar do que transmitir conteúdo aos alunos. Essa também é a premissa básica da maior parte dos pais que escolhem a Our Lady of Mercy School para formar seus filhos. Se é verdade que cada escola tem um perfil próprio de responsáveis e alunos, não se pode comprovar, mas fato é que a OLM agrega pais conscientes de que, longe do antigo papel que assumiam, os colégios hoje têm importância fundamental na formação do indivíduo e cidadão.

- A OLM foi escolhida por nós por apresentar uma metodologia de ensino diferenciada das escolas brasileiras, conhecidas pelos seus altos índices de aproveitamento no vestibular, deixando, muitas vezes, as crianças estressadas, quando esses poderiam ser os melhores momentos de suas vidas – fala Glaucília Lins de Vasconcelos Weil, mãe de André, de 20 anos, estudante de Engenharia de Produção, na Universidade Federal Fluminense. Ela conta que, durante os dez anos em que estudou na OLM, ele não precisou deixar de jogar futebol e velejar, seus esportes favoritos.

- Ele cresceu feliz e ainda desenvolveu durante todo esse tempo a sua capacidade de traçar seus próprios planos. Os adolescentes que começaram com André e são seus amigos até hoje apresentam o mesmo perfil, são pessoas maduras e capazes de lidar com a vida – diz Glaucília, mãe ainda de Daniel, de 8 anos, que segue o mesmo caminho do irmão.

A funcionária da OLM Paula Pacheco confirma esse diferencial. Ela estudou no colégio do 6th ao 12th grade; e hoje, seus filhos Raphaela e Antonio repetem seus passos, desde o Pré-School. Desde 1976, ano em que entrou como aluna, vivenciou diferentes momentos, mas destaca que sempre viu saírem formados de lá indivíduos solidários e atentos ao que acontece no mundo.

- São pessoas, na maioria, que prestam atenção às necessidades dos outros e que não passam pela vida à toa – fala ela com orgulho.

Presidente do Grupo, uma associação de escolas particulares de São Paulo, Sylvio Gomide observa que muitas universidades, como a USP e a Unicamp, já estão avaliando a capacidade crítica e a autonomia de pensamento do vestibulando, mais do que o conteúdo de aprendizado. A tendência atual da escola é preparar o aluno para a vida, e não para o mercado de trabalho – confirma também o professor da Faculdade de Educação da USP Julio Groppa Aquino sobre a nova qualidade de ensino.

Nesse sentido, Juana Martins, assistente da Superintendência da Our Lady of Mercy chama atenção para a formação globalizada que os alunos recebem como consequência da escola ser bilíngüe e abrigar estudantes de várias outras culturas.

- Essa convivência promove uma mente mais aberta para os problemas lá de fora e uma bagagem de vida maior – acredita ela.

Sonia Cabral confirma que essa foi uma preocupação na hora de escolher o colégio de seus filhos Alex Saltz, atualmente no 12th grade, e Larissa Saltz, formada

na classe de 2005 e agora estudante de Direito na PUC. Os dois estudaram ininterruptamente na escola desde os três anos de idade.

- Sempre procuramos para os nossos filhos a sua independência de pensamento, a procura por um caminho que não os mantivessem distante da realidade do mundo. A nossa idéia, como pais, era promover uma formação bilíngüe, já que essa era uma experiência que sentíamos ser essencial para o mundo globalizado, que já se anunciava há 16 anos. Estivemos em várias escolas de língua inglesa, mas percebemos que aqueles tipos de propostas não se coadunavam com nossos valores, que previam uma escola menor, onde os alunos tivessem identidade própria e houvesse uma disciplina rígida em relação a comportamento e obediência às regras, mas com um sentido lógico, para que eles percebessem que isso agregava valores, e não somente uma norma de conduta radical – conta Sonia.

Ao longo de sua experiência como mãe de alunos da OLM, Sonia destaca duas qualidades fortes da escola: o ensino das ciências lógicas, como Matemática e Física, e o aprendizado do saber pensar.

- Esse parece ser um ponto obscuro para alguns pais, mas do ponto de vista da neurociência, essas crianças desenvolvem a compreensão, a apreensão e a dedução muito rapidamente. É uma linguagem subliminar usada pela metodologia da escola que só traz benefícios. Manter meus filhos na OLM foi, sem sombra de dúvida, uma experiência que deu certo. Já sinto nostalgia porque esse tempo está acabando, mas sei que nas nossas lembranças a OLM será para sempre um grande marco – finaliza Sonia Cabral.

MONDAY MORNING BLUES... GREENS, YELLOWS, PURPLES AT OLM

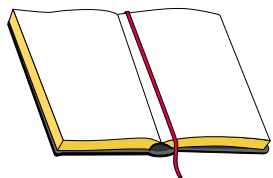
by Alex Saltz ('07)



As I pass through the blue gates and step into the frontcourt I immediately notice that Mr. Zsolt is talking to a second Mr. Zsolt. Since it's Monday morning I assume that I am just not awake yet, that's just an optical illusion and so I move on. As I walk up the stairs, I see triplets Dr. Medeiros getting their physics books from their lockers. On closer look I realize that neither one of them is really Dr. Medeiros, are just seniors dressed up as OLM staff. All through the week bizarre figures and weird hairdos were, for once,

normal and almost unnoticed on school grounds. From Monday through Friday, classes dressed up with their assigned themes and summed up points that were later added to the Friday closing games. Obviously the wonderful seniors won (by the way, the author is a senior) by a large margin but by the end of the week points didn't matter and we all stood in the same place: winners. The sensation of walking through the corridors and occasionally walking into a hippie, a pirate, John Travolta, or even a witch is unique and certainly leaves as mark. And that's what SPIRIT WEEK is all about: uniting the middle and high school classes under one objective: to be original. That really works out in OLM because we have a serious STUCO and a number of people, including many teachers, who are basically interested in making this week, a most pleasant one. As I went home on Friday afternoon I realized that this was my last and best spirit week and a feeling of "mission accomplished" filled me because I knew this fun and amusing tradition last for years and I helped keep it alive. So, future seniors: keep up the dance and Visit: <http://community.webshots.com/user/sxcavierolm> and see nice pictures!





SEPTEMBER: BIBLE MONTH

by Ms. Souza

In an effort to honor the most significant way of evangelization, the Catholic Church praises the Holy Bible as "The true vehicle of communication between God and men". Through the Holy Scriptures, this relationship was made possible. The Bible is the book of the Word of God.

Some people argue about the validity of its content for contemporary men. Read the book of Psalms, the four Gospels, the Epistles of Saint Paul, even the book of Revelation with its symbolic language and discover its riches. You will be amazed!!! The Church recommends that the reader opens his heart and mind to listen to what God has to tell him. Read this prayer and take the best of this Holy Book...

O Lord, send forth your Spirit upon me and make me understand your holy word. May I get to know you better, love you and serve you according to your will. Your Word is the way to salvation. May sinners repent and convert, may I persevere in faith and may we all live for eternal life. Amen

A Língua Portuguesa é fascinante. - Você duvida? Leia e confira! - Ms. Barros

EU LEVO OU DEIXO?

Contam que Rui Barbosa, ao chegar em casa, ouviu um barulho estranho vindo do seu quintal. Chegando lá, constatou haver um ladrão tentando levar seus patos de criação. Aproximou-se vagarosamente do indivíduo e, surpreendendo-o ao tentar pular o muro com seus amados patos, disse-lhe:

- Oh, bucéfalo anácroto! Não o interpelo pelo valor intrínseco dos bípedes palmípedes, mas sim pelo ato vil e sorrateiro de profanares o recôndito da minha habitação, levando meus ovíparos à sorrelfa e à socapa. Se fazes isso por necessidade, transijo; mas se é para zombares da minha elevada prosopopéia de cidadão digno e honrado, dar-te-ei com minha bengala fosfórica bem no alto da tua sinagoga, e o farei com tal ímpeto que te reduzirei à quinquagésima potência do que o vulgo denomina nada. E o ladrão, confuso, diz:

- Doutor, eu levo ou deixo os patos?

Então, por que o ladrão hesitou no que fazer? E, você, faria essa pergunta?

Caso afirmativo – descubra o fascínio da Língua Portuguesa!

How would you like to participate in a Bible Competition? Are you good enough to handle the Bible? It is easy. Follow the instruction and answer the question at the end. The First student that gets to the Religion Department with the answer will get a prize.

It is a challenge!!!!!!! Hand on!

IF YOU ADD.....

- 1- The # of silver articles Joseph gave to Benjamim (Gn 45:22) _____
- 2- The # of children Nain widow had (Lk 7:12) _____
- 3- Sarah's age when God told her husband she would bear a child (Gn 17:17) _____
- 4- The # of angels that appeared to lot at the gate of the city of Sodomma (Gn 19:1)
- 5- The week day in which God rested (Gn 2: 2)_____
- 6- The # of parts the soldiers divided Jesus' vests (Jo 19: 23) _____
- 7- The # of stars the did homage to Joseph in his dream (Gn 37:9) _____
- 8- The # of floors on Noah's ark (Gn 6:16) _____
- 9- The # of doors of pearls in the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:21) _____
- 10- The # of demons taken from Mary Madalene (Mk 16:9) _____
- 11- The # of presents the wise men gave to Baby Jesus (Mt 2:11) _____
- 12- The # of tents Peter asked Jesus to set up on Mount Tabor (Mk 9:4) _____
- 13- The # of months that Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth (Lk 1:56) _____
- 14- The # of generations from Abraham to David (Mt 1: 17) _____
- 15- The # of rainy days during the flood before the ark was taken by the water (Gn 7:17) _____
- 16- The # of silver coins Judas Iscariote received as he betrayed Jesus (Mt 26: 15)_____
- 17- The # of days Jesus spent fasting in the desert (Mt 4: 2) _____
- 18- The # of people to whom Jesus appeared on his way to Emmaus (Lk 24 :13) _____
- 19- The # of fishermen called to be Jesus' apostles (Mk 1:16-19) _____
- 20- The # of apostles Jesus Christ chose (Mt 10:2) _____
- 21- The age of Jesus when he was found in the temple discussing with the Doctors of the Law. (Lk 2:42) _____

YOU WILL DISCOVER NOAH'S AGE WAS WHEN THE FLOOD HAPPENED.
WRITE HIS AGE HERE: _____



Chefs of the Future!!!!

As aulas de "cooking" são realizadas às segundas, de 15h30min às 16h30min, com a nutricionista da escola, Giovanna.

O objetivo dessa aula é ensinar às crianças a cozinhar, com práticas corretas de manipulação e higienização de alimentos. As crianças passam a conhecer os alimentos, sua importância para o organismo e suas composições – vitaminas, minerais, carboidratos, proteínas e lipídeos.

As aulas têm parte teórica e prática, finalizando com a degustação do que foi preparado no dia. É uma maneira descontraída de passar aos alunos a importância de uma alimentação saudável. Venham fazer parte deste time!!

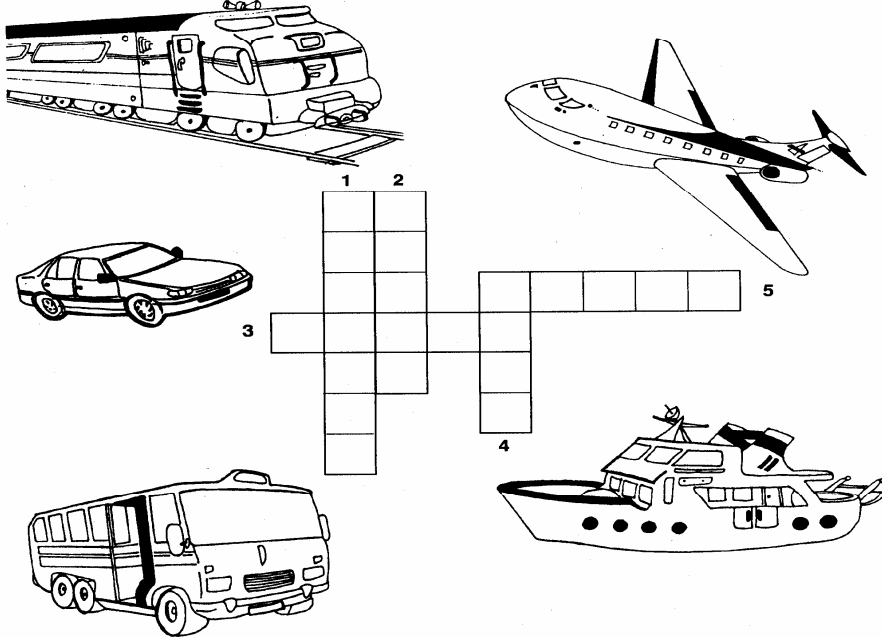
by GiovannaOuaoliani



medios de transporte

En este crucigrama gráfico están los cinco medios de transporte más usuales. Vamos a ver si eres capaz de solucionarlo. Te damos unas pistas:

1. Vertical. Suele ser el más económico.
2. Vertical. Con él se puede cruzar el océano pero no es muy rápido.
3. Horizontal. (de izquierda a derecha). Nos permite parar donde queramos.
4. Vertical. (De abajo a arriba). Es el que menos contamina.
5. Horizontal (de derecha a izquierda) El más rápido en grandes distancias.



SETEMBRO: Datas Especiais

by Ms. Xavier - <http://www.portaldafamilia.org>

DIA DO SURDO: A Comunidade de Surdos Brasileiros comemora no dia 26 de Setembro o Dia Nacional do Surdo. A Federação Mundial dos Surdos já celebra esta data internacionalmente a cada 30 de setembro. No Brasil, o dia 26 lembra a inauguração da primeira escola para surdos no país em 1857, com o nome de Instituto Nacional de Surdos Mudos do Rio de Janeiro – atual INES - Instituto Nacional de Educação de Surdos, um Centro Nacional de Referência na Área da Surdez.

DIA DO IDOSO: O Dia Nacional do Idoso foi estabelecido em 1999 pela Comissão de Educação do Senado Federal. A população no mundo está ficando cada vez mais velha e, segundo a Organização Mundial de Saúde (OMS), por volta de 2025, pela primeira vez na história, haverá mais idosos do que crianças no planeta. O Brasil, que já foi celebrado como o país dos jovens, tem hoje cerca de 13,5 milhões de idosos, que representam 8% de sua população. Então, aprenda a curtir seus anos dourados, pois:

Idoso é quem tem o privilégio de viver uma longa vida... velho é quem perdeu a jovialidade. A idade causa a degenerescência das células... a velhice causa a degenerescência do espírito.

Você é idoso quando sonha... você é velho quando apenas dorme.

Você é idoso quando ainda aprende... você é velho quando já nem ensina.

Você é idoso quando se exercita... você é velho quando somente descansa.

Você é idoso quando tem planos... você é velho quando só tem saudades.

Para o idoso a vida se renova a cada dia que começa... para o velho a vida se acaba a cada noite que termina.

Para o idoso o dia de hoje é o primeiro do resto de sua vida... para os velhos todos os dias parecem o último de uma longa jornada.

Para o idoso o calendário está repleto de amanhãs... para o velho o calendário só tem ontens. Que você, quando idoso, viva uma vida longa, mas que nunca fique velho.

On August 12, a group of OLM students had a great experience with the kids from the Romão Duarte Orphanage, in Flamengo. The students were invited to paint the walls and had fun with the kids. It was for sure a nice demonstration of what it is to make someone happy.

by Gabriella Lopes ('10)

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