



OLMatters



"To educate the Whole Person for global Understanding"



CHILDREN'S DAY

In August 1925, some 54 representatives from different countries gathered in Geneva to set up the first "World Conference for the Wellbeing of Children". The proclamation made a strong appeal for the spiritual needs of children, relief for children in poverty, prevention of child labor, reassessing the way that children are educated and other issues related to the wellbeing of children around the world.

After the conference, various governments designated a day, different in each country, as Children's Day, to encourage and bring joy to children as well as to draw the attention of society to children's issues. Children's Day is celebrated in India on November 15. Portugal and Mozambique celebrate it on the First of June, while May 5 is Children's Day in China and Japan! The date November 20 marks the day on which the United Nations' General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.



The Community Service component of Our Lady of Mercy School aims to integrate the students into social service activities. The students are encouraged to exercise solidarity toward people living in institutions like day-care centers, orphanages, and nursing homes. Children's Day was a great opportunity for them to experience the difference they can make in the lives of so many children.



Doing good out of love is an important characteristic of an OLM graduate.

WHERE DO I GO? FOLLOW MY HEARBEAT...?

Every year, senior year brings students closer to their first big decisions in life. Being enrolled in an American institution in Brazil such as OLM leads students to face tough times as they may apply for both American and Brazilian schools. Entrance exams for Brazilian universities are well known for being highly competitive and overwhelmingly demanding. In addition, the first semester of senior year requires tedious research and multiple test-taking for those willing to attend a university in United States. The last year of high school becomes the first year of mounting stress and pressure as these young adults eventually begin to realize that responsibility is in fact becoming an everyday reality.

Our Lady of Mercy School is in Rio de Janeiro, the cultural and economic capital of the nation, together with São Paulo. Its students find it impossible not to be exposed to the great Universities and fertile job market present in this city. People who were brought up and educated in a metropolis as Rio are expected to firmly identify themselves with the city and tend to grow ambitious and willing to plan for a future in the environment they're most used to inhabiting. Seniors are about to face a battery of exams and studying never before experienced during any high school year. National exams grow more challenging every year and each university requires tests that take from 2 to 5 days. Besides, every senior takes the two-day ENEM (*Exame Nacional de Ensino Médio*) which offers the additional opportunity of being accepted in some colleges. Achieving the exact equilibrium between preparation and relaxation should be the first advice to those about to go through this time of their life.

OLM, however, is first an accredited American school and has an extremely broad curriculum for anyone who wishes to pursue undergraduate studies abroad or in the U.S. The school strictly follows a curriculum equivalent to any U.S. school and offers a variety of college options and categories; its

students are fully capable of attending any of the 3,500 universities within the United States. Nevertheless, applying to a foreign institution is a long and meticulous process that builds up stress in the life of students, who then find themselves in desperate need of orientation. Prospective students finally realize there is no other alternative other than considering every possible opportunity to round up material that might turn their high school transcripts a bit more interesting. This also means practicing for SAT reasoning and subject tests, besides taking the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), and eventually engaging in the process of filling out application forms and mailing them overseas. Those Seniors who are international applicants endure careful researching and decision making, apply for Brazilian colleges, and still somehow do well in school. They ultimately find a gap somewhere in their agendas to ease the tension. By the time they are about to graduate they will have realized OLM has already allowed them to open many doors; now it's about time to make a choice.

Of course these are demanding times and everyone goes through them, but this period of a person's life is marked as the first time he or she has ever dealt with responsibilities and life-changing (or life-aiming) decisions. Teenagers who are about to complete a dual curriculum such as OLM's find themselves bewildered by the type of stress, anxiety, and studying they face. They are strongly advised to narrow down their options in order to achieve a stability and progress in their last year of school, to be rewarded as results start coming in. These years will be remembered as the best years of one's life, where everything is new, smells fresh, and looks colorful. School years fly past us as they change in form, as clouds contingent on the weather; while the future remains inescapable and uncertain, everyone can still relish the joy of being young.

by Christian Pedrosa ('10)

“GIVE A HAND” A ROUNDING SUCCESS



Each OLM student took a child by the hand to play and share a memorable moment together at *Parque Lage*

The project *Estenda Sua Mão (Give a Hand)* took place on October 3rd, a Saturday morning, from 9 a.m. to 13 p.m. Fifty-one OLM volunteers offered a picnic for about 54 children of *Creche da Tia Maura*, in *Parque Lage*. Each volunteer was given a child to take care of, but most of them simply played with other kids and volunteers. There was an open area where the kids were able to play and run, having fun all day long. Cake and water were available throughout the entire morning, but everyone was really eager for the picnic hour to arrive. Each volunteer had brought a snack, consisting of a *Toddyinbo*, *Trakinas* and *Piraque* (chocolate drink, cookies and crackers), for himself and his charge. Cláudia Ammirabile (‘11) and I organized the day and the food, so we searched for a cozy place to be with the children for the picnic. In reality, we did not find one, although we tried to persuade the guards of the Park to let us go to a drier spot. We ended up in a clear area, a bit wet, but we placed towels on the ground to protect ourselves: lunch was settled. Kids and volunteers ate and shared their snacks in a moment of total interaction and fun. After that, most of us continued playing with the kids, and when it finally was time to go, we certainly had the sensation of a *mission accomplished*.

The activity was a success and possibly, there will be others like this one.

Antonia Teixeira (‘11)



Huge sheets covered the beautiful gardens as everyone sat down to enjoy a pleasant picnic together. The children left with a sensation of fulfillment.



PSTC 2009/2010

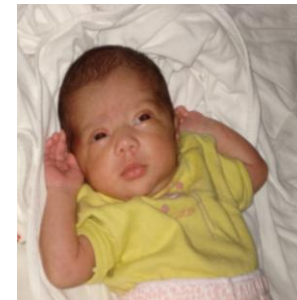
Nisia Crespo - Presidente - PSTC - Junte-se a nós / Join us

Este ano foi grande a participação dos pais na primeira reunião do PSTC. Várias idéias surgiram para o aprimoramento da escola. Está curioso? Junte-se a nós. Aguardamos todos vocês na próxima reunião do PSTC, dia 19 de outubro.

Presidente - Nisia Crespo (Representante 6thA e 8th)
Vice Presidente - André Castello Branco (Representante Nursery A)
Secretário - Rodolfo Porto D´Ave Jr. (Representante 9th B e 11th A)
Tesoureiro - Fortunato Lameiras (Representante 11th grade)

PARABÉNS AO MAIS NOVO PAPAI

Pedi a Deus para ser feliz. Já estava satisfeito, mas ele me abençoou pela terceira vez. No dia 26 de agosto deste ano, a FELICIDADE mais uma vez chegou para mim, com o nome de **Manuela Benzi Georges Freitas de Souza**, pesando 1,995 kg e com 47 centímetros. Prematura de 8 meses, passou os seus primeiros 10 dias na UTI Neonatal do Hospital de Laranjeiras (Perinatal) e agora encontra-se em casa, cercada de muito amor e carinho.



Toda noite agradeço a Deus a minha nova família, em especial a minha esposa – **Patrícia** - responsável por esta felicidade. *By Walmir de Souza*

OLM'S TALENT SHOW 2009-2010

Another talent show, another success! The numbers say it all: A full house and thirty-seven participants, one hour and twenty minutes of performances where everyone had the chance to experience a real and unique opportunity for self expression and artistic development.

Our first set list included several extra numbers that, unfortunately, had to be canceled due to time restrictions.. Everyone who had filled out the application properly and respected our deadlines had the chance to perform at least one number, a great accomplishment already. I was flattered with all the last-minute calls from the students, asking to participate. Please be aware that no performance will be left behind and we will figure out, together, other opportunities for you to share your talents in a near future: I guarantee it.

It is always a challenge, in many aspects, to put such a production together. It depends a lot on mutual effort and synchronized team work in order to “fly”. As the “technical consultant” of the event, I had to work uninterruptedly and never had a chance to taste the delicious Spaghetti that was served. My wife told me that she had never seen our youngest son eat as much as he did. Congratulations to Giovanna and the kitchen crew.

Ms. Fortes and Jussara were perfect again, each one in their own areas, making it look easy. That’s the mark of a high caliber professional. I was impressed with Flavio’s ever growing skills behind the knobs and Savio’s support up there in “the sound cage”. I felt more secure when Mr. Rundle volunteered to help me with the stage settings, and was amazed by Nino and his carpenters’ diligent work, Raimundo’s Lights, “seu” Zé’s omnipresence (as always), the performers’ attitude and the audience’s participation. You were all extremely important for the smooth, natural flow that marked the event. To all of you thank you very, very much.

Love - Mr. Camera

More pictures of Talent Show 2009-2010 – OLM webpage – http://www.olmrio.com/events_09-10-1st.html



Victor Trindade (16) and Karine Trindade (18) - “Billie Jean” by Michael Jackson (Dance)



The Science Department is very proud to announce that starting with this edition and continuing in all coming issues of **OLMatters**, we are presenting our **Science Corner**, a special area dedicated to scientific news developed by our students and supervised by our Physics Teacher, Dr. Medeiros, our Chemistry Teacher Dr. Damasceno and last but not least me, Ms. Braguinha (Biology Teacher). In this edition, we are honored to have three interesting articles about important subjects in Biology and Medicine: stem cells by Gabriella Lopes ('10), and the new HIV vaccine by Eduarda Ferraz ('11), and a laboratory experience by Sofia Heringer ('12).

By Ms. Braga

THE INVISIBLE WORLD OF BACTERIA

By Sofia Heringer ('12)



During the 10th grade Science Lab Class we had the chance to learn more about bacteria, the tiny unicellular organisms that affect us in so many ways we do not even notice. The experiment was about gram staining and growth of bacteria cells.

Gram staining is a technique used to study the cell wall composition of different bacteria. There are many different strains of bacteria and by using gram staining, we divide them into two big groups: Gram negative, that are bacteria that have lipids, carbohydrates and proteins in their cell wall; Gram positive, bacteria with only carbohydrates and proteins in the cell wall. "How?" you may be asking. Well, you will only know if you try for yourself; so go to the lab and ask for a teacher's help. By the end of the experiment the sample of bacteria with which you will be working will be purple (Gram positive) or red (Gram negative).

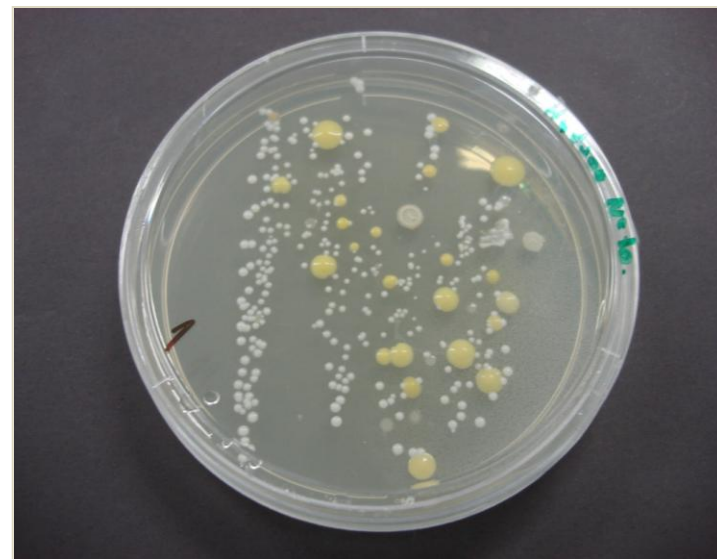
The other experiment was about bacteria growth. The steps of this experiment were the following: the students got cotton swabs, which they rubbed against some surface they chose. This used swab was then rubbed against a jelly-like substance (agar), which contained nutrients, for the bacteria, and placed on a Petri dish (special container used for the experiment). The Petri dishes were

closed and our teacher placed all of the samples inside a heater, set to the perfect temperature for the growth of bacteria. The next day my class went to the lab again and the bacteria had grown a lot inside the Petri dishes. It surprised us to see how fast these organisms reproduce. Also, when we used the microscope we were able to see that bacteria have different shapes, spherical, rod-shaped and spiral, and that they live in colonies of billions of their own type.

This lab activity showed me how I have to be careful about bacteria and I realized no one is careful.

These microorganisms are found everywhere even in our foods, so we have to practice

hygiene. I have a tip for you: wash your hands frequently, be careful where you eat because there are places that are not trustworthy, and if you are sick sneeze and cough with your hands in front of your nose and mouth. It is not worth getting sick due to lack of hygiene.



Bacteria found on a flush-button

STEM CELLS

The Miracle of Science

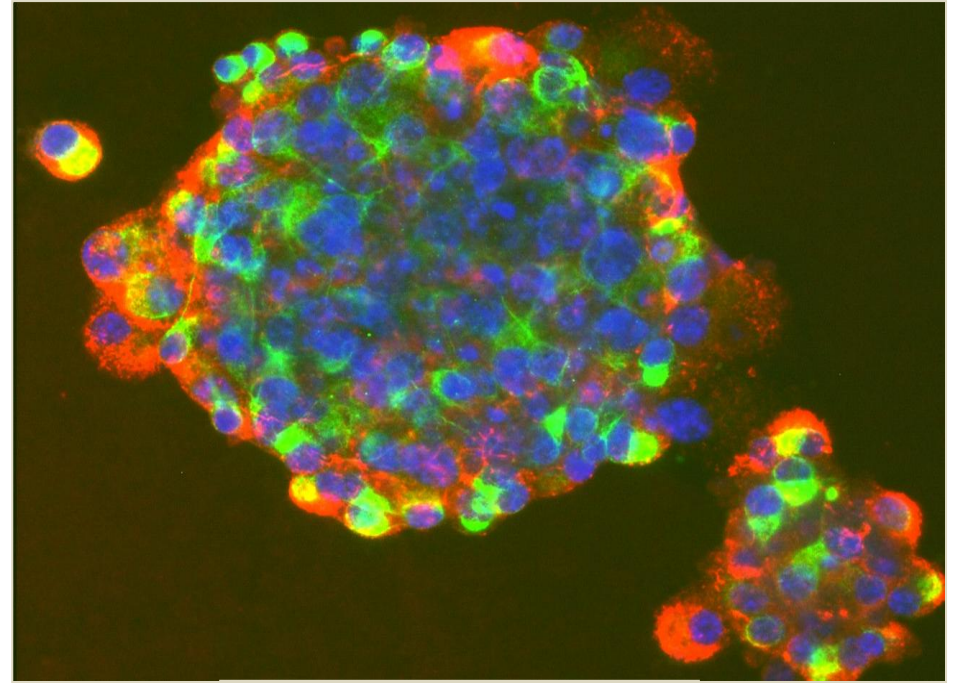
By Gabriella Lopes ('10)

Can you imagine a cell that can become any part of your body? A cell that can save the life of people that have Multiple Sclerosis or Spinal Injury? This cell exists; it is closer and closer to becoming the latest medical breakthrough and science miracle.

Stem cells have the ability to renew and create any one of the body's over 200 cell types; these cells are not committed to the tissue it belongs to. These "generic" cells can build any specific tissues in the body; they are able to form different and particular cell types. The body's capacity to repair and renew tissue comes from this specific type of cell, stem cells. They work as an internal repair system dividing essentially without limit to replenish other cells, for example, they can become red blood cells or brain cells. They obtain these singular functions through a process called cellular differentiation and can be found in fetuses, embryos and adult tissues.

Scientists work with two types of stem cells; somatic or adult stem cells and embryonic stem cells. Somatic stem cells can be found in many organs and differentiated tissues, but they have a limited capacity for both self renewal (in the laboratory) and differentiation. Embryonic stem cells are derived from a blastocyst, a 3- to 5-day-old pre-implantation embryo with about 150 cells that are capable of dividing without differentiating for a prolonged period in culture, and are known to develop into cells and tissues of the three primary germ layers (Endoderm, Mesoderm, and Ectoderm)

Stem cells are being studied in laboratories and clinics in order to discover the use of cell-based therapies to treat diseases; this can be called regenerative or reparative medicine. An issue has occurred with the research of human embryonic stem cells which has generated much interest and public debate. People are seeing this type of study as an ethical problem, since stem cells are isolated from human embryos that are a few days old. As science and technology continue to advance, so do ethical viewpoints surrounding these developments. Recently President Barack Obama has issued an Executive Order stating policies for the research of



Embryonic Stem Cell

adult stem cells in which he says "Research involving human embryonic stem cells and human non-embryonic stem cells has the potential to lead to better understanding and treatment of many disabling diseases and conditions." Last year in Brazil a similar event happened; the Supreme Federal Court allowed the continuation of adult stem cell research, to the delight of many hopefuls.

During the last months a study on the use of stem cells for the treatment of paralysis patients began. In a current article, Newsweek states: "It's a chilling thought. In the coming year, 130,000 people worldwide will suffer spinal-cord injuries—in a car crash, perhaps, or a fall. More than 90 percent of them will endure at least partial paralysis. There is no cure. But after a decade of hype and controversy over research on embryonic stem cells—cells that could, among other things, potentially repair injured spinal cords—the world's first clinical trial is about to begin." (Anne Underwood, Jul 24, 2009) Once this type of cure was seen as impossible, now it is almost possible. The possibilities appear to be broader than most people realize. We are about to witness a miracle!

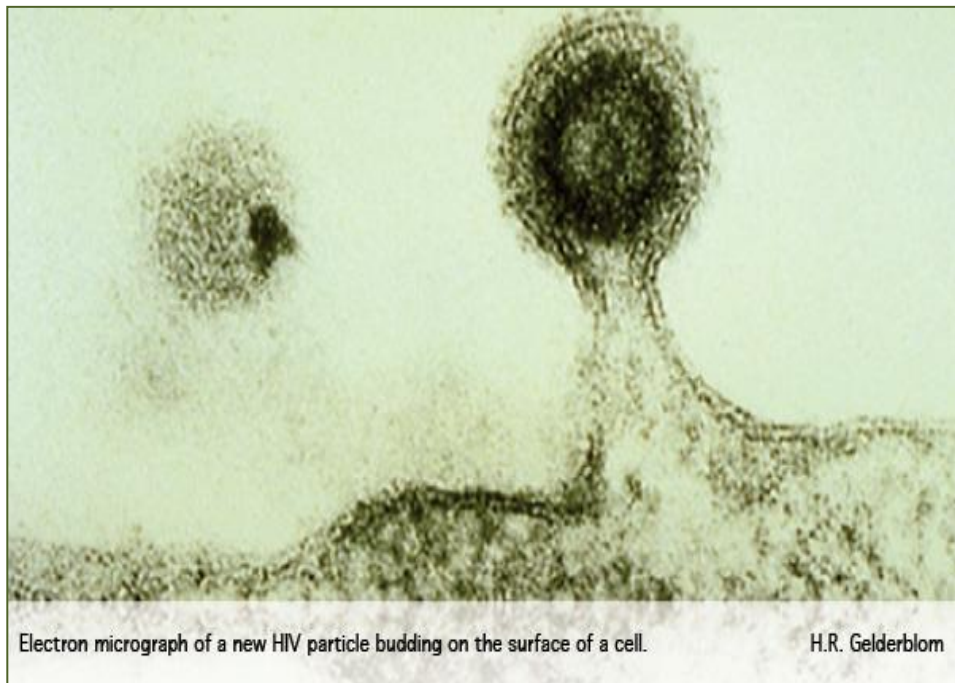
THE DREAM IS ALIVE

An HIV Vaccine

By *Eduarda Ferraz* ('11)

One of the most widely spoken about and feared diseases nowadays is HIV/AIDS. Researchers and renowned doctors have been working together and developing partnerships to unravel the mystery that lies within the disease. Millions of people depend on a cure to survive, and humanity has taken a great step towards discovering it.

HIV is a virus that is carried on from person to person through the transferring of blood, semen, breast milk and vaginal secretions. The most common way of developing AIDS is by engaging in sexual intercourse, but the sharing of needles when injecting drugs or during childbirth and breastfeeding can also be a cause. As HIV propagates, it gradually destroys the body's immune system which is responsible for its protection, making the body become vulnerable and weak and consequently welcoming illness and infection. It can also infect numerous cells of different body systems. It is as if the body's wall of defense was beaten by enraged soldiers, and vanquished by the new conquerors.



Electron micrograph of a new HIV particle budding on the surface of a cell.

H.R. Gelderblom

For the first time, after years of arduous work and research, scientists have developed an experimental vaccine that can supposedly prevent the infection of AIDS virus. This is a milestone event that may help save the lives of millions of needy people around the globe and end this lethal epidemic. It is so hard to find a vaccine for HIV because studies reveal that in many cases for the same experimental test a vaccine might work in African men, but infect American men. This occurred in Africa's biggest HIV test

The vaccine consists of the combination of two previously unsuccessful vaccines and diminishes the risk of an AIDS infection by more than 31%. This was proven in the world's largest AIDS vaccine trial in Bangkok, with the participation of 16,000 volunteers. "It will take time and resources to fully analyze and understand the data, but there is little doubt that this finding will energize and redirect the AIDS vaccine field" stated Mitchell Warren, executive director of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition.

The study tested the combined two ineffective vaccines in such a way that one stimulates the immune system to attack HIV and the other one strengthens the response. The World Health Organization and the UN agency UNAIDS stated the results "instilled new hope in people", although researchers state there is a long road ahead until a vaccine might be available for the public. "That benefit is modest, yet it's the first evidence that we could have a safe and effective preventive vaccine," said Col. Jerome Kim, an Army doctor who helped lead the study.

This is certainly a huge watershed in the medical field that will pave the way for a much brighter future. Initiatives like this will be remembered for generations to come, and such an advance shows that humankind is not only made of madness and brutality, but of kindness and compassion.

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BEING PREGNANT DURING SWINE FLU TIMES

It was June when my husband and I found out that “we were pregnant”. At last, our big dream was coming true. It was also the time when we started hearing about this new and dangerous kind of flu: the H1N1. However, as the outbreak was happening in Mexico, it seemed too far from us.

July came and as vacation started I felt more and more pregnant. Morning sicknesses, which in my case were also afternoon and evening sicknesses, drowsiness, crying outbursts... Those were happy times! On the news, we heard that the swine flu was coming closer and closer to us: first Mexico, then the United States, and finally Brazil. Measures were being taken to control the outbreak, but the number of infected people increased day after day. The H1N1 was the major topic everywhere I went. Everybody seemed to have a new fact to reveal about it. However, no matter how terrifying that new flu sounded, I was still too involved with my baby and all the wonderful changes in my body. As the weeks passed, I started feeling that this time everything would be okay, and simply did not let all those rumors affect me.

At the end of July, vacation was over. It was time not only to go back to work, but also to reveal our Big Secret. I had just done an ultrasound and everything was fine with the baby, who had just completed three months. During the exam we could see the baby’s legs, arms and spinal cord for the first time. We could even hear his little heart beating! I still remember how happy and silly we felt on that day... Telling everybody the news was great! Now, we could share our happiness with friends and family. Unfortunately, while my mind was on the baby, everybody else’s minds were on the swine flu. It was revealed that this flu was affecting mostly pregnant women and, for many of them, it was a deadly disease. My brain, however, refused to accept the fact that there was a slight possibility for me or my baby to be affected. I felt too strong.

On a Thursday July morning, one day after I had told my supervisor about the baby and one day before the Open House, Dr. Lyndaker interrupted our teacher’s meeting to tell us that I would not be able to take my class. All pregnant women had to stay at home for safety reasons. And, what was even worse, for an undetermined period of time—in my case, maybe *a whole year*.

Suddenly, the harsh reality struck me. I simply lost the ground. I still remember everybody telling me this was the best thing for me and the baby, and that the school was taking care of us. I knew they were right, and was thankful for all the kind words, but I could only think about the long days coming ahead of me...

It is funny how sometimes things change all of a sudden in our lives. The news finally sounded real to me. Avoid going to malls, supermarkets, movie theaters... Wash your hands properly... Look for a hospital if you feel ill... Don’t look for a hospital if you feel ill... Since I could not go virtually anywhere, I stayed home most of the time. I tried to find out what people do at home all day long to entertain themselves, but I still don’t know...

When September came I was still learning how to cope with my new reality. Classes had started and the H1N1 outbreak seemed to be less strong. Because of that, I felt very disappointed for being pregnant and not being able to share it with my friends and the children. I had always imagined how gratifying it would be to have my students witness my pregnancy.

Then, one day, I received a call from school. I knew I was coming back before they told me. There was a position for me at the Resource Center, and once again, they wanted the best for the baby and me. I would work with fewer students and teach fewer classes. The first day back at school was overwhelming! Lots of hugs, people telling me they could already see the changes in my body, kids telling me how much they missed me...

Now, it is October. I am six months pregnant and the baby already has a name: Julio Cesar. My days do not drag anymore, and all the swine flu worries are almost over. Each morning when I arrive at OLM is special. Everybody pampers me. The students want to know every little detail about my pregnancy, and I can feel their love for this baby they still do not know, as if it were a brother for them. My husband and I can finally worry about the most important thing in our lives: our son. We feel him moving, imagine the kind of parents we will be, make plans for his future already! After all, our dream is finally coming true, just like we had imagined.

By Simone Fernandes



MY LIFE IN GERMANY

Alejandra Loaiza ('11)



I arrived here on August 22. At the beginning I was really nervous. I didn't know how all would be here; maybe I wouldn't like something, or wouldn't be able to get used to it. Well life is always a surprise; I am with a wonderful family. I live in an Island, Poel; it is gorgeous... a lot of nature, and a fantastic view of the Baltic Sea.

Here I have the company of Viktoria and Jan-Niklas, but Jan-Niklas studies agriculture in another town so I don't see him a lot. Viktoria is from the same class and she helps me a lot with German.

At Poel everyone is nice, and knows each other. It is an agricultural community for the most part. I study in *Gymnasium Am Sonnercamf* more or less 30 min from where I live. Everyday I have to take the bus at 6:45 am, and return home at 4:00 pm. The School is really nice; it has 459 students. My class has 24 students; all are very friendly and fun. I am having a wonderful time here. The teachers are really good, but, of



course, I miss my OLM teachers. The subjects are the same as in Brazil.

One funny thing here is that if we have a weather of 27°C we don't have classes because is too hot--imagine this in Rio. So, here are some pictures of me in Germany. I miss everyone, but I'll see you soon. A BIG Hug!

MY SUMMER IN THE STATES

By Kotaro Inoue ('10)



Me and my friends at banquet (last day)

During the summer vacation, I went to Phillip Exeter Summer School Academy in New Hampshire, for five weeks. Before I left Brazil in June, many friends asked me why I wanted to go to the States to study. Spending the whole vacation to study might sound too industrious; however, I found it worthwhile, because I wanted the challenge of something new or different.

The classes were usually held on Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings. Instead of having classes with a seating chart, a large round table, called Harkness Table, was used for the classes so that students and a teacher could get close and have a more intense discussion. I think the exclusive advantage taking summer school courses is that you can choose whatever course you like. I took a math course, a physics course, and two English courses; all of them were useful and interesting.

Although there were courses in the morning, there was a Physical Activity class after lunch. Among the activities list, I chose Lacrosse, which I had never played before. On weekends, we were free. My friends and I went to Boston to shop, for lunch, and to watch a movie. These out-of-school activities made a stronger bond among us; I still have occasional contact with them even now.

Although I go to an American school, it is different from studying with people whose English is almost native. I was nervous about whether I could study and live together with fluent English speakers. However, I didn't have any specific problems in speaking English. I just tried to be as active as possible. I met many different students from all over the world (Asians, Americans, Europeans, Africans and so on). Communicating with those who are from different races, speak different languages and have different religions, I experienced how important it is to be able to share differences. The summer turned out to be one of the best summers I have ever had. It made me more confident in facing new challenges. Now that I am back in Rio, I feel much freer in using English, though I still have to catch up in Portuguese. I have one more year in Brazil and I hope to make good use of the rest of my senior year and enjoy life.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CITY CHOSEN TO HOST EVENTS LIKE THE WORLD CUP & THE OLYMPICS?

By Claire Collins

Simply put, it means our city of Rio de Janeiro is the best of the best, recognized worldwide not only for being technically up to the challenge but mostly for being a destination that is one of the most splendid in the whole world!

To host two major international events within a two-year span is to make Rio a destination every person from every corner of the world will want to visit at some point in their lifetimes.

We in Rio have not only put ourselves on the map, we are also important pioneers. The Olympic Games in 2016 will be the first time an event of this magnitude will be hosted in all of South America. This is called “History in the Making”, a fact for which we should be very, very proud.

(continued on next page)



2014 - The World Cup Class





2016 - The Olympic Class



In the end, a city is only as interesting as the sum of its people, its culture, and its natural beauty. We at OLM are proud to be located in the center of Rio de Janeiro. We embrace the opportunities that will come our way in the form of knowing and welcoming people from other parts of the world, working on the creation of the event structure itself, lending a hand with language translation – the opportunities will be endless.

Hosting two major international events within two years gives OLM as an international American school every chance to live out our school mission as we become involved in the creation of this dream. We are grateful for the opportunity!

***Congratulations to the Class of 2014
and the Class of 2016,
who will get to leave their mark!***

SENIORS VISITAM A COP EDITORA

Apesar do dia chuvoso, não poderia ter sido melhor a visita que os alunos Erik Figueiredo e Arlindo da Motta, juntamente com a Ms. Xavier (Yearbook Advisor) e Adriano Morais (Graphic Designer), fizeram a Cop Editora, gráfica responsável pela tiragem do Yearbook nas últimas 4 edições.

Tivemos uma atenciosa recepção, com direito a cafezinho bem fresquinho. Aguardamos um pouco o Sr. Wisley, um dos donos da Cop Editora, e começamos nosso tour pelas instalações.

Conhecemos duas máquinas de impressão off-set (impressão onde são usadas matrizes com imagens gravadas a laser em uma chapa de alumínio), que imprimem em 4 cores, em uma velocidade grande e com todos os ajustes de calibragem de cores possíveis. É nessa impressora off-set onde são impressas as páginas de nosso Yearbook e a capa.

Em seguida, conhecemos o processo pelo qual são cortadas as folhas de papel que serão usadas na impressão. Essa etapa consiste em pegar as folhas de papel, que vêm direto das fábricas de papel e celulose em tamanhos grandes, e cortá-las em tamanhos que possam ser afilados (inseridos, montados...) nas impressoras off-set.

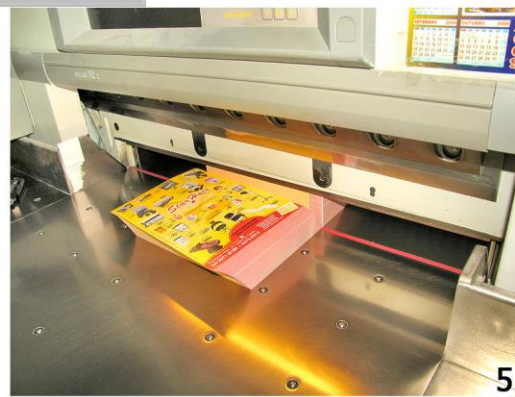
Conhecemos depois uma máquina que é responsável por fazer a dobra dos cadernos, que são um grupo de folhas impressas e dobradas, o que equivale a 8 páginas de uma publicação. Esses cadernos serão depois agrupados e colados em uma capa dura, dando origem ao nosso Yearbook.

Um dos momentos mais interessantes da visita foi quando observamos o funcionamento da máquina de corte. Se alguém acha que já viu como se corta papel em grande quantidade, pode esquecer. Esta máquina consegue cortar com uma precisão milimétrica e da maneira como uma faca passa em um bloco de “manteiga”. O funcionamento é todo automático, mas a curiosidade está no fato de apenas funcionar quando o funcionário aperta dois botões ao mesmo tempo e afastados um do outro, obrigando o uso das duas mãos e diminuindo a probabilidade de um acidente em praticamente 0%. Isso sem falar no sensor de presença que identifica o momento em que qualquer objeto se aproxima da lâmina, que é parada instantaneamente. Incrível de se ver!

Por fim, conhecemos o processo de laminação, que consiste em aplicar sobre o papel uma camada bem fina de polietileno, podendo ser brilhante ou fosco. Esse processo é utilizado, por exemplo, na capa de nosso Yearbook, dando aquele aspecto aveludado na textura da folha.

Sáimos de lá muito felizes, principalmente os alunos Erik e Arlindo, pois até o momento, não tinham noção da quantidade de etapas, de tecnologia e da enorme responsabilidade na elaboração de uma publicação tão importante como é o nosso Yearbook.

Parabéns aos alunos e a Ms. Xavier pela iniciativa de visitar a gráfica. Obrigado ao Sr. Elias por nos conduzir com segurança, apesar do GPS ‘problemático’ do Erik que insistia em nos levar para uma rua homônima em Minas Gerais! Que venha nosso Yearbook 2010! *Adriano Morais - Yearbook Graphic Designer*



- 1- Adriano e Erik observam a impressora off-set.
- 2- Sr. Wisley explica para Erik o funcionamento da máquina de dobra e vinco.
- 3- Resultado da dobra dos cadernos.
- 4- Máquina faz laminação fosca - mesmo recurso utilizado na capa do Yearbook.
- 5- Máquina de corte em um bloco de 1.000 folhas.

CENTRO HISTÓRICO DO RIO DE JANEIRO

Christian Pedrosa ('10)

Um dos aspectos dinâmicos do currículo escolar do OLM, assim como na maioria das escolas, é a inclusão de excursões correlacionadas com a matéria dada em sala de aula. Os alunos do 12^{th grade} fizeram uma visita guiada pelo centro do Rio de Janeiro, onde foram abordados aspectos históricos e econômicos na formação da cidade e do país. Três guias acompanharam os alunos, fornecendo com informações, detalhes e fatos históricos sobre cada um dos locais visitados. As professoras de História – Ms. Lúcia Helena - e de Literatura – Ms. Marisa Menezes - também acompanharam a turma.

O percurso começou em frente ao Palácio Tiradentes. O Palácio é batizado de Tiradentes por ter sido o palco do enforcamento do principal líder da Inconfidência Mineira – Joaquim José da Silva Xavier. A magnitude e o estilo eclético do palácio protagonizam um contraste em meio aos arranha-céus e edifícios comerciais do centro do Rio de Janeiro. A construção já serviu de cadeia, ao mesmo tempo em que se regia o Parlamento Imperial nos andares superiores. Após a instauração do Estado Novo em 1967, passou a ser a sede do Departamento de Imprensa e Propaganda, e desde 1975 abriga a Assembléia Legislativa do Rio de Janeiro.

Em seguida, os *Seniors* seguiram a pé para a Praça XV de Novembro. Sem dúvida, a Praça XV foi palco de momentos históricos do Brasil e ainda abriga monumentos e construções de valor inestimável. No sacada do Paço Imperial, por exemplo, deu-se o Dia do Fico em 9 de janeiro de 1822. Quando o Príncipe reiterou o seu amor pelo Brasil, recusando-se a retornar a Metrópole. Neste logradouro encontramos fontes de água e o cais do porto utilizados até o século XIX.

O guia Fernando exibiu uma série de cartazes que ilustravam as mudanças ocorridas na região em suas respectivas épocas. O Paço Imperial, o Convento e a Bolsa de Valores são alguns exemplos dessas construções que, hoje, são tombadas como patrimônio nacional.

Após a visita à Praça XV, o 12^{th grade} conheceu uma pequena rua – Rua do Mercado - que ainda preserva casas antigas e bem próximas umas das outras, como era nos tempos de Brasil Colônia. Encontra-se nessa rua a casa de Carmen Miranda, ícone brasileiro responsável por divulgar a nossa cultura nos Estados Unidos. A turma teve a oportunidade de conhecer e almoçar em outro ponto histórico da cidade, a Confeitaria Colombo que foi fundada em 1894 por imigrantes portugueses. Personagens como Getúlio Vargas, Juscelino Kubitschek e a Rainha Elizabeth da Inglaterra também já passaram por lá. Durante uma hora e meia os alunos saborearam o delicioso Buffet da Colombo enquanto outros, inexplicavelmente, preferiram almoçar no McDonald's ao fim da Rua do Ouvidor.

Uma última caminhada pelo Centro Histórico levou os alunos ao *Real Gabinete Português de Leitura*. A fachada externa é de mármore esculpido em Portugal – trazido de navio – enquanto o interior segue o estilo neomanuelino. Os quatro andares, repletos de obras raras, deixaram os alunos da OLM estupefatos.

A excursão pelo Centro Histórico do Rio de Janeiro foi extremamente valiosa em termos de enriquecimento cultural. A grande maioria dos alunos é carioca, porém apenas alguns conheciam os detalhes e os segredos por trás da formação política, social e econômica da nação. O centro da capital fluminense detém inúmeras construções, marcos, e acervos que testemunharam a formação do Brasil. Portanto, é capaz de despertar a cidadania em muitos alunos do 12^{th grade}. Os guias turísticos, especialmente o Fernando, tornaram a visita muito interessante e rica em detalhes. Esse passeio despertou a curiosidade de muitos alunos para conhecer melhor a história do Rio de Janeiro.

Seniors na escadaria do Palácio Tiradentes com Ms. Oliveira e Ms. Menezes



Kotaro admira a magnitude do Real Gabinete Português de Leitura



1. Arco do Teles

2. Confeitaria Colombo

3. Igreja Nossa Senhora da Lapa dos Mercadores

4. Praça XV de Novembro



CHILDREN IN CHRIST DAY

by Gisela Duniec & Ms. Almeida



On Saturday, September 26th, fifty two students from first through third grade came to school to spend the day with Jesus by participating in moments of prayers, songs, dramatization and the dynamics of spending time together in an atmosphere of living the Gospel. The religious activities motivated the students to have good manners and a respectful attitude toward each other. It was gratifying to observe them practicing Christian values in their lives and working to improve their behavior. It was a wonderful day, the best “Children in Christ Day” we have had, because the group was so united, courteous and friendly. First time participants felt included and left the day having some new friends and happy memories of attention, solidarity, inclusion, helpfulness and order.

We of the Religion Department are particularly appreciative of the presence of Amanda Esteves (13), Fernanda Machado (13), Fernanda Merege (13) Giulianna Nicolatino (13), Isabella Nothaft (15), and Ana Luiza Ferrer (15). Their care and help modeled for the children what Jesus would do if He were in their midst.

The children loved them and will not forget them.



ALMOST AUSTRALIA

Ms. Carvalho & Ms. Biggers

The 4th graders got to appreciate cultural diversity at the “Outback Steakhouse”. It’s so interesting to learn about other cultures! Words like billabong, Uluru, kangaroo, wombat, and boomerang come to life and gain color at the Outback. Who are the Aboriginal people? Who was Ned Kelly? What is the capital of Australia? Ask a 4th grader!

The students were also treated to a “walkabout” in the restaurant’s kitchen. After learning a bit about the history and geography of Australia, Blokes and Sheilas also got a taste of delicious kookaburra with chips. Thanks Outback, and see ya later, Mates!



MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTY



On September 12, the school opened its doors for a party for the middle schoolers. The **Hollywood Night** was filled with candy, hot dogs, music and special costumes so the students had a lot of fun they even had the right to watch the last episode of the Brazilian soap opera *Caminho das Índias*. After that they continued to dance and socialize among each other. Even the student teachers had fun using some of the costumes provided. The decorations were beautiful and creative and the party was lovely. New students interacted with old ones, making friendships, strengthening



bonds. This school tradition happens every year, organized by the Middle School Student Council (STUCO) and its Adviser Dr. Sonia Melo.



by Roberta Hélcias ('11)

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS FIELD DAY



On September 22, our 6th graders had the opportunity of participating in the “Encontro Entre Escolas Bilingues do Rio de Janeiro”. The event took place at the *Escola Suíço-Brasileira* where students from other bilingual schools came together for a scheduled day of fun and games. Munna Alexandre (6th A) was our **OLMatters** insider. She told us that before leaving to the gathering site, Ms. Valente distributed colored T-shirts to each student. Each color characterized a specific team. Students randomly received red, yellow, green, blue or gray team options.

OLMatters: What were you and your friends told about the event?



Munna Alexandre: Ms. Valente told us that other bilingual schools would participate in the event and that we would be mixed with other students in our particular teams. It was not going to be a school against school competition. As the 6th graders prepared to hop in the bus, Munna recalls being both anxious and thrilled to be spending the day with other kids her age.

OLMatters: What happened when you arrived at the *Escola Suíço-Brasileira*?

Munna: When we got there, we gathered into our teams together with the other student participants. The teachers divided each of the groups into four sections, for example: yellow 1, 2, 3, 4. Each of the teams competed against each other in fun sports like beach volleyball, soccer, dodge ball and kickball.

OLMatters: How were the games?

Munna: Everyone did their best to have a good game. There were many good players, but what really mattered was that everyone had a chance to play. The young reporter lastly shares how enjoyable the bus trip back to OLM was, with students singing and conversing about the progression of the day.

OLMatters: What was the best aspect of the event?

Munna: We were able to meet new people, and make new friends while getting to know each other a little better as well. That's what Middle School is all about. It was a fabulous day!

As Munna intentionally said, it was a magical day that was not only represented by being an interactive event, but also by the reinforcement of fair play. The sixth graders proudly represented **OLM** by respecting the given rules. **OLMatters** applauds them for their fellowship and sportsmanship!

JAPAN WITH CHOP STICKS



Learning about different cultures is always a good thing, and the visit of the Japanese School to OLM has always provided us with so many enriching opportunities for the children to share different customs. This time, 3rd grade showed them some of the traditional American Mother Goose Poems, and taught them a little bit about our city's beautiful geography and interesting sites to visit. They taught us how to count to 10 and also how to play "rock - paper - scissor" in Japanese. After a hearty meal, everyone

had a great time playing a very international game - soccer!

By Ana Carla Scavarda & Daniela Haas

Japanese Numbers:



Practice by watching the song at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3won-7W3Js&feature=player_embedded#



Japan - USA - Brazil - What a team!

We love Mother Goose!



And this is Rio...



*Head,
Shoulders,
Knees,
and
Toes!*



HOW ON EARTH DOES ONE BECOME AN ENGLISH TEACHER?

By Mariana Rebello



Drawing by one of Ms. Rebello's students

Skimming through my memory I could say there were quite a few events so far that most effectively contributed to this achievement, both academically and professionally, but I prefer to leave these facts out in order to narrate a much more colorful trajectory, if I may.

Of course, there was hard work to be done and creativity would be key, if I was to become anything like the best teachers I myself had the pleasure of learning from in school. Looking back, I think Mr. Giuseppe, my former High School English teacher, is single-handedly the most important inspirational icon for me. Not only was he able to successfully brand the lessons into our brains, but most relevantly, his approach at it, the way he did it, will always make him be remembered and loved by all those who were fortunate enough to have him in the classroom.

He was this wonderfully dreamy-eyed man, who strongly believed in the goodness of mankind

and sounded like he truly suffered with “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune”, especially when quoting Shakespeare. I must say his unique style and entertaining classes still move me to this day. He had this knack for making you feel like your opinion mattered, like everything you learned was important. That really got us swimming deep in the waters of text interpretation. I can't say I fully grasp how he did it, but I'm definitely, honestly, interested in trying to find out.

In retrospect, the journey into how I became an English teacher may have been jump-started by the cruelty of the first childhood bullies, and chilled by icy, snowy Canada. I was only 7 years old, yet I fiercely strived to master this

language, driven by the instinctive need to communicate as a means to survive. Okay, maybe that's a little too dramatic – but then again, the way I see it, drama is at the heart of being a good English teacher in the first place. Perhaps I just wanted to get the other kids' jokes and make new friends - to express myself and be understood, as soon as possible. According to Mr. Giuseppe, I always was a “social butterfly”, anyway.

As a matter of fact, theatre played a major role in my metamorphosis. I clearly remember there being an opportune romance between me and the script, “love at first sight”, some would say, which took place right here at OLM, on an improvised cafeteria stage as I stepped up to the role of Peter Pan's sweetheart Wendy Darling. If it isn't in the yearbook, I'm sure it's somewhere; mom must still have those pictures. This steady relationship with the world of interpretation grew

as I ventured into adolescence and I have not steered far from the Dramatic Arts since.

Eventually, the trials and tribulations of adult life - pre-requisites to growing up, by the way - offered the role of English teacher. Yes, life got really ugly. Just as Cat Stevens' “wild world” opened its mouth and was about to swallow me whole...there was the memory of Mr. Giuseppe and all those amazing and inspiring teachers to the rescue.

I full-heartedly launched myself into this new world of teaching to discover that it had all the elements I was searching for upon the stage. It had an audience who expected to be entertained for a given amount of time, with a script to be understood, developed and presented. Besides, you could always count on a pinch of improvisation to up the ante.

After that precious realization, the stormy seas of life evened themselves out with tranquility of time and have led me to some pretty steady smooth sailing from then on. Professional maturity came around fast but I couldn't forget to mention the incredible fun I had in a few really cool jobs in the meantime, such as: translating commercials for Cannes Festivals, chaperoning foreign friends as an attentive tourist guide throughout the breathtaking sights of Rio de Janeiro or even recording voiceovers for film and radio. I loved the studio and, excuse my vanity, but my voice sounded awesome in English.

Finally, as one thing usually leads to another, and then, takes you back to where you started, life fulfilling its cycle took me by surprise, and brought me back to a place I hold dear in my heart. Here I am, an English teacher at OLM. I am still trying to understand how old Mr. Giuseppe worked his magic.



Clean Up The World is a community based environmental program that inspires and empowers individuals and communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve their environment.

Now in its 17th year, Clean Up the World, held in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), mobilizes an estimated 35 million volunteers from 125 countries annually, making it one of the largest community-based environmental campaigns in the world.

Clean Up the World's Ambassador Céline Cousteau, (granddaughter of legendary filmmaker Jacques Cousteau) was present at the 2009 edition in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro. *Mlle. Céline* joined to Clean Up The World as Ambassador last year and her intention is build up her passion for the environment, inspiring and encouraging everyone to take part in the campaign.

The **Programa Limpeza Na Praia**, a branch of **Clean Up The World** since 2003, has been running this campaign for the last seven years with the *Instituto Ecológico Aqualung (IEA)*.

This year's theme was "Communities United Against Global Warming", according to the UN, UNEP, and CLEAN UP THE WORLD.

The refuse gathered is sent to recycling cooperatives and other institutions. A final report with data and photos of the event will be produced and sent to the UN/ UNEP and Clean Up The World Austrália.

Our Lady of Mercy School, is very proud to be on this team with the **Aqualung Ecological Institute** for the second consecutive year!



Hundreds of cigarette butts



OLM Prize Winners

