



Volume IV Number III

OLMatters



Rio de Janeiro, Nov/Dec 2008



www.olmrio.com/olmatters

PROFESSIONAL DAY

Teachers getting better at teaching who they are
by Claire Collins

On the day following Thanksgiving, all the teachers of all the grades at Our Lady of Mercy School got together for workshops in school meant to enable our school mission and goals by keeping abreast of current themes, concerns, and new trends in education.

The teacher of the XXI Century needs special abilities never before required of educators in a regular school setting that include not only excellent content knowledge, top of the line methodology, and technological preparation, but also an understanding about how our school functions nowadays within a society based on legal standards mandated by civil law.

The teachers had an opportunity to hear legal advice by one of the most respected lawyers in the field of school/family relationships in Rio de Janeiro, in addition to discussing specific case studies at OLM to ensure positive outcomes.

The Middle and High School teachers went on to take part in a special seminar based on the book "Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key" which not only addressed the question of how to interface with hyperactivity in school but also to realize that education is about recognizing and working with conditions and situations that are becoming commonplace among our young students. Our

computer savvy world has sped up the human mind to the point where sometimes common behavioral patterns get disturbed! How to handle special situations was amply discussed.



After lunch, the teachers worked in their own specialized content areas. The focus of this moment is the upgrading of the OLM content curriculum so hours were spent dedicated to accomplishing the task in all departments!

The last analysis of the day is that every one came away from our Professional Day with something to think about or plan for. Our mission as educators is a clear path of challenges before us that transform us as we continue to rise to meet them every day.

A SEASON OF JOY, HOPE, TRANSFORMATION

by John J. Majka

What is the true message of Christmas, unless it is that God cares, that creation was not an accident but an act of love, that humbling oneself by becoming a baby and giving up one's greatness is the only way to transform a world that is centered on and paralyzed by power, privilege and posturing. Christmas is God saying: "Do as I have done."

It may well have been from his study of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures that Mahatma Gandhi concluded with this bit of wisdom: "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

In a wonderful movie from 1975 called *Lies My Father Told Me* a boy from the Jewish ghetto in 1920's Montreal asks his grandfather about when the Messiah will come. The grandfather says that he thinks the Messiah has already come but we will not be able to recognize him until everyone treats each other as brothers and sisters in peace and harmony.

To anyone wanting to hear a message of joy, hope and transformation, Christmas shouts it out joyfully into a dark night, sprinkled hopefully with distant stars.

I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS...*by Josh Rundle*

So begins one of the all-time Christmas classics. Every year around this time this song gets stuck in my head, and this year is no exception. But to tell you the truth, I'm starting to lose hope that I'll ever see another white Christmas—at least while I'm living here in Rio!

Perhaps, though, Irving Berlin wasn't talking only about snow when he penned his famous lyric. Perhaps he had something more in mind when he chose the color white over the traditional Christmas red and green.

White is a color that is rich in symbolic significance, especially for Christians. It symbolizes the purity with which the infant Christ, and indeed each of us, came into this world. And so a 'White Christmas' calls us back to the innocence of our birth, challenging us both to see the goodness in the world around us and to share our own goodness with others.

White is also the color of forgiveness, rebirth, and new life, and it is exactly this that we remember and celebrate anew each Christmas: that in Christ's coming into the world the world and everything in it was reborn. And so a 'White Christmas' reminds us of our central Christian belief: that our God is loving, merciful, and forgiving, and that through Christ, rebirth and new life can be ours whenever we seek them.

So while it's a pretty sure bet that we're not going to get any snow here in Rio this December, it just might be a 'White Christmas' anyway. May your hearts and homes be filled with the joy of Jesus' birth, *and may all your Christmases be white.*



QUIZ BOWL CONTEST

Beth Freire

Quiz Bowl is over for the 1st semester and

the winners are once again members of the Class of 2010. Deborah Canepa, Priscila Machado, Gabriella Lopes, and Corinne Ippolito are congratulated for their effort and knowledge!



Is there any other team that is ready to break Class 2010's three semester hold of the title?

BROTHERHOOD DAY

Antonia Teixeira ('11)

Brotherhood Day provided a Time for Leisure, Games, and interaction. Although Monsignor André Sampaio was not present, Ms. Kátia Souza organized activities that helped the class to mingle to talk and listen to each other about our lives. Together with these spiritual activities, there was volleyball, basketball and soccer with the hot weather, however, the entire class spent a lot of time in the pool area. This Brotherhood Day was very pleasant way to continue the task of knowing each other better and bonding as a class according to the goals we set at the beginning of the year in our "Peace begins with me" campaign.



FUTEBOL DE SALÃO

Artilheiro não é quem faz o gol mais bonito, mas aquele que faz o maior número de gols. **Ailton** é o artilheiro do torneio interno de futebol de salão deste ano, com 8 gols seguido de perto por Silvano, 7 gols e Cláudio, 6 gols.



O torneio, organizado pelo professor Waldeir de Souza, acontece há cinco anos, no mês de novembro durante um dia. Esse evento proporciona uma excelente oportunidade de integração entre os funcionários de diversas áreas da Escola. **OLMatters** tem o prazer de anunciar a equipe vencedora: Mário, Daniel, Cláudio, Silvano, Carlos H., Flávio Azevedo. *Sandra Xavier*

FIELD TRIP TO CABO FRIO

João Victor Galbego ('11)



On November 13, 2008 the Tenth Grade had a field trip to Cabo Frio. Our objective was to learn some biological, geographical and historical aspects of

the region. We left school at 6:30 am, with no delays. We arrived at our Hotel in the Praia do Peró*, changed clothes and headed straight to the beach to walk to a hill between the Praia do Peró and Praia das Conchas. As we climbed the hill we observed the types of vegetation and some geographical aspects. We came over the hill and down to the Praia das Conchas. There, we rested for about an hour as our tour guides dived for some marine animals and organisms. After that they showed us the various species you could find in the region and we headed straight to the Hotel for lunch. After lunch, we showered and went back into the bus, heading for the Praia do Forte. We stopped the bus about a quarter mile from the Fort that was celebrating 397 years since its founding that day and walked toward it. There we heard a quick talk about its importance and went back to the bus to return to school.



Maria Eduarda astounded by the natural beauty of a starfish ('11)

Save the Date

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| First Day of Classes PN-12 th Grade | Feb 02 |
| Valentines Day | Feb 14 |
| Carnival | Feb 23 – Feb 25 |
| MUN New York | Mar 15 – Mar 22 |

OPERATION SMILE CLUB

Operation Smile is a non-profit medical service organization that provides cleft lip and palate repair surgeries to children worldwide, assists countries in reaching self-sufficiency with these surgeries, and works to eliminate the occurrence of cleft lips and palates.



On Saturday, November 8th, OLM and EARJ students were invited to attend a conference at the Hotel Miramar where they learned about the International Student Program of Operation Smile. College students from the U.S, as well as the coordinator of the program in Brazil, Matheus Mattos, shared their experiences with the foundation.



The program provides volunteer opportunities for students from elementary through college, teaching them about the importance of multiculturalism, social awareness and civic responsibility through three key areas: leadership,



service, and education. The meeting began at 8a.m., and by 6p.m. students had a deeper acquaintance with the foundation, gained leadership skills, and most importantly, knew the basics about starting up a smiling club in our community. The objective of



the smiling club is not only to promote Operation Smile, but mainly to raise funds for the organization. Operation Smile itself would not be able to change so many lives without fundraising.

Next to major corporations, student fundraising generates the most amount of money for Operation Smile each year. Every surgery costs \$240, so no matter how much money is raised, every penny makes a difference.

The day was replete with interaction, activities, and an energized, fully positive environment. The following day, students returned to the Hotel at the same time as the previous day, where toys were collected in order to donate them to children who were hospitalized in the Municipal Hospital Municipal Jesus in Vila Isabel. The afternoon was spent interacting with the kids, and supplying each with a toy and a dental kit. At 1p.m. students were back at the Hotel for a final reflection about the heart touching experience. It was noticeable to detect a change in each of us. Words can never describe the satisfaction of simple actions. Though we gave some of our time to be with children we had never met, the reward was much greater than the smile on their faces.



The club will start in the beginning of next semester. Anyone who wishes to join the cause should speak with Gabriella Lopes, Priscilla Machado, Corinne Ippolito, or Ms. Katia Souza.

Giovana Rajão ('10)

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Day is a traditional holiday celebrated

Pre-Nursery: Thank you God for giving us LOVE! in the USA, officially proclaimed during the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. In the time of the Pilgrims, the purpose of Thanksgiving was to express thanks to God for the great harvest that year. Nowadays it also means being thankful for

everything good that happened during the current year. We, OLM students thank our teachers and the staff for

dedicating their time and patience to improving our knowledge, caring for us, and making us grow. Thanksgiving is celebrated with prayer and songs, with special foods, such as turkey, pumpkin pie, corn, croutons, sweet potatoes, vegetables, and wine.

Marina Meyers ('12)

JAPANESE SCHOOL VISITS OLM

Second Grade Team

Second Graders were chosen to host some students, teachers, and parents from the Japanese School. It was a wonderful morning in which everybody had the chance to share cultural experiences.



The OLM students started the meeting singing some of their favorite children's songs.



After that, the Japanese students sang and played the keyboard before sharing Japanese games and different Origami activities.

BIG 8 TOURNAMENT

Christian Pedrosa ('09)

As part of our OLM High school Student-Athletic Program, the Lancers team attends a yearly sports tournament, held at *Acamparamentos NR 2* at *Sapucaí*



Mirim in the state of São Paulo. This year's BIG 8 Tournament took place from November 16-22. Our Lancers were well represented in

all five categories: Boys and Girls Basketball and Soccer teams, and the Cheerleading Squad. For most of the schools, the event is seen as an opportunity to ultimately test their sports ability and put into practice their competitive spirit. Over the last years, however, the Lancers have become more than just another competitive team: they have been referred to by the other schools as an example of sportsmanship and unity to a degree not yet achieved by any other. Even though a sports tournament's main goal is wins and athletic excellence, there are also those schools remembered for their sportsmanship, spirit and integrity as well. As quoted from this year's host school Athletic Director, Mr. Fast (PACA): "...the most important aspect of this tournament is not about winning games, but about developing strong relationships. One of the best ways to cultivate good relationships is by demonstrating good sportsmanship". Other schools have clearly observed the spirit of brotherhood among the Lancers in the way they have always cared for each other and cheered each other on enthusiastically during games, without disrespecting rival schools. Upcoming generations of Lancers will be expected to keep up this tradition. We might even conclude that this so-called spirit of kindness and unity may be a product of the education we receive at OLM.

MARY'S CORNER

OUR LADY OF LORETO



This title refers to the Holy House of Loreto, the house in which Mary was born, where the Annunciation occurred, and where an ancient statue of the Our Lady was found. It is said that angels took the house from Heaven and brought it down to Tersato, Dalmatia in 1291, then

to Reananti in 1294, and finally to Loreto, Italy, where it remained for decades. Because of this, she is the patron saint of all things related to aeronautics. Because of the long-lasting “life” of this house, Our Lady of Loreto is also the patron saint of builders and construction workers.

Celebrated on December 10th

<http://saints.sqpn.com/mary0011.htm>

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



Long ago, in 1531, a young man called Juan Diego was going to mass in Mexico City. On the road to the church, the Blessed Virgin appeared to him on the 9th of December. She sent Juan to see the Bishop and have him build a church at the place where she stood. She was there waiting for his answer when he returned. He said that the Bishop had asked for a sign that she was

truly who she said she was.

Our Lady of Guadalupe then sent him to gather roses on top of a nearby hill. Of course, her desire was impossible to comply, because of the snowy winter. Then, when Juan climbed the hill, he saw a bunch of roses there! He gathered them and brought them to the Bishop. Miraculously, an image of the Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on the humble man's tilma. When the Bishop saw these signs, he immediately knelt down and obeyed the Virgin's wish of having a Church built.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of all of Central America and we celebrate her on December the 9th. <http://www.sancta.org/intro.html>

OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the conception of Mary as pure, completely without stain of the original sin. This dogma states that, from the first moment of her existence, she was exempted by God from the original sin that everyone has, and that she was

filled with divine grace. It is also said that she lived a life entirely free from sins. The Immaculate Conception of Mary has been believed in for many centuries, but it was formally declared by Pope Pius IX, in 1854.

The Church celebrates the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* on December 8th, exactly nine months before celebrating the Nativity of Mary, that is, her birth.

THE PRAYER FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Father, You prepared the Virgin Mary to be the worthy Mother of your Son. You let her share beforehand in the salvation Christ would bring by His death, and kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Help us by her prayers to live in your presence without sin.

<http://www.catholictradition.org/Children/immaculate-conception.htm>

Amanda Esteves ('12)



CAUGHT BEING GOOD

Orfanato São João Batista

Christian Pedrosa ('09)

From the success of the Children's Party held last October 15 for 70 orphan kids at ***Casa São João Batista***, a Day



Care center in Botafogo, the High School Juniors organized a Christmas Celebration for the same children. Planning took

place during Community Service class in school, when Juniors divided a list of chores among themselves. We raised the money and with Ms. Souza's help we bought a trampoline as a Christmas present from the Class of 2010. On the day of the party, about fifteen Juniors stayed at school after a test and off they went. A crowd of thirty children were eager to have us play with them. Outdoor games, story telling, and a puppet show were among the various activities that entertained the kids for 3 hours. When it came close to the end of our time with them, one student (Aderbal) dressed up as Santa and surprised all of the children, of which many were experiencing their first true Christmas celebration. He removed the cloth covering the ball pool and the kids were ecstatic. One could see the joy that momentarily drove those children into delight, as they

struggled among themselves to decide who would be the first to enjoy the gift. It was clear for us Juniors that our work was done. We made Christmas



memorable for some children. Each of us earned 3 hours of Community Service, as well.

LA DIFICIL, PERO CONTAGIANTE TAREA DE SER MADRE



by Renata Ghiotti

Antes, cuando el bebé aún es una semilla, no nos damos cuenta de cómo será la vida con un ser tan pequeño y frágil. En los primeros meses de gestación, y hasta el final (¡¡¡jardua

espera!!!) mucha ansiedad y muchos planes de cómo arreglar el dormitorio, cuál será el sexo del bebé, con quien parecerá, si está todo bien, o sea, preocupaciones naturales, pero que a veces casi nos lleva a locura.

Me acuerdo en la mesa del desayuno escuchar muchas historias, personas hablando de sus experiencias, incluso preparando mi espíritu diciendo que probablemente no dormiría una noche entera por un largo tiempo. Estas personas estaban completamente ciertas...

João Victor nació el dos de octubre, y desde entonces, a pesar de no dormir y estar completamente agotada, no puedo dejar de decir que es una emoción inmensa y no hay como “mensurar” lo maravilloso que es tener en su responsabilidad alguien que dependa de ti para todo y todo el tiempo. No es porque soy su mamá, pero él es la cosa más linda que ya ocurrió en nuestra vida. Luego todos tendrán la oportunidad de conocerlo y ver lo simpático que es con todos.

En fin, me gustaría agradecer el cariño de todos, (¡no voy a decir nombres para no olvidarme de nadie!) los regalos, los pañales, los mensajes que recibí en la maternidad (¡me quedé extremadamente emocionada con el cariño de todos!), los correos electrónicos y a todos aquellos que siempre que me avistaban en el pasillo, corrían y muchas veces peleaban para llevar mis materiales diciendo que yo no podía ni llevar peso ni aburrirme con nada y nadie.

Bueno, termino por aquí dejando un beso a todos con mucho cariño y muchas nostalgias también. Aprovecho para desear feliz Navidad y que Dios les dé mucha paz y salud para que el Año Nuevo sea de grandes realizaciones para todos nosotros. Les veo en marzo de 2009. Un buen final de año y hasta el próximo semestre.

EARTH SCIENCE MUSEUM VISIT

Jéssica Marrucho ('14)



As part of our unit in science class about rocks and the universe, we went on a field trip to the *Museu de Ciências da Terra*

on November 26th, 2008, with Ms. Braga, Mr. Rundle and Ms. Jabulka. Rocks of all kinds were observed, such as talc, quartz and diamonds. There was also an exhibit of dinosaur fossils. Did you know that the biggest dinosaur fossil ever discovered is the *Trigonosaurus pricei*? This was one of many things the 7th grade learned. We took full advantage of the exhibitions shown in the museum. The information we learned about the creation of the universe will be essential for our science fair project next semester. We all liked it very much! It was a wonderful chance to enrich our knowledge and we look forward to more such experiences. In the immortal words of science teacher, Mr. Rundle: In the beginning the 7th Graders took all rocks for granted; then they realized that only some were granite. In the end, they all agreed that the field trip “rocked!”

Editorial Board

Students:

Alejandra Loaiza ('12), Amanda Esteves ('12),
Marina Meyers ('12), Giovanna Rajão ('10),
John Paul Cilenti ('15), Thiago Fabri ('17)

Teachers:

Elizabeth Barros, John Majka, Kátia Souza,
Sandra Xavier

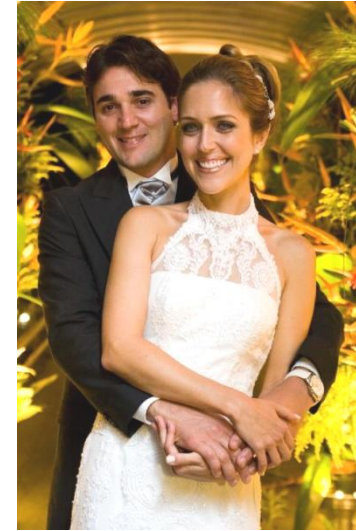
Photographers: Mônica Tinoco/Adriano Morais

PRINCESS OLGA MARRIES

...and they lived
happily ever after

by Flávia Malonk

On December 6th, 2008 **Olga Leira Martins** married **Carlos Augusto Távora Heitmann** at Santa Margarida Maria Church. I have known Olga since she was a student at Our Lady of Mercy School and for the past three years we have been working together. In that time we have become



very good friends and I had the honor to be one of her bridesmaids. As everyone had anticipated, she was stunning. The beautifully decorated church was filled with friends and family and we were all excited to be part of such a special moment in their lives. The wedding ceremony was celebrated by Monsignor Andre Sampaio, with the help of the music that was particularly touching. The reception for over three hundred people was held at Marimbás Club, which overlooks Copacabana Beach. Olga is very special to everyone at OLM. We congratulate her and Carlos Augusto and wish them a very happy life together.

*A educação dos filhos aflige a maioria dos pais que nem sempre sabe a medida exata do **Sim ou Não**.*

7º ano discute e escreve sobre essas relações. Ms. Miranda

Pais e Filhos: o que fazer?

Oscar Sweet - “Esse ciclo – palmada e conversa – nem sempre funciona. Na verdade, até piora a relação, pois as crianças guardam mais o rancor do que a conversa.”

Alessandra Sabrá - “É necessário que os pais passem mais tempo com os filhos e participem de suas vidas.”

Nathália Crespo - “Os pais nunca têm tempo para os filhos, mas insistem em dizer que os amam.”

Luiz H. Jannuzzi - “Na ausência dos pais, os filhos ficam à mercê da tecnologia. Os grandes vilões são o computador e os sites de relacionamento.”

Maria Pia - “Muitas vezes os pais não sabem como são os filhos... e só descobrem quando já é tarde demais!”

PARANÁ VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Jonas Castro ('12 - in the middle of the front row)

The Paraná championship is nothing less than the most important volleyball tournament for both male and female “mirim, infantil and infanto-juvenil” (under-14, under-16, and under-18, respectively) categories.

Participating teams spend five days in Curitiba playing other teams, at an average of two games per day. It happens every year around November, and it is already in its 8th edition.

This year, Botafogo only entered its male teams, and managed to get 8th, 12th (*me!*), and 11th place, respectively. It may seem as a bad campaign for Botafogo this year, but due to some internal problems, it wasn't all that bad. Still, next year, believe me; we'll be in the top 4, at least!!



O CASTELO ENCANTADO!

Alejandra Loaiza ('12)

Os alunos do nono ano (*Freshman*) foram no dia 04 de dezembro para Ilha Fiscal, acompanhados pela professora Elizabeth Barros e pela orientadora Cristina Machado.

Lá, tiveram uma visita guiada para conhecer as peculiaridades do local. Eles estavam muito interessados e perplexos devido à beleza da arquitetura.

Transferida em 1914 para a Marinha pelo Ministério da Fazenda, a Ilha é hoje parte do Complexo Cultural do Serviço de Documentação da Marinha. Elo entre o passado e o presente, a Ilha foi cenário do evento que ficou conhecido como “O Último Baile do Império” realizado alguns dias antes da Proclamação da República. O Castelinho, cenário de tantos fatos históricos, décadas depois, continua uma das curiosas atrações turísticas do Rio de Janeiro.



MACHADO DE ASSIS

Viva Machadinho!!

Departamento de Português

A genialidade de Machado está expressa em prosa e verso: das intrigas da corte até os segredos mais escusos da burguesia. Suas obras envolvem de tal forma o leitor, que, este, em alguns momentos, se torna um confidente ou juiz de determinadas situações. Machado de Assis é intrigante, provocador, persuasivo e sedutor.



Encenação de um *Apólogo*, narrativa curta com personificação de objetos inanimados de cunho ético-moral (7º ano)



“Menina Moça” *sec.* XX – poesia declamada por *Carolina Cabral*



Marcela (*Carolina*) conversa com Capitu (Maria Júlia) sobre seus “amores impossíveis”!

Flora (*Bárbara*) desabafa sua indecisão amorosa com Machadinho (*Anna Luíza*)



A narradora (*Jéssica*) alinhava a linda história de vida *Apólogo*

Sarau Machado recebe seus personagens (*Seniors*) em uma tarde informal.





Aderbal – Cory Collins, Announcer



Tracy & Edna Turnblad (M. Julia & Leo Santos)



Nicole, Bárbara e Raissa - Dynamites



"The nicest kids in Town"

William,
Danilo,
Leo,
Gabriela,
Marcela,
M. Isabel,
M. Julia,
Heloisa,
Aderbal
&
Ms. Fortes
(from left to right)



Motormouth Mavbelle – Maria Isabel



The production that was unveiled for us last Friday (December 5, 2008) pleased me greatly and assured me that we have many, many talents in OLM. This was the fourth play that I watched here and it made me believe that we must have a steady group presenting regularly. I am ready to participate myself, because we should remember that the majority of now famous Brazilian actors and actresses began their acting careers in school productions. The presentation of *Hairspray* was superb, as I expected it would be from when I used to stop to watch students rehearsing in the 3rd Floor classroom. Congratulations to all of them in general, from the ones who worked backstage (scenery, props, makeup, costumes) to the group that worked with the lights. The sound, however, was not good-- real proof once more that we MUST have an auditorium. The front court cannot do justice to big productions because of the poor acoustics. The sound crew did well with a serious handicap.

Let me not forget about the actors whose performances stood out and most importantly the director who never appears in front of the audience but has the most important role in a play. All the actors were excellent: special compliments to **Maria Isabel Lima** and **Leonardo Santos**, whose talent brought their characters to life. They were the stars of the production. Giving wonderful support to them were **William Prada**, **Aderbal Sabrá Filho**, **Maria Julia Argolo** and **Nathalia Nunes**, who showed they were more than just students who decided, perhaps just for fun to take part in a school play. The dancers were delightful as well. Congratulations to **Ms. Fortes** for another successful outing. Her dedication, her nice way of being, her persistence in insisting to get the best out of a group of adolescents and her professional way of dealing with different daily problems showed that she is really a superwoman. I love theatre and I wish we had more and more plays. With this stellar cast, I would dare to give a suggestion for the next production: **MAMMA MIA!** Why not?
Edno Viera