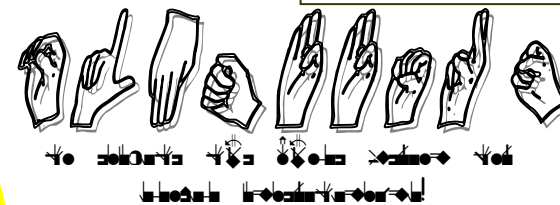


Volume II Number 6

# OLMatters

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“To Educate the Whole Person for Global Understanding”

Rio de Janeiro, April 2007

## THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF EASTER

*by Monsignor André Sampaio - (edited by Florência Monsalve)*

Easter or Resurrection Sunday is the day when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The early church saw his resurrection as the central witness to a new act of god in history and the victory of god in vindicating Jesus as the Messiah. This event marks the central faith confession of the early church, and was the focal point for Christian worship.

Easter is an annual celebration of the Resurrection that lies at the center of a liturgical year, it has been observed at least since the fourth century.

### *Origin and Significance of Easter Observance*

Prior to the fourth century Christians observed Pascha, a Christian Passover, in the spring of the year. It was adapted from the Jewish Passover; Pascha was a festival of redemption and commemorated both the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. It is likely that early Jewish Christians observed both Passover (Pesach) and Pascha. However, many Gentile converts were hesitant to adopt the Jewish festival, since the Jerusalem Council had decided that Gentile converts to Christianity did not have to observe the Jewish religious practices. By the fourth century Easter moved into a distinctively Christian celebration of the Resurrection, due to the increasing emphasis on Holy Week.

Like Passover, Easter is a movable feast. Its date is not fixed but determined by a system based on a lunar calendar. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (the day when the sun's ecliptic path in the sky crosses the equator, thus making the days and nights of equal length). This day usually occurs on March 21<sup>st</sup>, therefore Easter day can range between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. Jewish Passover is calculated differently, so the dates for Passover and Easter do not correspond.

In the Christian church year the two major cycles of seasons, Christmas and Easter, are far more than a single day of observance. Easter itself is a period of time rather than just a day. It is actually a seven-week season of the church year,

called Eastertide, which ends on Pentecost Sunday. These seven Sundays are called the Sundays of Easter.

These special days and seasons are a means to shape sacred time, a structure in which to define what it means to be a Christian and to call God's people to reverent and faithful response to God. Easter encompasses a time of preparation (Lent) as well as a following period of reflection on its significance for the life of God's people. (Pentecost).

## SYMBOLS OF EASTER

The origin of the English name “Easter” is not certain, many think that it derived from the Teutonic or Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, *Eostre* or *Eastre*.

Aspects surrounding Easter observance, such as eggs and bunnies have generated a considerable debate concerning the origin of some traditions used during Easter. Some argue that Easter is little more than an adaptation of a pagan fertility festival and has little to do with Christian tradition.

Many symbols of Easter have been adopted from various cultures. God's people have always used symbols with which they were familiar from the surrounding culture, and then infused them with new meaning to commemorate and worship God. These symbols were radically transformed into a means of expressing faith in the only true God in spite of their “pagan” origins.

**Bunny:** Bunnies are known to be the most fertile animal, so they symbolize abundance. Bunnies represent new life in the spring season.

**Egg:** Eggs represent fertility and the emblem of life. Eggs were brightly painted to reflect the sunlight in spring.

**Chick:** Chicks are a symbol of life.

**White lily:** The white lily is a symbol of resurrection.

**Sunrise:** Sunrise is celebrated at Easter because Mary Magdalene entered the garden and met the Lord at the rising of the sun.

**The Cross:** The Cross is how Jesus Christ saved us from our sins: the price of redemption.

## “CAMPANHA DA FRATERNIDADE” WEEK

*(The Senior Class prepared and presented a week on the theme of the Amazon, Global Warming and Ecological Awareness. Here are some of their reactions to the experience that was appreciated and applauded by the teachers involved, guests and the rest of the high school students.)*

I learned that poetry is the byproduct of the observations of men towards the earth. This byproduct is the potential fuel of transformation of the minds of other people. The process by which poetry is created requires the elevation of one’s mind to levels of understanding and self-criticism. Energy itself is created by the poetic process. **Alex Saltz**

...the March project specifically reminded me about the beauty of Japanese Literature. I really appreciated ...the great opportunity to introduce “Haiku”. It was hard to explain to foreign people, but I think it was not only good for them, but a good experience for me too...It was interesting to learn about English poems as well. I thought there would be only differences between how English and Japanese poets describe nature, but there are some connections between them. **Shingo Yamada**

This project showed global warming through many different aspects: besides the authors’ ideas on the subject we studied the physiological processes, history, biological and geographical influences and much more. It has made us all more aware of this extreme situation that surrounds us and threatens to destroy the world we know. **Tassiana Farias**

What I learned about English poetry was that it reflects the most beautiful aspects of nature and combines it with human feelings. Writers look for elements in nature to reflect their feelings and communicate a thought. They also use nature as symbols that represent things like darkness, light, joy...By using natural elements they succeed in passing on their feelings because what is good about nature is that it is common to everyone and it doesn’t matter in what part of the world a person is; there is always a place in nature that will cause amusement and awaken feelings. **Florência Monsalve**

I learned that the world one saw as a child is not so magical. Reality is not so easy to swallow, but by helping the world be a less polluted place and foreseeing the next generations growing healthy we could swallow the cruelty and global warming with a glass of water. Global warming is the effect that years of pollution and mistreatment of the earth have created. If one does not take measures to delete the poison that is killing our home, there won’t be any home for the rest. **Cecilia Rueda**

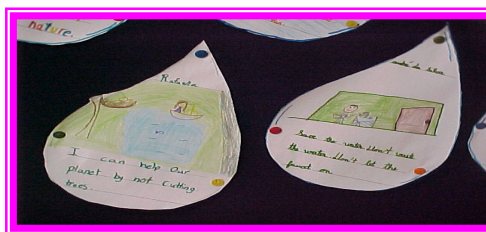
...it provided a wonderful last experience for the seniors to cause an impact on school and really change people’s minds about the planet’s future. As it was a real effort for the seniors and the teachers from the subjects that participated, all of OLM’s staff and teachers, as well as students, were astonished at what they learned about the impact that burning fossil fuels...is causing on the environment and on Planet earth. **Ana Carolina Sá Lucas**

It was impressive how the relevance of the environmental issue is unquestionable in all subjects. The issue is highly delicate, demanding an enormous amount of knowledge that must include all disciplines.... **Bernardo Colin**

Mary Wollstonecraft did not write about nature specifically but she wrote about women and the power that we have....[Through her] women learned to stand up for what they wanted and get where they are today. Although she did not write directly about nature....[she] stimulated women to be concerned enough about the world to do something. **Paula Galvão Lyra**

*Ms. Tinoco*

Great news! Our **2007 Yearbook** edition is just around the corner. The students are deeply involved in producing a memorable edition of the events of the 2006-07 school year. They are totally interested in planning, drawing page layouts, advertising, covering the major events in pictures, and writing all the texts about what has happened in school. **Start the countdown for its delivery!!!**



### SECOND GRADERS COMMIT TO SAVING THE EARTH!

*Second Grade Team*

After thoroughly discussing the issue they prepared bulletin boards in an effort to call people’s attention to this serious problem. They learned that if each one takes a little step towards helping nature, a lot can be accomplished (see photo at the left).



## EASTER PARADE

Three buildings down from school,  
in the middle of the sidewalk,  
an old dead tree  
haunted the passersby  
until the city removed it.

Two years as apatch of dirt –  
Candy wrappers, street debris.  
No living thing  
Survived such neglect.  
Then someone, remembering,  
cleaned and planted with care

Now, white and yellow flowers  
and bright violet buds  
cheer our way to school and  
grace our way back home.  
And the breeze—ah, the breeze—  
wafts of Paradise. (jjm)

# VENETIAN CARNAVAL AT OLM 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE'S MASKED BALL

### Editorial Board:

#### Teachers:

John Majka  
Kátia Souza  
Sandra Xavier

#### Students:

Maria F. Monsalve ('07)  
Samantha Guimarães ('07)  
Thiago Queiroz ('08)

**Photographer:** Mônica Tinoco

## NEWS FROM OLD FRIENDS

(From *Abby McCrate*, student teacher Feb-May 2006)

I've been checking out OLM's newsletter periodically.... I wish more schools here did something like that.

The new student teachers look happily settled. I know Natalie [Kuhl] through another friend....I hope this e-mail finds you well. I have some good news to share (well, two things, really). First, I successfully hosted my very own spelling bee a few weeks ago. Yes... I held a middle school and a high school bee, and had cute little bobble-head bee trophies as the prizes (plus a pizza party and a free dress day - you know, all those things you have to do to get students to participate).

And....secondly....I just found out yesterday that I got a NEW JOB!!!! I will be teaching 9th grade general English and 10th grade American Literature at a private, Catholic, ALL-GIRLS school next year! I'm super-stoked because the school is literally outside my front door. And it's gorgeous. Its cafeteria overlooks Western Avenue and downtown LA. And the staff is incredibly nice.... So I will be one of the rare LA breeds that does NOT have to commute into work everyday....it will be oh-so-fantastic!

(From *Nikola Spasic*, student teacher Aug-Dec 2005)

I hope all is good with you over there. I'm sure it is. I still ...am contemplating ways to visit and perhaps work/stay in Brazil. I really loved my time there and miss it....very much but I'm not too sure what I can possibly do/qualify for there because of my lack of fluency in Portuguese but if you ever get any ideas feel free to pass it on.

I've been working at a terrible charter school here. We teach the kids one on one that have been thrown out of The Columbus Public School system. We have no resources, benefits... or even classrooms for that matter. I teach in random libraries around the city....my roommate is a college dropout pizza delivery driver and makes more money than me. That's pretty awful!... Even with all of the chaos I still have been able to find Columbus a very refreshing place. There is lots of art(in all forms) happening every day. The galleries are full, the poetry readings are great and Ohio State University has a ton of events always....Anyways it's time for me to get back to work. I miss ya John and OLM. Tell all those 10th graders (probably seniors now) that I said hello and good luck.

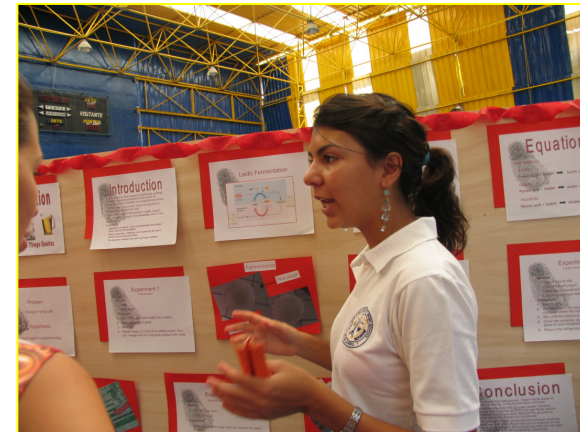


## SCIENCE FAIR 2007

*Alex Saltz and Camila Monteiro ('07)*

Our Lady of Mercy School's 2007 Science Fair occurred during the first week of March, involving middle and high school students. Projects from the science fields of chemistry, physics, and biology were exposed to the public in a two-day event. On Friday, students and teachers were able to appreciate the variety of experiments designed throughout the month of February. On the following day, the projects were presented to the students' families and friends.

This year, creativity was a key element in the building process. The AP tools provided by the science fair coordinator, biology teacher Ms. Raquel Braga, guaranteed a greater complexity of the experiments while allowing, simultaneously, a thorough understanding by the audience. Among the outstanding presentations were: **The Physiology of the Circulatory System, Building a Medieval Trebuchet and Levitating Trains.** The purpose of the Science Fair is to provide a better understanding of the scientific phenomena of everyday life through the use of scientific methods, as well as to increase the students' knowledge and love of that area.



## AN OCEAN OF REVELERS

*Gabriela Falcão('09)*

Flooding the palace of samba,  
The majestic scenario  
Covered in shimmering tinsel and joy  
As in any true Royal Ball,  
every princess was enchanted,  
every costume was unique.  
The glorious night  
they were all waiting for.  
Let the festival begin!

## RELIGION DEPARTMENT CONTEST

*April edition - Holy Week by Katia Souza*

- 1- What major celebrations take place in Holy Week?
- 2- What day opens Holy Week? What is remembered on that day?
- 3- Good Friday is the only day of the year when there is NO MASS. Tell the reason why.
- 4- Why are Easter eggs shared on Easter Sunday?
- 5- What celebration takes place on Holy Saturday? How is the celebration opened ?

The winners for the February / March edition were:

1st place: Joana Page, Jessica Marrucho and Isabela Nothaft ( 5th grade)

2nd place: Gustavo Brito and Paulo Feghali

***Congratulations to you all. Keep on participating!***

## SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

Mariana Santos (\*10)



Synchronized Swimming is a sport that needs a lot of physical resistance and preparation. Synchronized swimming is not only the music accompanying the beautiful movements. We athletes spend years of swimming and aerobic preparation. Not every one can do this sport. Usually we practice three to four hours a day at our club, sometimes including Saturdays and Sundays. Holidays, vacation trips, good times... these words do not exist in our dictionaries, but we love it. We practice on

all these dates on the Flamengo synchronized swimming team called “Hexa Campeão”.

In December, we had a competition consisting in swimming, flexibility, choreography, weight, and figures. From all of the results of these steps, the 12 first athletes were invited to practice on the Brazilian team. (Being on the Brazilian synchronized swimming team is very important, but having the opportunity to participate in the Pan American games is something even better!) We practiced six to seven hours a day, with a break of one hour. We had been practicing since January 8<sup>th</sup>, to compete the last week of February. It was a very short period, but with a lot of work. During the month of February with the beginning of school, we practiced only four and a half hours per day. On the Brazilian team there is another type of preparation to produce movements of greater difficulty and a higher class. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> the coach had to cut two athletes, because the federation decided that each country could only take 10 athletes to the competition in Caracas, Venezuela at the end of the month. [Barbara Gomes and I made the team.]

The competition started on the day after we got there. The first part was the figure. I was 15<sup>th</sup> place overall and 6<sup>th</sup> on my team. The Colombians were very good. They practiced very hard to beat us and came close, but for the seventh time, Brazil won the *South American Meet*. It felt great. The tension before the competition was tremendous, but after every thing was over and we finally went up the highest place on the podium, it was a relief. Like we Brazilians say “DE VIRADA É MAIS GOSTOSO!” (“A come-from-behind victory is sweetest”) We were behind the Colombian team by 0,15. It is not too much, but if we had lost this competition, it would have been too much for us. This was my second time on the Brazilian team and at the *South American Meet*. The last one that I went I was a category below the one that I am today (Juvenil A). With each Brazilian team meet that you make, you get better technically. Athletes from all over Brazil form the team. One good thing of the Brazilian team is that you get to know other coaches, and you get to practice together with other girls of other teams. It is another way of getting to know each other. We are only rivals when we swim for our clubs and defend our colors.

Representing Brazil is really important, because what we athletes do is not very easy, and we need to know how to do it very well, or else we can leave Brazil in a very bad position. One thing that is very hard is to study and practice at the same time. I missed a lot of classes and have a lot to catch up with.



There are perks, though, like on April 3, 2007 when I received an e-mail that the Brazilian team that had traveled to Caracas and won first place was invited to do a presentation on April 12<sup>th</sup> before the Governor of Rio de Janeiro, Sergio Cabral.

## INTER 8 NEWS

Maria Julia Argollo('09)



The 2007 Inter 8 tournament was considered to be a "Great Success" ("Borat") for most participants. Our male athletes ranked 6<sup>th</sup> without ever giving up. All soccer players: congratulations for the incredible performances especially in the games against ISC and St. Paul's. Very special accolades to our goalkeeper, Leonardo Santos ('08), for his amazing blocks.

Our girls team did their best, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> place with a 2 x 1 exciting win against ISC. A special thanks from all the athletes to our graduating seniors Ana Carolina Lucas and Jennifer Tinoco. You will be missed.

This year's indoor soccer and volleyball tournament was filled with excitement and pleasure not only on the court but also off, enjoying everything "Nosso Recanto" could provide. We plan on practicing hard the next months so that at next year's Inter 8 we might achieve higher goals, hoping to be as good as the 2007 version and better. We athletes are grateful to the P.E. department for all their dedicated effort.



Teachers and staff team that played against the girl **Lancers** at the exciting and raucous **PEP RALLY**. (See picture above and at left.)

## JUEGOS DE PALABRAS

Submitted by Ms. Renata Ghiotti

Completa estas oraciones con una de las palabras de la columna de la derecha. No puedes repetir ninguna. Fíjate mucho en la palabra subrayada.

E  
N  
E  
N  
P  
P  
A  
R  
R  
E  
E  
J  
J  
A  
A  
S  
S

A. pies  
B. ojos  
C. pelo  
D. muelas  
E. cerebro  
F. uñas  
G. nariz  
H. muñeca  
I. boca  
J. dedo  
K. orejas  
L. manos  
M. oídos  
N. rodilla  
Ñ. talones  
O. hombros  
P. espaldas  
Q. cabeza  
R. dientes  
S. piernas

1. Con el pañuelo nos limpiamos la .....
2. El reloj de pulsera se pone en la .....
3. El anillo no se lleva en ese .....
4. Se quedó con mal sabor de .....
5. Me hizo una trenza en el .....
6. Las gafas oscuras le tapan los .....
7. Estos guantes me protegen las .....
8. Ese ruido me hace daño a los .....
9. El menisco está en la .....
10. Lleva todo el peso sobre sus .....
11. Piensa poco: parece que no tiene .....
12. Cuando abre la boca se le ven los .....
13. No mastica bien porque le faltan las .....
14. Estos pantalones son más estrechos que tus .....
15. Los calcetines de lana quitan el frío en los .....
16. Quedó dudoso, se encogió de .....
17. Nunca lleva pendientes en las .....
18. El sombrero protege del sol la.....
19. Los zapatos de tacón hacen daño en los .....
20. Está nervioso y se come las .....

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Thiago Queiroz ('08)

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 of every year, and has as its objective to inspire all women around the world to achieve their full potential. It was created on February 28, 1909 by the Socialist Party of America, in the United States, after many protests by women in the beginning of the century in favor of shorter work hours and better wages and working conditions. International Women's Day also remembers the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, in New York City, in 1911 when over 140 women lost their lives. The cause of the fire was attributed to the very poor working conditions and long work hours that its women employees faced. Furthermore, Women's Day remembers the collective power of women in our society.

For this important date, we interviewed 6 women from all age ranges, asking their opinion on Women's Day and how they believed their rights have changed over the years. Their opinions were quite diverse. As we read, it is noticeable that women themselves approach the topic "women's rights" in a very different way. The bottom line is that prejudice towards women is like any other prejudice, be it towards race, color or religion, and has to be fought until everyone is indifferent.

*(The interviews were conducted in Portuguese, and translated into English.)*

**OLMatters: "Do you believe that the existence of International Women's Day is important?"**

"Yes, because women are experiencing more personal growth with each passing day."

"No, because women have already overcome men in many different aspects, and are also more important than they are in today's society, therefore a date dedicated to women is not needed."

"No, because men and women should have equal rights, if there is no international day for men, there should be no international day for women."

"Of course, because we are as important as men in society. I believe that there should also exist an international men's day. Not having this just reinforces the thought that Women's International Day was created condescending towards women."

"Certainly, because women have earned many rights in society that they didn't have in the past, such as the right to vote and to be free to do and be whatever they want."

"Very, I believe women have deserved to have a special day just for them."

**OLMatters: "Do you believe that women have more rights in society today than in the past? If yes, how so?"**

"Certainly, today there are women ministers of government, and even military officers."

"Yes, much more. In the past women didn't have the right to work, didn't earn a fair wage, and today they earn about the same as men."

"Oh yes. As the years have passed, women have been growing and gaining more rights. I believe the rights of women are almost equal to men's."

"Yes, of course. But there is still prejudice and women are still earning less than men, even though we are as competent as men."  
"Of course, women have conquered their rights and have proved to be just as good as men."

"Each passing day women have greater strength in society. They continue the struggle and have almost as much power in society as men."

**OLMatters: "Do you believe that women still have more rights to earn and prejudice to overcome in today's society?"**

"I believe that women are already occupying many places that they once didn't, which is already a great victory. One of the few spots women haven't reached is the presidency, at least in Brazil, so I believe that this could be a next step."

"Yes, it's only a matter of putting the feeling that 'men are better' a little bit aside and we'll get there."

"I think that in the same way as men. The rights that women still have to gain are the rights that men, meaning human beings in general, still have to conquer."

"Yes, we have to unite ourselves and do whatever it takes to be treated with the same rights as men."

"I believe that yes, and naturally as time passes women will gain more rights, until we have even more rights than men."

"More rights, yes, women have to be just as men."

## SYMBOL OF LIFE

*John J. Majka*

Throughout the month of March, every morning as I rode in to work, I passed by a billboard produced by the City of Maricá: **Woman—Symbol of Life.** It was the city celebrating its female residents during the month of March.

Why would the present Municipal Administration be so aware of International Women's Day? Is it just politics—the Mayor thanking the women who voted for him and who gave him re-election in a close ballot? Maybe. Maybe not. But should we be so cynical as to attribute any interest in some serious issue as simply a question of political correctness?

Anthropologist, Ashley Montague, in his book, ***The Natural Superiority of Women***, decades ago pointed to life as the protagonist in this claim. Even women who have never been, nor may ever be, mothers, are nurturers of life in a special, particular, unique way.

In Christian theology women could be considered sacraments since women are what they symbolize: they *give* life as well as *live* it. Their physical makeup speaks of life at its core, allowing the physical at its most carnal to become an enduring symbol of life to its fullest..

In her poem “Phenomenal Woman” Angela Mayou writes:

***Now you understand  
just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing,  
It ought to make you proud.***

It is as important to celebrate woman as it is to celebrate life, for women themselves may forget how precious they are.

Don Quixote's quest also involved not letting the common, unlettered and crude servant girl Aldonza ever forget that she was, in fact, the beautiful, gentle, mysterious and wise Dulcinea.

Eve means mother of the living and her spirit reigns in the presence of women throughout history.

*Hail Mary full of grace....*



## PORTUGUESE TEACHER WEDS

*Camila Romulo*

**Melissa Martins** was married on April 14 in a moving, outdoor, religious ceremony, postponed briefly by rain. A number of her fellow teachers were present to pray and then party with her. She was radiant and we wish her and her husband all the beauty and wonder of a happy marriage

## SMARTBOARD CONTEST

*Mónica Tinoco*

Congratulations Parents, teachers and students who participated in SMART's **World Teachers' Day Video Contest 2006.** As one of the finalists OLM received a **Certificate of Appreciation** from the SMART TECHNOLOGIES INC. - Canada, for its outstanding creativity and hard work. Our special thanks to teachers Ms. Anna Carla Scavarda, Ms. Renata Menezes and Ms. Raquel Braga who took part in a group of educators that embrace technology as a way to prepare their students for the future.



## COLORS IN HIS EYES

*Julia Valois (08)*

He says her name because of the way it looks on paper, //  
Like a breeze that's forgotten to low.  
Quietly stand the four letters,  
Each with a mind of its own.

He says her name because of the way it looks on paper, //  
Because she never looks at him anymore. //  
It's almost as if she looks through him,  
His eyes aren't pretty like the windows on the floor. //

He says her name because of the way it looks on paper, //  
Because the ink letters can't look away.



