



Volume II Number I

# OLMatters

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Educate the whole person for global understanding!

“To Educate the whole person for global understanding”

Rio de Janeiro, August 2006

## YOUNG AND OLD: A VERY NICE MIXTURE.

Ms. Kátia Souza

It was a warm gathering between some OLM students and some elderly residents of a nearby nursing home June 21<sup>st</sup>. The OLM Youth Group spent the afternoon playing BINGO with the residents. It was fun for them to be together and learn how valuable it is just to be with each other. Maybe other students would be interested in joining them next time they meet. Talk to Leandro Araújo ('11), Maria Eduarda ('11), Giovanna ('11), Victoria Oddoni ('12), Priscilla Machado ('12) and Paula Lyra ('07). Congratulations! That is what a Youth Group is all about.



## AN URGENT APPEAL

By Gabriella Lopes ('10)

For two decades East Uganda is bearing a brutal Civil War that is destroying millions of lives. The government is trying to fight the *Lords Resistance Army* or *LRA*, a rebel army whose leader Joseph Kony believes that he is God. With this power he eludes people to destroy lives. In combat they use children as weapons and protection; abducted children are forced to kill, rape, kidnap, and commit acts of cannibalism and torture. When they do not obey the order they are killed or serve as sex slaves. Adults suffer by losing their families and most of the time they have no shelter or food and die.

Thousands and thousands of children are killed, raped and brutally murdered everyday. The children that escape the LRA rebels still have a long journey ahead of them. They are known as **Nightwalkers**. They leave their villages to escape from being kidnapped and killed. These children walk long hours at night to find a safe place to sleep. They find government camps where they are locked up in cages at night and in the morning sent back to their homes.

On the faces of these children and in the eyes of the people I saw on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, there is sadness, hopelessness--they don't have a life. Sometimes lucky children are found by government soldiers and are taken to safe places where they can have better treatment. Some are even brought to the USA to be taken care of.

What can we do about this situation? How can we help these children to get out of misery and be saved? Can we change this horrible situation in our world? These are questions we should ask ourselves. Most of us didn't have an idea this was happening and those who do don't do anything about it.

The **International Rescue Committee** [www.theirc.org](http://www.theirc.org) helps reunite families and gives back life to abducted children. They give emotional and medical support as well. By donating a small amount of money, food, clothing and medicine we can help these kids to live a better life. We can't let our world continue this way. Let's do something about this.

## AVALIAÇÃO EXTERNA

OLM obteve o melhor resultado em nível nacional na Avaliação de Competências em Língua Portuguesa, realizada pela Fundação Universidade de Brasília (FUB), das Escolas Americanas e, também, junto às escolas Brasileiras participantes. O Departamento de Português se orgulha do 5th, 9th e 11th grades e a OLM parabeniza as professoras Marisa Menezes, Fátima Miranda e Elizabeth Barros pelo maravilhoso trabalho realizado.

## Papais Corujas

*Submitted by Ms. Jabulka*

Não seja você o vento que açoita mas também não seja você aquele que impedirá o seu filho de ser forte.

Tempos atrás, eu era vizinho de um médico, cujo “hobby” era plantar árvores no enorme quintal de sua casa.

Às vezes, observava da minha janela o seu esforço para plantar árvores e mais árvores, todos os dias.

O que mais chamava a atenção, entretanto, era o fato de que ele jamais regava as mudas que plantava.

Passé a notar, depois de algum tempo, que suas árvores estavam demorando muito para crescer.

Certo dia resolvi então aproximar-me do médico e perguntar se ele não tinha receio de que as árvores não crescessem, pois percebia que ele nunca as regava.

Foi quando, com um ar orgulhoso, ele me descreveu sua fantástica teoria.

Disse-me que, se regasse suas plantas, as raízes se acomodariam na superfície e ficariam sempre esperando pela água mais fácil, vinda de cima.

Como ele não as regava, as árvores demorariam mais para crescer, mas suas raízes tenderiam a migrar para o fundo, em busca da água e das várias fontes nutrientes encontradas nas camadas mais inferiores do solo.

Assim, segundo ele, as árvores teriam raízes profundas e seriam mais resistentes às intempéries.

Disse-me ainda, que freqüentemente dava uma palmadinha nas suas árvores, com um jornal enrolado, e que fazia isso para que se mantivessem sempre acordadas e atentas.

Essa foi a única conversa que tive com aquele meu vizinho.

Logo depois, fui morar em outro país, e nunca mais o encontrei.

Vários anos depois, ao retornar do exterior fui dar uma olhada na minha antiga residência.

Ao aproximar-me, notei um bosque que não havia antes. Meu antigo vizinho havia realizado seu sonho!

O curioso é que aquele era um dia de um vento muito forte e gelado, em que as árvores da rua

estavam arqueadas, como se não estivessem resistindo ao rigor do inverno.

Entretanto, ao aproximar-me do quintal do médico, notei como estavam sólidas as suas árvores:

Praticamente não se moviam, resistindo implacavelmente àquela ventania toda.

Que efeito curioso pensei eu...

As adversidades pela quais aquelas árvores tinham passado, levando palmadelas e tendo sido privadas de água, pareciam tê-las beneficiado de um modo que o conforto, o tratamento mais fácil jamais conseguiriam.

Todas as noites, antes de ir me deitar, dou sempre uma olhada em meus filhos. Debruço-me sobre suas camas e observo como têm crescido.

Freqüentemente, oro por eles. Na maioria das vezes, peço par que suas vidas sejam fáceis:

“Meu Deus, livre meus filhos de todas as dificuldades e agressões desse mundo...”

Tenho pensado, entretanto, que é hora de alterar minhas orações.

Essa mudança tem a ver com o fato de que é inevitável que os ventos gelados e fortes nos atinjam e aos nossos filhos.

Sei que eles encontrarão inúmeros problemas e que, portanto, minhas orações para que as dificuldades não ocorram, têm sido ingênuas demais.

Sempre haverá uma tempestade, ocorrendo em algum lugar.

Portanto, pretendo mudar minhas orações.

Farei isso porque, quer nós queiramos ou não, a vida não é muito fácil.

Ao contrário do que tenho feito, passarei a orar para que meus filhos cresçam com raízes profundas, de tal forma que possam retirar energia das melhores fontes, das mais divinas, que se encontram nos locais mais remotos.

Oramos demais para termos facilidades, mas na verdade o que precisamos fazer é pedir para desenvolver raízes fortes e profundas, de tal modo que quando as tempestades chegarem e os ventos gelados soprarem, resistiremos bravamente, ao invés de sermos subjugados e varridos para longe!

## WELCOME BACK I

*by John J. Majka*

*Welcome* is a gracious word. It embraces, it cuddles and cuddles, it smiles, it accepts without condition, it celebrates. The recipient feels as well as hears, “Come into my world. It feels good to have you here with us.”

*Welcome back* on the other hand adds a challenge: to begin again or to give continuity to an ongoing process. The work begun is as yet unfinished. A School Administration welcomed back its teachers through an in-service workshop on differentiated teaching. Such a return was a student-centered approach to what the objectives of OLM are and how its mission to prepare for global understanding is to be fulfilled.

To be global means, at heart, to be all inclusive. **All OLM students are special.** That is the message the teachers heard, accepted and are ready to pass on to their students. OLM wants to be the place where the students feel, discover and can respond to their unique specialness.

Welcome to OLM. Welcome back to transforming the world.

Welcome back **Ms. Cristina Machado** as the new High School Guidance Counselor.

Welcome back to **Ms. Jeri Pollock** as new Resource Center & Curriculum Coordinator and **Mr. Zailo Leite** as new Supervisor of Technology.

Welcome **Mr. Josh Rundle** from Chicago, Illinois as a Middle School Math Teacher.

Welcome to **Ms. Marisa Plata** as a new helper in the Computer Lab.

**We are happy to have you with us!!**

## ENTREVISTANDO ALGUÉM MUITO ESPECIAL

by Rafael Moreira & Matheus Laranjeira ('12)

**Dona Ivone** trabalha na parte de limpeza da OLM. Ela ajuda a manter o Departamento de Educação Física limpo. Está sempre trabalhando de bom humor, e isso leva a pessoa a fazer tudo melhor. Ela é respeitada por todos os alunos e os respeitam também. Vamos conversar um pouco com ela:



**OLMATTERS-** *Quando criança qual era seu objetivo na vida profissional?*

Eu queria ser enfermeira, mas nunca tive a oportunidade e vontade de estudar.

**OLMATTERS-** *Como você veio parar na escola?*

O meu sobrinho trabalhava aqui na época, ai ele me falou.

**OLMATTERS-** *O que você acha que poderia mudar no seu trabalho?*

Eu acho que por enquanto não precisa mudar nada.

**OLMATTERS-** *Desde quando a senhora trabalha na escola?*

Eu trabalho na escola desde 1992. Primeiro eu comecei trabalhando na cafeteria, depois eu fui para o departamento de PE.

**OLMATTERS-** *O que faz no seu tempo livre?*

Eu fico escutando rádio e também fico escutando louvores.

**OLMATTERS-** *A relação com a sua família é boa?*

A minha relação é ótima, eu moro com a minha irmã, e ela é uma pessoa muito boa.

**OLMATTERS-** *Você é casada?*

Não, não tenho marido, mas eu tenho um filho de 35 anos.

## AUGUST: THE MONTH OF VOCATIONS!

Ms. Kátia Souza

Every August the Catholic Church celebrates all *vocations* (or *calls to holiness*): from housewife to doctor, from teacher to singer, from father to priest. With no exceptions they are all gifts from God to be developed for the benefit of others. Happy are those who feel blessed by their professional life. May OLM students allow the Holy Spirit to inspire them in their choice of a career as a starting point to happiness and personal fulfillment.

Special congratulations to Fr. John, our Chaplain, and to all priests for their day on August 4<sup>th</sup>. May God bless them in their faithfulness to their vocation, the Priesthood. May the Church be blessed with many more happy and dedicated priests.

## OLM & CASA SÃO JOÃO BATISTA DA LAGOA: A Partnership That Worked

by Ms. Tatiana Salles ('07)



June 2nd was a very good day for Class of 2007. We provided 28 children from an orphanage to be with us here in school. Those of us who did not know how to deal with children, got a chance to learn how special it is to be a child. The most joyful

thing was the happiness in the children's eyes for just being there and getting some attention they do not usually get. Somebody cared. Class members were touched by the children. Alex Saltz wrote: "A person is what her heart has." Carina Araújo ('07) added: "It is nice to see that you can make people smile."

## FOOTPRINTS

*One night a man dreamed that he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me." The Lord replied, "I love you, and I would never leave you. During your times of trials and sufferings, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

**Father's Day:** How would you like to have a father like this? Read the story below and think about the wonders our heavenly Father can do for us. No matter who we are and what we do. His love is immeasurable. By the way, how is **your** relationship with your **Heavenly Father** going?

## WELCOME BACK II

by Thiago Queiroz ('08)

On behalf of the teachers and staff of OLM, I would like to welcome back all students for the 2006-2007 school year, and take this opportunity to congratulate this year's seniors, the graduating class of '07.

The students that were elected last semester, and that will represent the rest of the student body this year at StuCo are Lucas Mayall (11th – School President), Bernardo Colin (12th – Vice-President), Lucas Mutti (12th – Treasurer), and Luciana Fortes (11th – Secretary). One important change that goes into practice this year, and that affects all current and future high school students is the use of the new curriculum. With the goal of better preparing students for Brazil's Vestibular Exam, the new curriculum focuses on improving education in the areas of the Sciences and Brazilian Social Studies. These adjustments were made taking into consideration that 79% of OLM's students are Brazilians, and that most will apply for Universities within Brazil.

Furthermore, a new grading scale has been adopted for the entire school. Concepts now include A+, B+, C+ and D+, besides the standard ones. What is more, the current High School guidance counselor, Mrs. Luciana Jabulka, will now be in charge of counseling 4th to 8th grades, and substituting her will be Ms. Cristina Machado, who will also be available for college advising.

I think that we have a great school year before us, and hope that it can be both productive and fun, with a good teacher-student relationship and much success to all.

by Ms. Ghiotti – Spanish Teacher

## mide tu agilidad

CRONOMETRA EL TIEMPO QUE NECESITAS PARA ORDENAR EL ALFABETO ESPAÑOL. TE VAMOS A AYUDAR: AQUÍ TIENES UNA LISTA DE PALABRAS ORDENADAS ALFABÉTICAMENTE PERO SIN LA LETRA INICIAL.

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## Mr. MICHAEL ALLAN H. HUNTER 1944 - 2006

by Mrs. Irenilda R. Fontoura

This year we lost one of the pillars of the Society and the School of Our Lady of Mercy, Mr. Michael Allan Henry Hunter.

Mr. Hunter had been associated with the Society and the School since 1980, and was a permanent member of the Board of Directors of the Society where he served as President for many years. Mr. Hunter was strategic in the recuperation of the OLM School when it was near closing. That we have a School today is due in great part of his determined efforts and support.

His constant smile, sense of humor, seriousness of purpose, dedication and consistency of opinion helped us all to grow together with the School. His presence and thoughts, which he brought to us so well, will remain always in Our Lady of Mercy Society and School's mission and service.

# "We're all in"

HIGH SCHOOL STUCO  
MIDDLE SHOOOL STUCO

PRESENT

## SPIRIT WEEK 2006

### August 14-18

Better than ever, because  
everybody's involved!

Look for planning meetings  
during the week before.

Share your ideas! It's worth it!