



EARJ EXTRA EDITION

Your Weekly Link to School News & Events!

School Wide News

April 20, 2007

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Celebrating Books– Renowned Author and Performer Bia Bedran Visits Escola Americana

What better way to inspire Escola Americana’s young writers than by giving them the opportunity to exchange ideas with a professional artist? Students from our Portuguese Language for Foreigners Program and our Dance and Language Project had the opportunity to show Bia Bedran, renowned Brazilian children’s storyteller, songwriter and performer, their plays and writings in English and Portuguese.

This special exchange was one of many activities to commemorate Children’s Book Day in Brazil and Library Month in the United States. Ms. Bedran was very impressed with our students’ artistic expression and emphasized the importance of studying and working hard to be a successful artist. Afterwards, Bia and her band gave a world-class performance of her top hits, including “Cabeça de Vento,” to our nursery through fourth graders.

Thank you to the Dance and Language Specialist, LS Portuguese Department, LS Media Center, LS Music Department, LS Library Team, Raphaella Sapienza and the PTA, Activities Director, and the LS Teachers and Administrators for making Ms. Bedran’s visit so successful. Thank you also to the Rocinha afterschool program children for being our special guests.



HOME OF THE PANTHERS BIG 4 @ NR 2 April 2007

On Behalf of the Athletic Department, I would like to congratulate all the Big 4 athletes that traveled to NR 2 this past weekend. Our athletes represented EARJ with an outstanding conduct, highlighted with excellent teamwork, school spirit and skill performance. I would like to extend my congratulations to all the coaches for their hard work and dedication to the athletic program. We got THREE GOLDS: Boys’ Volleyball, Boys’ Futsal (Tetra-Campeões) and Cheerleading (Tetra-Campeãs)! Well done Panthers!!

MVP awards (Most Valuable Players)

Girls' Volleyball	Boys' Volleyball	Girls' Futsal	Boys' Futsal	Girls' Softball	Boys' Softball
Stephanie Yadid	Rafael Rezende	Gabriela Boesel	Henrique Argollo	Ebba Linnyberg	Rafael Mello
Cheerleading		Yumi Inada			

Fair Play award (Green Card winner): Henrique Argollo

Neise Abreu – Athletic Director

Milk Campaign Update: Lower School students at Gavea and Barra collected 93 cans of milk this week. This milk went to the Maria, Maria and Rua 4 creches in Rocinha. Thank you to all the families who continue to contribute milk on Wednesdays.

NEXT WEEK MENU

24	Chicken Nuggets	Shredded Beef	Noodles	Lettuce / Carrots Tomatoes Chicory / Beet	Romeu e Julieta
25	Picanha	Roast Chicken	Farofa	Lettuce / Broccoli Tomatoes / Tabule Eggplant	Chocolate Sweet
26	Fish	Beef Surprise	Mashed Potatoes	Lettuce / Tomatoes Carrot cubes Cucumber with tomatoes	Doce de Leite pie
27	Hot dog	Grilled Chicken	Potato Chips	Lettuce Tomatoes with white cheese Arucula / Soy	Chocolate Cake

A selection of vegetables, rice, beans, fruits and Jell-O are served everyday.

LOWER SCHOOL SECTION

LS Parent-Teacher Conferences began this week with Gavea Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade meetings. Barra conferences will be held next week, and 2nd-5th grade Student-Led Conferences which highlight our students' portfolios, will start mid-May. Kindly check your appointment slips for date and time of conferences.

Milk Campaign Update: Lower School students in Gávea and in Barra collected 93 cans of milk this week. The milk went to "Maria, Maria" and "Rua 4" Creches in Rocinha. Thank you to all the families who continue to contribute milk on Wednesdays.

All LS parents are cordially invited to the LS Parent-Principal Breakfast on Tuesday, April 24th at 8:30 a.m. in room 412.

All third grade parents are cordially invited to Mr. Dean's class play on Friday, April 27th at 9:00 a.m. in the LS Library Media Center. This is a Peruvian folktale in which the main character learns an important lesson: there is more to life than just money. The third grade moms have done a wonderful job creating a beautiful set and the children will be wearing some typical Peruvian clothing. We hope to see you on Friday, April 27th.

News from the Lower School Library Media Center: As a special celebration for Book Day in Brazil, the LS students from Preschool – 4th grade saw a wonderful performance by Bia Bedran. They heard Brazilian folk tales and songs presented by the famous children's author, composer and storyteller. A special thank you is extended to the LS teachers, the Dance and Language, Portuguese and Music Departments, as well as the Activities Office, the Library Media Center and the PTA for making this special presentation possible for our students.

Special thanks to:

- The parents who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences this week. Thank you for your interest and for working as our partners. Together we are better.
- Our LS Environmentalists! We enjoyed highlighting issues and celebrating Earth Week in classes this week. Friday we engaged in a school-wide Lights Out Hour from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. We will determine just how much energy we saved in one hour.

Mark your Calendars:

- School will be closed on Monday, April 23rd (S. Jorge) and on the following Monday and Tuesday April 30th and May 1st for the Labor Day holidays.
- Friday, May 4th will be the Gavea Kindergarten visit to EA-Barra.
- Primary Years Music Programs:
 - May 3rd – First Grade
 - May 4th – Second Grade
 - May 10th – Barra
 - May 11th – Gávea Preschool
 - May 11th - Kindergarten



Bia Bedran and Lower School Students

MIDDLE SCHOOL SECTION

Family – School Conferences – It was wonderful to see so many parents and students engaged in conversations about learning at the recent Family-School Conferences. Thanks for attending and supporting this important communication between school and home.

Seventh Grade Parents – If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 25th (8:30 – 10:30) to attend student presentations about some of their learning from the drug and alcohol unit. Following the student presentations, we will have a presentation and question and answer session in the Auditorium for students and parents. We hope you will find this of great value!

Earth Day – Sunday, April 22 is International Earth Day; however, we feel this is such an important topic that we are spending April 20 – 27 engaged in conversations about this important topic. We plan to involve our students in educational experiences that focus on environmental protection, stewardship, and responsibility during this time. Students will be able to examine their connections to the environments in which they live, their impacts on those environments, and develop ideas and plans to protect their environments. The experiences should promote awareness and ensure reflection that encourages positive ecological actions.

As a kick off to this celebration of ecology, on Friday, April 20 the entire school consciously did not use power from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. It was a great opportunity for students to think about their needs and wants as they relate to power usage.

Middle School students are also involved in measuring their ecological footprint using the website www.myfootpring.org. We plan to track and report it for further reflection.

In addition, individual teachers will be discussing a variety of ecological topics with their students throughout this week within the scope of their subject areas. We hope parents will also spend some time during this week to discuss with their children this important topic. Thanks for your collaboration!

Spanish Night – Parents are invited to attend the third annual Spanish Culture Night on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium. If you have any questions about this evening, please contact Monica.Lucas@earj.com.br We look forward to seeing what students have learned this year!

Balls – Students are requested to NOT bring balls of any kind to school. Balls may be checked out at lunch time with Mr. Luiz in the PE Office. Thank you for helping your child to remember this.

Middle School Pep Rally – We will celebrate the work of our athletes at the Pep Rally on Thursday, April 26 at 12:40 on the Tartan. We hope parents will be able to join us a cheer for their children! The Little Eight teams will travel to Nossa Recanto for their competition from April 30 to May 1.

Respect Shirts – All students are asked to wear their RESPECT shirts on Thursday, April 26. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

April 30 – May 1	Little Eight Competition
May 7	PTA Meeting (8:15 – 10:00 AM) Room 412
May 7 – 11	Mr. Art Costa will be working with all MS Faculty on the Habits of Mind
May 9	Mid Quarter of Fourth Quarter
May 10	Student and Parent Presentation The Value of Habits of Mind by Mr. Art Costa
May 11	STUCO Talent Show
May 16	Early Dismissal Day (1:15 dismissal)
May 18 – 19	MS Girls' Futsal Tournament

UPPER SCHOOL SECTION

During the course of countless conversations with parents, students, and faculty I have noted a common concern over issues facing our students and the choices they make. Among them are: academics, peer groups, alcohol, drugs, sexual activity, stress, relationships, family, and more. Questions that immediately come to mind are: Are our students at risk? What are the important issues adolescents confront? How can we assist young people and ensure that we are doing all we can to promote healthy choices?

As a result, our students participated in a “Developmental Asset Survey” designed by The Search Institute (Search Institute: <http://www.search-institute.org/>). The survey results have been tabulated and we would like to share the results with parents. **There will be a parent meeting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9 in the Auditorium to go over the results.** The survey results provide both parents and the School with important information regarding the emotional, physical, and intellectual health of our students. In addition parents will be able to ask questions and a select group of students will be on hand to give an adolescent's perspective. **I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL PARENTS TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT AND INFORMATIVE MEETING.** If interest is high enough, simultaneous translation (English to Portuguese) will be provided. Please contact Graca Mello on 2125-9091 if you would like to take advantage of this option.

The results of the survey will be used to determine where our students stand regarding developmental assets. It will also help us develop programs that will address areas of concern. Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

Again, I urge every parent to attend this important meeting. Please mark **8:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 9**, on your calendar as a time to learn more about how you, as a parent, can help your child develop the assets they need to live a healthier and more fulfilling life.