



EARJ EXTRA EDITION

Your Weekly Link to School News & Events!

HEADLINE NEWS

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Issue # 36

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

The end of the school year has finally arrived. As I look back over the two semesters I am happy to reflect on all of our students' and teachers' many accomplishments. The last week of school is a special one and a culmination of these efforts. Our seniors move on to college; 8th graders move to Upper School; 5th graders move to Middle School and our Kindergartners leave preschool and move to primary school. We are all proud of our students. Special thanks also to our dedicated PTA board, led by Ana Paula, Daniela and Sully, who mustered forces and helped teachers and our community with their many end of year projects.

In an international school such as ours, the end of the year is bittersweet as we say good-bye to many families who are being transferred and to many teachers who are moving on to new posts. We thank those who are leaving for their many contributions to our community and we wish you all much continued success in the next phase of your lives.

We will be welcoming new families and new faculty next semester. Students who would like to be guides for the new students should contact their respective counselors. The Orientation Day is on July 31. The first day of school is on August 3 and the PTA will be holding a welcome breakfast for new and current families on August 11.

Rest up over the summer because we have another jam-packed year of learning and community building starting in August.

Moving Onwards and Upwards.....



Kindergartners give their last performance at their graduation before they move to 1st grade.



5th graders, in their goodbye speeches, thanked teachers and parents for teaching them how to make good choices and for all the wonderful learning and growing opportunities they had in Lower School. They are ready for Middle School.

8th graders are ready to brave the challenges of Uppers School. André, who made the goodbye speech, stated how important the 3rd Grade project, Kids Saving Earth, was in teaching students that they can make a difference. He also emphasized how much they enjoyed the Via Sapientia trips.

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Many of the faculty who are leaving and were recognized in an end-of-the-year meeting.

Photo: Martha Serra

The 8th grade graduation ceremony reached new technological heights at EA and was simulcast so parents who were at work or traveling could watch the ceremony live.



8th Literature Trials

8th Grade English is a year of polemics and discussions about decision-making. The novels covered over the year include the story of a boy soldier in Africa, the classic Animal Farm, George Orwell's account of the rise of Communism, as well as stories of how students in high school confront difficult emotional situations.

In the culminating activity, students participated in trials that judged characters in novels. Did Napoleon, the main character in Animal Farm abuse his power? Was Archie Costello, the protagonist in The Chocolate War guilty of bullying? Is George Milton, Of Mice and Men, guilty of murder? Was Melinda Sordino raped by Andy Evans in Speak? The premise of the trials force students to understand the novels with detail and complexity.

In the photo below, Defense lawyer Carlos questions witness, Kevin, while members of the jury, Paula and Patrick, and Judge Woz look on. While the courtroom experience our 8th graders have acquired watching television series was helpful, they used their strong analytical and oratorical skills that they developed in the classroom to argue their cases. Congratulations to Ms. Sara Wicht for this wonderful project. The intensity of our students' participation in this demonstrates their commitment!

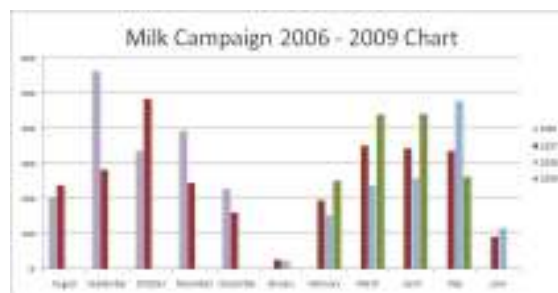
Photo: Carlos Perez de Leon



Milk Campaign Results

A special thank you to all the families who generously supported and participated in the milk campaign this school year. Families contributed a total of **3360** cans of milk! Two years ago we collected 3085 and last year 2699. This milk went to children in Rocinha at the following daycare centers: ASPA, Alegria das Crianças, Maria Maria, Arte Tio João, Rua 4 and Tico & Teco. Lower School children and teachers have shown that they can think globally, act locally, be a good citizen, care, share and make a difference in our world!

While some students learn that they can make a difference, others improve their math, presentation and Excel skills. Suzana and Betina have been tracking milk donations over the years and their graph will help teachers and students plan the campaign and publicity next year.



rEAch/FAISE

rEAch/FAISE, the Escola Americana NGO that organizes community service projects for nursery schools and English classes for Rocinha children will have a new administration. Founder and President Patricia Magalhães is moving back to the United States after living (and teaching Health and Biology) in Brazil for many years. We will miss her strong leadership and wish her much happiness in her new life. We also thank Michelle Campbell for taking over the reins. Esther Ribeiro, Beth Freitas and Maria Frontin will continue in their Board positions.

rEAch/FAISE received a very generous donation from Ms. Shaysann Kaun. Thank you and please know that the monies will be used to support ongoing programs.

University Prep During Vacation Time

Students who are university-bound, whether they be rising seniors or juniors, should ideally use this vacation period productively to prepare for the college application challenges ahead. It is a valuable time which can help them be more ready for the busier more demanding time that comes soon after.

Many students who will stay in Brazil for university are taking a cursinho already for the vestibular or the ENEM and will participate in the online simulation exam as outlined by our Brazilian Studies director, Vera Pepin, and posted on the school website. Hopefully they have also signed up for the ENEM course the school will offer on Saturdays in August and September.

Students who wish to go abroad for university have another path to follow. If they will be in 11th, 10th, or even 9th grade, they should all tackle their assigned vacation reading. While many students will go to precollege summer courses or camps, others will perform valuable community service, or have summer jobs or unpaid internships, or travel and visit family. They can begin to explore the online resources of the College Board and sign up already for the free daily SAT Test Question at www.collegeboard.com. They can also try out the practice questions on the PSAT section of this website since they will take the test next October in grades 10 and 11. Parents, there is even a useful section for your information on College Board! While it is nice to hang out, sleep late, or go to the beach, even that may get tiresome. Students with a plan for a balanced use of free time during the vacation do reap personal benefits later.

Rising Seniors, this is your moment. Next year will fly by in an exciting blur. Any tasks you can work on in advance will help alleviate some of the pressures ahead! For starters, become very familiar with the College Board website and thoroughly explore their information on different colleges and career options. Ideally, you have already taken the SAT once and now know what kind of scores you are working with to set your goal and prepare for the next round. You can study the thick SAT Prep manuals available from College Board or amazon.com, do all the practice questions and daily SAT test questions online, or have a private tutor. Most students do the online prep course offered by

College Board (\$69 for 4 months), while some go to an SAT prep course offered in Rio by FK Partners (www.fkpartners.com).

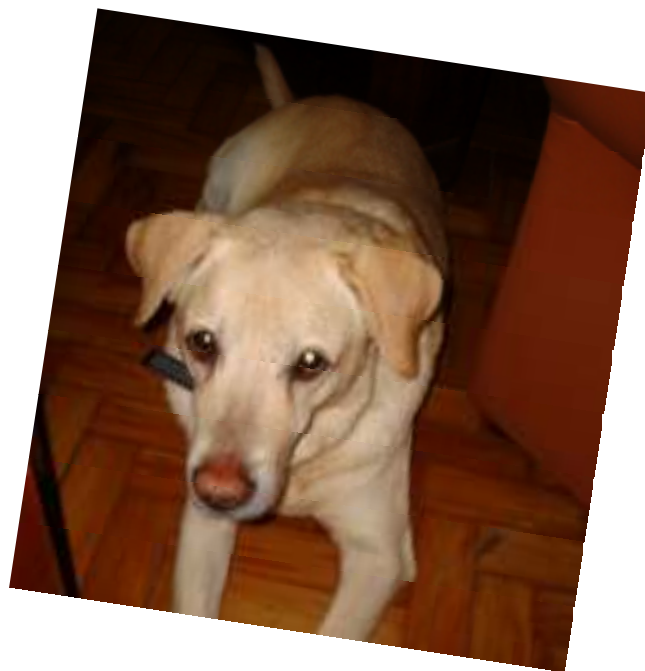
If you will apply to go abroad, college application deadlines will approach quickly. It will be essential to attend my College Info Sessions for you next semester as I will guide you step by step. Right now you could already check out the online application of the Common Application at www.commonapp.org to know what it asks of you. Make a list of your activities, awards, honors, and leadership experiences. You could practice writing your personal essay based on the question choices posed on that document. Lastly, check which colleges that interest you require a Supplement which is on the same website.

Students who will be full International Baccalaureate diploma candidates have a busy time ahead as they begin to research and write for their required Extended Essay. They have already identified their topics and their advisors. Since the rough draft will be due when they return in August, sufficient time should be dedicated to that endeavor during this vacation period. Having the bulk of the work of the Extended Essay behind them when they return will ease some of the Senior pressures as they launch shortly after into the college application process and the very full, even hectic, Senior year.

A significant challenge for our Seniors includes time management, setting priorities, and focus. Mastering this is an important step in maturing while getting ready to leave for university and becoming more accountable, responsible, and independent. They do indeed multi-task while handling the demands of IB subjects and deadlines, preparing for standardized tests such as SAT or ENEM, deciding on which colleges to which they will apply, completing applications and writing personal essays, being involved in school activities and community service, and making precious time for family and friends. My words of wisdom as students head off for a well-earned break, is **use your time wisely** since **Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance**. Any questions or concerns that students or parents may have during the break are welcomed by Mrs. Werner, College Counselor, kristine.werner@earj.com.br

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for a loving home for dog who thinks that he is really a person. My daughter and I are moving to California and cannot take Dude at this time. We are looking for a family to adopt him, either for one year, or permanently. He is a 10-year old male Labrador. Dude is extremely loyal and great company. For more information, please contact Laura Barros at laura.lynn.barros@gmail.com or call 2125-9009 up until June 30, or 8857-8415 throughout the month of July.



Looking for activities for your children over the break?

ONE WEEK SLEEP AWAY SUMMER CAMP IN THE STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO/ "COLÔNIA DE FERAS"

Based on the model of sleep-away camps in the US, the Associação Kinderland e o Instituto São Fernando have created a summer camp 25 July to 2 August, at Sacra Família do Tinguá, in the State of Rio de Janeiro with classes in computers, writing, photography dance and music for 14 to 17 year olds. The language at the camp will be Portuguese. Enrollment can be done through the site: www.coloniadeferas.com.br

A Associação Kinderland e o Instituto São Fernando promovem, entre os dias 25 de julho e 2 de agosto, a primeira edição da **Colônia de Feras**. O evento será realizado em Sacra Família do Tinguá, no interior do estado do Rio de Janeiro, onde serão organizadas oficinas nas áreas de informática, escrita, fotografia, dança e música para jovens de 14 a 17 anos. A **Colônia de Feras** é um evento de imersão educacional, no qual o foco principal será o desenvolvimento e, principalmente, o aperfeiçoamento de talentos e habilidades. As inscrições podem ser feitas através do site www.coloniadeferas.com.br até 26 de junho.



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Mark Your Calendars—Cross-divisional List of Events



July 31 Orientation Day for new families

Aug 3 First day of school

June 11 First PTA of the year and Welcome Breakfast for new families

News from Our Principals (Continued...)

FROM MS. HUNT

We would like to end the school year by thanking all of our wonderful Lower School parents, students, faculty and staff – for a great year of learning and growing together.

We wish those leaving us a smooth and happy transition to new schools and countries. We will miss you.

A heartfelt thank you to the LS faculty moving on to new professional pursuits including the following: Mara Thompson, Dean Lepage, Eduardo Botelho, Beth Freire – who is retiring after 40 years at EARJ!, Monique Felio and Nancy Holodak.

Each of these beloved educators has made valued contributions to our learning community for which we are truly grateful. Their legacies will live on.

Special congratulations to our Kindergarten and 5th grade graduates of 2009 who will move on to a new phase in their educational journey in August 2009. We wish our LS graduates continued success in Middle School! May you continue to pursue your dreams! Live to learn and you will learn to live.

Milky the Cow thanks you! We've tallied milk can donations for the school year and reached our goal: increasing donations to the crèches we support in Rocinha. Many thanks for your generosity throughout the year.

Please note that report card and materials list were sent home on Thursday, June 18th.

Parents are reminded that we will mail class lists with names of teachers for the next school the third week in July.

Again this year we will make copies of the final edition of Paws News to send home to each LS family the first week of school in August for your viewing pleasure – a wonderful showcase of student learning and our community!

News from the LS Media Center: We will be open from July 23. You are welcome to visit us to check out up to five books to read.

Winter Camp Program in Gavea and in Barra will be offered in both the Gavea and Barra campuses June 22nd – July 3rd. For more

information about the camps, please contact Ms. Katia Veiga, After School Program Director at: 2125 – 9000 ext. 9002 or via her e-mail: katiaveiga@earj.com.br

The first day of the 2009-2010 school year is Monday, August 3rd. We can't wait to welcome you back for another fabulous year!

HAPPY, SAFE VACATION TO ALL!

FROM MS. VANDERPUT

On Monday, June 15, your child took home a letter listing all the courses he or she will be taking next semester based on teachers' recommendations or his/her choices. All students have been placed in grade-level English, Science, Social Studies, Portuguese, Math, Fine Arts, and Physical Education classes. In some cases, teachers recommended special classes in addition to the regular ones, such as Resource Center, ESL support, or a tutorial in reading/writing skills or math. If a student was not recommended for one of the above, he/she chose to study either Spanish or French or to take the new Communications class, where students work with different forms of communication, such as a MS newspaper or a literary magazine, public speaking or creative writing. As you know, 6th graders also chose two Fine Arts courses to further explore in 7th grade, and the 7th graders chose one Fine Arts course to explore intensively in 8th grade. After reviewing the courses with their child, parents may contact the office to request a change. Parent may also want to consult the Academic Program 09-10 which is posted on the school's website.

Printed report cards will be given to students on Thursday along with a copy of their new bell schedule and a list of school materials to be purchased for the 09-10 school year.

On August 3, the first day of the next school year, 9th graders will attend special transition activities as part of the Freshman Orientation Day. Therefore, it is very important that your child attend the first day of school on Monday, August 3.

I want to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support, which contributed to the smooth running of this semester. I enjoyed being back in the Middle School, even though it was on a part-time basis and for a short period of time!

Have a great vacation!