



St. Nicholas

Newsletter



www.stnicholas.com.br :: December I :: 2011

Upcoming events



December

Fri 16th

Last day for pupils and staff

January

Mon 16th to Mon 23rd

Mock Exams

Tue 31st

School starts for pupils

The Blaze!

The Blaze! Editorial Team



The Blaze! is the new student-produced magazine circulating around school! The initiative involves students ranging across the entire Senior School. Our editorial team wants to bring

interesting news, joy and entertainment into students' lives, which is why our articles focus on topics varying from celebrity gossip to sports to school events! A limited number of printed copies of the first edition are available around school and a PDF version can be accessed online through the school website or intranet. Anyone who wishes to collaborate is more than welcome and any comments/suggestions can be sent to any of the editors via school email! Find posters around school with more information and contacts. We are looking forward to our next edition and hope that *The Blaze!* lives through many more school generations!

Para as mães do PTA



Nós do projeto Sementes do Amanhã, queremos agradecer imensamente ao carinho e ajuda sempre pronta às nossas crianças, com os presentes oferecidos, que trouxeram tanta alegria aos pequeninos de nossa comunidade. O nosso muito obrigado é somente um gesto de gratidão as mães do PTA.

MULTISKILLS Festival

Year 1



Year 1 pupils had an excellent start to the day on Thursday November 24th, when they participated in the "Multiskills Festival". They showed with competence and lots of enthusiasm some of what they have learnt in their PE lessons, making their parents and teachers very proud and happy.

Besides all the movements, children showed other attitudes and skills they have developed in the PE lessons and school life, which are just as important, such as self-confidence, enjoyment, enthusiasm,

effort, group work, overcoming challenges, organisation, helping and respecting others.

Year 1 children are to be congratulated on their level of ability and confidence at showing an array of difficult motor skills and action.

Well done to all the children and thank you to all the parents and staff for all their support!

More pictures of the event can be seen at St. Nicholas website > School Life > Sports > Events > Multiskills Festival

Ms Campos

International Day



Dedé Toffoli

On Saturday November 26th we had our traditional International Day. One more time together, St. Nicholas parents, pupils, teachers and staff demonstrated that we are a true community of learners who are curious about different cultures and open minded to enjoy fresh perspectives. It was certainly another great hit and very significant to embrace this opportunity to celebrate diverse cultures within an international frame of mind. We had seventeen countries represented this time, in a sharing and friendly atmosphere.

Brazil's greatest hits were the *pão de queijo* and especially the *brigadeiro*; we also had a chance to enjoy the popular dance *Bastões de Moçambique* from the interior of the state of São Paulo. From Portugal we had a chance to once again have a taste of the marvellous *bolinhos de bacalhau*, among other delicious dishes. South Korea had a very beautiful stall where not only could you taste delicious food but also learn about typical clothes, artefacts and even have a go and play their traditional drum. Korea also kindly gave us a chance to enjoy the old and the new, with their millenary fan dance as well as contemporary K-Pop (Korean

pop) with the group Black Diamond, and the participation of some of our Senior pupils playing and singing; a joy to watch. England brought some very refreshing ice tea, together with wonderful egg sandwiches and cakes. We also enjoyed the presentation of Saint Andrew Pipes and Drums representing Scotland. The Chinese stall made a hit as usual, bringing mouth-watering dishes such as spring rolls, fried rice and sweet and sour pork, to mention some. In the Italian stall you could find an assortment of Italian delicatessens, however on such a hot day the sorbet was the biggest success. Beside Italy we had the Peruvian stall with the delicious *causa*. Peru also contributed with two lovely typical dances beautifully performed by a veteran and charismatic couple. The Japanese stall was very busy with sushi and sake and a variety of games. Congratulations to Hidenari and to Kai for their presentations of Kendo and Karate. USA was present with the always popular hot dogs and cupcakes, right beside the Indian stall. India brought an amazing variety of dishes, and visitors could have their picture taken in Indian clothes. Both Colombia and Venezuela brought us their

wonderful *arepas*, the Colombian ones filled with cheese and the Venezuelan with meat. There was "caliente" Latin music in the air, and such energy could also be felt in the zumba presentation, a mixture of dance and workout featuring music and rhythms from several Latin countries. South Africa delighted us with adorable dishes, fruit juices and wine. Nearby we had the Israeli stall, which offered tasty *falafel*, bread and *homus* and where you could learn how to write your name in Hebrew. Next to it you could have a taste of *guacamole* and other delights and have a go in the *loteria mexicana*. Finally, we had the "hermanas" Argentina and Uruguay, who joined their forces to offer us some of the best sweets in the world and of course the very famous *dulce de leche*.

There was a lot more than I could write in this short article, but I lack space and words to express the sense of communion and collaboration that permeated the whole event. Thank you very much to Sodexo, to our PTA and its wonder woman Tetê Santiago, to all parents, pupils, staff, maintenance, security guards and guests who made this an unforgettable delectable International Day. See you again in 2013!



La Disparition des Langues

Palak Ghambhir et Sophie Barros (y11)

La disparition des langues indigènes est un problème très grave parce que, avec la disparition, une partie des cultures des personnes qui parlent cette langue s'efface. En plus, la perte d'une langue signifie aussi la perte d'une partie de l'histoire de l'humanité. Tout le monde a le droit de parler sa propre langue et

de la transmettre à ces enfants, alors, pourquoi faut-il que tous parlent de la même manière? Les langues indigènes de l'Amazonie, peuvent aider la médecine à trouver de nouveaux médicaments, car la langue est aussi le savoir des peuples indigènes qui connaissent très bien leur région. Voici un exemple comme les langues indigènes peuvent jouer un rôle très important dans notre société actuelle.

En revanche, on peut dire que, si il y a moins de langues, les personnes vont pouvoir se communiquer plus facilement. Aujourd'hui, les personnes préfèrent apprendre une langue comme l'anglais

ou le français, langues parlées par une majorité d'individus dans le monde. Il est indéniable que oui, quand on veut apprendre une langue il vaut mieux en choisir une qui nous permette de parler avec un maximum de gens, mais cela ne doit pas nous empêcher en même temps de respecter l'existence des langues mineures.

À notre avis, la disparition des langues est, malheureusement inévitable parce qu'il est difficile de maintenir une langue vivante si la langue est parlée par un groupe petit et isolé. Pour rester vivantes, les langues doivent évoluer avec leur temps.

Model United Nations: Salvador

Carina Uchida (Year 10)

The 16 students together with Ms. Shepherd and Dr. Browne gathered at Congonhas airport on the 15th of November at 5:45am. Feeling rather somnolent, we all boarded the plane, destination to Salvador, Bahia to participate in the Pan American School of Bahia's Model United Nations conference, also known as SALMUN.

For those who are unaware about the Model United Nations (MUN), it is basically a simulation of what actually occurs at the United Nations, where most countries from around the world gather to discuss worldwide problems, including economic, environmental, social and political conflicts and disputes. The Model United Nations is specifically designed for students and it is practised worldwide. How the MUN works is that each person or partner will receive a country to represent during the conference, and then it is our responsibility to research about our given country and the topics that will come up during debate. The actual conference is all about speaking to the delegates, expressing the point of view and position of your country, to discuss with other delegates to merge into compromise and finally, create fruitful resolutions which contain useful solutions to solve the conflict being discussed.

The first day was mostly about getting to meet our host families who accommodated us during the whole trip. Some went to the beautiful beach, others stayed at their host's homes as we all relaxed before long and tiring days of debating which were coming our way.

The opening ceremony of the event was on Wednesday the 16th where students

from schools all around Brazil attended the conference. In total, there were approximately 170 students. Shortly after the ceremony, all of us went to our caucuses so we could already start debating. There were 8 caucuses, which are debating groups and each caucus discusses different topics. Each person can choose where they want to be allocated months before. Caucuses included the Americas, Asian, African, Middle East and European as the regional caucuses. Furthermore there were the Security Council, War-Cabinet and the Conselho de Segurança Histórico, which was conducted in Portuguese. The debate would end at about 2:30pm; therefore we had enough time to spend the rest of the day with our hosts.

The following days had similar schedules, where we would have long intense hours of debating and afterwards, have some free time to go to the beach, a friend's house, a restaurant or just relax.

On the 19th, Saturday, we had the General Assembly, which was a huge debate with all delegates representing countless countries to discuss about the reform of the UN and was held at Odebreche's auditorium. Moreover, after we had the closing ceremony where prizes were given out (not to mention that Julia Herzog won best delegate within her Americas Caucus) a short clip with photos of the event were shown. Later, all delegates headed to the Pan American School of Bahia to attend the SALMUN party. However the St. Nicks delegates had to leave early and head to the airport as we boarded the plane back to Guarulhos.

In general, I believe that all delegates who were present from St. Nicks had the greatest time and certainly learned and grew from this incredible experience. We not only learned how the debates worked with the parliamentary procedures and complex terms, but also learned about public speaking, developing ideas efficiently, working under time constraints effectively and acquiring responsibility, organisation and independence. Apart from the debates, we all came back with new friendships formed as we got the chance to meet with other delegates. It surely was an unforgettable five days spent at Salvador where we can carry out what we attained from this trip and apply it to our daily lives.

For those who are interested in participating in this beneficial and helpful ECA, please attend on Fridays starting at 1:40pm as more conferences are on the way!



Cirque du Soleil



During our unit "The Artist in Me" two outstanding artists from Cirque du Soleil came to share with the year 4 a little bit of their talent.

Cirque du Soleil is a Canadian entertainment company self-described as a "dramatic mix of circus, arts and street entertainment". The company's employees and artists represent more than 50 nationalities and speak 25 different languages.

Year 4 was honoured to be able to see a little bit of their talent:

"We had lots of fun because we had to act out what they told us, like to pretend we were ballerinas and we exercised a lot." -



Daniela Maffi Y4Y

"I liked them because they were funny, creative and polite" - Sophia Garland Y4Y

"I think It was incredible, I was very happy to learn new things and impressed with what a man can do with his voice, he could sing using different tunes" - Giovanna Chen Y4X

"They were excellent. I learned a lot about circus." - Niv Fine Y4X

"It inspired me to find my own talent and I was convinced to go and watch their show" - Maria Fernanda Aguilar Y4X

"It was nice that we acted and did different movements. Now I know what people from the circus do." - Monica Hwang

Casa de Pedra

As mentioned in a BBC article, there can be few prouder homeowners in São Paulo than Estevão Silva da Conceição who designed his house similar to the style of Antoni Gaudi. Year 12 visited the unusual house this week as the last session of CAS in Paraisópolis where they have spent the last term teaching English at the community centre.



Junior Swimming Gala 2011

350 people and counting as London do it again!

Mr. Moss

A fine array of swimming talents and ability were on show in an excellent morning of House representation and competition in the third solo Junior House Swimming Gala.

The gala, such a prominent event in the school sports calendar, was well supported again by an impressive number of parents, family members and a variety of Infant/Junior staff and student Senior House representatives contributing to the many successes of the morning.

Over 140 pupils/swimmers from the Junior School in all years competed in a total of 51 races that included all the

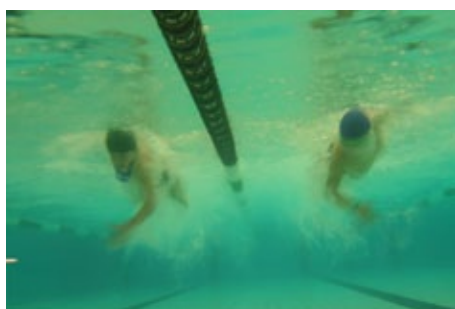
recognised strokes, open races and a staff/student relay. Astonishingly 9 records were 'smashed' which in itself is a credit to the level of swimming on display. Congratulations to the new record holders and may the records stand: Luiza Perez, Ricardo Thiegui, Stefano Pedrinola, Esmée de Meije, Gabrielle Borges, Rayan Al Masri and Jae Hyun Park.

Each Year Group House competition was extremely tight and Cambridge notably having more influence this year. Mr Percy's London won Yr 3 and Yr 5, Mr Carlos's Cambridge won Yr 6 and Yr 4 and Mr Chambers's Oxford challenged but with two close second places could never



quite secure a top place. It turned out to be the green of London's morning and the title has been theirs now for 3 consecutive years. London are once again Junior House Swimming Gala Champions 2011/12.

On behalf of the PE Department a big thank you to all members of the St. Nicholas community and the Head of Houses for their support, time and contribution before and during the event. Congratulation to London and we look forward to the 2nd Senior House Swimming Gala come April/May.

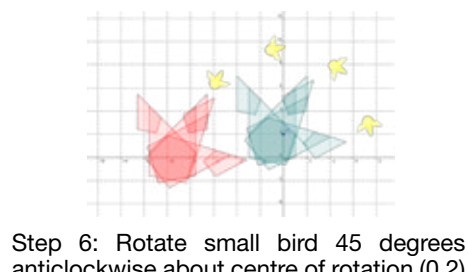
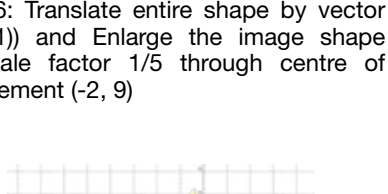
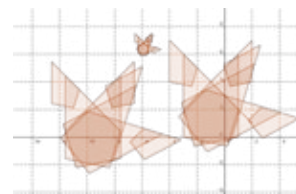
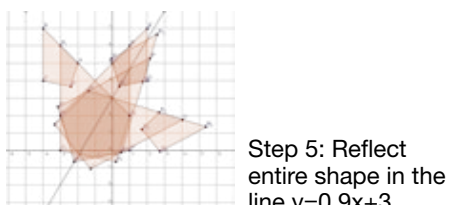
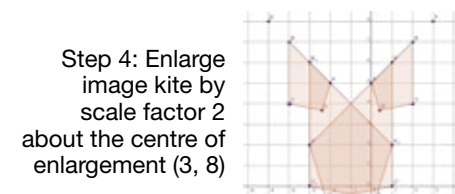
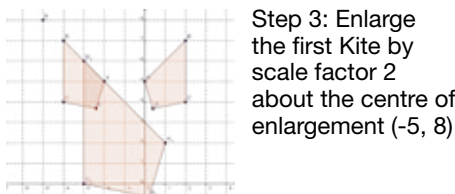
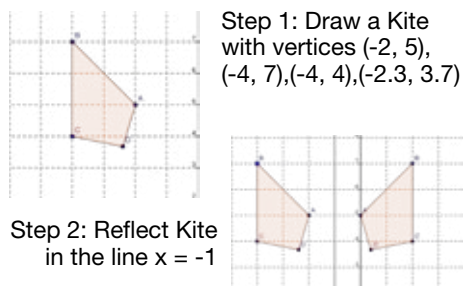


For more pictures visit [St. Nicholas website > School Life > Sports > Events > Junior Swimming Gala](#)

Transformations Picture

Mr. Percy

I asked year 9 to draw any picture they wanted to on Geogebra using the Mathematics we had learnt in the previous lesson. Damasia and Lucas created an absolute masterpiece - "Transformation Birds."



Year 9 Paraty Trip

Lucila Goldfeld and Ivan Falsztyn

From November 17th to 19th, we, the year 9s engaged in a challenging yet rewarding trip to Saco do Mamanguá, near Paraty-Mirim. We faced three days of arduous hikes, but made it out in one piece. The first day, the students spent several hours on a bus to reach a local bus which took us to a beach where we had to carry everything to a boat that would take us to the camping site. After spending 45 minutes cruising the waters as we made our way to what we'd call home for the next three days, the guides pointed out that the house that was next to our camp site was the location where they'd filmed Breaking Dawn of the Twilight Saga.

Once we got to the camp site, we carried everything from the boats, having to enter into the water, onto the beach, and set up camp. We then split up into two groups, one departing 15 minutes before the other, to hike to the peak of the Pão de Açúcar. Despite the opinion of some students that

the hike was, "too difficult", where we sometimes had to use ropes, everyone was glad that we made it up in record time. After spending a few minutes appreciating the view of the Saco do Mamangua, we had to make our way back down the rough terrain we had previously overcome. The rest of the evening was spent either cooking or at the beach.

The next day, we emerged from the tents with sore limbs and bags beneath our eyes. After preparing and eating breakfast, we set off by boat, again, separated in two groups. We made our way on a small, partly overgrown trail, which had to be cut by a bush knife by one of the guides, through the mountains to reach the Praia Grande de Cajaíba. After spending several hours hiking through dense jungles, we finally reached the beach where we would be spending the afternoon. The next hours were spent swimming in the ocean and waterfalls and relaxing by the beach

until we had to make our way back to the camping site, luckily by boat. The rest of the evening was spent eating and playing card by the beach.

On our final day, we woke up and had a short breakfast before having to pack everything up. After completing the tedious task of putting our tents inside the tent bags, we enjoyed the ocean. Lunch was prepared by the owners of the campsite, and after that we participated in a series of trust and team building exercises. We then had to make our way back to the bus where we would return to São Paulo.

To many of the students this was the best and most interesting trip so far, filled with challenges, late night card games, and cold showers. Despite the lack of infrastructure, it was a rewarding trip, and it's fair to say we all learned something about each other and ourselves.



TT2 had a very colourful week!

Ms Cunha

For a whole week, the children celebrated one colour per day by coming to school wearing specific clothes according to the colour chosen. They painted and mixed primary colours and also made different shades using black and white. It was a full week and the parents were also involved. The children had loads of fun!



Music & Dance Presentation

Congratulations to all pupils!



Football

Opportunity knocks for our scholarship potentials...

Florida Excel U17 Showcase



Luiza Marangoni and Sofia Soares fulfilled all expectations and proved that their ability within the sport of Football could take them both to higher things.

They experienced and competed for Florida Excel Academy in the Maryland Bethesda U17 Showcase in November, after being invited due to their performances playing for St. Nicholas and on their fine displays in the Girls USA Tour last July.

They played in close to sub degree

temperatures in front of a sideline filled with college coaches, from Universities such as Georgetown and other Division I, Div II, Div III, and the NAIA women's soccer programs. The girls played in both central midfield and wide roles, notably impressing with their performances and coming on occasions close to scoring. The standard of football was obviously high as they competed against scholarship hopefuls and the top fifteen ranked teams in Toronto, Westchester NY and PA.

The exposure of playing for FXL Academy in the U17 showcase, travelling as a squad member with new friends, training and attending High School and University seminars and exploring University campuses has made two very highly skilled St. Nicholas students think about and maybe experience their futures. I am confident that with the ability and character of Sofia and Luiza that they will draw on this experience and be successful in life whether or not they choose to continue their education and passion of football in the States come 2014.

Thank you to the FXL Director Dave Nutting and his family, Coach Jackson and all the other Florida Excel Academy squad members for such a memorable, enjoyable and important experience.

Chapel

St. Nicholas 2 vs 3 Chapel



There was the usual 'no shortage of flashpoints or talking points' with the U18 Girls Football at Chapel. Julia Herzog scored a fine volley just outside the box, Carina clashed heads and was fortunate to come off better with her opposition player blood stained and then hospitalised. In the second half, Sofia Soares our usual match-winner finished off a fine passing display that started well into St. Nicks half to push St. Nicholas in the lead 2:1 with 10 minutes to go. It would then seem an over-reaction to take this as another hard earned win and this it would have been if not for two clumsy goalkeeping and defensive errors that saw the game drift away and painstakingly lost.

Year 8 Itatiaia Trip

Giovanna Pedrinola & Alice Lunardelli

On November 3rd, the year 8 class went on their second life skills trip, which was more challenging and adventurous than the first trip. Leaving school early, we headed to Itatiaia ready for a new adventure.

After we arrived, put up our tents and got organised... we were ready for our first activity. The year was separated into two groups, each heading to a different direction. One group went rappelling and the other went hiking, with the hope of seeing exquisite and adorable animals. Cooking... not year 8's best skill. We had macaroni on Thursday, which was marvellous after an exhausting day. On Friday, everybody climbed to the top of the mountain Couto, where eagles flew around us, and we were above the clouds... a remarkable view. On Saturday, we did the same activities from the first day, however we swapped groups so the group that went rappelling went hiking and vice-versa. We arrived at the *pousada* and had a delicious lunch.

Our fun last didn't last long, Saturday arrived and we had to go back home. Four hours on the bus... what a long ride! During the ride, we received our results, and fortunately everyone went Ice Skating.

