



PACA

NEWS

NURTURING HEARTS | DEVELOPING MINDS | EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY

Important Dates:

January 26, 2017
First Day of school for 2nd Semester

February 18, 2017
Candlelight Dinner

February 27 - March 1, 2017
No School - Carnival Break

March 18, 2017
International Festival

Pan American Christian Academy
Rua Cássio de Campos Nogueira, 393
04829-310 São Paulo, SP Brazil

Brazil Phone: 55 (11) 5929-9500
Fax: 55 (11) 5928-9591
US Phone: (480) 471-5339

Email: info@paca.com.br
Website: www.paca.com.br
Facebook: [facebook.com/PACA.School](https://www.facebook.com/PACA.School)
Instagram: [@pacaschool](https://www.instagram.com/pacaschool)

CONTENTS

Students Gifts and Talents by
Robin Rugg, Superintendent...
page 2

Celebramos 194 anos da Inde-
pendência do Brasil...
page 3

Tempo de Despedida - Profes-
sora Marta Franco...
page 3

PACA students participated in
a choir festival...
page 4

Ten students went to their first
Lego Robotics competition...
page 4

"Wild About Books" - this year's
Reading Contest...
page 5

The Christmas Program - an
annual Elementary event...
page 6

Preschool News...
page 7

College Visits...
page 8

Big 8 Sports...
page 8



STUDENT'S GIFTS AND TALENTS

ROBIN RUGG, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

One of the aspects of my office that I enjoy the most is my collection of student 3D art. Mr. Lima, the PACA art teacher, along with a number of students, have been gracious enough to donate different pieces for me to display. As I walk around campus, student art is also seen in framed paintings and sketches, along with a few murals. It is wonderful to see the gifts and talents that God has given PACA students each day.

Some of those gifts and talents were also on display during these last couple of weeks of school. Mr. Davis, along with the drama students and his production staff, put on a wonderful play this semester. Also, Mrs. Dunn and all of the elementary students, led by the 5th grade students, shared what the true meaning of Christmas is at our annual Christmas program.

Recently, I was contacted by a former PACA Board Member and parent, Debbie Kornfield. She shared with me a diary that her daughter Karis, a PACA graduate, had written in December of 1996, when she was 13 years old. Karis wrote the diary as if she was a young Mary in the days and months leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. For those who didn't have the privilege of being part of Karis's life, she was



one of the most amazing people, of any age, I have ever met. A true woman of God, she was a shining light for all she came into contact. She was the definition of what a true warrior is. She faced adversity relying upon God's strength and sought to comfort others over her own comfort.

Below is one of the entries from this diary. You can find a copy of the diary in the school office and the PACA library.

Dear Diary,

I've just read Isaiah 53, and it's perfectly awful. It says the Messiah – and he's not just the Messiah any more, he's my son, my little baby – it says he'll be wounded and bruised and killed. I can't stand it. Why couldn't God choose someone else to be his mother? Why did he have to show

me this, even before he's born? Couldn't I have at least one happy day with my son, not knowing and fearing what's to become of him? Why do I have to suffer so, not being able to protect him?

Even though I try to trust you, Jehovah, sometimes I just don't understand, and it's hard. But thanks anyway for letting me know beforehand, so I'm at least prepared. I place this, along with the fear of rejection, in Your hands. Please help me to trust you, even though everything seems so absolutely impossible.

*Sincerely,
Mary*

During her time with us, Karis was the full embodiment of 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love in faith and purity."

Let's encourage our students as they seek to serve Him with their gifts and talents and during the holiday season, let us celebrate the gift of salvation through the birth of Christ Jesus. He has bestowed countless blessings upon each of us. Let's strive as a community of believers to reach out and bless others.



Na primeira semana de setembro celebramos 194 anos da Independência do Brasil, um dos fatos históricos mais importantes para o nosso País, marco do fim do domínio português e início da construção da identidade de nossa Nação.

A história de independência de nosso jovem país é marcada por conquistas que não podem ser esquecidas e, por outro lado, grandes desafios que precisam ser vencidos. Vivemos um momento propício para efetivar um novo caminhar.

Creio que um país só se tornará vitorioso quando fundamentalmente reconhecer a soberania de Deus e a influência que Ele exerce sobre o seu povo.

Para nós, como escola, tem sido um privilégio voltar nossos corações a Deus, clamando a Ele que em Sua infinita misericórdia acrescente sabedoria ao nosso povo, a fim de que nossa Pátria seja um lugar melhor e verdadeiramente abençoado por Nosso Deus.

“...se o meu povo, que se chama pelo meu nome, se humilhar e orar, buscar a minha face e se afastar dos seus maus caminhos, dos céus o ouvirei, perdoarei o seu pecado e curarei a sua terra.” 2 Crônicas 7:14



TEMPO DE DESPEDIDA

“Tudo tem seu tempo determinado e há tempo para todo propósito debaixo do céu.”
Eclesiastes 3.1

A difícil tarefa de dizer adeus!!! Algo que aprendemos e exercitamos em nossa escola ano após ano!!!

A comemoração de 7 de setembro, também foi tempo de despedida...

Nesse dia, pudemos nos despedir e abençoar a Professora Marta Franco, uma pessoa sempre dedicada e com profundo amor e apreço; trabalhou de forma incansável por mais de 37 anos como Diretora dos Estudos Brasileiros.

Marta deixou sua marca na vida desta escola e nos corações de muitos que tiveram a oportunidade de trabalhar com ela e de serem ensinados por ela. Mulher valo-rosa e serve fiel!

Como boa obreira do Senhor, segue agora para novos desafios. Temos certeza de que Deus ainda a usará nos vastos campos de Sua seara.



CHOIR FESTIVAL

DEBBIE DUNN, MUSIC TEACHER

On November 18 & 19, six PACA students (Marcelle, Isabella, Anna Laura, Christine, Gabrielle, and Tovia, Anna Laura) had the privilege of participating in the Graded International Choral Festival. They joined a choir of over 100 students from five different schools for two delightful days of singing and performing together. After a morning of rehearsals, perfecting the music they had learned prior to the event, they presented two concerts to the Graded student body.

On the second day they performed for the Graded Thanksgiving Festival which was followed by a delicious traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The event ended with the festival final concert that afternoon.

We are so proud that three of our PACA students (Anna Laura, Tovia and Gabrielle) had solos in one of the four performances!

LEGO ROBOTICS

SUSIE ZUERCHER, SCIENCE TEACHER

PACA had its first debut into First Lego League on November 19. Ten students prepared about 3 months for the all-day regional robotics competition held at SESI in Indaiatuba.

Our two teams prepared presentations for the 3 areas of competition - a project which presented a solution to a real world problem, a presentation about FLL core values, and a presentation about their robot and programming skills on the game board earning points for completing missions.



Both teams finished successfully, placing 35th and 39th out of the 52 teams present in the timed matches. Way to go to our teams: Justin, Vinicius, Isabella, Gabriel, Marco, Timmy, Juan, Chris, Josh, Advik and coached by Susie Zuercher and Denise Deal.

Also, special thanks to the many individuals who gave of their time and donations: Bann's, Cho's, Kauffmann's, Charleton's, Ana Claudia and many staff and teachers of the PACA community.

"WILD ABOUT BOOKS" ANNUAL ELEMENTARY READING CONTEST

JENNIFER KIERSTEAD, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



This year's reading contest - "WILD about Books!" kicked off on Friday, September 30th. The 1st graders provided the play for our opening assembly, and many parents were able to join us for the morning of activities! Throughout the month, the students (and teachers) not only had the opportunity to dress up as an animal but also as a book character. There were many creative costumes for both of the dress up days. Mrs. Magalhaes told us a story of her African safari.



This year to conclude our reading activities, we took the elementary on a field trip to the Zoo Safari. We all enjoyed seeing and feeding the animals. Some even stuck their heads in our van for food! Special thanks to the library staff – who did an amazing job of transforming their space into an African jungle!

In elementary chapels this semester, we have heard from Renata about collecting the tabs on soda cans to help purchase a wheelchair. The elementary is excited and working on bringing in tabs to help this cause. There are donation boxes in each of the elementary classrooms.



Valmir Soares, from Ambassadors, spoke to us, sharing about our theme verse. Claryssa Tomaz, a former PACA elementary teacher, also came and shared about her new ministry, IBTE (<http://www.ibte.org.br/>). It is neat to hear how God is working in people's lives around our city.

The 3rd graders reminded the school to be thankful in their all-school Thanksgiving assembly on Wednesday, November 23rd. Next semester, the 4th graders will have their class assembly in February, the 5th graders in March, the 2nd graders in May and the Kindergarten in June.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER."

JENNIFER KIERSTEAD, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

The Annual Elementary Christmas program, "The Best Christmas Present Ever" by Celeste Clydesdale took place Saturday, December 10. The gym was packed! Mrs. Dunn and all the students worked hard throughout the semester to memorize songs and motions. The 5th graders presented the play and did amazing! They really set the tone for our practice times, and everything came together well. It was neat to be surrounded by friends and family to celebrate this special time. We prayed during our group practices for God to prepare our hearts and the audience members' hearts as well. The gospel was clearly presented for all to hear.

As an extension of presenting this program for friends and family, the elementary students had an opportunity to minister to others as well. The 3rd-5th graders presented several songs at Meirehaus, an elderly folks' home, not far from school. The residents enjoyed seeing and hearing our students each year. The Kindergarteners through 2nd graders also sung several songs for our worker staff on campus.

I am thankful to lead and serve students who love people. They help, encourage and share with those around them.



A SEMESTER WITH OUR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS

CLARA BETTIOL, PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR



It has been a year full of transitions at the PACA Preschool, as we started with new students, some new teaching staff, and a new Preschool Coordinator. In Pre-K1 we welcomed Mrs. Fátima Leitão as the new full time aide, as well as Mrs. Vanessa Flurry as the new part-time assistant. In Pre-K2 we welcomed back Mrs. Clara Bettiol (also previously known as Miss Chen), who had been the preschool coordinator and Pre-K2 lead teacher back when the Preschool started. We also welcomed Mrs. Barbara Assis, who has been teaching Bible class in the afternoon at the Pre-K2 class.

In August at our Open House, we invited our new school psychologist, Mrs. Luana Sousa to share about separation anxiety with all the preschool parents. It was a great turn out, and the parents were very engaged in the presentation by asking and answering questions to the speaker and one another. This has been part of the school's effort to partner with parents in the education of their child, and we

thought it important to start the school year together in that fashion.

At the start of the second quarter, we introduced Portuguese classes to our Preschool day. This has been something new, but required by MEC (Brazil's Ministry of Education) this year. Mrs. Viviane Souza was asked to head the classes in both Pre-K1 and Pre-K2. It is considered a Special class of 30-minute sessions, twice a week for Pre-K1 and three times a week for Pre-K2 students. The children have enjoyed the classes as they have had an opportunity to speak a more familiar language during that time of day. We hope that this will add to the students' language experience, and expand the vocabulary and comprehension in Portuguese.

Over this first semester, we also invited the school's nutritionist to engage the students in different activities related to nutrition. In her first talk, she explained to the children that a plate should be filled with foods of many colors, and also encouraged them to try new kinds of foods, as she offered them an ice cream made of banana only. In her second session, Tia Fabiana talked about the various types of grains and legumes, and asked the students to try a little bit of lentil salad. Our plan is to have more of these activities in the second semester to continue encouraging the students to develop good eating habits.



In November, we took advantage of a very warm and sunny day to have a Water Day! The kids brought their swimming suits and trunks, and spent a whole morning playing and splashing water at their friends and teachers. It was a great day for fun and play in the sun!

We are very grateful for all the Preschool teaching staff and parents who have worked together to make this semester an important one for the children. There has been so much growth and change already in our students. We know that they are learning a ton! It is our hope and desire that this will continue throughout the second semester, as they develop and grow more into Christ likeness.

COLLEGE VISITS

CLAUDIA KUHNAST, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR



I had the opportunity to help the Student Council, headed by senior Vivian Shiu, organize several events. We had the Welcome Back Party, Warrior Week, the High School Retreat, and the Christmas decorations contest. Stuco also helped organize the Thanksgiving Clothes drive, in which we blessed 4 ministries: Casa Semear, Lar Efrata, lar Tia Edna, and for the first time, IBTE (Instituto Brasileiro de Transformação pela Educação), a ministry directed by ex-Paca teacher, Claryssa Thomas.

Also, between individual visits, group visits, and fairs, we had approximately 80 colleges and universities come speak to our students. And now as we close out the year, several of our student have already been accepted to universities like Rutgers, Furman, Gordon, Laverne, Hope, Calvin, and others. More acceptances will happen next semester!



BIG 8 SPORTS

This semester was the first time I was able to go to the Big 8 sports tournament as a chaperone. This is a sports competition that our high school teams go to every year to compete with other school from South America. Our girls Basketball team and our girls soccer did well, placing 3rd and 2nd overall. The boys did not place, but fought and played hard.

The thing I most enjoyed about being at Big 8 was to see the behavior of our students. They were polite, respectful, and gave us no trouble at all in any area. Part of Paca's vision statement is that we want our students to "...live out the Christian faith." I saw this first hand at Big 8. Congratulations to our students, not because they win awards or get into college, but because they are outstanding individuals, who will "...impact their world for Christ."

