

EABH FYI

A quarterly update from the American School of Belo Horizonte

March 2007

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Greetings from the Director of the American School of Belo Horizonte! This is my first "newsletter" addressed to the students and parents of EABH.



I prefer to do my communication face-to-face, but there are a number of things that we felt needed to be communicated and we felt it was time to send you a school update in writing. This is an exciting school with a lot of things happening!

I hope all of you received my last letter telling you that I would not be returning next school year due to health reasons. We are working hard to find a new director and have identified a number of strong candidates. We are setting up visits to the school for the top candidates and these candidates will be interviewing with staff, administration, parents and board members. We hope to have the new person on board by the middle of April allowing them time to spend in transition with me.

Our International Festival was a great success. There were a lot of countries represented and a lot of color during the Festival and leading up to it. It is always so nice to see the students and staff undertake such a large project and make something so educational out of it.

continued on page 2



Testing out the new equipment

NEW PLAYGROUND IS A BIG HIT

Donations from GRD Minproc and the EABH PTA make a new playground possible.

A generous donation from GRD Minproc and hard work by the EABH PTA resulted in the dedication of a new playground for students in Pre-K through first grade. Director Bill Shell and EABH staff dedicated the most recent addition to the campus on Wednesday, February 7 during a fortunate break in the rain! Donna O'Shannesey, EABH Board Member, accepted a certificate of appreciation on behalf of GRD Minproc.

After testing out the equipment, students gave the bright playground a hearty stamp of approval. This new playground complements another that is used primarily by older elementary students.



2006-2007 EABH PTA

The playground serves as an excellent example of what can be accomplished when parents, the school and the business community work together.

Thank you for your support!

FYI = For Your Information

continued from page 1

Our student population continues to increase. We now have over 164 students, up from 130 when we began school this year. We really are becoming an "International School" with 50% of our primary students being from Brazil and the other 50% from around the world.

The new playground is incredible! If you have not stopped by to see it, please do so. GRD Minproc and our PTA raised the funds for this project and it was a great effort for such a wonderful task.

Students are getting ready for everything from athletic tournaments to graduation. This is always such an exciting time of the school year. We will be notifying you of those upcoming events via letter and other notices. We are trying to begin putting a lot of this information on our new website located at www.eabh.com.br. Our goal is to make our website your primary way to receive updates about the school. Another interesting idea that we are researching is the notification via e-mail of school happenings. Our goal is to have that piece up and running by the start of the next school year.

I will close with a warm thank you to each and every one of you for making my short stay at EABH so memorable. Before I left the US people told me that working at an international school will change you forever. How right they were! I will miss EABH but know that I will remember you forever.

Take care,
Bill Shell

IB IMPLEMENTATION ON TRACK

Our International Baccalaureate Programmes continue to move forward. We are now a **CANDIDATE SCHOOL** which means that we are over half way to full authorization. Our first official training was in December 2006 and since that training we have been working hard on the curriculum writing and training associated with the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Normally schools will take up to 18 months to get as far as we have in five months. We plan to ask for an author-ization visit between October and December 2007.

As we continue to work with other American schools in Brazil, we are able to share information with them and they are also sharing with us. For example we talked with Curitiba (Paraná) last week and they told us that by offering the IB Diploma Programme their students have done extremely well on the vestibular, which is good news for EABH students concerned about two different tests.

We know the IB diploma will open many doors for our students and we also know that as an international school, we have students moving here and those leaving to pursue advanced educational opportunities around the world. For all involved, IB is the way to go.

If you would like more information, please stop by and talk with Tricia Dutton (PYP Coordinator), Rebecca Stilwell (MYP Coordinator) or Bill Shell (Director). Also, www.ibo.org contains a wealth of useful information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 5 - 9	EASTER HOLIDAY
APRIL 11	PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE
APRIL 30 - MAY 1	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
MAY 5	SAT
MAY 23	PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING
JUNE 2	SAT
JUNE 7	CORPUS CHRISTI HOLIDAY
JUNE 9	FESTA JUNINA
JUNE 15	LAST DAY OF 2ND SEMESTER

ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

Total: **163**
PK-5th grade: **89**
6th-12th grade: **74**

EABH STUDENTS SHINE

Several students from EABH have received scholarship offers from American universities. These "full-ride" scholarships cover 100% of college costs and reflect not just athletic ability but also academic achievement.

TATIANA PEDROSA has signed a letter of intent to play soccer at the University of West Georgia in Georgia, USA. **CYNTHIA BARROS** has received offers from Panola College (Texas) and West Virginia University Tech to play volleyball. **JUSSARA OLIVEIRA** is contemplating offers from Panola College and Navarro College (Texas) for volleyball while **LUISA RODRIGUES** has been offered scholarships to play volleyball at Panola College, Hiwassee College (Tennessee) and Trinidad State University (Colorado).

Congratulations to these students and to **Coach Serafini** for their significant accomplishments!



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE EABH COMMUNITY

STUDENTS

We are thrilled to have 27 new students this semester at EABH. Listed below are their names, grade level and country from which they arrived.

PK-I

Gabriel – South Africa
Stefano – Brazil
Luana – Brazil
Gabriela – Brazil

PK-II

Júlia – Switzerland
Benjamin – Chile
Filippo – Brazil
Giulia – Brazil
Marco – Brazil
Ruby – Australia

Kindergarten

Margot – Brazil
Alexandra – Brazil

1st Grade

Christian – Chile

2nd Grade

Rebecca – England
Arthur – Brazil
Ana Carolina – Brazil

4th Grade

Isabela – USA
Giulia – England

6th Grade

Francisca – Chile

8th Grade

Bryan – Brazil
Jayme – Brazil

10th Grade

Bruna – Brazil
Alexia – USA

11th Grade

Júlia – Brazil
Alice – Brazil

12th Grade

Pedro – Brazil

FACULTY/STAFF

You may have noticed some new faces around campus. Please join us in welcoming these new staff members - we're proud to have them as part of the EABH team!

Leonardo Cordeiro is the school's new business manager. Leo has an MBA, over 7 years experience working in finance and control and has worked for several large corporations including Fiat and Andrade Guitierrez. Leo wants parents to know that he welcomes their input and that he is thankful for the opportunity to work at EABH.

Dawn Kelly is happy to be EABH's marketing & development director. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from American universities and credits her time at the American School in Japan as one that instilled an appreciation for international education. Dawn first came to Brazil on a post-college exchange program in 1990. She fell in love with the country and has been living here off-and-on ever since.

Wesley Campos is our new grounds & maintenance supervisor. Wes has worked at other schools in Brazil and has traveled throughout Europe and Brazil promoting art and social initiatives.

Carol Bessa comes to us from Sweden by way of Fortaleza, Ceará. She is our new Pre-K I teacher and has taught pre-school in Brazil and in Europe. Since joining EABH, Carol has been impressed by the level of cooperation between teachers and the commitment of all staff to ensuring a quality education for students.

Katie Chiaverini joins us as the 4th grade teacher. Katie earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in language arts/reading from New Mexico State University. She has taught in the US, Mexico and Argentina and learned Spanish while on a year-long solo journey through Central and South America. Katie feels strongly about the IB Programme and looks forward to learning and growing with her students.

Silvana Diniz is our new computer teacher. She has a master's degree in instructional technology from ECU (North Carolina, USA) as well as a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from PUC (Minas Gerais). Silvana is excited to develop a computer technology program that is based on IB principles and to integrate computer classes with other subjects through interdisciplinary activities.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- 7 new water tanks installed February 2007
- Water quality tested by COPASA March 8, 2007 (level=good)
- New electrical system installed February 2007
- Landscaping completed March 2007

www.eabh.com.br

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GET IN TOUCH! EABH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF DIRECTORY



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