



Student Scoop

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International Festival: Multiple Perspectives

By Sarah Nappi

Tanzania. China. Mexico. Turkey. United States of America. These five countries represent many cultures, languages and life-styles. The *only* thing they seem to have in common is their representation by the Pan American School of Bahia's elementary school in the 2015 International Festival.

Saturday, the 14th of March was this year's International Festival, and it was an overall success. Between creative dance performances, well-decorated barracas for each nation, and superb, free cuisine, members of the community agree the International Festival was a delight to attend.

The performances were the beginning of the International Festival. Each country was represented through extravagant costumes, in ensemble from animal attire to football jerseys to traditional-styled Mexican dresses. The choreography of each dance was also well done. Each class had their time to shine, with small groups doing separate dances before a grand finale.

After the performances were completed, the International Festival segued smoothly into the soccer field that had been transformed into an international food court! Around the edges of the field were five barracas, each with typical cuisine from the country it represented. The food was surrounded by elaborate decorations that looked fantastic! Thanks to the volunteering of dedicated parents, spectators and students were transported across four continents without ever leaving South America.

When seven o'clock came and the crowd slowly dispersed, the feeling of admiration was tangible. You could hear the congratulations and you were definitely thinking it was well done. Parents from all grades and students who had come to watch either siblings or friends were amazed at how well the 2015 International Festival had been put together. The elementary students were already looking forward to next year, excited to learn more about another nation and create such a great experience for their audience!

From my perch as the Statue of Liberty, I was able to see the International Festival unfold. Between grown-ups conversing in a variety of languages ran kids in their ethnic costumes, and I saw the true meaning of the International Festival. As one human race, the differences we have are not nearly as important as our similarities. Schools like the Pan American School of Bahia portray the ability of different cultures to live cohesively and cooperate beneficially.

In an ongoing effort to understand the world and to improve it in any way possible, it is important to consider all perspectives. Rumors of the events' expenses had the school community reeling. After communicating with the school's accountant, Marina Skelton, the actual price of R\$ 38,000 is less than the estimated R\$ 45,000, which is a relief, but still a potential area to improve upon in future events, given the school's core value of responsible stewardship. Elementary school principal Rich Alix shared the breakdown of how such money was spent on the festival. "Funding was allocated for costumes and dance (50%), food (40%) and barraca decorations (10%)," he wrote.

A quick chat with various teachers revealed that while the International Festival was a positive experience in many ways, it could be even better next year. An idea voiced by a second grade teacher was to restructure the use of instructional time, particularly with activities like dance preparation. "During the final week, there is usually very little instruction time to spend on anything besides presentation and dance prep," Ms. Rush told me, and she, "would like to see the dance portion of the event treated as a voluntary after-school club so that it doesn't take up class time and so that only interested students would participate."

Another concern voiced by Ms. Rush is the stress International Festival places on teachers, considering the lack of teaching resources available for the International Festival lead-up unit. She described more structure as being vital to the International Festival unit's academic success. While the evening was not an event wrapped up in academics, the unit preceding the event is just as important to the elementary school students. She says, "From a teacher's perspective, it would be great to have a better articulated plan for incorporating our grade level standards into our International Festival unit of study."

The general consensus from teachers is that if the school decides that the International Festival is a valuable part of the elementary school curriculum, a "reasonable" budget for the event could be as high as it was. However, some of those teachers also agreed it may have been a high price for one night.

First, the amount of money spent on costuming and dance choreography was an incredibly high figure. Quick, easy ways of saving money were visible, but the chances were not

taken. Instead, thousands of reais were spent on choreography and costumes, that could be saved for future International Festivals, which were instead given as keepsakes to current students! Another monetary critique spices up the issue of the International Festival: the food. The International Festival made no money for PASB, as all the food was free. While the treat of free exotic dishes is nice, there was great opportunity for the Pan American School of Bahia to raise funds for any number of things. An example would be putting the money towards a student scholarship for travel or buying new textbooks. Even donating the money to a charity would have been a good idea. “In my experience of International Days in schools, I have seen very different examples of how each one celebrates their diversity and host culture... All had yummy food on offer usually sold to make money for the school, charity or simply cover costs,” one teacher said, after experiencing her first PASB International Festival.

The barraca decorations were not a huge priority for the funding, however it was not easy to see. The hard work and dedication of parent volunteers shined when the barraca decorations were finalized. The parents truly did an amazing job, and because they were volunteers, saved money. It was a prime example of how other of expenditures could have been managed.

The Pan American School of Bahia’s 2015 International Festival was a delight to attend. That being said, perhaps next year changes could be made to save money and even raise enough to cover costs or donate to a worthy cause. With each annual festival coming and going, more amazing things could be done with the evening!

Exchange Program: Going Away and Coming Back Home

By Giovanna Trabasso

As we grow up, we’re bombarded with “live your life to the fullest; enjoy it while you can,” and as teenagers it becomes hard to understand such concepts. However, coming from a Junior who has, well, who likes to believe that she has, lived her life to the fullest while she can, we should seek every opportunity possible. One of the greatest opportunities you’ll get as a teenager/young adult is the experience of living abroad for a period of time. Any of you that might have the opportunity to experience an exchange program, do it.* Personally, I was insecure and afraid of leaving PASB and my family; leaving my comfort zones. I planned

everything last minute and doubted every decision. However, I did it, I lived it, and I loved it. If you're considering an exchange program, here are some important questions and answers to keep in mind:

1. Will I get the same opportunities here as I would get there?

Trust me, the answer is always "no." Not because PASB is a horrible school or does not care for its students, simply because we're *very small*. You can be at a boarding school or a public school, even if it is as small as PASB, I guarantee it will at least have one distinct course you can take.** This is not only for your college application to look good, which it will, but also for you to discover your passions and skills.

2. Will I grow from this experience?

Most absolutely, you will! No matter how much you love your family, friends, and even teachers, we all know we get fed up sometimes. An exchange program is the perfect opportunity for you to, and I say this in the nicest way possible, start liking them once again. It is true that we value what we have once it is gone. However, in this case, you get to have it all back once you come back home!

3. Will I meet new people, make new friends and discover new places?

Even if you take some time off from PASB and change schools, you will complete all of the above. However, and this is where an exchange program becomes interesting, you will meet people from all over the world! I kid you not, all over the world! I know not all of you desire to spend time at a boarding school, but even public schools have other foreign students just like you who will make you feel completely away from home, but very homey at the same time since you're all sinking the same ship. Now I'm kidding, it won't be a sinking ship, I promise.

In conclusion, do it. Leave your mom behind, get away from an annoying little sibling or bossy older brother/sister and have an adventure of your own. You'll come back a new person or simply a fresh, new you. If you have experienced an exchange program, e-mail us at studentscoop@pasb.com.br and share your favorite aspects of leaving home for a while, and it might be published in our next edition! If you have questions or need advice from PASB students that have had this experience and wish to get in touch with them, we have many right here at *Student Scoop*, so just e-mail us at the same address and we'll get in touch with you. One last

note: your mother will love you even more once you've come back, meaning you'll get a full week of no nagging and only your favorite meals.

* Please note that this is the first in a series of columns on exchange programs with more advice to follow.

** Make sure to meet with academic counselors to ensure that your courses transfer and will count for credit here at the Pan American School of Bahia.

ISSL Approaching: Are Teams Prepared?

By Beatriz Oliveira

The sports teams at Pan American School of Bahia are in an intensive training stage. According to students, the practices are stressful and exhausting due to the approaching championship. This event called ISSL will be held from 24-28 of April at São Paulo where many international schools throughout Brazil will compete among each other. It's one of the only opportunities students at PASB have to show off their training skills against other institutions. The question asked among many is if the athletes and the teams as a whole are prepared.

After Eldo, former coach, left in the middle of the school year, the volleyball team's outcome is unknown and nerve-racking without a leader. The teams have now been taken into the hands of Consuelo, director of the P.E program who has had past experiences, alongside Tatiana Ramalho.

In terms of the boys' indoor soccer team, hopes for 1st place seem to be what everybody mentions after past accomplishments. Will too much pressure make the team crumble or succeed? The training has continued intensively, hoping to once again bring the gold back to PASB in April.

For the girls' soccer team, many have been speculating when a win will come after years of placing 3rd place. The team seems to be focused and well-prepared, but when they go onto the field, will they deliver? We all hope they do, and wait anxiously for the results. Independent of what happens, we will be cheering for our school's athletes.

Music Festival Interview With Mr. Zimmerman

By Luca Espinoza

Last Monday, 26 March 2015, I interviewed Mr. Zimmerman to find out more about his personal life and discover all the details about the music festivals coming up on the 14th and 15th of May. Mr. Zimmerman taught music in the American Overseas School in Rome for 41 years before coming to PASB. How did he find out about PASB? Ten years ago, his Italian friend wanted to start a music school for the kids who live in the favelas, and asked him to join him on this project and help create the school. He has been coming to Salvador every year since the school was created, and being in here made him fall in love with Salvador so much that he decided to leave everything in Rome and buy a house here. Fortunately for us, he wants to stay here in the city forever and has no plans to leave PASB.

After telling me his story, I asked him about the upcoming music festival and asked him the reason for the event. The festival's goal is to exhibit what they've been doing in class, make the students focus since they'll have to perform in public and also give the students a chance to share their abilities with everyone else, basically, to "show-off" as Mr. Zimmerman said. The 6th and 7th graders are playing guitar and performing once, while the 8th graders are playing all sorts of instruments, including keyboards, flutes and pianos, and are going to perform twice.

At the end, Mr. Zimmerman told me about his experience with these music festivals and his role in the PASB music festival. He has worked with lots of these festivals, as his past school had this event every year, and he hopes to make better and more entertaining festivals this year and in the future. His role in the festival is to choose the music, teach it and direct it (he'll be in charge of everything) and he wants to remind all of the high school students to practice a lot because there is also going to be a high school music festival and everyone is invited to participate.

Competition

Scoop Staff

Dear Fellow Sufferers,

The *Student Scoop's* first competition ever will be centered on a depressing topic that everyone has something to rant about. Now isn't *that* inspiring? Monday mornings suck; even Newton

thought about writing that as his fourth law; however, he found it too obvious. Having to drift away from weekend mode, set up an alarm, hit snooze ten times, and get a tardy should be internationally illegal. This edition's competition will be about the things we feel during the most despised day of the week; Monday.

The challenge for writers:

Write a six word-memoir (basically a six word story) that expresses your experiences, thoughts, and feelings during Monday mornings. It has to be exactly 6 words long. Words separated by hyphens count as two. This can be more than one sentence, as long as it has exactly 6 words. Must be school appropriate, which is part of the challenge on Mondays.

It could be something like...

Returning to school is so amazing!

Tried to pretend I was sick.

No! No! No! No! No! Sleep.

Hint:

Get one main idea or feeling or image and use powerful words to describe it concisely. Break sentences to shorten if needed.

The challenge for photographers:

Take a picture that shows someone's experiences, thoughts, and feelings during Monday mornings. It can be a selfie, but really, you can do better than that. The picture should be taken on Monday to get the Monday spirit evident in the shot, but that is not a super requirement. The subject you photograph must know you are submitting the picture and must consent to the image. The picture must be school appropriate even if the feelings during Monday mornings are not.

Submission & Prize:

To cheer up lazy eyes and half-awake brains, the *Student Scoop* is awarding free ice cream (yes, we are actually giving away ice-cream and no it is not a scam to get amazing poems and pictures to sell off) to the **three** best six-word memoirs and the **three** best shots. For the photos, **both** the grand photographers and the models will be recognized with a prize.

- To submit your work, send it to the *Student Scoop* email: studentscoop@pasb.com.br with either “Monday Memoir” and / or “Monday Photo” as the subject / title
- Due by Thursday, 9 April 2015.
- Any questions, just email the *Student Scoop* staff and we will respond soon.

Monday Music

By Gustavo Soares

Monday Mornings are a definite discouragement to everyone; literally you come from an awesome weekend where you were able to do whatever you wanted, and then you have to sit back down and watch teachers talk about stuff, right? However, Mondays don't need to be as "boring" as they are. We made a playlist with our 10 favorite electronic/upbeat songs to cheer you in those "bad" days.

- 1- Alesso - Heroes (we could be) ft. ToveLo
- 2- Calvin Harris - Blame ft. John Newman
- 3- Ariana Grande - Break Free ft. Zedd
- 4- Calvin Harris - Outside ft. Ellie Goulding
- 5- Zedd - I Want You To Know ft. Selena Gomez
- 6- Avicii - The Nights
- 7- Lilly Wood & The Prick and Robin Schulz - Prayer In C
- 8- Mr. Probz - Waves
- 9- Skrillex and Diplo - Where Are U Now ft. Justin Bieber
- 10- Coldplay - A Sky Full Of Stars

Event: Tomorrowland Brazil

Tomorrowland is an event for the electronic music lovers. Since 2005, in Boom, Belgium, this huge festival has been happening every single year, and this year. it is, in addition, going to happen in Brazil. The most important DJs from all over the world are going to come to our country to cheer up Brazilians, and people from all over the world are going to attend the festival. The event is going to happen in Itu, São Paulo on May 1, 2 and 3rd. It is going to be absolutely mind-blowing. However, if you are under 18 years old, you will need to wait a little bit more, because that is the minimum age to attend the event.

More Music Updates!

By Luca Espinoza

Meghan Trainor- Dear Future Husband (https://youtu.be/ShlW5plD_40?t=16s)

Rate: ★★★★★☆

The video for her latest single has just arrived and with a catchy chorus and a beat reminding the pop music of the late 80s, Meghan Trainor has quickly got back in the business. The song is already on Billboard's Hot 100 and #dearfuturehusband is on the top trends of twitter. The reason for a 4 star rate is because even though the song has an amazing beat, together with a very funny/ sassy message, it's a very girly-like pop style of song and might not reach the standards of people who appreciate different music genres other than pop and as well might not be appealing to adults who would think that the song is childish.

Nicki Minaj- Truffle Butter (https://youtu.be/EUS_ONfxRnQ)

Rate: ★★★★★☆

With the lyric video out, we can soon predict a video for this amazing hip-hop song by the Trinidadian and Tobagonian singer and songwriter Nicki Minaj. The music has an unusual nightclub-like beat and has gained millions of listeners lately because of the weird definition that

it's given to the online urban dictionary. The song is currently in the 14th position of Billboard's Hot 100 and features the Canadian rapper Drake and the American rapper Lil Wayne for the majority of the song. This song deserves a rate of 3 stars because it really does have a "sick" beat and it's pleasing to both listen and dance to. However, there isn't any chorus in the lyrics of the song, so it's most likely not going to be catchy.

Zedd- I Want You To Know (<https://youtu.be/X46t8ZFqUB4>)

Rate: ★★★★★☆

Featuring Selena Gomez, Zedd's new electronic jam has gained over 6 million views on youtube and sold more than 100,000 digital copies on iTunes. The song has debuted for about a month and its music video premiered a week ago with scenes of Selena Gomez dancing wildly at a nightclub. The song is currently number 38 on *Billboard's* "Hot 100" and talks about the connection that the singer has with its lover. This song earns 4 stars because it has a sensational dancing beat and a catchy chorus; however, despite the factor that the song is great for a dance or two, it's agitated, making an outstanding quality only for people with a particular taste in music, namely electronic music. Otherwise, it can become boring to others since the message that the lyrics give is unsightly.

Book Review for *Student Scoop*

By Sarah Nappi

Book: Sarah's Key

Author: Tatiana de Rosnay

Genre: Historical Fiction/Realistic Fiction

Rating: ★★★★★☆

From one of the darkest eras in world history comes inspiration for some of the best novels of all-time. Among these is *Sarah's Key*, a heart-breaking story by Tatiana de Rosnay that flawlessly combines beautiful writing and an intriguing story.

An American journalist by the name of Julia Jaramond lives in Paris, France in the year 2002, exactly 60 years after the infamous Vel' d'Hiv Roundup which happened in the midst of the Second World War. Assigned to cover the research and follow-up of such a dark spot in French history, Julia finds so much more. While researching, Julia stumbles across an incredible story of a young girl named Sarah. Sarah Starzynski's life is turned upside down when the French police pound on her door one early morning in July of 1942; however, no one would have ever anticipated how Sarah's life story would intertwine with an American journalist's and change it forever, even sixty years after such tragic events.

Sarah's Key is a spellbinding story that draws in readers from the first page. Between the relatable writing of Julia Jaramond and the unimaginable horrors described by Sarah Starzynski, the book is impossible to put down. The characters developed by de Rosnay are so beautiful, every tragedy resonates in the reader's heart. It is an international bestseller, loved by teenagers and adults alike.

Film Review for *Student Scoop*

By Brent Strong

Taken 3

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

That's right ladies and gentleman, the newest installment of the *Taken* series has now been out for 3 months! If you are thinking about renting or buying when it comes out on Amazon and iTunes, you had better enjoy loud, ridiculous explosions and gratuitous violence.

Like the other two films, *Taken 3* begins with some unimportant dialogue and then an appalling discovery, namely Bryan Mills, former CIA agent, finds his ex-wife's dead body lying on his bed. Of course, a minute after he makes this shocking discovery, the LAPD barges into his room and orders him to surrender. Somehow, somehow, Mills, played by the talented but old Liam Neeson (he's 62), manages to take out the two arresting officers and outrun a few more, most of whom seem to be in their late twenties.

The plot quickly reveals itself to be a weird hybrid of murder mystery and Michael Bay action flick. Mills, with the help of some of his ex-spy buddies, begins to track down the man responsible for the murder while simultaneously surviving multiple explosions, killing a number of Russians in a convenience store, and contacting his daughter by hiding in the girls' bathroom, all while being tracked by Investigator Frank Dotzler (Forrest Whitaker). His search eventually leads him to a Russian dressed in whitey tighties and a not so hidden puppet master who has been pulling the strings the whole time. As an added bonus, *Taken 3* manages to fit in a fair number of sinister threats that are all variations of "I'm going to find you and kill you."

While certainly entertaining, *Taken 3* is more of a comedy than the serious film it is supposed to be. Neeson and Whitaker are both fantastic actors, but the idea of Neeson killing all those bad guys at his advanced age is a little unbelievable. Some of the supporting actors were probably hired right off the street as they are worse than middle schoolers performing Shakespeare. The plot is hard to believe and some elements of the story are laugh-out-loud stupid (see Russian in whitey tighties). *Taken 3* is better than nothing, but I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who wants to see a quality film.

The Sensational Cebola: Brazilian Loves American Portuguese

By Brent Strong

PASB- When interviewed, local student Iago Domingos revealed that he absolutely loves the American Portuguese spoken by a number of students in the school. Iago, an eleventh grader participating in the IB program, reports that "the few Americans who are humble enough to try to speak to me in my native language are always asking 'Onde vai você hoje?' because if it works in English then it sure as hell works in lesser languages. I absolutely love it." Sources confirmed on Thursday that Iago was seen listening patiently as an American defiled his native tongue.

