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THE OLIVERIAN SCHOOL

Strength in Academics Growth Through Adventure Success in Service

"An Inspiring, Supportive and Challenging Alternative"

Oliverian Newsletter

December 2008

Greetings!

The Oliverian School is an alternative college preparatory program crafted for students who struggle in traditional settings or who "march to the beat of a different drummer." [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

Warm Regards,
Barclay Mackinnon, Jr
Head of School



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CSS Learning Tip #19

Rarely is a person's "best work" done on a first attempt or under short time restrictions. Yet in school, students are often required to complete tasks in a limited time-frame with little opportunity for revision.



A person's ability to perform well "on the spot" depends on a number of things. A student is more likely to complete a task successfully if parents and teachers consider the demands of the task before asking the student to perform it. For example, does the task require heavy reliance on memory, written or oral demands, etc.? This knowledge can help parents and teachers gauge the amount of time, support and resources students will need to be thoughtful and thorough about their work.

For "Strategies That Work" please visit [The Center for School Success](#).

Intersession Trips 2009

Intersession at the Oliverian School is an extraordinary week in February for students to travel to another region, take part in cultural understanding, enjoy adventure-based experiences, gain artistic knowledge, and partake in community service. From many perspectives, the most valuable piece of the Intersession experience is the service component. This year, Intersession trips will focus on service to others as a major element to the trips.



Trip #1:

Ecuador, Bosque Seco Lalo Loor

Oliverian students will be working and living in the village, Bosque Seco Lalo Loor. Each day they will have the chance to help Peace Corps volunteers on local projects, reforestation projects, or assist with data collection. To celebrate the end of the trip the group will venture to the beach for a

day of sand, sun, and surf.

As an academic institution, growth and learning is critical, not only for the students and families we work with, but for the school as well. We have been very proud of the courses offered in the past and the experiences students brought back to share with everyone campus.

Peer Tutoring Program at Oliverian

Center for School Success' Senior Learning Specialist, **Beth Reed**, recently developed and delivered specialized training to Oliverian students active in the Peer Tutoring program. Oliverian utilizes peer tutoring because of its proven learning success for both the tutor and the tutee.

Beth's training focused on identifying common stumbling blocks to homework completion as well as how to help struggling students get through common obstacles. Peer tutors are advised not do the work for their peers or label the breakdown areas, such as: attention, language, or memory weaknesses



Beth shared concrete ideas and strategies for tutors to try out in the

tutoring environment. Strategies and ideas included: ask the struggling student to identify where they are stuck and then walk them through the expectations of each task. Together, the tutor and tutee will then break down the problem and identify which steps the tutee can do successfully.

Beth also provided the tutors and faculty advisers a list of ideas to experiment with, depending on where the student is having trouble, such as: getting started, understanding reading, picking out important details, getting ideas on the page staying focused, etc. The peer tutors will work closely with the students, advisers and the student's teachers. Peer tutoring has proven successful for the tutees, but is also a learning tool for the tutor as they learn skills more thoroughly while teaching it to someone else.

Martial Arts Class Takes Off

Oliverian School has added Martial Arts to its line up of activities for students! Offered on Monday evenings from 8:30 - 9:30 pm (after evening study hall and just prior to curfew), the martial arts class focuses on Kenpo, a Japanese art form which concentrates on discipline and self-defense.



Sensai Joe Champagne, our local instructor, offered this class during Summer Session 2008 and was met with great enthusiasm from the students who participated. This fall, Sensai Joe offers a class for faculty, children of faculty, and the community, followed by the Oliverian student class. So far, the classes have been well received and continue to grow!

Fall 2008 Oli-lympics, students vs. faculty games

Recently, students and faculty enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather with a day of outdoor activities, affectionally dubbed the Oli-lympics of Fall 2008. The afternoon began with a BBQ and was followed by student vs. faculty games of soccer and softball.



While the students put up a valiant effort, youth and enthusiasm did not triumph in this case, and the faculty won the soccer match with a score of 4 to 3. During the 4 inning softball game, age and experience came face to face with youth and enthusiasm and the 'old folks' took them to town! The (unofficial) final score was 14 to 3. In the springtime, we'll be sure to have several more match-ups and give the students another chance to try and take the faculty on the field.

We Offer Rolling Admissions!

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