Welcome back to OLGA students! This year is especially exciting as we welcome the start of the new school year with the OLGA Science Newsletter.

This is another way you can get involved and be a part of the action here at OLGA. Our Science Department is constantly growing and changing. I cannot wait to see the great things that are accomplished this year.

Wishing you much success!

Blessings,

Mrs. Cymbaluk

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Seymore Paypert, a renowned expert on children and computing, said that children are turned off by school because “we teach numbers, then Algebra, then Calculus, then Physics. Wrong!” exclaims the pioneer in artificial intelligence of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “Start with Engineering and from that abstract comes Physics, Calculus and eventually pure Mathematics. So much better to have first grade children or kindergarten kid doing engineering and leave it to the older ones the pure mathematics than to do it the other way around.

In a growing number of schools, educators are echoing Papert’s assertions that engaging students by starting them with the concrete and solving hands-on, real world problems is a great motivator. Ultimately, they say, such project-based learning that freely crosses disciplines provides an educa-
Science at OLGA is where we do a lot of hands-on activities or what is known as the Problem-based Learning. Learning by doing is the best way to understand a problem that you are facing. You get to see it in action. The books though are never relegated into the background, they are still useful tools of learning. We use them as references. The books and other printed materials help us to confirm or not the findings we have come up with in our search for the answers to a problem we want to solve.

One science activity that I still remember very clearly was the one I did when I was in the 7th Gr. The Lesson we had at that time was The Human Anatomy. This lesson would have been difficult for me to understand had we not performed a dissection. We dissected a frog because of its similarity in some way with that of a human anatomy.

As we cut open the frog, there I saw the different organs. The heart, the lungs, the stomach, the intestines, and others, things you just get to see and read in books. But dissecting gives you a first-hand experience of not only seeing it but also touching the organ. This whole experience made it easier for me to understand Anatomy better.

Everybody is motivated by challenge and solving problems and we don’t make use of that in schools enough,” says Bruce Alberts, Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Francisco, and the former president of the National Academy of Sciences. “Project-based learning gives everybody a chance to sort of mimic what scientists do, and that is exciting and fun as well.

SAMYRAH TOUSSAINT
Joel and I had been given the opportunity to attend and experience a Science Space Camp even if it was just for a week. This was a chance and a privilege that we would not have had it not been for the generous donation and sponsorship from the National Federation of Science Teachers of Newark.

Our parents drove us to the camp. After five long hours of non-stop driving, we finally set foot at Wallops Island in Virginia where the Science Space Camp is located. Once there, we got settled in our assigned cabins and bade our goodbye as no parents were allowed in camp.

The NASA Space and Science Camp was a lot of learning fun and excitement. We were on to Robotics, we built our own Rockets and even got to build and fly our own Drones.

We got to hear an Astronaut speak of his experiences in the outer space. It was unbelievable. I was imagining myself out there alone in the deafening silence of space. Alone with the stars. I was dreaming. There was another guy who spoke of the importance of parachutes especially for those who fly planes. On the fourth of July, we will never forget the exciting sights, sound and smell of the fireworks.

Then there were the GO KARTS. All I can say is WOW. I don’t remember how many times I got into one enjoying myself. I have lost count. I just love it.

The whole camp experience was so exciting that I can not for another one like it in the future.

ISAIAH DE ROSA & JOEL JIMENEZ
WHAT SCIENCE MEANS TO US

To us Science is a thrill of seeing or trying to figure out something that no one has yet done before. Science seems to be complicated at times even a mystery, but science is about finding a solution to what is troubling you. It is about making strange complicated and mysterious become something we can understand.

Science is a curiosity. It means discovering something beyond ones imagination. It means putting thoughts in how things actually works and the go beyond that to even discover more. It is not only trying to find out the how of it and the why of it, but you also have to test it to prove whether your thought were right or wrong. Failure should never be a reason to stop but rather it should be a reason to challenge yourself to find out where you failed then find out ways to make it right. That is the beauty of Science.

KATIE & GABBIE CUNHA

Science is everywhere. It is all around us. To understand science, you have to observe and ask questions. The whys and the hows and the what ifs.

I believe that the best way to answer these problems is to do it with someone who sees the same problem as yours in a different way. The argument that ensues will bring out the different angles of the same problem as seen in a different perspective by each one. At the end both will be creating something to prove their point of view, that will somehow solve the problem at hand. Group work or team work is better than working alone. A team can share their thoughts and ideas. They learn to listen they argue and explain their thought. In group work, one can develop their self-confidence and argumentation skills, and their pride of having been able to convince someone to their side.

This is how it is in the outside world. As the saying goes, “No man is an island and no man leaves alone.” Unless he so chooses otherwise, being in a group is much better and more productive than being alone.

SARAI OJEDA