



TPS INSIGHTS

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School board, parents stand pat on child-safety and protection

by Simond Lars Darwin G. Lenon | Credits to Ms. Dinah Goc



Photo by: Felipe De Leon

ON HIGH-LEVEL TALKS! Dubai Police representative Thyab Bin Ali (extreme left) keynotes the Child's Safety and Awareness (Parents') Forum in October. Consul General of the Philippine Consulate Frank R. Cimafranca (middle) and the school principal Ms. Jocelyn M. Sollano (right) correspondingly address substantial concerns from the parents.

To consistently ensure the safety and protection of the students in the school and in the community, The Philippine School collaborated with the Dubai Police and with the Philippine Consulate General in conducting a parents' forum on October 22, 2014 at the multi-purpose hall of TPS- Dubai. A similar medium specifically for the students was held the day after.

Mr. Thyab Bin Ali, the Chief of the Foreign Communities Awareness Program and a representative of the Dubai Police, espoused the significance of relationship and the communication between the parents and children that relatively affect the actions of the child. "Parents may give space for their children to grow but should monitor closely to understand their behavior," he said. He added that parents must become curious with the activities that their children are engaged to.

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Laurels to TPS Culinary Team!

*Brings home tasteful reward :
1st Philippine Schools Overseas (PSO)
Culinary Champion*

retold by Gabriel Ian B. Maddara; credits to GMA News

The Philippine School – Dubai, with the ingenuity of the TLE Department, mentored by Mr. Allan Cariaga and Mr. Romeo Ancheta, achieved first place subsequent to the 1st Philippine Schools Overseas (PSO) Culinary Competition. Skilled elementary and high school students from TPS whipped the representatives from Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Doha, and China. The event was held at the Enderun Colleges in Taguig, Philippines on May 1, 2014.

The successful dishes were conceptualized according to the theme "Innovative Bayan" and sponsored by GMA 7 Network and Mama Sita's Corporation.

The event was organized by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). Their main purpose is "to continuously strengthen the cultural ties of children of overseas Filipinos with the Motherland."

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TPS Abu Dhabi founded

*Correlates
educational philosophy
to main campus*

by Krizelle F. Paulino, Christine P. Jorge,
and Isabella Y. Manlangit

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates - The Philippine School, directing to headway, instituted its new branch on July 21, 2014. It was located at Street 8, Baniyas East in Abu Dhabi. Chalking-up similar academic philosophy with TPS - Dubai, the first academic school year started on September 2014.



The Managing Directress Leticia M. Maniaul (right) and Dr. Rosalinda D. Miranda (left) welcome new members of the TPS family in Abu Dhabi.

TPSian titled 'Best Youngest Player' at Emirates Chess Tournament

by Paul B. Bolanos; photo credits to Gwen Camaya



Young forethought outdoes adults! Gwen (extreme left) ensures *one move ahead* - the best.

'Though opponents render good chess schemes, Gwen proves his moves are better.'

Thirteen year - old Gwen Camaya, a grade 8 student from *The Philippine School-Dubai*, was awarded and named as the Best Youngest Player during the *Emirates Group Rapid Chess Tournament* held at the Emirates headquarters overlooking Dubai airport terminal III last October 18, 2014.

The tournament had 50 participants who were of different nationalities who include the UAE nationals, Indians, Egyptians, British, Romanians, Latvians, Canadians, Chinese, Pakistanis, and Sri Lankans.

According to Mr. Armando Delgado, the Emirates chess club president, "Competition was fierce and the players had to show quick thinking and total concentration due to a 15-minute per player per game limit." Among the youngest participants, Gwen was the top finisher after 7 rounds of the play.

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TPS champion team turns culinary celebrities! Group gives occasion through televised guesting at GMA 7's - May 2, 2014 episode of *Unang Hirit*, hosted by Suzi Entrata-Abbrera. (4th from right)

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NEWS

Laurels to TPS Culinary Team!

Brings home tasteful reward :

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retold by Gabriel Ian B. Maddara; credits to GMA news

According to CFO Executive Director Usec. Mary Grace Ampil-Tirona: "It is also designed to raise awareness of the vocational, technical, and entrepreneurial tracks being opened under the government's K-12 curricular reform program."

The commendable potential chefs who exuded laborious efforts were Jinky Daganio, Anna Kyla Cruz, Christian Abbygail Fernando, and Gwyneth Luistro from the elementary department ; while Menwa Buenaobra, Gabriel Ian Maddara, Daynee Roque, and Jerline Quiambao from the high school level.

Team TPS bagged the awards such as "Excellent in Elementary", "Good in High School Division", and "The Overall Grand Champion." Along with these recognitions, TPS also received awards including cash prizes, uniquely shaped trophies, culinary books, and Mama Sita's products.

The winning team also earned remarkable praises from the culinary icons like *Bistro 1771's* chef Vicky Rose Pacheco, *Philippine Daily Inquirer* columnist Norma Chikiamco, *Appetite Magazine* editor Nina Daza Puyat, *Manila Bulletin* journalist Zac Sarian, *Adobo Festi-*

val convenor Lyn Gamboa, and *Mama Sita's* Mark Lapus.

Determination, constant practice, and support were the key ingredients of their victory as termed by the participants.

Abbygail Fernando and Kyla Cruz, both from grade 6 shared, "Everything was worth-it because we were the champion."

"Yung sobrang saya namin di naming inakala na mananalo kami. Thanks to Sir Allan and Sir Romeo. WE'RE VERY BLESSED!", said by Jinky Daganio, grade 6.

"When they are announcing the winners, we feel confused , but in the end, when they announced that we are the winners, we feel good," according to Gwyneth Luistro.

"It was worth the while. All the trainings, hard work, sweat and tears paid - off when we found out that we won. Even though we may not have won, I would still consider it as one of the best experiences in my life, as I got to work with wonderful people," mentioned by Menwa Buenaobra.

"Masaya maka meet ng ibang anak ng OFW's ," stated by Daynee Roque.

"Nung awarding na, medyo kinabahan kami pero ine-expect ko talaga na hindi kami mananalo kaya sobrang di ako makapaniwala na nanalo kami at inuwi naming with pride yung pangalan ng TPS ", said by Jerline Quiambao, also a grade 10 student.

"We became friends with other contestants, established a strong foundation within the team, and develop a fine sense of sportsmanship. Plus, some benefits like being recognized by the school and appearing on a live national television show are really awesome," shared by Gabriel Ian Maddara.

GMA International's Vice President and Head of Operations Joseph Francia expressed his own pride in the Filipino and the significance of the partnership between GMA and the CFO. "We were delighted to have taken part in the Commission's promise of promoting and preserving Filipino heritage especially among these young culinary enthusiasts. The competition was certainly refreshing and fun, and we are equally delighted to have made the kids feel like stars as they guested in some of our shows," says Mr. Francia.

... from front page

School board, parents stand pat on child-safety and protection

by Simond Lars Darwin G. Lenon | Credits to Ms. Dinah Goc

With the same purpose, the inspirational man of the hour, Consul General Frank Cimafranca said that communication must be strengthened at home to allow the children to freely express their fears and thoughts about certain things. "The primary responsibility of the parents is to care for their children and parents must not leave the sole responsibility of raising their children to the educational provider," he clarified. He accentuated that children's needs must be addressed by the parents, and that the parents must not solely rely on the school on the growth of their children. Cimafranca says that parents must take an active part in the growth of their offspring, and communication with the children will help in resolving problems common among students.

After the preliminary established programs, an open forum was conducted on which the parents of the students could ask questions regarding the safety of their children; before, during, and after class hours, and what the school and the Dubai Police could do to ensure their safety and protection. Among the questions asked were about bullying and how the school could prevent them, and the situations from escalating.

Dubai Police handles cases with minors as offenders with utmost consideration, and they are providing schools with information on how to teach children not to bully and not to be bullied.— Mr. Thyab Bin Ali



Inquisitive countenances! Keen parents, while preparing for safety questions, show varied child- concerned expressions.



Ready to speak minds! Secondary school students have brain waves after receiving comprehensive insights from the child-safety forum.



Andres Gomapas of 7A interrogates Mr. Thyab with humor. Both are addressing serious issues with fun.

"The school has installed 16 CCTV's all over the campus, and in addition, suggestion boxes were placed in several areas of the school. This is useful for students who wish to express their fears with anonymity. The boxes are checked frequently and are investigated by the guidance counselor," Ms. Sollano said in reply to concerned parent.

"The prime responsibility in protecting the children must rest on the par-

ents. Teachers act as 'loco parents' in school but this is just temporary and situational. It is the sole duty of parents to look after their young. Parents must be sensitive to all the needs of their children, not only the material ones but also the emotional needs of the kids," said H.E. Cimafranca .

The parents were also concerned about the students' transportation on questions like "Can the school provide a shuttle bus from the school to the station?" The parents' concerns were all noted and the school gladly accepted their suggestions to have additional busses, a pedestrian crossing to be placed in front of the school gate for students who are crossing the street, a shuttle bus for students who are taking the metro to ensure that they arrive the metro safely, and modern technology in the buses (I.D scanners and GPS). *...from front page*



Practical Education Day

by Lars G. Lenon, Ysabella Y. Manlangit,
Frances M. Mercado, Jhudiel G. Barretto,
Arvee R. Abinales, Patricia D. Cacanando



TPS kids flaunt healthy options during the TLE day!

DUBAI, UAE - The Philippine School quadrangle was turned into a festival-themed market during the first culminating activity of the school year. The HELE/ TLE and ICT day was celebrated on the 30th of October 2014, with the theme, "Practical Education: Theory to practice." Students from all levels were able to showcase their skills in the competitions held that week. Among these were the culinary competition, table-setting, dish garden, photography, and the market stalls.

The students of each section in the high school level created mascots and yells for the opening parade. The mascots represent different concepts and icons of the world and were based on different topics such as gaming and technology, entertainment, social media, public services, and public safety. The students were able to create artistic crafts solely made from common materials such as cardboard, paper, and paint. Each section also prepared a song and yell with a dance routine which matched with their topic to present to the crowd and judges.

After all the presentations, the most anticipated "Market day" was officially opened. Students from levels 7 – 10 prepared and decorated their stalls the day before the event and were ready to sell their products such as native pastries, Philippine street foods, and accessories to the parents, teachers, and other fellow students of The Philippine School.

Several awards were given after the event. The winners of the culinary competition (high school division) are 10-B as the 2nd runner up, 8-D as the 1st runner-up, and 10-C as the champion.

Moving on to the table skirting competition, we have 9-C as the 3rd runner up, 8-A and 8-B (both) as 2nd runner-up, 7-A as the 1st runner up and 8-C as the overall winner.

In the Fundwalk parade, the winners are 9-B—coming in 2nd runner up, 9-A as the 1st runner-up, and 7-D as the champion.

Next, we have the winners for the Best in Mascot and they are 9-C as the 2nd runner up, 10-A as the 1st runner up and 7-D as the winner of them all. The winners of the culinary competition in the elementary division are 6-D coming in 3rd, 4-A coming in 2nd and 4-F coming in 1st.

The photography contest finalists are the official photographers of 7-C, 8-A, 9-B, and 10-A. The overall winners of the contest are the photographers of 9-A in 4th place, 9-B in 3rd, 7-E in 2nd, and 7-D in 1st place. The winners of the yell competition during the opening parade are 8-A as the 3rd placers, 8-B as the 2nd, and 7-D as the 1st.

The awarded sections for the best in market design are 7-C in the 4th place, 8-B in the 3rd place, 9-E in the 2nd place and 10-A as the 1st placers.

For the best in product packaging, the winners are 7-A.1 in 4th place, 8-B coming in 3rd, 9-E in 2nd, and 10-A as the 1st. The sections best in advertising are 7-A.1 coming in 4th, 8-A.2 at 3rd, 9-A in 2nd, and 10-A at 1st place.

3rd Halloween Party on sunlit atmosphere

'Halloween won't be Halloween without a little scare and adventure'

by Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla,, Jizette Rose G. Ibarra, and Margarette Ashley M. Castillo



On broad daylight event, 7th grade teacher Mr. Efen Mayani (left) is really into the Halloween spirit and he seems personable with a beast.

November 2, 2014 - The classes from different grade levels: elementary and high school, congested near the yellow school buses in the bus parking area. One can see the bright and sun-drenched atmosphere of the recent 3rd Halloween Party of The Philippine School through the initiative of the Supreme Student Council.

Majorettes and lyrists positioned in front of the canteen. The parade in action identifies the chime of mallet against xylophone bars, and the beat of the different kinds of drums: triple, bass, and snare, could be heard as the majorettes start dancing. Led by the Drum and Lyre Corps, the Kindergarten pupils trailed and circled the rectangular court in their respective and awesome costumes; following them are the primary, intermediate, and high school.

Looking closely to the get-ups of the students are Hermione Granger from the infamous film, Harry Potter, Medusa from Greek Mythology, and Creepers from the popular game - Minecraft, which could be spotted amongst the plethora of the gathered students of The Philippine School.

In relation to this, creativity was not forgotten by the other TPSians. Though some students did not dress like famous fictional characters, simplicity and effort were imminent in their costumes. They used recycled materials, even going as far as to use fake blood that seemed real to create an illusion.

Sitting in the hot climate, pupils were invigorated as the Hugyaw dance troupe performed a dance onstage. Talent and passion extraordinarily overflowed in the presentation while every move strived to perfection.

Just like a pageant, the Halloween party would never be complete without its stars. Mr. and Ms. Halloween stole the spotlight in front of all TPSians as they were chosen and called to come up the stage. The ordinary person would easily see the shock and glee of the selected students as the startled and giddy looks on their faces gave them away.

However, Halloween won't be Halloween without a little scare and adventure. Grade 10- A and the Student Council prepared a journey to *Alice in Wonderland* in their 'Wonderland Hall' and an exploration to *The Conjuring* in the 'Haunted Room.' Filled with pastel colors and balloons, the Wonderland Hall was never more sensational. Known fictitious Disney characters entertained the young students of TPS. Anna from the popular movie Frozen was there; portrayed by Ms. Samantha Delgado of grade 8- A. This is along with Belle from Beauty and the Beast, Captain America, and Green Lantern.

If the Wonderland Hall was a dream of bliss, the Haunted Room was a nightmare of all sorts of horrors. As soon as the students entered, shrieks and screams of terror resonated throughout the grade 10 hall.

The alarming and horrifying laughter of evil mythical creatures reverberated in the Haunted Room, which in turn, made it scarier than ever.

The typical techniques like touching of the feet and shoulders were applied in the event. Daunting has never been more daunting in the Haunted Room.

Everything seemed enough but the fun didn't end there. All the hard work would be spoiled without the most awaited, most simple, and the most traditional: Trick or Treat. Halloween is famous for its candy giveaways or the Trick or Treat event. Assigned high school students from every section of each grade level prepared sweets and games for the young TPSians, and they went to their classrooms. Higher grade levels knocked on the many doors of the school to get candies.

All in all, November 2 gave us an endearing Halloween with the addition of new features such as the Haunted Room and the Wonderland Hall. The substantial irony of this is that "last Halloween was happy when Halloween is supposed to be frightening." TPSians continue to bring and share joy and service to their fellow comrades.

TPSian titled 'Best Youngest Player' at Emirates Chess Tournament

by Paul B. Bolanos

...from front page

When asked about when he started playing chess and who taught him, he said that he began playing chess when he was 9 years old. "My grandfather taught me how to play it. He became my inspiration," Gwen remarked.

"I didn't know that my mom signed me up for the event. She informed me the day before the games. I was very anxious at first, but my parents and my brother Klein were there to support me which made me comfortable. The recognition felt special because it was my first time to compete and defeat adult players," he added.

Gwen is a member of the TPS chess club organized by Mr. Edwin Caliyon. He also had won inter-school tournaments and had previous track record for being the champion in the Under 12 Category - Push A Pawn for a Cause Tournament - a charity event held in TPS last year for the typhoon Yolanda victims.



NEWS

Ang pagtatalaga sa mga bagong Iskawts

ni Clarisse C. Rodriguez

Ang pormal na panunumpa at pagtatalaga ng mga iskawts ng The Philippine School Dubai ay ginanap noong ika-14 ng Nobyembre 2014 upang maipabilang ang mga bagong iskawts mula sa baitang 1-8 sa kilusang iskawting at makasama sila sa pagsasagawa ng mga programang nasabing samahan.

Ang hangarin ng kapisanang ito ay maikintal sa bawat iskawt ang mga adhikain ng pagiging isang mabuting mamamayan at pagiging ganap sa kanilang responsibilidad sa tahanan at pamilyan. Layunin din nitong maimulat ang mga mag-aaral sa pakikipagkapwa-tao at magkaroon sila ng disiplina sa sarili sa pamamagitan ng pagsasagawa ng mga iba't ibang programa na naglalayong maisulong ang mga nabanggit na hangarin.

Ang programa ay pormal na sinimulan ng isang maikling panalangin at sinundan naman ng pag-awit ng pambansang awit at panunumpa sa watawat na pinamunuan ng mga piling iskawts na sina Justine Ira Nartea, Princess Rino Gamboa, at Lauren Nicole Velarde. Pagkatapos ay sinimulan na ang pinakakinakasabikang bahagi – ang seremonya sa pagtatalaga ng mga Bagong Iskawts.

Ang programa ay hinati sa dalawang parte, ang una ay ang pagtatalaga ng mga bagong K.A.B (Kabataang Alay sa Bayan) at ang ikalawang parte ay ang pagtatalaga ng mga bagong Junior Girl and Boy Scouts at ng mga Senior Girl at Boy Scouts.



Panunumpa! Sabay-sabay na binigkas ng mga star scouts ang kanilang mga pangako at batas sa kilusang iskawting matapos nilang isuot ang kanilang mga neckerchief at sumbrero. Ito ay tanda na sila ay pormal nang kasapi sa samahang iskawting ng The Philippine School.

Ang mga K.A.B Iskawt (Kabataang Alay sa Bayan) at ang mga Star Iskawt mula sa baitang 1-3 ang unang itinalaga. Sila ay pinamunuan ng mga iskawt leaders na si Paul Simeon Ombrosa, Arnie Lazaro, at ang iskawt master ng United Arab Emirates, na si Noly Duquen sa pagsisindi ng kandila. Ang kandilang ito ay sumisimbolo sa tunay na diwang iskawting at sumasagisag sa kanilang pangakong pagtupad sa mga batas ng K.A.B Iskawt at Star Iskawt. Sinundan ito ng pinakatampok na bahagi, ang paglalagay ng mga neckerchief at sombrero ng mga ninong at ninang sa kanilang mga inaanak na KAB o Star Iskawt bilang tanda ng kanilang pagsapi sa kilusang iskawting. Pagkatapos ay sabay-sabay nilang binigkas ang Batas at Pangakong Iskawt na pinamunuan ng mga piling Star iskawts at K.A.B iskawts. Sa pagtatapos ay nagkaroon ng pagbabasbas sa

pagpapatnubay ni Scout Unit Leader Luz Divino.

Ang ikalawang bahagi ay inumpisahan sa pagpasok ng mga Junior at Senior Scouts na nagmamartsa patungo sa entablado sa pangunguna ng kanilang pinunong si Erin Kirsten Dela Cruz na ginabayan naman ni Bernadette Pamplona, isang CAT komander. Muling inanyayahan si Sctr. Paul Simeon Ombrosa, pinunong Junior at Senior Scouts, at ang mga Scout Masters na sina Sctr. Melvin Masula, Sctr. Bethoven Felomino, at Scout Leaders Arlene Sandoval at Juliet Balos upang pangunahan ang pagsisindi ng kandila. Ang kandilang kanilang sinindihan ay sumisimbolo sa ilaw na siyang magsisilbing kanilang tanglaw sa pag sunod sa mga batas na dapat nilang talimahin at ang pag ganap sa kanilang mga tungkulin bilang scout. Sinundan ito ng pagbigkas nila ng mga pangako at batas ng scout na pinangunahan nina Shahaina Ardiente, Eunice Mendoza, at Jahleel Celimen bago sila dumako sa pinakamahalagang bahagi na ang paglalagay ng neckerchief at pagsusuot ng sombrero ng mga ninong at ninang sakanilang mga inaanak na scout. Ito ay tandang pagsali nila sa kilusang scouting. Nagtapos ang ikalawang bahagi sa pagbabasbas na muling pinamunuan ni Scout Unit Leader Luz Divino.

SC, Science department participate actions for green sustainable world

retold by Margaritha Yvonne B. Lacson, credits to Gulf Today



Environmental good cause! TPS representatives and a number of school youth delegates in the UAE make up for international movement. The Ambassador of the Philippines, Grace Relucio-Princesa, lent her support to these young green crusaders by attending the event.

Green Hope UAE organized a student-led climate-change conference in Dubai and this was attended by over 120 youth delegates from the schools of Dubai, Sharjah, and Ajman on November 14, 2014. Deira International School, Dubai hosted the conference. The event was supported by Al Tamimi Engineering Services.

Entitled "Lima in Dubai," this conference was a simulation of the negotiation processes adopted by nations which are a part of the global movement called *COP in My City* designed by French organization climates.

Green Hope founder president Kehkashan-Basu, a student of Deira International School, Dubai said, "The delegates at this conference represented various nations and stated their country's position on climate change, carbon emission reductions, en-

vironment, and development policy.

The participating youth were able to simulate a real life negotiation process as it happens at COP conferences."

On COP conferences, she said: "From Dec 1, global leaders and policy makers will converge in Lima, Peru for the UNFCCC climate change conference where they will once again seek to negotiate and cap the levels of Green House Gas emissions and take forward the ambitions of the Kyoto Protocol in letter and in spirit. Despite the obvious damaging impact of green house gas emissions, the world has seen very little progress in their reduction. **It is thus imperative that we, as civil society, take an active part in influencing the decisions that can**

mitigate climate change. *With this objective, Green Hope UAE organized a student led Climate Change Conference, Basu added.*

Delegate after delegate urged faster actions from both developing and developed nations to act on their promises of cutting down on carbon emissions and move to a green economy.

Well-prepared, The Philippine School-Dubai attended the event. Chosen grade 9 and grade 10 students were divided into two groups—Brazil and Philippines. They were to discuss the action plan of the countries to reduce their carbon emission footprints and how these plans will help the future generation.

Representing the Philippines, Lyanne Sayon, Andrei Marquez, Mavin Abinales, Anthony Carlos, Christine Jorge, Andrea Ocampo, Clarisse

Rodriguez, Francis Foronda, Harem Mabugat, and Jonel Almarino researched and built models to show the country's plan for carbon emissions. Meanwhile, Margaritha Lacson, Mark Umayam, Neil Madelo, Roi Dipasupil, Sophia Tuason, Ethan Mateo, Rochel Defino, Gabriel Maddara, Ella Mascunana, and Alex Buan discussed Brazil's negotiations along with their model of the progressive decrease of the country's carbon emission. Moreover, constant supervision and support were given by Ms. Elreggie Tongio and Ms. Marites Vardeleon while the groups are researching for their assigned groups. Both groups also performed an environmental interpretative dance choreographed by Mr. Randy Gumaban.

The conference was a way to learn more about climate change as well as to encourage others to take the issue seriously. Furthermore, this opened doors for children to spread awareness on the dangers of climate change through music, art, dance, and drama. It is shown that in their little ways, they can help to reduce climate change. We are responsible for the actions that dictate our future. We shouldn't just think about the present by highlighting the dangers of climate change; instead, people could start making changes in their lives. It's a very satisfying feeling to know that you are doing your part to save the planet and to ensure a safe environment for future generations.





Mr. President, TPS instrumental council

by Januel Z. Pitoy, Kurt V. Paras, Gerard K. Lim, and Ian R. Viray

After several days of interminable campaigning, Mark Umayam's smart work finally paid off. His run for presidency was a huge success as he won as the premier of the Supreme Student Council. Hence, we asked Mr. President to share what he is thinking and his action plans.

"Running for a position does not only take time, but effort as well. When I ran for the presidency, I realized that being a leader is not an easy role. It is something that requires patience and most importantly, something that requires passion in order for you to succeed," Mark believes.

We asked him about his thoughts in winning the election, and he said that when he knew that he won the election, he couldn't find the proper adjective to describe how he felt at the moment. "As we all know, every victor shares that same emotion which is happiness, and that was what I felt during that time," Mark replied.

Interested about how his P.E.O.P.L.E.S party yields almost all positions in the SC, he asserted, "To be very honest, I didn't see anything different that our party did during the SSC campaign, but I think one of the main reasons why we received that overwhelming amount of support was because they saw our sincerity, the authenticity of everything we said. Lastly, they saw our passion to lead them."

Why did you run for the presidency?

This question sparked the interest of Mark Umayam, and he responded, "I knew deep inside me, I ran for the position because I believe that I can do something different, and I can make a change not just for the school, but hopefully, to each and everyone's hearts. *I want to inspire them to be someone who will try and make a change.*"

Are you the president who could be the president everyone is looking for?

"I cannot say that I can be the president that everybody's looking for, because the Supreme Student Council is not just about the president. I believe that together with the cooperation of the administration and the student body, we could make and bring the necessary improvements that we have long been waiting for."

Also, we asked him about the qualities that a president should have. "Being the leader, I believe that one of the most important qualities that he or she should have is that passion to lead."

Do you think you have these leadership qualities?

"I sincerely believe that I have this quality. Why? It is because one of the main reasons why I ran for presidency is for the students. I would like to bring the necessary changes in order to make this institution, in order to make The Philippine School a better place for learning and a better place to develop one's skills and talents."

Do you think the students believe in your potential?

"I think it would be best if we give the question to the students. After all, they were the ones who voted for us. They were the ones who installed us into our own positions but knowing that majority of the students voted for me and my co-SSC members, then, I must assume that we have their trust. I must assume that they believe in our potentials and in our capabilities to bring or make something different, to be specific."

He was also interrogated regarding the certain challenges he faced since he became the president. "It has not been months since we have been installed in our positions and I believe that major challenges will occur in the latter part, we are prepared anyway. I also believe that challenges also occur when an organization is not well organized or the officials running that certain group is not worthy of their positions, but, to be very honest, it is so far so good. I would like to thank the voters because as early as now, I can say that they have chosen the right people."



Mark Nicole T. Umayam
TPS' Student Council President
S.Y 2014—2015

Lastly, we asked him if he thought that his presidency will bring a huge impact to the school community. "It is not just me who will bring that change, but, I can confidently say that I, together with my co-SSC members, together with the administration, and with the cooperation of the student body, we could bring a huge impact in the school community. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone for believing in us and for ensuring your votes with us. We will do our best not to disappoint you guys, and I hope that you would continuously support all of our projects in SSC."

The officers were officially installed on October 2, 2014 during the flag ceremony at The Philippine School quadrangle.

The officers aim to create a better and a more conducive learning environment for the students while planning to establish activities where students would be able to grow not only academically, but also morally and socially. This is by exposing them to challenges and preparations from which they could benefit from.

Among the platforms they plan to institute are the re-establishment of the Leadership Training Program - This is for students who aspire to be better leaders; Better facilities such as new chairs and water-dispensers along the corridors; Photography contests; Battle of the Bands; and Dance Contests to name a few. They also planned on continuing the previous activities and programs that have been previously done in the school such as the newly-instituted Halloween Party, Christmas Party, and Valentine's Day. The officers held a meeting soon after the installation to discuss the plans for the rest of the school year.

Let us all congratulate and continue to support the SSC!

THE SUPREME STUDENT COUNCIL

PRESIDENT:
Mark Nicole T. Umayam 10 - A

VICE PRESIDENT:
Martin Andrei G. Marquez 9 - A

SECRETARY:
Neil David C. Madelo 10 - A

TREASURER:
Mavin Joshua R. Abinales 10 - A

AUDITOR:
Roi Aldrin M. Dipasupil 10 - A

BUSINESS MANAGER:
Anthony Lloyd J. Carlos 10 - A

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:
Sophia Gabrielle Q. Tuason 10 - D

GOVERNOR:
Renz Lloyd P. Alonzo 6 - E

VICE GOVERNOR:
Natalie Loren B. Javillonar 5 - A

LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES:

GRADE 10
Christine Joy P. Jorge 10 - B
Ethan Andre V. Mateo 10 - D

GRADE 9
Erika P. Parcia 9 - E
Jonel E. Almario 9 - A

GRADE 8
Simond Lars Darwin G. Lenon 8 - A
Samantha Nicole C. Delgado 8 - A

GRADE 7
Joshua S. De Villeres 7 - B
Jahleel Andrei Celimen 7 - B

GRADE 6
Kyla Alexandra C. Macatlang 6 - A
Kaye Alliana M. Villanueva 6 - A

GRADE 5
Khelly M. Ocampo 5 - F
Janine Clouette R. Salinas 5 - F

GRADE 4
Martina Lariz G. Pascual 4 - C
Clarence Red C. Cruz 4 - A



SSC, Outreach club, and some volunteer students at Al Boom Tourist Village who are ready to pack school supplies for Palestine on January 10 2015. Ms. Marites Vardeleon, (4th from left), the SC adviser, spearheads the action.



NEWS

Blissful activities mark TPS Foundation Day

School highlights theme—'Continuing Growth and Expanding Horizon at 7'

by Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla



ON HIGH-LEVEL CHARMS! (L-R) The most engaging allures of TPS, Ms. TPS 2013 Joshelle P. Aguinaldo, Ms. TPS 2014 Allyza Mamolo, Mr. TPS 2014 Raygene P. Ventura and Mr. TPS 2013 Kyle Jerby T. Tionko during the coronation formal procedure at The Philippine School on December 14, 2014

On December 12- 15, 2014, exquisite costumes, heartwarming voices, and sensational dances captivated the crowd's senses while a gratifying TPS Foundation Day was renowned. To commemorate The Philippine School's establishment, TPS held a big festivity featuring spectacles of Mass Demonstration, Mr. and Ms. TPS, and the Singing Idols.

The affair, with the theme of "Continuing Growth and Expanding Horizon at 7," also affirmed its context as another branch of TPS had been built this same year in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The once desolate court was made alive by The Philippine School's Foundation Day merriment. The opening was graced with tune and poise as the students, led by the Drum and Lyre Corps, paraded around the court. Proud faces and cameras were seen amongst the many event - anticipating people. The parade was a full showdown of creative dance get- ups: spears, flag lets, leaves; some of which were makeshift and handmade.

The Mass Demonstrations, originating from different festivals and regions of the Philippines: Abuyog, Leyte (Buyugan festival); Pines, Baguio (Panagbenga festival); Dasmariñas, Cavite (Butterfly festival); Cebu City, Cebu (Sinulog festival); Dagupan City, Pangasinan (Milk Fish "Bangus" festival); Tagbilaran, Bohol (Sandugo festival), were generated and beautifully harmonized by Kindergarten to grade 10 students.

The high school students made us relish perfection as it showed us the image of beyond impeccability. Judged under 7 pairs of eyes, the grade 7 took us to history as it performed the olden commemoration of Sandugo Festival. The grade 8, on the other hand, exhibited the livelihood festival of harvest.

The winning fiesta of grade 9, mentored by Mr. Randy Gumban, went away with flying colors. The Sinukwan dance festival itself was seamlessly interpreted with just the right timing and sense of style from the introduction to its very last. Not to mention, the creativity and imagery of the dance was apparent in their attires: colorful wigs, rainbow hula- hoops, green footwear, and basically, the whole get- up itself. The Sinukwan festival group also monopolized all of the special awards and topped among the 4 levels of high school.

The Kasadyahan festival of grade 10 emphasized on the theme of each tribe presentation through dance drama. They had shown exceptional qualities in dancing skills and dance themes.

The celebration did not end there. As the movie Snow White implies: "Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" TPS also has an overflowing list of potential princesses and princes too!

The Mr. and Ms. TPS would always be a remarkable event as it is a big representation of the school. Starting from the pre- pageant (includes the showcasing of Mr. and Ms. Talent and the

judging for Mr. and Ms. Casual Wear) to the actual Pageant: Mr. and Ms. Formal Wear and Long Gown, Character Representation, Sports Wear, Festival Costume, and the Question and Answer portion, the candidates never failed to ignite sparks of wonder from the crowd's eyes. Students' cheers for their candidates resonated in the court.

Spiderman, Batman, Red Riding Hood, Peter Pan, and the Mad- Hatter from Alice in Wonderland were some of the characters portrayed by TPS' little shining stars in the search for the Best in Character Costume.

Ms. Marielle Lois P. Garcia astonished the crowd as she sauntered onstage in her dazzling and stunning long gown. It truly left an impact to everyone as they put their hands together whenever she made the walk of her life.

Although a little ramping glitch happened during the search for the Best in Festival Costume in the intermediate level, courageous and carefree Shanina Karylle Cuarto never removed her smile as she stood tall and proud under the watching eyes of her fellow TPSians. Applaud was all there was to hear as she stood with full dignity.

As generous as the other board of judges through their time, the beautiful actress- model of TV5, Ms. Angelique Vinluan and the relative of Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, Mr. Francis Eric Defensor Sotto, were also instrumental in the mindful evaluation of TPS beauty and role models.

Words are powerful. A single word can capture a hundred emotions. Thus, a singer captivates its audience by words with melody. The next event was the 'TPS Singing Idols' which was founded by the school's Vice- Principal: Mr. Jonathan H. Esguerra.

Disney songs were sang by the Kindergarten, OPM by the Primary, and Makabayan songs by the intermediate and high school students. Among the featured tracks were *Let it Go* from Disney's "Frozen", *Reflection* from the movie "Mulan", *Do You Wanna Build a Snowman?* also from the film "Frozen", *Anak ng Pasig* by Geneva Cruz, *Isang Lahi* by Regine



Happy Birthday TPS! Consul General Frank Cimafranca (extreme left) prepares to lead the cake - cutting ceremony along with the school supporters during the opening of the 7th TPS Foundation day.

Velasquez, *Tagumpay Nating Lahat* by Lea Salonga, *Ako ay Pilipino* by Kuh Ledesma, and *NoyPi* by Bamboo.

Ellyza Reanne Paragua from the Kindergarten level won first place with her cute rendition of the song, "Do You Wanna Build a Snowman?" On the other hand, Elysha Mari Diaz claimed the champion trophy in the primary level with her interpretation of the song, "Anak ng Pasig." Clarence Cruz of the intermediate department brought home the bacon with his version of "Dakilang Lahi" along with rockstar, high school student, Elisha Denisse Paule with her delivery of "NoyPi".

This year's TPS Foundation Day was indeed deserving of a wide merry- making event. It did not only continue to grow itself in the spirit of many Filipinos and expand its horizon to many more OFWs, but it also developed more adept and gifted stars of the next generation. Being 7 years old, it never stumbled to be true to its word: "Leaders in Academic Excellence and Values Formation."

Mr. and Ms. TPS 2014-2015

Overall

Ms. Allyza Mamolo and Mr. Raygene Ventura

1st Runner Up

Mr. Glenn Refareal and Ms. Marielle Lois Garcia

2nd Runner Up

Mr. Theo John Sosa and Ms. Shanina Cuarto

High School

Mr. and Ms. High school

Mr. Alexander Javier and Ms. Remi Denise Palma.

Mr. and Ms. Casual Wear

Mr. Glenn Refareal and Ms. Allyza Mamolo.

Mr. and Ms. Play Suit (Sports Wear)

Mr. Jean Earl Bulayungan and Ms. Marielle Lois Garcia.

Mr. and Ms. Talent

Mr. Jean Earl Bulayungan and Ms. Margaritha Yvhonne Lacson.

Mr. and Ms. Festival Costume

Mr. Glenn Refareal and Ms. Marielle Lois Garcia.

Mr. and Ms. Formal Wear and Long Gown

Mr. Glenn Refareal and Ms. Marielle Lois Garcia.

Mr. and Ms. Photogenic

Mr. Michael Collantes and Ms. Joyce Varias.

Ms. Popularity

Ms. Allyza Mamolo.

Intermediate

Mr. and Ms. Intermediate

Mr. Isaiah Carmelo S. Regala and Ms. Benlin Quijano.

Mr. and Ms. Casual Wear

Mr. Raygene Ventura and Ms. Benlin Quijano.

Mr. and Ms. Play Suit (Sports wear)

Mr. Raygene Ventura and Ms. Alexene Cadaoas.

Mr. and Ms. Talent

Mr. Raygene Ventura and Ms. Margarete Ashanti.

Mr. and Ms. Festival Costume

Mr. Raygene Ventura and Ms. Shanina Karylle Cuarto.

Mr. and Ms. Formal Wear and Long Gown

Mr. Brent Sigua and Ms. Benlin Quijano.

Mr. and Ms. Photogenic

Mr. Hugh Peri Austria and Ms. Alexene Cadaoas.

Primary

Mr. and Ms. Primary

Mr. Curt Jillian Magjacot and Ms. Chantelle Denone Alsaleh.

Mr. and Ms. Casual Wear

Mr. Curt Jillian Magjacot and Ms. Esther Mae Sumbillo.

Mr. and Ms. Sports Wear

Mr. Theo John Sosa and Ms. Claire Fides Padua.

Mr. and Ms. Talent

Mr. Mark Denzel Magat and Ms. Esther Mae Sumbillo.

NEWS IIII



Mr. and Ms. Festival Costume
Mr. Theo John Sosa and Ms. Chantelle Denone Alsaleh.
Mr. and Ms. Formal Wear and Long Gown
Mr. Theo John Sosa and Ms. Chantelle Denone Alsaleh.
Mr. and Ms. Photogenic
Mr. Francesco Z. Opeña and Ms. Chantelle Denone Alsaleh.

Kindergarten

Little Mr. and Ms. Photogenic
Mr. Ryan Gabriel San Juan and Ms. Nicolle Shekainah Obligado.
Little Mr. and Ms. Casual Wear
Mr. Zedrick Marcenido and Ms. Frances Aiyannah Pablo.
Little Mr. and Ms. Sports Wear
Mr. Zedrick Marcenido and Ms. Nicolle Shekainah Obligado.
Little Mr. and Ms. Talent
Mr. Paul AndraePechera and Ms. Nicolle Shekainah Obligado.
Little Mr. and Ms. Formal Wear and Long Gown
Mr. Zedrick Marcenido and Ms. Nixie Maegan Angeles.
Little Mr. Popularity
Mr. Lawrence Genova.

Best in Character Costume

Champion
Mr. Zedrick Marcenido and Ms. Nixie Maegan Angeles.
1st runner- up
Mr. RaivhielRoqq G. Sitson and Ms. Jilliane Tribiana.
2nd runner- up
Mr. Lawrence Genova and Ms. Miley Arquiza.

Final Winners (KG)

Little Mr. and Ms. TPS 2014-2015
Mr. Lawrence Genova and Ms. Jilliane Tribiana.
1st runner- up
Mr. Jaimie Santino and Ms. Nicolle Shekainah Obligado.
2nd runner- up
Mr. Zedrick Marcenido and Ms. Nixie Maegan Angeles.

Singing Idols

Kindergarten

2nd runner- up - Mr. Matt David Magat
1st runner- up - Ms. Julia Sacayanan.
Champion - Ms. Ellyza Reanne Paragua.

Primary

Consolation - Danielle Loise A. Ronquillo.
3rd runner- up - Jane Yvonne Hacinas.
2nd runner- up - Theo John Sosa.
1st runner- up - MaikaCheniz Sarmiento.
Champion - Elysha Mari Diaz.

Intermediate

Consolation prize - Heber Nathaniel Martinez.
3rd runner- up - Karl Patrick Nebria.
2nd runner- up - Maurizin Hernandez.
1st runner- up - John Jhurriel Barretto.
Champion - Clarence Cruz.

High school

Consolation prize - XandrineNamucatcat.
3rd runner- up - MargarithaYvhoneLacson.
2nd runner- up - Carl Loraine Cruz.
1st runner- up - Beatrice Domingo.
Champion - Elisha Denisse Paule.

Mass Demonstration

Kindergarten

Best in Musicality, Costume, Performance, and Discipline - Sarimanok Festival
Best in Choreography - Butterfly Festival.

3rd runner- up
Panagbenga Festival

2nd runner- up
Buyugan Festival
1st runner- up
Butterfly Festival
Champion - Sarimanok Festival

Primary

Best in Musicality, Costume, Discipline, Choreography, and Performance - Kadayawan Festival—Grade 3 level

2nd runner- up Sinulog Festival –Grade 1 level
1st runner- up Ati- atihan Festival –Grade 2 level
Champion- Kadayawan Festival –Grade 3 level

Intermediate

Best in Musicality, Costume, Discipline, Choreography, and Performance - Pintados Festival—Grade 5 level
2nd runner- up Bangus Festival—Grade 4 level
1st runner- up Pahiyas Festival—Grade 6 level
Champion- Pintados Festival—Grade 5 level

High school

Best in Musicality, Costume, Discipline, Choreography, and Performance - Sinukwan Festival—Grade 9 level
3rd runner- up
Kasadyahan Festival - Grade 10 level
2nd runner- up
Rang- ay Festival - Grade 8 level
1st runner- up
Sandugo Festival - Grade 7 level
Champion- Sinukwan Festival—Grade 9 level



Parental upkeep ! Parents show the love their children deserve by being avid spectators and cheerers.



Carefree! Regardless of a pageant ramping glitch, Shanina Karylle Cuarto's untroubled response adds to her assertive poise.

Mass Demo Champion! Grade 9 (Sinukwan festival) lords the mass demonstration competition in the high school level.

TAB YOUR CALENDARS !

May 2015

2	Distribution of Cards (3rd Quarter)
18-21	4th Quarterly Examination (Grade 10)
27	Club Day
30	Graduation Day of Grade 10

June 2015

1-4	4th Quarterly Examination (KG 1, Grade 1-9)
10-11	Diagnostic Test (Post-Test)
13	Graduation Day of KG 2 and Grade 6
17-18	Recognition Day
28	Distribution of Card (4th Quarter) End of School Year 2014-2015

TPS to enhance ICT, e-learning capacity

by Lian Marianne P. Garcia



While faculty members undergo E-learning trainings, they enjoy conveniences of the 35 new laptops purchased by the TPS Management.

The Philippine School Dubai has been advancing this school year in terms of its technological aspect. Currently, the school is in full force of adding 35 new laptops in the ICT room and 3 more units in the library.

TPS aims to bridge the opportunity for superior learning and teaching. TPS diligently works to provide the cutting-edge teaching and learning system that is comparable to other best practices and models worldwide.





NEWS

The KHDA 2013-2014 inspection, TPS' strong points

Researched by Althea E. Dela Cruz ; credits to Dubai Schools Inspections Bureau



The Dubai School Inspection Bureau (DSIB) of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) carried-out a school inspection at the Philippine School on March 17-21, 2014. TPS had received an ACCEPTABLE mark from the extensive scrutiny and highlighted numerous strong points.

Some of the key strengths of TPS are as follows:

- Students' good attainment and progress in Filipino in the elementary and secondary phases and in English at secondary phase;
- Students' good personal responsibility across all phases, except in secondary which was outstanding;
- Students' well developed cultural awareness, and creativity in expressing this respectfully through both Filipino and Emirati performing arts;
- The good provision for health and safety across all phases;
- The good support from parents for the school's preparation of students for the next stage of their education.

Progress since last inspection

The school was now compliant with the time requirements for teaching Arabic as an additional language;

The school had improved the validity of its assessment through the use of International Benchmark Tests; teacher had yet to make consistent use of an assessment to plan suitable next steps in learning for their students;

The school had improved its identification of students with special education needs, including gifted and talented, through its appointment of a Special Education Needs Coordinator;

Staff had improved the quality of their improvement planning to include specific objectives, realistic timescales, and necessary resources and training. Plans were now more realistic and manageable, and more closely focused on suitable priorities for improvement.

How good is the students' personal and social development?

Personal responsibility was good in Kindergarten and elementary, and outstanding in secondary school. This reflected the school's happy, respectful, and cohesive ethos. Students were self-disciplined. Seniors supported younger students conscientiously. They were responsible class officers and marshals, and participated well in weekly clubs. The School Council initiated and led fundraising for victims of conflict and natural disasters. Students ate healthy food and exercised during morning assemblies. Attendance was good overall.

Students recognized universal values of Islam and showed a good understanding of how these values influenced their lives in Dubai. They manifested strong respect for prayers and used Arabic greetings often. They compared the features of UAE and Philippines and appreciated living in Dubai. They showed strong pride and understanding of their own culture through organized learning activities. The social studies curriculum enhanced their awareness of other cultures.

Students' community and environmental responsibility was good. They actively supported others less fortunate. They worked hard together to perfect frequent sporting and artistic performances. They were aware of the value of education. Students of all ages conscientiously cared for their school, and supported environmental initiatives, through recycling and beach clean-ups.

How good are teaching and assessment?

Teaching was good in secondary school and acceptable in Kindergarten and elementary. Teachers used ICT appropriately in most lessons, and positive teacher-student interactions featured in almost all lessons. Practical activities were a feature of the more successful teaching and learning.

Assessment was acceptable in all phases of the school. Teachers had expanded their range of assessment tools. Entry and exit tests and external bench marking for all students in elementary and secondary school were mandatory. Teachers effectively moderated internal tests and aligned their students' performance against curriculum standards. Teachers helped students assess their own learning and set new targets using a range of methods, such as 'learning stations'. Increasingly, teachers used external tests to identify areas of weakness and adapt the curriculum accordingly.

How well does the school provide for students with special educational needs?

The school leaders showed a strong commitment to the inclusion of students with special educational needs and gave their full support to the newly appointed coordinator and counselor. *The school had improved its identification and assessment process, which were, on the whole, accurate and reliable.*

The counselor provided effective support for students with behavioral, social and emotional needs which enabled them to make acceptable progress. Most teachers were aware of students' specific needs and modified their teaching methods in lessons. They often provided additional support at break times and extra worksheets to complete at home.

How well does the school protect its students?

Health and Safety was good on all phases. Staff supervision around the school was conscientious and senior students monitored their younger peers. Clinic staff monitored students' weight and school initiatives promoted healthy eating. The school's emphasis on physical education and dance contributed to students' health and wellbeing. Staffs at all levels were caring and were aware of child protection arrangements. School travel was well monitored.

The quality of support for students was acceptable across all phases. All members of the school community showed care and concern for the needs of the students. Almost all teachers managed behavior supportively. The school welcomed students with special education needs and there was a commitment to ensure that they took a full part in school life.

The school maintained adequate processes for checking academic and personal development of all students. The school was diligent in recording of attendance and punctuality and responded promptly, where necessary, to ensure high levels of attendance. The school provided useful guidance for students on subject options and career choices.

How good are the leadership and management of the school?

The senior leader's clear vision focused on 'values' education and preparing students well for the next steps in education. They had begun to compare their students' attainments to international standards. Middle leaders had clear roles, with increased non-teaching time to fulfill these.

The school evaluated its strengths and weaknesses in staff friendly way. Most understood what needed to improve. Resultant improvement plans clearly identified actions, persons responsible, timescales and measures of success.

The partnership with parents and the community was good. Parents identified strongly with the school and valued its promotion of Filipino Cultural identity within the context of Dubai. They appreciated 'Orientation Evenings' which have informed them of curriculum change originating in the Philippines. Most also found school reports regular and helpful. These were clearly understood lines of communication between home and school using student diaries as well as letters and phone calls. Parents recognized the school's involvement of their children in celebrating important national events in the UAE, and supporting communities in need.

The recently formed governing council included a broad range of stakeholders as well as the Principal and the Managing Directress. Council members clearly understood their role of challenge and support for school improvement. They knew about aspects of school performance, for example, students' attainment.

Three seniors qualify for UP Diliman

By Margaritha Yvonne B. Lacson



Clarisse Rodriguez



Roi Aldrin Dipasupil



Mikaella Gabriel

Congrats TPSian UPCAT passers!

January 12, 2015 - The University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) for the academic year 2015-2016 were released by UP on January 12, 2015 and among the list of passers include three seniors or grade 10 students of The Philippine School.

TPS congratulates the three qualifiers and graduating students namely: Clarisse Rodriguez, who qualified for BS Statistics program; Roi Aldrin Dipasupil for BS Electrical Engineering, and Mikaella Gabriel on a pending case; which means qualified with ongoing transactions with the UP Office of Admissions.

Considering UP as one of their most significant college preferences, Clarisse and Roi will be joining as freshmen for the School Year 2015-2016, subsequent to TPS graduation day on May 2015. Mikaella is still under decision. All of them are qualified for the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City campus.



As recognized by the Philippine Senate, the University of the Philippines is the nation's premier university in the Philippines founded in 1908. The university currently provides the largest number of degree programs in the country and one of the top universities in the Philippines.

FEATURE IIII



Starring: Shama Zamora

'2014 Singing Grand Champion at Al Futtaim's Annual Showtime'

by Margaritha Yvonne B. Lacson



TPS Glee club member Shama Zamora's (4th from Right) claim of greatness is what happens on stage.

Following her two consecutive champion trophies for music; namely, Kidz Starz and TPS' Idol 2013, the sensational Shama Zamora, another time, gives pride to her family, friends, and the school for winning as the Grand Champion on Majid Al Futtaim's 2nd Annual Showtime. This was held at DUCTAC Community Centre, Al Barsha, Dubai on November 3, 2014.

Shama Zamora is a grade 10 student and she has a promising future for musical ventures, simply because of her consistent and splendid prize-winning voice. This raked awards from numerous Dubai International Singing Competitions.

An interview was conducted to be acquainted more with Shama, while encompassing her singing interest for inspirational purposes.

Have you always enjoyed the art of music?

Music has always been an essential part of my life, and I grew up appreciating and being exposed to different genres of music; ranging from gospel, pop to acoustics, and even post hard-core bands. I can definitely say that I enjoy every aspect of it.

How long have you been interested in pursuing music as your career?

As a kid, I've always been fond of watching people perform whether it be on the televisions or at their concerts. So it ultimately became my life-long dream to be a professional musician performing in front of big crowds.

Can you tell me if there is anyone or anything that inspire you to do music which bring you to where you are today?

I have been exposed to a lot of musicians in my life. They are mainly from my church, and the rest are from the singers I listen to a lot. However, I don't think I can pinpoint who exactly does inspire me but if I could name the most recent person who inspires me, it would be Clarita de Quiroz.; an amazing pianist or singer who earns by performing frequently in various hotels.

As a singer, how do you define success?

Success for me is having been able to glorify God with the talents he gave me. It is when you're not only performing solely for entertainment but touching people's hearts with your music as well.

What do you remember about playing your first performance – how old were you, where was it, when was it, how'd it go, the crowd?

I was about 8 years old when I first performed for a pretty big crowd. I was in 4th grade and my teachers couldn't hardly believe that I was capable of singing and playing the piano at the same time. At that time, I honestly didn't even know you were supposed to get all nervous before a performance and so I just went there, played and sang my heart out. Next thing I knew, I felt fulfilled just by hearing and seeing people applauding after my performance.

How did the school help you hone your talent in singing?

The school was one of the biggest factors that pushed me to pursue my dreams. With the help of my teachers, the school Glee club adviser Miss Maebel Able and the group, and the annual singing idol; they all played a big role in honing my potential as a singer.

Is there one piece of advice that you can offer fellow aspiring singers?

One thing I've learned is always learn to rely on God. Never think that you can achieve something by your own strengths. We must always acknowledge that everything comes from Him and it is through Him that we can achieve greater things.

Ian Tocle proves singing - an excellent thing

by Lars G. Lenon, Ace B. Bernabe and Andres Gomapas

'It's always talent, hard work during practice, and the choice of songs to win.'

That is a hindsight from Ian Tocle, who is one of the sensational singers of The Philippine School and in the United Arab Emirates. Ian, dubbed as Bruno Mars of Dubai, once more established his flair after winning the Grand Prize in the Instruments Category of the 2014 Kidz Starz Competition, a contest where children from ages 5 – 14 would be able to showcase their talents in singing, dancing, and instruments. This was held on November 22, 2014 at the Dubai Festival City.

The young musician mesmerized the judges with his skill and talent in playing various instruments such as the drums, keyboard, and guitar while singing. He performed three songs in the competition, namely: Feeling Good (by Michael Buble), Ain't Got You (by famous singer Alicia Keys), and his own composition "Wake Me Up for Another Day" where he sings about his passion and dreams. "It's about

waking up for another day because one day our stars will shine bright," says Ian when asked about the concept of the song. The young musician is influenced by Bruno Mars, Michael Buble, Josh Groban, and local Philippine artists: Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera.

Ian Tocle, who have started singing at age 5, begun joining competitions as early as age 5 and won his first competition in 2009; winning the Grand Prize in the Fun City's Got Talent Competition held on the same year. He began to go to gigs, radio shows, guesting, and competitions during his spare time. Being a student at the same time, he keeps on managing his time between studies and his extracurricular activities.

The superb skillfulness of Ian was exemplified thru his musical awards; consistently raking Grand Champion or First Place titles. Among of these are:

Most recently (DFC Kidz Star 2014 Grand Champion)
Mc Donald Arabia Star Search 2014 (First Place)



TPS 6th grader Ian Tocle has won a slew of prestigious awards in the recent competitions in the United Arab Emirates.

- Kidzania Superstar 2014 (First Place)
- Super Best Talent Competition (First Place)
- Spice Radio Talent Show (First Place)
- Mc Donald Dubai Star Search (Grand Champion)
- Dubai Singing Sensation 2012 (Grand Champion)
- W2W Event Shining Star 2011 (3rd Place)
- Fun City Got Talent 2011 (Grand Champion)

Ian occasionally performs with his all-kids band: Not Just Kidz, following their latest concert held on November 28, 2014 at the Knowledge Village Auditorium.



FEATURE

Descriptive Narrative Essay

What is your greatest skill?

by Lian Marianne P. Garcia



February 2012 is an action-packed month for me. The Philippine School offered a lot of events specifically the Foundation day, Family day, and the Mr. And Ms. TPS pageant. Conversely, there was one thing that I'd most likely never forget. It was the "The Singing Idol" competition. It was a memorable occasion for me for it had been my first time ever to compete and sing in front of huge crowd. It was my first time to be in the spotlight.

All throughout my life, I've always relished in singing, and it had already become a part of me. I sing when I'm pleased, miserable, and bored rigid. I sing in the shower and whenever I feel like it. Singing is one of my greatest passions but I've never really tried to strive for more than the average and ordinary.

One day, an opportunity popped-up. My adviser announced that there would be an audition held for the Singing Idol. I was hesitant because I've never done this before. *What if I mess up?* That would be extremely embarrassing. I'll never know unless I try, and life is short so we should do the things we can still do especially when we are still young. Therefore, I decided to have a go and have others adjudicate and evaluate my skills, even though I found that thought frightening.

Having passed the elimination round with my rendition of the song "Till My Heartaches End" by Ella Mae Saison, I was, without no doubt, exhilarated. I don't celebrate too early. This was only the launch. The most stimulating part has come that is practicing for the song that you'll sing everyday (and not being able to eat sweets any day). It wasn't exactly easy to manage because I also have to do my schoolwork, and there are times when I come home really tired, which also affects the result of my performance. So far, I was doing alright but I have to do better than the basic and normal in the actual performance so that I would have the chance to prevail as the winner.

After weeks of stringent practicing, the day had finally come. That Saturday morning, I organized the things I would bring for the event: an elegant dress, the music instrumental, myself, and my voice.

After a while, I left home with my family. I was anxious they were there and it made me self-conscious. I felt like their expectations were striking up and it felt unsettling, but the uneasiness was balanced with relief. It felt like being lifted up as a child, you're so high, up in the sky, and it makes you feel like you can reach anything simply because their support was keeping me from thinking of falling. After all, I needed all the support I could get.

Upon arriving, I went directly to the event organizer and my adviser, Ms. Maebel gave me a "good luck!" I felt tense when I saw the other participants arriving one by one and occupying the lonely seats. When I saw the competitors of my level enter, I waved and greeted them with delight and they replied the same. This is not quite the reaction you would instantly expect from rivals, right? Well, for the past few weeks, the four of us had bonded in the limited time we had practiced together. They were truly quite the chatterboxes but that had only added to the fun I experienced with them. I also would remember the times when we would sing in the hallways which would seem like a ghost would appear due to its silent and empty atmosphere. We would sing to our heart's content and realize later, that we were really loud and that would make us laugh. This would be our daily routine when going to and from our rehearsals. Then, after greeting one another, we sat down together and chatted for a while. When we felt that it's almost time for the show to start, we parted ways, and practiced individually.

Soon, I heard the booms of the microphones and the speakers are blaring into the air as they tested to see if they were working properly. My heart started pounding as the emcees welcomed the audience whom in turn, replied in chatter. I then planted the earphones to my ears, and practiced again, this time, I felt alarmed.

First was the KG level. It was entertaining to see young children shining as bright as they can plus, they were very adorable. Following them to perform was the primary level whom also gave their best shots. While they were performing, we were asked to go backstage, and put on our respective numbers in order. And the crucial part? I was second. "Uh oh. Uh oh!" My fingers were cold and palms were sweaty, and I didn't know if I was ready. Having to express and showing your passion to a great number of people gives me butterflies in my stomach. Given that I was grade 5 at the time, I was included in the intermediate level. We were next in line. I was waiting for my turn to spark the stage.

"And now, for her rendition of her song, 'Isang Lahi,' we have Lian Marianne P. Garcia!"

My heart was now beating a thousand times per second. I took one final deep breath and walked up the stage. I was astonished. I felt like one of those opera singers who is resonating their voices to thousands of people in one massive stage. It made me feel small but belonging, and when I realized they were all looking at me expectantly, the fear rushed in once again. I then remembered someone telling me to look at the far-off distance so that I would not imagine all the stares shooting at me. I followed the advice and it actually worked and that made me feel better.

As I was standing there, the wind blew through my hair just like standing on a grass field on a beautiful day, cool, and refreshing with a bit of tension. The music started to play and my mind started to get jumbled up because of the nerves. Fortunately, I remembered it at the last second. I spoke the first word and everything followed, my lyrics and my face expressing the message and sentiments in the song.

I was worried that I would mess up especially on the high notes, but then, I saw my family and my best friends, shouting their hearts out and reassuring for me. I told myself "I can do this," and before I knew it, I was done. I went down to where my family and friends were sitting. I watched as my competitors and other participants performed and gave it their all. I got a bit worried. I asked for my family's opinion and they told me that I did well and they pleased me.

Finally, the moment we've all been waiting for had arrived – the pronouncement of results. The participants were informed to go up the stage for the announcement of the winners.

I felt the cold and negative thoughts started to cloud in my mind. *Did I do great? Did my voice crack? Did I fail to reach out to the audience and the judges? Oh gosh, what if...?* I don't want to despair but my defeat from the Mr. And Ms. TPS pageant a day before even contributed to this ruthless feeling made me feel even more insecure than I already was.

"Will the same losing situation happen again? Will I suffer defeat once more? I think, I'm going to cry. How should I react? Anyway, I must be prepared for the worst. Be ready. Be ready..." I thought to myself all over.

Soon, our turn came and the four of us held our hands together. They announced from the last to first. 4th place, my name wasn't called. Phew. The thought of not being last slightly relieved me. The 3rd place, my name wasn't called once more. I got really nervous that I covered my face. I was feeling rather emotional and was ready for the waterfalls. It was time for the second placer's spot to be announced and I squeezed my remaining competitor's hand.

"And our intermediate level champion is none other than Lian Garcia!" the emcee remarked.

"Wow!"

I felt like jumping out of the air. I wanted to shout to the Lord in deep gratitude but I, instead, composed myself and waited for me to be given the trophy symbolizing my triumph. One of the judges handed it to me and congratulated me.

In the video that my parents filmed, they told me that my reaction was priceless. I thought I had composed myself. That's what I thought. In the video, I looked like a 5-year old giggling in excitement for ice cream. That was raw emotion. To be honest, I found my reaction pretty amusing myself. After the all-important announcement, the other contenders congratulated me and we group-hugged.

When I went down the stage, I got attacked by a mountain heap of hugs. These were suffocating but their happiness truly reached out to me. I could truly feel the joy and warmth in their hugs. This is such a great feeling to be hugged by those who have supported you until the end.

When I finally got out of the crowd and the way had already cleared up, I looked for and went directly to my family. The first thing I noticed was my mother. Tears were streaming down her face as her smile widens at the sight of my face. I couldn't exactly believe it, but I was truly touched. I didn't know that I was capable of moving my mother to tears. It made me feel that all the hard work and sacrifice I did for this competition were totally worth it. Everything that happened bore fruit; not just the prize, but we also gained experience from this. I wasn't only doing this for myself, for I offer this victory to my family. I then turned to my father and sibling. I could see the joy and pride gleaming in their eyes. Yep, totally worth it. After that, we celebrated the victory and my February went out in a blast!

Don't create personal prisons built out of fears. Just carry on for what you believe you can. "There will always be something you gain in everything that you do. That beneficial gain will define you in life. Initial failure initiates new try."

Sophia Tuason shares spotlight with renowned poets

Sophia Gabriel Q. Tuason of grade 10 will be reciting a poem on February 8, 2015 in front of more than 700 audiences consisting of world renowned poets, media, and other school students.

Her poetry entitled "Friendship" has been selected by a panel of esteemed poets thru the invite of SGI-Gulf, in partnership with the Dubai Knowledge Village and Dubai International Academic City. These organizations are hosting "Poetic Heart: Connecting Humanity" - a successful and well-organized poetry symposia held annually for three consecutive years.

Please see the official entry at the Literary Page.

Descriptive Narrative Essay

FEATURE IIII



COMPOSE YOURSELF!

by Januel Andrei Z. Pitoy

Getting ready for beautiful daytime, I and my family were preparing for a long trip to Abu Dhabi to visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, one of the biggest mosques in the UAE. Later on, we got in our car and left the house. As we were travelling, we talked about a lot of things to keep us regaled on our way there.

I repeatedly asked my father about our location and just gazed out the window to only see what is like a never ending trail, but that is just unexciting so I decided to take a nap. We had finally arrived to the beautiful city of Abu Dhabi, and I could approximately say that the villas and shopping centers are smaller in structure and less industrial likened to Dubai.

Despite this thing, we instantly went and visited my parents' friends, which we invited to come with us on our awaiting drive around in Abu Dhabi this day. We headed out, ate lunch, and had long conversations; shortly, we got back in our own cars and resumed our trip.

I turned on the radio and just paid attention to some nice music. Everything was going well and peaceful until I heard my father talking about a car that was speeding up; just right behind us which made me turn my head around. When I looked back to the front, the stoplight, which was getting closer to us, switched to yellow. My father hit on the breaks and when I looked back once more to check the car, the driver accelerated even faster, hitting from the pedal to the metal, eager to get to the other side before the light turns red. The light switched red, we stopped, and as the car passed by our side, another vehicle which was speeding up from the left side of the road hastily impacting to the car. It was a deadly hit that is making a huge screech of noise. The car whirled around, and it was drifted far away from its place; pieces of debris fell on the ground and the crash severely dented the car.

We were all drawn into silence, jaws dropped to the floor, and completely dismayed and intrigued of what just happened.

But despite of what befell, we went on with our trip like it was nothing. My excitement was completely drained, and I kept on rambling and talking about the accident. My father casually replied, "At least we are safe. That is what's important right now. For now, let's just forget that and have a quality time."

When we finally arrived at our destination. I immediately jumped out of the car, closed my eyes, and took a deep breath. When I opened my eyes I saw the mosque. It was massive and utterly attractive. It shined bright like a huge diamond. It certainly gained my enjoyment back. As we walked on the aisle towards the entrance, I kept on praising and admiring the mosque. When we finally arrived at the entrance I reached out for a brochure about the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and read some information about it.

When we went inside the mosque to explore its interior, I was dazed of its beauty. We took pictures, and of course, captured the amazing moment.

It was truly an experience and a great opportunity to visit a wonderful place, despite of what come about, I learned to dismiss instantly the prior undesirable happenings. Behave as if nothing in this world really troubles.

Significance of Dramatization

Dramatization, as an art form, contributes to the development of human empathy and creativity in society – the building blocks of peaceful cultures and nations. The outcome will be an informed community that can appreciate the necessity and the challenge of making and appreciating artistic expression in an unpredictable world.



Grade 10 students (batch 2013-2014) perform the "Me" scene – an excerpt from Disney's Beauty and the Beast.

What actors are expert in is using their movement (including body and voice kinetics) to inspire feelings in the people who are observing.

- Marco Lacoboni



Good Ensemble; the people who have worked together a lot.– Michael J. Fox



The Mob Song Scene

"A talent for drama is an ability to articulate human relationships."
Gore Vidal

Definition sources:

Exploring Theatre Making Through the Lens of the Child, Xan S. Johnson, Ph.D.

Christmas reflections in Dubai

by Januel Andrei Z. Pitoy



The Irish Village's traditional tree lighting ceremony. The Irish Village, Garhoud, Dubai | Credits to: <http://www.timeoutdubai.com/>

Here we are again, in that time of the year where we begin to feel the ecstatic and the lovely sensation of Christmas. This is taking on us once more! Seeing people, beginning the shopping hustle and bustle galore, and people are starting to embellish their lovely places. I am surely beginning to feel that intense excitement building up and growing in my heart, mind, and soul a new. On top of these, Jesus Christ's birth and love is reflected and celebrated with a delightful and captivating feeling! All of those sentiments, however, had a new twirl when you reside long-term to Dubai, even with similar Christmas preparations.

Living in another country also has its undesirable sides. Celebrating one of the most remarkable and cherished events overseas especially in a place where you are far away from your beloved relatives, sometimes merely gives us irrational understanding and feeling of incompleteness, and discontentedness.

On the bright side, celebrating the Christmas season in a different country is certainly something out of the ordinary. Celebrating in an uncommon land, especially in an Islamic country, truly gives us a much more distinct experience. It offers you something newer and more different.

As a Filipino student studying abroad, I have seen among other children in Dubai; celebrations of Christmas with an incomplete family, are undoubtedly blue. Luckily for few like me, I have my parents and siblings in this place. Those who have contrast situations have the opportunity to test their strength despite distance with their loved ones. Vacations are the only instances where they get to see and be united with their sweetest relatives. Since that hardly ever happens, they solely depend on technology in order to communicate.

During Christmas, I realized that the place of celebration and physical closeness to relatives were not the most significant things. What is necessary by the way? This Christmas, we need to recognize a Savior! Out of gratitude for what God did for us; we remember His birth by worshipping HIM, by giving one another gifts, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate. Christmas celebrations must have clear sense, not on where you celebrate or with whom you celebrate it. The heart and mindset of celebration must be deeper.

Let us encompass the pure sense of Christmas to our families, to newly found friends or acquaintances because simply God Himself is OMNIPRESENT –being present everywhere.



III FEATURE

Trekkers & Wanderlust

by Margarete Ashley M. Castillo and Sherilyn Mae A. Pangan

Travelling abroad soothes the dullness of natural life and work. Probably, you wonder how it's like to travel the world. You wonder how the people from other countries live. As a student, you will learn much more than you do from a textbook, or from a class lecture, or from taking a test.

According to Kay Rodriguez, through travel, you have the opportunity to see first-hand the things you've learned, and to put into practice the skills you've acquired. You gain a global perspective and a strong independence that no other teaching method can impart. Travel teaches tolerance, self-sufficiency, and resourcefulness as well; three key skills that you can use for the rest of your life. Without travel, you will only see the world on a screen or in a book, but you will never get to experience it for yourself.

For a sociological sense, it is for us to be more independent, self-determining, and globally minded. As students, visiting the attractions helps us a lot especially in the future wherein we need to stand up on our own feet. We have to find a solution to our problems.

To give specific samples, when you are in a strange place, and you find it difficult to communicate with people, like in asking instructions of road directions, address, foreign language; you will be forced to speak. Boost of self-esteem and communication skills will be trained here.

One more example, you will be trained to be humble and to respect because you will be forced if not naturally obey rules and law in other countries. This is simply because of the dictates of their own culture apart from ours.

Language in foreign countries is a struggle, especially when you don't understand— it becomes a noise; however, unconsciously or consciously (through exposure), you will learn and to be aware of the foreign languages. It would also give you motivation to study different languages when you're travelling.



'To travel is to live.'
- Hans Andersen



Carl Bryan Valdez in
HONG KONG



Nicole Villegas in
SINGAPORE



Ashley Noveno in
BRAZIL

Carl stated that he was amazed by the beautiful scenery and infrastructures in Hong Kong. He had fun during his visit in Disneyland. Hong Kong Disneyland is located in Lantau Island. It is the first theme park located inside the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. It is one of the two large theme parks in Hong Kong.

According to him, the food there was quite exotic; ranging from the "Pineapple Bread" (which doesn't even contain Pineapple) to the Cantonese food "Roasted Goose."

Nicole said that going to other countries was really exciting and fun. When she first stepped outside Singapore airport, the country had a good breeze, and it was very clean.

She also admired the Merlion which is a major tourist attraction located at One Fullerton, Singapore near its Central Business District. A Merlion is a monster with the head of a lion, and a body of a fish. The lion head represents Singapore's original name— Singapura, meaning, lion city.

Johann Ashley Noveno said that they took 6-9 hours travel from San Paulo to Rio. She enjoyed the beautiful and peaceful provincial views of Rio. There weren't that much of buildings, cars, and factories. The place was just full of trees and you'd feel closer to nature.

One thing that could be a problem, according to her, was that it was *really* hot. She said that if it was colder, it would be more fun on just walking down the streets of Brazil or in Copacabana.

FEATURE III



Trekkers & Wanderlust



Elise Urrutia in **NEW YORK, U.S.A**

According to *Elise*, just like every other country, you will have your own unique experience in USA. She was glad that she spent it with her family. Statue of Liberty is one of the famous tourist spots found in New York. It is found in Liberty Island in the middle of New York Harbor, in Manhattan, New York City.



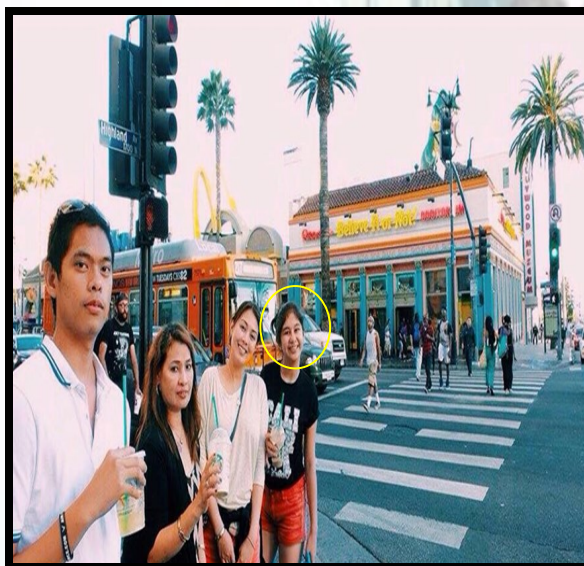
Arvee Abinales in **SOUTH KOREA**

The birthday of Arvee's sister and the Dubai Eid holidays had caused the trip of Arvee and her family to South Korea. However, Arvee mentioned that the trip's like set for her because she believed, she enjoyed more than anybody else in the family. "South Korea is a new planet to me," Arvee assumed.



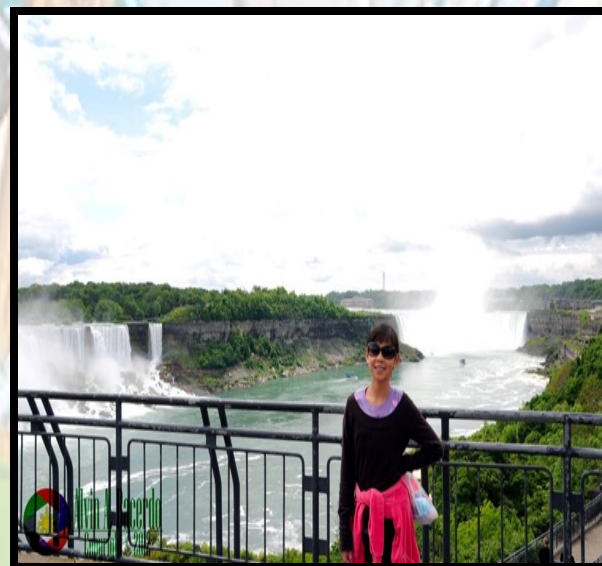
Aimee Hular in **IRELAND**

Aimee was simply glad to visit the Malahide Castle and Gardens. This is one of the oldest castles in Ireland, set on 260 acres. This magnificent and historic 12th century castle has been home to the Talbot family for over 800 years in Dublin, Ireland.



Unna Rimerata in **LOS ANGELES, U.S.A**

Hollywood still attracts millions of visitors each year who travel there to pay homage to the favorite stars, and perhaps even catch a glimpse of a few famous personalities. *Unna* and her relatives visited the sidewalk roads of downtown LA where the Hollywood sign, Beverly hills, and Walk of Fame can be seen. She enjoyed eating mouth-watering burgers from the typical fast food restaurant named 'In N' Out.'



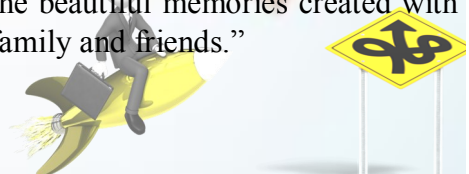
Alliona Bacerdo in **CANADA**

Alliona mentioned that when she and her relatives arrived at Niagara Falls, after a long journey from Toronto, Canada, they were ecstatic - to finally see the view with their own eyes. Although they didn't really go to the boat tour, the view was enough to experience the beauty of it. They went to a spot near the falls where they assume one could see a rainbow though the mist of the falls.



Gwen Camaya in **MANY COUNTRIES**

One of the TPSians who seemed to travel to a lot of countries is Gwen Camaya. He stated, "I always look forward when we travel to different places. It is an opportunity to experience different cultures. I learn new languages, try new cuisines, engage in adventures, and see the beauty of nature and most of all are the beautiful memories created with my family and friends."





III FEATURE

With all marbles : The New TPS Teachers

By Erin Mitchell J. Abadilla

While exposed from different educational philosophies in the Philippines; equipped with exceptional skills, and teaching practices, the new TPS mentors are communal with the expression of creative, brilliant mindsets, high esteem, and levelheaded beliefs.

The new teachers of the year seek opportunities to express their care and their concerns to students. These they believe are more honorable than merely teaching.

“When you study great teachers, you will learn much more from their caring and hard work than from their style,” mentioned by William Glasser. The new educators will be acquainted with you by relishing some of their clever responses and caring reflections from our varied thought- provoking questions.



Ms. Leah Aileen B. Tagumpama (Grade 1)

Degree: Bachelor of Elementary Education
Technology and Livelihood Education
Concentration

School: Bicol University, Philippines

Q: Tell me about your most memorable student.

A: During my first year of teaching, I remembered having a very timid student in the class. She was silent and reserved type of person. In our Science class, the student usually keeps herself at arm's length to avoid being called. The next day, I asked for her parents to come for a brief conference. It was a big opportunity for me to be able to discuss with the parent about the student's behavior, progress, and plans to achieve academic as well as personal goals. As the years went by, the ever timid student before became the very likeable and approachable person now.

The next meeting, I had a meeting with Ms. Susan Enriquez. She proved to be the happiest as she was surprised to learn that her daughter still pays me constant visits even if she is no longer my student.

Communication between student-teacher, teacher-parent, and parent-student is very important tool in upholding teaching and learning objective. I don't just teach; I profess the truth, I care, and I love.



Ms. Estrella A. Padios (Grade 6)

Degree: Bachelor of Secondary Education
Home Economics and Livelihood
Education Concentration

School: Mindanao State University-
Iligan Institute of Technology,
Philippines

Q: What sort of person would you recommend go into teaching?

A: For me, the kind of person that I would recommend to be into teaching is someone who is teachable, flexible, and has a heart for teaching.

A teachable person reflects humility and submission. He or she is more effective to teach if humble. Teachers better learn from their daily experiences; from others who are more experienced and skilled of a certain task; and also from those who are designated to lead them. It is impossible to learn and submit without humility.

School system and culture vary from one school or from one place to another. A teacher must be willing to give up things he's used to do, and adapt new things imposed and implemented in his present situation or institution. It has been said that the only constant thing in this world is change. I believe that change is made for the better, so a teacher, one must be flexible to whatever changes that come his way.



Ms. Kristine Joyce R. Vallejo. (Kindergarten 2)

Degree: Bachelor of Elementary Education

School: Philippine Normal University
Isabela, Philippines

Q: When it's all said and done, will you have said more than you have done? Why?

A: "I am human. There will always be a part when I will wish I could have done more. It's human nature to commit mistakes, but it's also our nature to make improvements. Moments in the past serve as reminders for enhancement. After making way for development, there will be no more regrets."



Ms. Joyce M. Dacucos (Grade 2)

Degree: Bachelor of Elementary Education
Major in General Education

School: Bataan Peninsula State University
Philippines

Q: What's the most sensible thing you've ever heard from a student?

A: "It's pretty amazing the way you are the best teacher for me teacher Joyce." These are the words uttered by a grade-5 student. Being a good teacher is a vocation, but knowing you are the best for a student touches your heart that creates joy, fulfillment while it strengthens you; not only as a teacher but more even as a person.



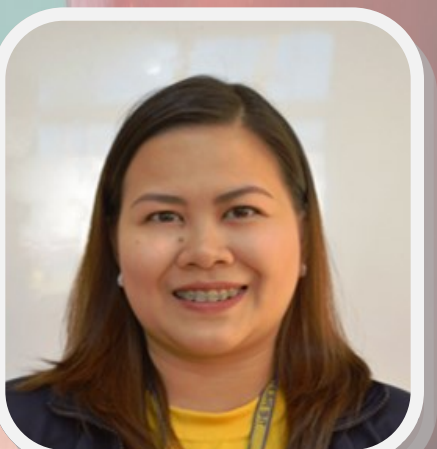
Ms. Eloisa S. Lagrimas (Subject Teacher)

Degree: Bachelor of Elementary Education
Filipino (Specialization)

School: Philippine Normal University,
Manila, Philippines

Q: What was the funniest thing that has happened to you while teaching?

A: The funniest thing that happened to me was during my demonstration teaching via teleconferencing. The observers were in a different venue, watching the demo. While I was still rehearsing the dance for the first part of the lesson, I wasn't aware that the video was already accessible. The observers were laughing their hearts out. It can be considered the funniest and the most embarrassing instance



Ms. Gretchen S. Cano (Kindergarten 2)

Degree: Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

School: Philippine Normal University
Manila, Philippines

Q: Who are you?

A: "I'm a person who finds joy in simple things, fun-loving friend, shy, creative thinker, lifelong learner, and a child of God."

FEATURE III



With all marbles : The New TPS Teachers



Mr. Bethoven M. Filomeno
(Grade 7)

Degree: Bachelor of Secondary Education
Physical Education Concentration

School: Philippine Normal University,
Manila, Philippines

Q: What makes a teacher a good listener?

A: “A teacher who is a good listener is sensitive to the actions : physical, mental, and emotional needs of his students. He does not simply know them by name, but by heart and mind.”



Ms. Jomalyn E. Pulvera
(Grade 7)

Degree: Bachelor of Secondary Education-
Major in General Science

School: Cebu Normal University,
Cebu City, Philippines

Q: In your opinion, what are the most compelling challenges with today’s educational system?

A: The quality of today’s educational system is affected by some inadequacies in terms of teaching strategies or student-teacher interaction in the classroom because most is generally a one way flow. The teachers deliver the lesson instead of just facilitating it.



Ms. Regine N. Lopez
(Subject Teacher)

Degree: Bachelor of Elementary Education
(General Education)

School: Baliuag University,
Bulacan, Philippines

Q: What or who do you live for? Why?

A: “I live for the next generation because I believe that I can contribute something more for the development of my pupils. I feel fulfillment most especially when I see progress in my students.”



Ms. Daisy Irene G. De Vega
(Subject Teacher)

Degree: Bachelor of Science
in Business Management
Early Childhood Education (ECE)

School: University of the Philippines Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines

Q: If you could speak to all students right now, what would be the most valuable lesson you could offer?

A: *How to listen* - I believe this is what most students need to learn. For if they will listen, they will understand, and they will also be understood by their peers. If they understand each other, respect follows, and all good things will certainly show.



Ms. Olivia S. Villanueva
(Grade 2)

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

School: Philippine National Guagua,
Pampanga, Philippines

Q: What were the most significant lessons you have learned from your students?

A: One of the significant lessons I have learned from my students is to become an open minded person. Students are ready to try something new , and their minds are wide open to the world has to offer; that is one important trait that we must have . Do not to be shy and be comfortable in the familiarity of our surroundings. Adventure exhilarates us and awakens the spirit. We should never refrain from asking questions even we hit adulthood. In doing so, we walk away from numerous opportunities and positive experiences in life.



Mr. Angelo C. Marana
(Subject Teacher)

Degree: Bachelor of Elementary Education
(General Education)

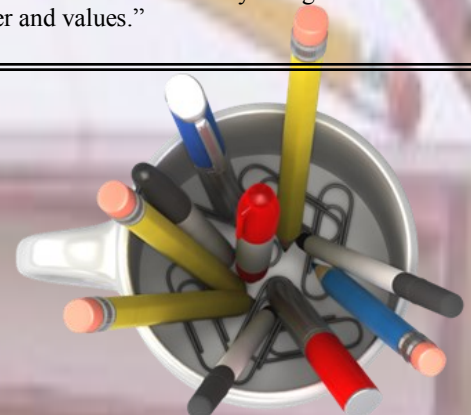
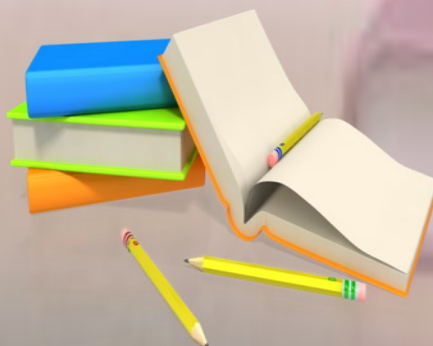
School: Arellano University—Pasig, Philippines

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication,
Major in Broadcasting (BBRC-Broadcasting)

School: Polytechnic University of the Philippines
Manila , Philippines

Q: How will you know if your judgment is right about a student in terms of character and values?

A: “If a pupil or a student portrays Christ like attitude towards anything, I think this is a concrete indicator that a child is morally straight in terms of character and values.”





||| FEATURE

In the haste of school life, what are you missing?

By John Jhudiel G. Barreto

I may be only a fourteen year - old boy, but as early as now, I already know what career I would like – that is to become a Civil Engineer. My father is the biggest influence in my ambition. I remember when I was younger, he used to bring some of his works at home. I used to be fascinated in seeing drawings of structures like buildings, bridges, and roads. I felt more amazed with the designs and calculations of costs which he used to do. I was really fascinated how the buildings are designed. How are they built without collapsing? How are they priced? With these questions in mind , my interest sprouted. Then I started dreaming that one day, I can also see myself involved in those works. Aside from these facts, I know that as I go on with my studies, I will be challenged with subjects connected with numbers, especially Mathematics and Sciences; however, I believe that Civil Engineering will be the perfect college course for me. According to my father, it is a given fact that Civil Engineering is a tough course. That's why, I always ask myself on how to pass the course. I believe that preparation is the key.

My father always reminds me that I should focus on my studies first. Everything that I am learning from high school education would give me an advantage when I go to college. Though this course is mostly regarding Mathematics and Science, I shouldn't also take for granted other subjects like the English language ; it



would give me practice on how to express myself in written and in oral communication. My dad used to tell me stories of his experiences in college. Some of his classmates didn't finish their course and shifted to another. He didn't give a threat but he gave me inspiration that if I really want this course, I should be diligent, prepared and skillful.

According to my parents, time management, hard work, discipline, and patience are some of the skills that I should possess if I really want to become a Civil Engineer. From now on, I should learn these skills so I can surpass every challenge.

I believe that Civil Engineering will be the perfect college course for me, because it is now clear on how to pursue it. In the haste of school life, I realize not to miss the vision of your future successful self. I realize to have the passion very early.



TPS teacher braves music competition despite ill-condition

by Ace B. Bernabe



Mr. Melvin Masula (2nd from left) interfaces with STAR KA NA in the UAE winners, renowned RnB Singer Jay -R ,(4th from Left) and songwriter Vehnee Saturno(5th from left) during the awarding ceremony of the event on October 31, 2014.

Mr. Melvin Masula is a 6th grade teacher of Physical Education, and he is a member of the first batch or finalists of the adored Star Ka Na in the UAE contest.

During the competition night, he coincidentally endured fever. The event was not a win-win situation for him and for his supporters; however, the teacher qualified as a finalist,. He expressed that the unexpected experience was a supplementary lesson for his personal life and teaching career.

Fortunate after single Facebook like



By Margaritha Yvonne B. Lacson



Grade 8 teacher Miss Hilda P. Aguila held good luck after winning a Samsung Galaxy Note 4 from Axiom Corporation. She merely liked an advertisement Facebook page of the company on April 2014 and the action provided her an easy win.

She was called by Axiom Telecom through the administrator Mr. Kasim Rijjal, and claimed the promotional prize on December 15, 2014 at the Emirates Towers .

Two weeks prior to her win, Miss Hilda had lost a new mobile phone. As Godsend providence, the material loss was replaced with better one.

Star Ka Na! in the UAE is another major production of Pulse International in partnership with Saturno Music Production. Vehnee Saturno's multi-awarded songwriter and record producer. Moreover, this production gave Mr. Melvin the opportunity to mingle with several of the big stars in the Philippine music industry; like Luke Mijares of the South Border and Jay-R of GMA 7.

According to Mr. Melvin, a small portion of the experience was nervousness and a larger portion of it was bursting with excitement. He encourages young Filipino talents not only in TPS, but also for the whole Filipino community to open up and share their gifts with the world. That is his main pursuit.

The elimination rounds were difficult to get through, so Mr. Melvin prepared extensively through activities like that of vocalizations and practice sessions every weekend. There were thirty-five candidates and Mr. Melvin was selected as a finalist; for the semi-finals round he had sung the song, Be my Lady by Martin Nievera, while for the final round he had sung, *Promise* by Martin Nievera.



De Leon, Gumban: Colleagues' Choice Awardees

by Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla

The selection process takes a long way. All teachers are encouraged to vote for an exemplary teacher they desire and the educationalist with the most votes takes the pleasure of being the "Colleagues' Choice Award." The two teachers got the highest similar votes.



Passion, special calling : common terms from the exemplary teachers . The computer professional Mr. Felipe De Leon (left photo) and the exceptional dancer Mr. Randy Gumban (right photo) were more than regaled to share their skills and crafts to their students.

Mr. Felipe S. De Leon

'Computer skills that resemble professionalism at its best and mindset that thinks beyond the image of simplicity.' These are the admirable traits of Sir Felipe de Leon, a Grade 10 adviser and one of the recipients of The Philippine School's "Colleagues' Choice Award." The educator is keen on character; therefore, upholds it as one of the huge elements of success.

De Leon offers his simple to finest abilities with sincerity and ingenuity at all times; from taking ID photos of the students to teaching them the art of professionalism and competence in the field of Information Communications Technology (ICT). Sir Felipe specifically teaches 10th grade and 9th grade ICT.

Sometimes in the mornings, when you walk by the ICT laboratory hallway, one can see Mr. Felipe attending to the difficulties and perplexities of other teachers in terms of computer knowledge which are ranging from the reformatting of others' laptops to fixing classroom projectors or computers.

Aside from his exceptional skills, he believes in the rule of placing attitude first in line before one's intellectual capacity. He believes with the concept of good values and character being the keys to victory. A person's perspective of the world, his consideration for and understanding of other people; corporally and spiritually; and self-understanding, and self-respect determine the attitude of one member of the society. He elaborated that an individual's 'best' does not always give the 'best' results but the willingness of a person certainly brings a fruitful outcome.

"Honestly, I don't know why I was given this award but I think it's my desire to help and mold others into becoming future leaders and helping them with my passion without expecting for anything in return," said Sir Felipe when asked about the reason of the entitlement.

Sir Felipe "Phillip" de Leon voices out his views regarding his title. While there are many teachers in the roster list of The Philippine School, the ICT teacher was one of teachers given the award. Being a young educator of TPS, he did not expect to hold such title since The Philippine School has many excellent and experienced teachers in educating and teaching.

The ICT teacher expressed his gratitude to all the people who believed in his capabilities as a teacher.

Before receiving the recognition, Sir Felipe had other plans. He had hoped to return to the Philippines with the goal of managing his family's business. However, having the award inspired him to pursue his teaching career in the field of ICT education in The Philippine School (TPS). "There's something we're all meant to do in life and that something we're all meant to be, no matter how much money you earn down the line, unless you find your passion, your soul will still root for that one thing you were born to do," quotes Sir Felipe de Leon.

The senior grade adviser ends the interview with an advice to all the other teachers of The Philippine School. "Let's follow the path of the unsafe independent thinker. Share our talents and time management skills, boldly approach each other to rectify mistakes, do the academic talk, and do not be afraid of innovations."

Mr. Randy D. Gumban

Mr. Randy Gumban stated that the award provided validation for years of his hard work and sacrifices in the teaching profession. He believes that the award requires going above and beyond the regular duties as a teacher to truly make an impact in our school.

It is always valuable to know what and how an exemplary teacher thinks; therefore, several interrogations were made to Mr. Randy to be aware of some teaching excellent acumens.

Q: How did you first become inspired to pursue teaching as a career?

A: "Getting a great deal of satisfaction from being able to influence one's life and shape one's future had inspired me to pursue teaching profession as my career. Remember, teaching is a special calling. This is not a job well-suited to everyone."

Q: What gives you the greatest joy in teaching?

A: "To inspire all students to learn is my greatest satisfaction as a teacher. To be a motivator for my students is one of the good reasons for becoming a teacher. Hearing from your former students that they owe their success to the teacher who instilled in them good study habits and looking up their teacher as an expression of gratitude is a great feeling of joy and happiness."

Q: What is the biggest challenge or frustration you experience as a teacher?

A: "Getting everybody engaged and pushing students to their highest standard is really a big challenge for me. Dealing with lots of children with different behaviors, different religious views, different family backgrounds and taking account their individualities is not just an easy task. On the other hand, lack of discipline in class and lack of desire to learn in students is a frustration on my part."

Q: If you could change only one thing about any aspect of K-12 education, what would it be?

A: "If this program aims to provide sufficient time for mastery of concepts and skills, develop lifelong learners, and prepare graduates for Tertiary education, middle-level skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship, why should I not support rather than change even a single aspect of this program?"

Q: What do you do differently in your classroom to engage your students?

A: "Serving as a role model for my students and always having the best interest of my students in mind, treating them fairly, setting high expectations, and being consistent with discipline on them"

Q: How will you represent TPS as a teacher?

Basically, what would you tell the public about our school?
A: A role model can be anybody: a parent, a sibling, a friend but some of our most influential and life changing role models are TEACHERS. As a teacher of the year I represent myself as a role model teacher - a teacher who inspires and encourages students to strive for greatness.



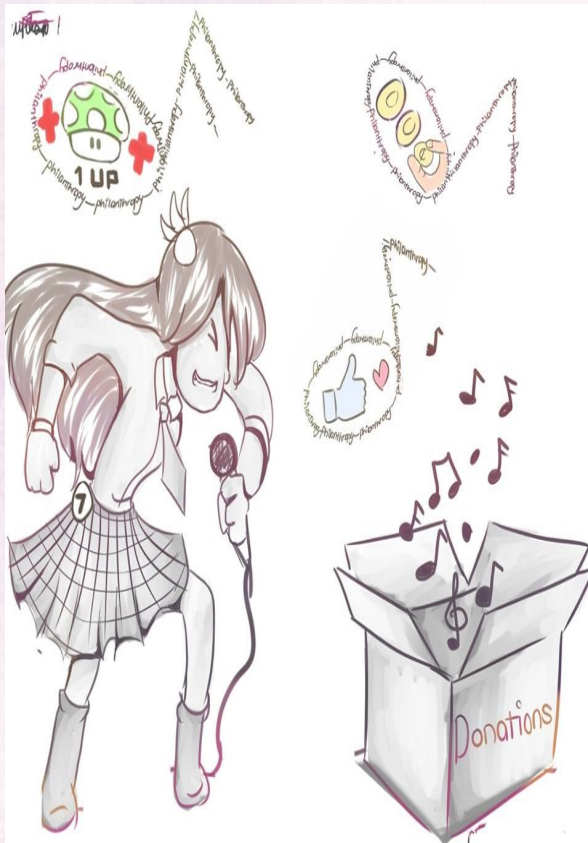
OPINION

Pursuing philanthropy; More than competence and skillfulness



DESERT PEN

Margaritha Yvonne B. Lacson
Editor-in-Chief, TPS Insights



Joining these competitions is more than just proving to others what you can do. It's proving to yourself that you can be a good role model for others. This is while we share to others what we possess (tangible or intangible) for the well-being of the society.

Take for example, the recent Grand Champion of the TPS Singing Idols 2014, Elyzha Denise Paule. "Singing idol helped me boost my self-esteem so I can share my talent to everyone with no hesitation. In my opinion, I'm helping my fellow students by encouraging them to go out of their comfort zones and to be never afraid to join contests that will show-

case their talents," she said. Her skills and winning gleam are contributory to others in raising their self-esteem.

"Enjoy the moment while it lasts, showcase your talents and let them feel the emotion you are sending the audience. Be confident and be proud of yourself," she adds.

Putting our talents into good use at our young age is indeed exceptional. Moreover, There are people who just need to be lauded and to be taken as role models. Fellow TPSian Shama Zamora, won as Grand Champion of Kidz Starz contest in Dubai last 2013, and part of her competition prize was donated to the victims of super typhoon, Haiyan. It might be a small step but it is the key to opening the possibilities to help others while doing what you love.

On the side note, comedian Quincy Carr loves making people laugh and lights up the stage at places like "The Funny Bone" in Virginia Beach, but it turns out, *he's a real stand-up guy off stage, too*. He loves giving back to the community and many charitable causes. Every year, Carr holds school supply drives at his comedy shows. He's also joined other comedians, raising money for scholarships so single mothers could continue their education. "I have the ability to give somebody the opportunity to feel better. Giving back gives me a sense of fulfillment off stage," Quincy said.

Giving can be as simple as giving joy to others -- sharing our talents and skills to help them tap into their own ability to experience wonder. Your unique skills can make a huge difference. I have found that no greater reward exists than knowing you are helping others by doing what you do best.

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." -Leo Buscaglia

EDITORIAL

The Philippine School celebrates the 7th foundation week from December 12-17, 2014. The day was with great pomp and gaiety as they commend the founders of the school, who are working well with the educational staff, and who aim to provide multiple intelligences for Filipino children in the United Arab Emirates. The Mass Demonstration, the search for Mr. and Ms. TPS, and the Singing Idols served as instrumental activities of talent and charity trainings. As generous as those who organized them, *TPS students celebrate their skills while generating these extra-ordinary abilities for the well-being of people in the community. This is what we call the idea of philanthropy.*

Foundation day participants don't merely show-off. Show is not the mere priority, but organizing a good show and competitions to generate humanitarian goodness and compassionate contributions to other people heartens students.

Toe the line

by Mark Nicole T. Umayam, SC President



PREXY'S MESSAGE

The newly elected Supreme Student Council officers were installed in their positions last October 02, 2014. During the said event, each officer pledged to fulfill his or her duties to the best of her abilities.

They say that good leaders must be good followers and listeners as well and that is what this year's SSC batch, B.E.S.T batch (Benevolent and Enthusiastic Stu-

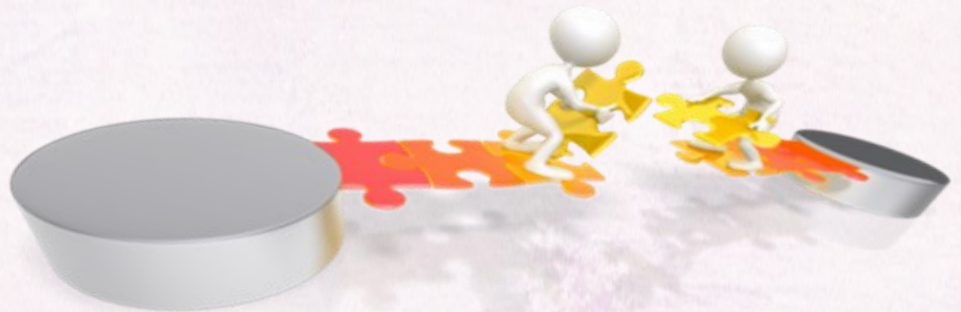
dents to Trust), exactly did. Before planning for our set of activities, we made a survey on what activities do the students want for this year. After conducting the survey, we carefully went over all the suggestions, and absorbed those that will surely benefit the student body.

We planned to continue doing the activities that have been previously done in the school such as, Halloween party, Christmas program, Valentine's day. SC is also planning to do activities that will surely help each students to develop their skills and talents. To attain this certain goal, we plan to conduct the following set of activities; leadership training, photography contest, battle of the bands, and dancing contest.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our SSC adviser, Ms. Marites Vardeleon, for guiding us in attaining our goals as leaders of the student body.

"No man is an island." No one can do something significant all by himself. He or she must be with somebody else in order

to achieve something big, and we are all in the same scenario right now. We cannot achieve something worthy just by ourselves, We will be needing your support and your cooperation. So TPSians, let us hold hands in making our school a better place for developing our skills, talents and our totality as a person.



OPINION ||||



'Getting on at school is not the same as getting on in life'

Faculty members of the Philippine School undergo a seminar of K-12, initiated by the Center for the Professional Development of Academic Leaders and Supervisors on February 28, 2014 in Sharja, United Arab Emirates. The seminar workshop dwelt on the theme of "Unpacking the K-12 curriculum for effective teaching to the standards." While all of the initiatives are enthusiastically prepared, teachers open the door for the students; therefore, learners must be mindful to get themselves into it. *The TPS management and the educational administration have been advancing to be the students' wagon to the star; however, students will need to cooperate with the school for a direction to a spot-on life experience.*

K-12 curriculum aims to render real learning experience for students, according to the Department of Education. With this, the TPS organization has concerted efforts for the school children to enjoy rights of being shown a lot of life. The program of K-12 will push through immersion which is defined as a complete involvement in an activity or interest. This may include earn-while-you-learn opportunities, and provision of relevant exposure and actual experience in students' chosen track, and course of field. K-12 is a student-centred learning that requires students to be pragmatically active, responsible participants in their own learning and with their own pace of learning. *This is focused on the student's interests, abilities, and learning styles, placing the teacher mostly as a facilitator of learning.*

Some aspects of the quality of students' learning skills by means of K-12 were seen by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) through their recent inspection to TPS on March 17-20, 2014. They have assessed and scrutinized how well does TPS execute the student-centred approaches. The education authority had observed that TPS did effective examples on Business Case studies, English dramatizations, Investigations in Science, Social studies discussions, musical creativity, well-developed practical applications in Mathematics, and the high quality of dance facilitated by teachers.

As a result, students must optimize! It is always best to have sensible interface with teachers, and take the full advantage of the K-12 program. For the students, take chockfull benefit from teachers' expertise by being teachable and humble; simply because (according to Rick Warren) *knowing is the enemy of learning.*



COLLAR

John Marcel E. Villanueva
Adviser, TPS Insights

However, teachers will also advise learners to be careful on where to get the sources of learning and informative details. In journalism, when we speak of getting factual information of the world, you may hear and get a lot of responses. Sift them because at times, especially if you are innocent, they are given by the loud irrational people, and chances are, you may be digging the dirt. People are generally not good sources of factual information. What aspects people are good at then? People are good sources of analysis, debate rebuttals, fiction, criticisms, gossips, comments, and of course, stories of human experiences. In a minor contrast, factual information stands out with more reliability because it is developed to maximize data accuracy, sure-enough, proven true, legal, and more often institutionalized. Moreover, It can't be denied and it is proven with evidence. The point is, be keen on what kind of knowledge you are ingesting simply because the almost right words are not equivalent to the exact words.

After your careful decision on what learning and theories to consider from school, the next challenge is to actuate these and see them materialize. Let us come across with the word PRAXIS (theory and practice). According to the Webster's dictionary, this is the process by which a theory, a lesson, or a skill is enacted, embodied, or realised. "Praxis" may also refer to the act of engaging, applying, exercising, or practicing ideas. This has been a recurrent topic in the field of philosophy, discussed in the writings of Plato.

Once you are equipped with clear understanding with this, you are ready to make theories and action plans materialize, and to take effect. The school is an institution for instruction and training. *The school's function then helps you to focus your attention to industry experience and to productive life. Now, if you prepare well and comprehensively from your school's instruction and guidance, you may have an advantage in life.*

Advantage is merely said because **"Getting on at school is not the same as getting on in life."** This inkling of Richard Templar will be elaborated simply because the sense of engaging to school and engaging to life is sometimes confused. This is deliberately saying that, excellence in school doesn't always promise the same glitter or excellence in life. There is no surety.

Richard Bandler mentioned that learning is about considering things differently, making your life a little better every day. When do credentials in school thrive in life? Or are there instances that some people thrive and stand-out in life without school credentials at all?

Let us make the prior details more imaginative. Ms. Josephine Valdez was my co-adviser of the newspaper from our previous school in Baguio City. She is now based in Texas and she shared her feedback regarding the headline and mentioned that the life in the US is obviously different from the Philippines. "Without a degree, you can still get a job as long as you can do it, but you have to start at the bottom. If you have a degree, it gives you an

advantage over the others because they subjectively think you know more theories. When you have a degree, your salary will be more compensating. You will have a better life if you know how to manage your expenses. In the US, you can buy anything you want as long as you work hard and save," she clarified.

She added that since most Americans work right after high school, they forget that having a degree is also important, so a lot of them go back to school after work. Lucky are those whose parents still pay for their schooling, but most of them rely on student loans from the government and pay them after they graduate and have a job.

Also, here's a perception from Marcel Lawrence Agpasa, a writer and a high school friend. He presents one more view of things. He exemplified Bill Gates and Henry Sy, who are business tycoons and who are college dropouts; however, they didn't deter themselves from being the richest and most influential persons in their field.

He says that school is a preparation for life or real world. "Others would think that one's achievement in the academe guarantees you a spot for a well-off life in the future; however, this is a limited view of things. *School does not give guarantee; it gives us advantage. Advantage will only be helpful if used well,*" he believes.

He stresses, "But when we say getting on in life, do we mean being successful? Success comes in many forms: by being filthy rich or being a loving mother. Success is relative. We can then say that success is a perspective of happiness and how we live our lives."

Josephine's and Lawrence's views are both reasonable. Although relative, not every story happens similarly to everybody. Isn't it?

In comparison, the school and the life gives you the opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn. It is up to you to strike the proper balance of living on either aspect. **The school is always a favourable and constructive institution. Realize it. Subsequently, do not hit soft and live life with fervour.**

My college professor in the Philippines, Mr. Herminigildo Garrobo, now teaches English language in South Korea. He had related that one day in his class, he noticed that one of his students was mostly quiet. Another one was mostly bored, often playing smart phone games. One day, he stumbled upon their interests during a class conversation. The quiet one has created a smart phone game. The other is a graphic animator.

Teachers diligently work to know the students' real potential. They look beyond. Get on at school, and learn the mode of living.

Now, What are you thinking?





OPINION

Alumni's Corner



EARMARK

Mignon Frances A. Dumanjog,
Editor-in-Chief,
TPS Insights S.Y. 2013-2014

ON COLLEGE PREPARATIONS

I started thinking progressively about college as I feel graduation draws closer and closer. From someone who had just gone through the whole experience, let me give you some reflections on how to prepare for the tertiary level. First things first, you have to ask yourself two important questions:

What do I love enough to devote the rest of my life to?

This is what I consider to be one of the most challenging things to figure out. After all, I was only sixteen, how am I supposed to choose? You just need to reflect and list down the things you love and the things you're good at, there is a certain degree program suited to the things you have enumerated. Don't worry, if it turns out that it's not for you, you could always plan your desired course aligned to your capabilities. It has to be something YOU honestly, naturally, and unaffectedly like, not something dictated or forced upon you. Or else, you will not enjoy the collegiate challenge. Be open to your parents and clarify your interests to them, they serve the purpose of being the most significant support system.

Where can I study?

There are numerous universities and colleges to choose from, decide on the most ideal for you. These are where aspects like financial resources, proximity of the school, and the quality of education come into play. Luckily, there are college orientations available to us to help us determine which ones are the best for us.

Let's assume that you already have a set of colleges you anticipate to apply to and particular degree programs you have your eye on. The next step is to research on the application process. Whether it be an 85% general weighted average or tough entrance exams, there are certain requirements we have to meet and they vary from college to college. The key is to recognize that it is your ultimate goal to get in, so you have to give it your 100% effort. High school is hard-hitting, but you just have to study your lessons to the point that you can totally understand them. If you do those, there is a gain that you will get high grades. This doesn't just apply to grade 10 students since most colleges look at grades from grade 7 to 10 (or 12).

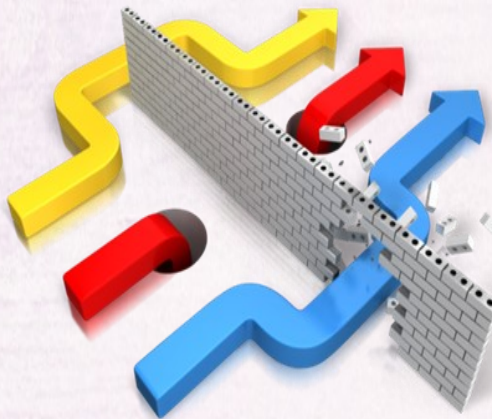
To conclude, you have to prepare yourself mentally and emotionally. Some of us could meet the expense of education in the U.A.E. while some of us opt to study in the Philippines or other countries abroad that is away from our families and friends. However, regardless of where we land, one thing remains certain, that is we will be forced to go beyond our comfort zones.

We will have new friends, new experiences and new things to learn. This has been so far my much-loved part of being in college. I just have met twenty new friends and I believe my wisdom and learning have been advancing.

One of my favourite quotes say that, "A comfort zone is a beautiful place but nothing ever grows there." Learn how to embrace then the changes that will happen to you.

I know, preparing for college is confounding. Luckily, your family, especially your parents, is there to support you and to help you decide. As a matter of fact, I and most of my batch mates had definite plans by the last quarter of the school year. That only goes to show that the right choice will somehow present itself to you, no matter what happens. Things have a funny and purposeful way of working out in the end. All the best and God bless!

Mignon is an alumna of TPS and the high school class valedictorian of Batch 2013-2014. She is currently pursuing a degree program in Physics at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Philippines.



Letter to the Editor



Kori Quintos
TV Patrol / ABS-CBN Reporter



Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the Philippine School, Dubai. Its establishment once again showed the Filipinos' regard for quality education. Its mission of providing excellent academic training for children of OFW's in the United Arab Emirates is truly commendable. We in the Philippines are very proud of you.

Kudos also to TPS Insights!

A school paper has always been an effective tool in disseminating information as well as a means to developing the creative writing abilities of the students involved with it.

Journalism is a huge field that requires not only hard work and creativity but most importantly credibility and a supreme sense of fairness from its practitioners.

"The truth should always prevail" says it all, when we start to become a medium to disseminate information we become the very instrument of the truth. In essence, there is no small voice, for the smallest voice may awaken the greatest number of people worldwide. In this regard, let TPS Insights be the voice of truth in your part of the world. May it serve the needs of your academic community and perhaps the Filipino community in Dubai as a whole.

We are with you in all your efforts to serve the Filipino wherever he is. We are with you in your endeavor to strengthen Filipino communities worldwide.

Keep it up. Make our country proud.



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TPS Insights is the official newspaper publication of The Philippine School—Dubai. We welcome literary contributions from the students. Please send your contributions to : insights@thephilippineschooldubai.com

LITERARY |||



FIRE AND WATER

by Jeremie Lei L. Casanding

They stood, the demon and angel
Wherever they went, their life was in danger
For they were opposites yet they fell in love with each other
"Very unnatural." The gods said about the matter.

They were very different, like night and day
So the gods decided, "For that, they will pay."
As you see, their realms were evil and good
They love each other, but still understood.

But what they didn't comprehend was that,
"Why were their backgrounds meddling with that?"
They realized that they should stand and fight for each other.
Together they fought fire and water.

They enjoyed the days they spent with each other.
Whenever it was, summer or winter.

No one bothered them anymore about the matter,
Now everyone knows that their backgrounds don't matter.

Even if he is from Fire and she is from Water,
They still loved each other,
Fire and Water.

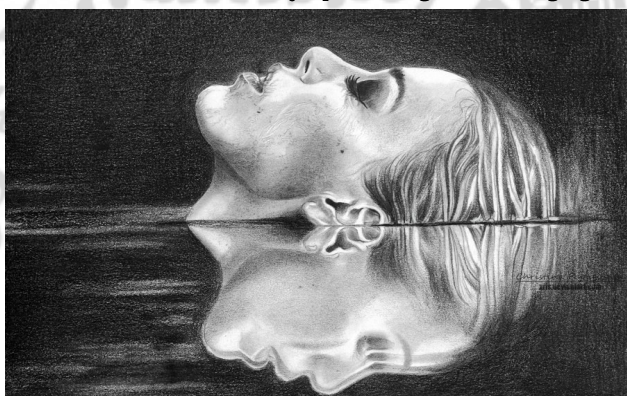
THE DIFFERENT SIDE OF ME

by Nella Rose O. Bermudo

If only others could see
The different side of me
All the little things, I wish were gone
And how I have been staying strong.

For many times, I have made them laugh.
But they don't see how long it could really last.
For all they know, I'm as loud as siren.
But when I'm at home, I am dead silent.

They don't know how much of myself I actually hate
Because they think my life is just going great.
I hate how I walk; I hate how I talk.
I hate every little thing.
But I mask it all by putting one big grin.



THE LITTLE GIRL'S WISH

by Janela Regine J. Acodesin

"I wish to have wings so that I could fly" says the little girl.
"Like a free bird high up in the sky?" the mother asks her.
"Yes mother dear. It is really a wish of mine."
"Therefore, I shall make it come true," replies the mother.

So the little girl had her wings, now flying up in the sky.
Her face is full of happiness; you could see it from her smile.
Afterwards, she asked for another wish.
It was certainly surprising, but here, I will tell you:

"I wish to fall in love like the lady I saw the other day," says the little girl.
"Why my dear, you cannot for now. Let time pass, and you shall find the right one," says the mother.
"I will do as you wish mother dear," says the little girl.
And so she followed what her mother said.

Years went by and the little girl became a beautiful lady. Everyone admired her,
but she still cannot find the one.

"Finding the one is as tough as a rock," says the young lady to her loyal dog.
"Time is a thief," replies the dog and barked in tone.
While the beautiful lady was all alone.

For a thousand years, she waited but never found one. So she gave up and ended
with none.

"I cannot take it no more," she said and sat on her bed.
Her feelings were ocean blue, but still as young like she never grew.
Her wish was not granted, but soon it came true. She became a decent woman,
with a child or two.
She loved her man like no one else before, except for her mother dear, who grew
old till forty-four.

SEASONS

by Hero Fajardo

All the seasons pass joyfully,
Even some go easily,
I will tell you all I know,
As the seasons come and go.

Winter so cold and fun,
The snowy times has just begun.
You can snuggle with hot cocoa,
Or throw snowballs in the snow.

Next comes spring with a fresh breeze,
But the pollen in the air makes me sneeze.
The flowers returned; did I mention?
The birds' songs yearn for attention.

After that comes summer,
Nothing will ever be somber.
Some go to the beach,
While other eat at The Reach

Last but not the least is fall,
And teens hang out at the mall.
While farmers collect crops,
So we will have food when the temperature drops.

Now I've told you all about it,
I hope you learned more on it.
I hope you spread this sheet.
I'll tell you another when we meet.

Bye





||| LITERARY

Time

by Julia Rachel S. Gutierrez

Oh, how time flies by so fast!
It passes by as fast as light.
Just like today will soon be in the past
But there's another beginning after tonight.

A new day, a new beginning
As sunrays creep in my room
Forget not to thank God for everything
For whom all things bloom.

And never forget that time is gold
Make use of your time wisely
So let us be bold
To live life to the fullest.

Friendship

Sophia Gabrielle Q. Tuason

I lay my hand on an atlas,
My fingers brushing through distant lands
Far out of my wallet's reach
Searching for nothing but a postcard promise
I spin the globe
And drift into nostalgia
Like a rocket
Blasting off into outer space
Travelling on tails of comets
To witness the world scattered before me

You showed the entire universe in a matter of days
I used to wake up with stars on my lips
And a smile that drips constellations
But now

I am a speck of dust in space,
An asteroid lay waste
Point you and point me are the galaxies apart
Though our hearts never part

I look for you in everyone I meet
Like a satellite orbiting,
Observing the infinities
Looking for pieces of our jigsaw parts
That only used to fit each other

They say your best friend is your other half,
But you remind me that I'm already whole.

MATH'S COMPONENTS

by Lyanne Mariam Sayon, Ninna T. Despi,
Isabel T. Gonzales, and Andrea P. Ocampo

The property of equality
Is what we need in our society
John Wallis first explained the fractional exponents
To help improve math's components

Equating-exponent property
Is the unspoken truth of humanity
For every real number a and b
The power of a and n is what you need to see

The laws of exponents
Can be our greatest opponent
If we don't do math's function
We might get a sanction

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

LIFE'S EXPONENTS

by Kjerla R. Ibay, Krizelle F. Paulino, Darlah S. Leonardo,
And Claude T. Bautista

We are raised and given powers
So we could be greater
And live our life with love
And care for everyone as our highest motivation

When others came
We were joined together
Some were lost, some were found
And some never came back

Equality was enforced
And we were never different again
Alas, in the end
John Wallis gave significance to the lower districts

ANG ALAMAT NG DYIRAP

Orihinal na katha ni Almir John Lucena | Muling isinulat ni Ralph Q. Morada

Noong unang panahon, may isang lalaki na nangganggalang Dyrirap na nanninirahan sa bayan ng Cebu. Siya ay bantog dahil sa kanyang angking kayabangan, kayamanan, at higit sa lahat, katangkaran. Bagama't siya'y mayabang, naiisip niya pa ring mamahagi ng mga biyayang nata-tanggap niya. At dahil dito, mas napansin ng mga tao ang kabutihan niya kaysa sa kanyang kayabangan. Ito ang naging dahilan sa lalo pa niyang kasikatan.

Sa gitna ng kanyang kasikatan, siya ay napa-isip, "Pupurihin pa kaya ako ng mga tao kung mayroong mas mayaman at matangkad kaysa sa akin?" sambit ni Dyrirap sa kanyang sarili. Bunga ng kanyang kuryusidad, inutusan niya ang kanyang mga alagad na libutin ang buong mundo at mag-hanap ng taong mas yaya-man at tatangkad pa sa kanya.

Makalipas ang tatlong taon, naka-balik na ang mga alagad pagkatapos libutin ang buong mundo. Nagulat si Dyrirap sa ibinalita sa kanya ng kanyang mga alagad.

Hindi lang isa kundi napakarami pa ng taong mas matangkad at mayaman pa kaysa sa kanya. Bunga ng kanyang takot na may isa sa nakita ng kanyang alagad ang pumunta sa kanilang nayon at mas purihin ng mga tao kaysa sa kanya, inutusan niya ang kanyang mga alagad na muling libutin ang mundo at patayin ang kung sino man na makita nilang mas tatangkad at yayaman pa sa kanya.

Ang pagkamatay ng napakaraming tao sa mundo ay napansin ng mga diwata. Agad nila itong ibinalita sa kanilang panginoon, si Laon. Nagalit si Laon at agad na hinanap si Dyrirap. Biglang kumidlat ng malakas at nagkaroon ng malaking buhawi sa harap ng napakalaking bahay ni Dyrirap. Agad na lumabas si Dyrirap sa kanyang tahanan upang makita kung ano ang nangyayari sa labas ng kanyang tahanan. Sobrang takot at gulat ang naramdaman niya nang lumabas si Laon sa kanyang buhawi.

Agad na humingi ng kapatawaran si Dyrirap sa kanyang nagawa. Ngunit, hindi naging sapat ang kapatawarang hinihingi ni Dyrirap upang mapawi ang galit ni Laon. "Bakit mo ginawa ito, Dyrirap?" pasigaw na tanong ni Laon. "Ito ay aking nagawa

lamang sa takot na hindi na ako bigyang papuri at makalimutan ng aking mga ka-nayon. Kaya kuung maari lamang ay patawari..." Hindi pa natatapos sa pagsasalita si Dyrirap ay bigla na siyang tinangay at pinalipad ng buhawi ni Laon.

"Wag kang mag-alala Dyrirap. Sa aking gagawin sa'yo ay tiyak na hindi ka makakalimutan ng 'yong mga ka-nayon at lagi ka nilang titingalain. Hindi nararapat ang kamatayan sa'yo sapagkat naging matulungin ka rin naman sa ibang tao. Ngunit hindi rin iyon dahilan para hindi ka magdusa sa mga kasalanan mo." At sa isang pitik ni Laon ay nag-iba ng anyo si Dyrirap. Naging isa siyang napakataas na hayop na may mahabang leeg at mga paa.

Hindi nagtagal, napansin ng mga alagad at kanayon ni Dyrirap na tila siya nawawala. Isang matangkad na hayop na lamang ang kanilang nadatnan sa bahay ni Dyrirap. Napansin nilang singtangkad ni Dyrirap ang hayop at di kalaunan ay tinawag na nila itong "Dyrirap" bilang pag-alala sa kanilang matangkad na kanayon.

LITERARY |||



ANG ALAMAT NG LANGKA

ni Roi M. Dipasupil, Juan Miguel U. Cervantes
at Roi B. Bustillo

Noong unang panahon, may isang batang nakatira sa bayan ng Burtog. Ang pangalan niya ay Langkap. Siya ay anak ng may-ari ng isa sa mga pinakatanyag na babuyan sa kanilang lugar. At dahil sa negosyong ito, ang mga kagustuhan ni Langkap ay palaging nasusunod kaya siya ay lumaki sa layaw.

Habang lumalaki si Langkap, lalo siyang nagkaroon ng masamang ugali. Sa tuwing nakakakita siya ng hayop, palagi niya itong sinasaktan. Tinutusok at pinapalo niya ang mga ito, lalo na ang mga baboy kaya naman halos lahat ng mga alaga nila ay may sugat.

Isang araw, habag sinasaktan ni Langkap ang mga hayop, nagpakita ang diwata ng mga baboy na si Babrona sa kanya. Sinabihan ng diwata si Langkap na huwag niyang saktan ang mga baboy. Pansamantalang tumigil at sinunod ni Langkap ang utos ng diwata.

Noong sumunod na araw, tila nakalimutan na ni Langkap ang sinabi ng diwata. Sinaktan niyang muli ang mga baboy. Dahil sa sobrang galit ni Babrona, noonggaling iyon, kinuha niya si Langkap habang siya ay natutulog.

Nang magising ang mga magulang ni Langkap, napansin nila na nawawala na ang anak nila. Hinanap nila ito. Hindi sila tumigil sa paghahanap kay Langkap.

Hanggang sa napansin ng ama ni Langkap na may tumutubong mahiwagang puno sa tabi ng kanilang bahay. Nang ito'y lumaki, napansin nila na ang bunga nito ay tila hugis katawan ng baboy. Masasaktan din ang sinumang humawak dito.

Simula noon, tinawag nilang "Langkap" ang punong iyon. Sa paglipas ng mga panahon, naging "Langka" ang tawag ng mga tao ditto sa mahiwagang puno. Ang bunga nito ay ubod ng sarap. Marami ding maku-kuhang bitamina ditto sa prutas na ito.

Ang sabi ng matatanda, ang hugis ng langka ay sumisimbolo sa mga baboy a sinaktan ni Langkap. At ang tusok-tusok nito ay sumisimbolo sa pananakit ni Langkap sa mga hayop.

ANG MAKABAGONG PILIPINO

ni Kyle N. Demayo

M- Maging mapagkumbaba at magkaroon ng takot sa Diyos.

A- Alagaan ang kalikasan at huwag itong pabayaan.

K- Kahit na puro makabago na ang mga kagamitan ngayon, huwag kalimutan ang kulturang ating pinanggalingan.

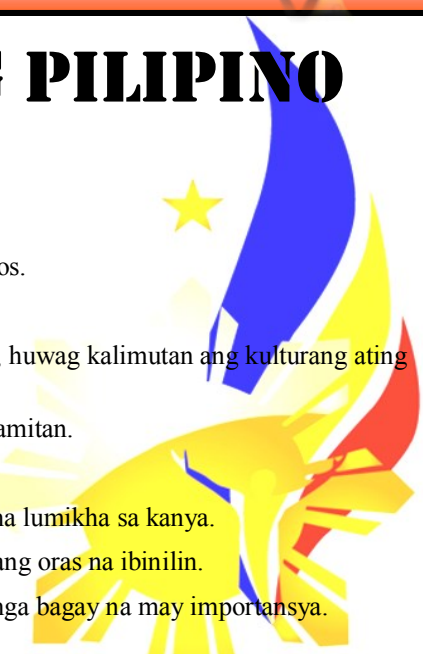
A- Ayusin ang pangkabuhayan gamit ang makabagong kagamitan.

B- Bumangon sa bawat pagsubok na iyong pinagdaraan.

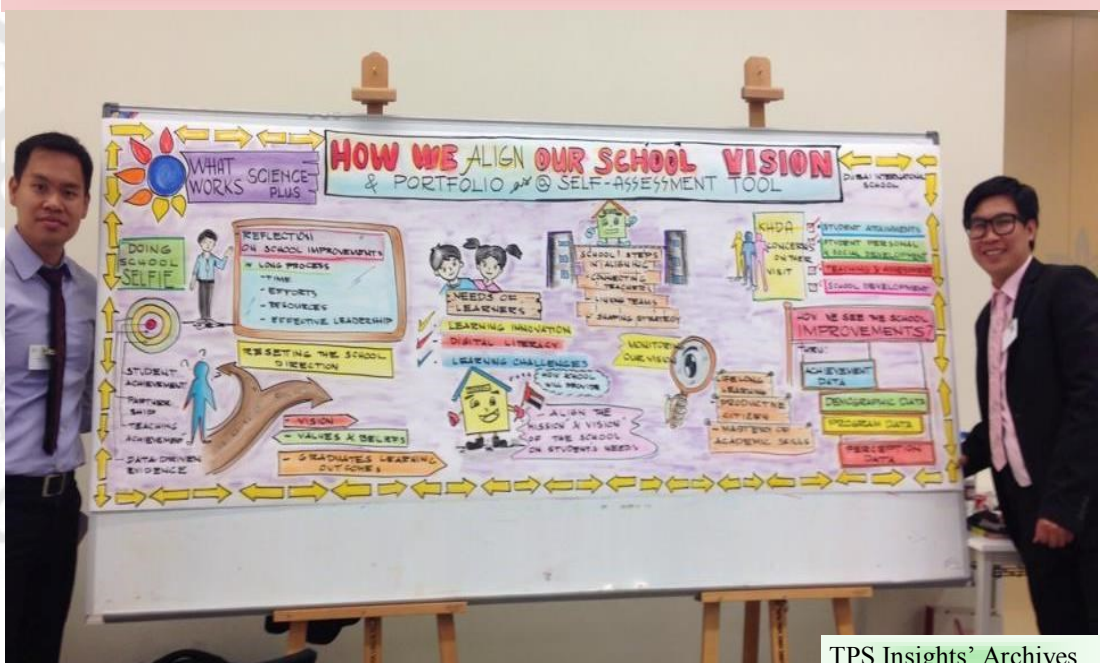
A- Ang pamilya ang pinakamahalaga bukod sa Panginoon na lumikha sa kanya.

G- Gawaing mga dapat gawin ay kanyang tinatapos sa tamang oras na ibinilin.

O- Oras ay mahalaga, hindi inaaksaya, ito'y ginagamit sa mga bagay na may importansya.



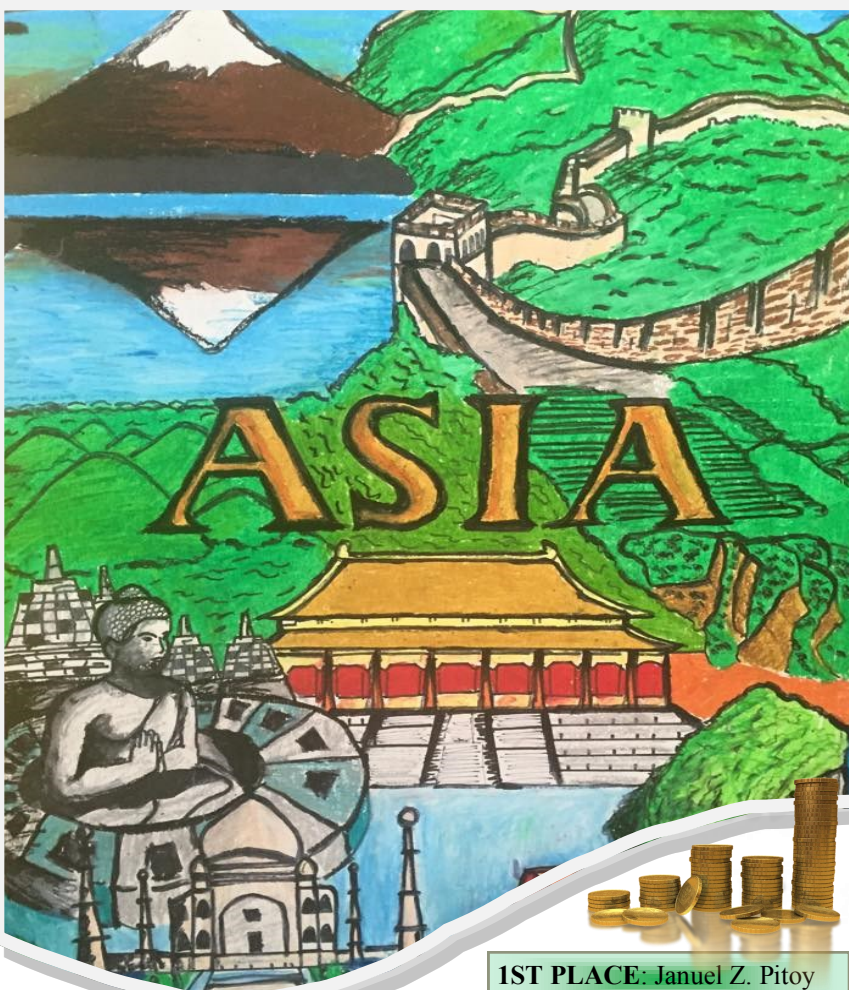
LITERARY TO VISUAL HARVESTING ARTS



TPS Insights' Archives

KHDA commends great team! TLE teachers Mr. Christopher P. Barrios (left) and Mr Allan T. Cariaga (right) receive special thanks from KHDA's Senior Research Analyst Amal Mousa for being one of the best visual harvesters of *What Works* event held at Rashid, Medical City, Dubai on December 2014.

SOCIAL STUDIES POSTER MAKING CONTEST : EXPLORING WONDERS OF ASIA



1ST PLACE: Januel Z. Pitoy



SECOND BEST: Nicholas B. Trajeco



SPORTS

Aimee Hular joins International Regatta Club

By Regina Sophia G. Mapanao, photo credits to Aimee Hular



Eminent rowing act insures victory! Dubai Team- A, with Aimee, seems indestructible and paddles swiftly during the Dragon Boat Regatta in Ireland; boosting themselves to top ranking.

Aimee Chloe Hular of grade 8 is a member of Dubai Dragon Boat Club who won overall champion from Dublin International Dragon Boat Regatta. Consecutively, the group dominated 200 meters and 400 meters against varied International challengers. The event was held in Dublin, Ireland on September 13- 14, 2014.

A-Team is newly organized team of dragon boat paddlers in Dubai which is composed mostly of Filipino members while Aimee is the youngest. Training is being conducted four times a week on the boat and there are also separate off the boat trainings like running or jogging and boot camp.

Regatta is a race or a series of races between boats (such as sailboats). The term typically describes racing events of rowed or sailed water craft, although some powerboat race series are also called regattas. A regatta often includes social and promotional activities which surround the racing event, and except in the case of boat type (or "class") championships, is usually named for the town or venue where the event takes place. These kinds of trainings are being done to develop the endurance of each member.

De Guzman, Gallardo win community badminton tournament

By Christine B. Gallardo, credits to Friday Smashers



Faculty member Jessie De Guzman (Left) and 8th Grader Christine B. Gallardo (Right) showed composed service during the elimination round of Friday Smashers' tournament at Salahudin Sports Gym on November 28, 2014. Both were hailed as champion of level D+ 3rd Friday Smashers' tournament.

The *Friday Smashers* is a group of badminton enthusiasts and fanatics who have a great deal of passion and love for our sport. Friday Smashers is a Dubai Based Club and was founded in 2009 by a group of folks who played the game on regular basis.

Part of the project or aim of FS is to improve the skills and the level of game of each and every member, thru regular badminton game, training, coaching, experience exchange, and badminton clinic. Most importantly, having fun, meeting new friends, and bonding are the top priorities.



Activity Coordinator chairs 12th season FISAA

by Dominique A. Mendones

Mr. Richard Zulueta is currently the Philippine School's activity coordinator and one of the most instrumental administrators of the Filipino Inter-school Athletic Association (FISAA). This year, he will chair his second and final term and will anticipate for another year of fruitful albeit challenging sports' program of Filipino schools in the United Arab Emirates.

Balancing his school tasks, while the administrator of the sports' organization, is his significant action. He mentioned that having the role of the chairman for FISAA, one should be able to balance the decisions and should know how to execute every unbiased decision. He would primarily be doing his best in his on-going task.

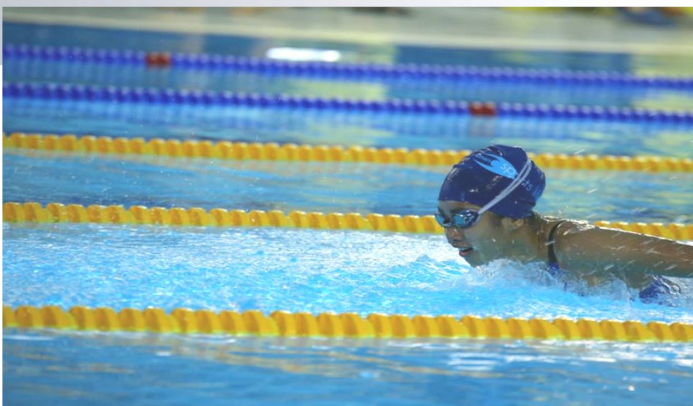


Mr. Richard R. Zulueta

Three gold medals for Jalauig

Sole Filipina among 40 female challengers at Emirates Swimming Cup

by Gabriel Ian B. Maddara, photo credits to Myla Jalauig



Vigor streamed! Anne Jalauig thrashes the waters on a competition at the Hamdan Sports Complex, Dubai.

With an improved speed, Anne Wellien Jalauig gains three gold medal awards after contending in the 4th Emirates Swimming Cup on September 29, 2014.

Fifteen-year old Anne, dominates in 3 different swimming divisions specifically on 100 m Individual Medley, 50 m Butterfly, and 50 m Breast Stroke. These divisions fall under the category of girls under 14-15 years old. Adding to these awards is a silver trophy for being an Overall Age Group Champion.

Anne was the only Filipina among 40 female swimmers and has also

engaged in the previous or 3rd Emirates Swimming Cup. According to her, when she won, she was very happy because her training served its purpose. Obligation of everyday training and the cost of the physical activity were two of the things that she used to inspire herself not stop, due to tiredness, in the middle of the competition

"Swimming is everyday training sport because once you missed a session, even just for a week, your body tends to start all over again. So you really need to be determined and hardworking". This is Anne's message for her fellow swimmers and those aspiring to be one.

Anne's mother, Myla, always feel anxious every time her daughter competes, at the same time, proud and happy for her especially if Anne brings home the bacon. She quoted, "Anne did a very good job at the Emirates Cup."

ENTERTAINMENT IIII



TALK ABOUT THE 7TH FOUNDATION DAY OF TPS!

'We started foundation because we believe we have real opportunities to advance to a productive life.' - Melinda Gates



Photo by: Felipe De Leon



LEADER IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND VALUES FORMATION



ENTERTAINMENT

TPS JOINS 43RD UAE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION! December 2, 2014

Photo by: Bethoven Filomeno



THE MOST MOVING! THE ILLUSTRIOUS TPS DANCE TROUPE OVER THE YEARS!

HUGYAW (formerly D'TAG) is the official dance organization of the Philippine School Dubai. It had been organized since 2008 by Mr. Randy Gumban. Aside from being very instrumental entertainers of the school, the group had been contributory in gracing significant events of the KHDA, Dubai Police, RTA, Red Crescent, Philippine Consulate, Zayed University, and varied schools in the UAE.

By Isabelle H. Maat





SCIENCE PAGE



Ms. Elreggie D. Tongio , Science Department Head

The Science Day on November 27, 2014 was well participated and supported by all the students and teachers. A preliminary of the Battle of the Young Scientists was administered by class advisers.

A short opening program marked the day witnessing and showcasing the combination of Science education , talent and entertainment. Selected Grade 6 students rendered “Futuristic Dance “ number and selected Grade 10 Students in their “ Sci-Awit” - an original composition. Along side are Science demonstrations posted each corner of the covered court and a Grade 6 skater displayed his skills while promoting Science Day celebration.

The Amazing Science X-Challenge was conducted on the day of the celebration itself. Outputs or products and preparations were handled prior the competition during Science classes and supported by the class advisers.

Other highlights include the Science Buskers Festival by the Grade 9A , Grade 10 A and volunteer students from other sections. Science Demonstrations were presented to each classes. Three exhibits were worked out by Grade 6A- Ecology Fair , Grade 7A-Exploratorium , and Grade 3A-DIY.



THANK YOU UAE

VISUAL ARTS



شكرا الامارات العربية المتحدة

1st



Anne Beatriz C. Libranda

2nd

8



Krizelle F. Paulino