



TPS INSIGHTS

Volume V Issue 1 Sept.- Dec. 2016

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL-DUBAI

TPS receives Senior High permit, offers



p.4

'No child deserves to fail'

By Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla

Dr. Lolita Andrada, Phoenix Publishing Consultant, pressed this statement during the seminar on Learning Outcomes and Assessments given to TPS teachers on August 22, 2016 at the Dubai Scouts Mission Headquarters.

Fighting for the best interest of the children, Andrada mentioned that students fall behind in school because prerequisites are not yet met; they need more time. "If you want the students to perform quality work, they must be clear on what they are looking for," she clarified. "If they understood the lessons, they must be able to use it," the speaker added.

Andrada reiterated talks on tapping the children's interests. She instructed teachers to know what the students are passionate about, and how they can best express themselves. "Honor and recognize that," she counseled.



TAP CHILDREN'S INTERESTS Dr. Lolita Andrada, Phoenix Publishing Consultant, keynotes the Day 2 In-Service Training of TPS teachers this school year. Photo by Madonna Timbang

TPS - Dubai hailed 'Best School' in climate change confab

By Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla

"When the fish in the sea starts to struggle to breathe; When drinking water becomes a privilege; Is that when we'll try to fix the damage?"

This is an excerpt of poetry and a call for action by the selected students of The Philippine School Dubai during the climate change conference, held at the North American International School, Dubai on October 22, 2016. TPS thrived as over-all winner among other international schools in Dubai, after substantiating the advocacy of Green Hope UAE, a youth organization working for a sustainable green future.

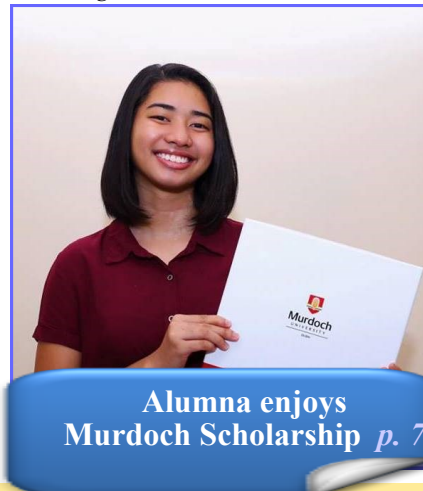
Panelists evaluated the school boys and girls by engaging them to free-verse recitals, interpretative dance performances, tree planting, slogan making, and eco dress-making.

TPSians won a slew of awards such as Best Participating School, Champion in Group Presentation or Public Speaking, Champion in Group Performance, and several top level awards in eco dress-making.

According to Jaya Menezes, the Vice Principal of Apple International School and one of the panelists, it's already part of their curriculum to engage the students to interact with the environment.

"Our garden is where our students can interact with the environment directly. For example, we tell stories to the younger students and we let older students see the photosynthesis," she added. This is after TPS student Isabella Manlangit inquired about the time management between teaching to students the environmental awareness contrasted with the normal lessons.

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Alumna enjoys Murdoch Scholarship p. 7



'Giving up wasn't an option' - Raflores p.19

TPSians land on KENKEN National Round

Staff Report



Grade 7 Aeron Deine A. Alde, who is dealing with 5x5 and 6 x 6 puzzles, is the fastest among his group. Photo supplied by Beth Rondilla

The Philippine School-Dubai took pride in KENKEN, a grid-based numerical puzzle, after three students bagged second and third ranks in the national round. The competition was held in the new campus of Amity University in Dubai on October 22, 2016.

John Alfred Doringo, Aeron Deine Alde, and Francis Sandrino carried the banner of TPS after proving excellent performances in the national level. Doringo qualified for the second rank in category 3, while Alde qualified for the second rank in category 5.... continue to page 2



L-R CAUSE WE ARE TPSIANS Supreme Student Government Presidential Candidates Samantha Delgado, Mark Kingsley Simeon, and Simond Lars Leon unite in receiving victories from the conference.

NEWS

TPSians land on KENKEN National Round

From frontpage ...

Both nearly qualified for the international round, which will be held in New York this year; however, the final round required a first rank.

According to Ms. Beth Rondilla, the High School Mathematics Department Head, 31 out of 77 from TPS qualified for the Emirates round, and 3 out of 31 qualified for the national round.

The participants were selected students from Grades 3 to 10, and they underwent trainings since last year. The nature of the completion is like a Sudoku; however, each boxes has an equation to solve.

“In addition, they can’t put numbers right away because there are a number of moves given. It is also time pressure, because the student who will answer the given boxes in a short period of time will advance to the next level of the competition,” Rondilla explained.

“I was glad because I knew that all of my efforts had paid off during the summer. I set my sights on the gold medal even before the competition started,” Francis Sandrino, third place in the national round, said in a separate interview.

Guidance Center pushes ‘Child Protection’ Campaign

By Eugene Francisco

The Guidance Office conducted its annual seminar program about Child Protection Policy on November 2-3, 2016. The organization invited Madam Helema Mohammed Abdullah, the Senior Executive for Child Services in Community Development Authority of Dubai.

The program aimed to enlighten the students about their rights and restrictions as responsible residents of a community. The speaker advised the students to be more cautious of their words and their actions that they are going to take. “Basically, they are about to enter teenage life. It is necessary for them to open their eyes on what are the things beyond happiness and sadness,” she said.

The interesting topics let the students discover their limitations and boundaries in the classroom, in the school, and at home.



Madam Helema Mohammed Abdullah, the Senior Executive for Child Services in Community Development Authority of Dubai, discusses ‘Child Abuse’ topic among Grade 7 students.

TPSians participate in UNEP ‘Clean Up the World’



Selected students from Grade 6 – 10 picked up rubbish from the outer perimeter of the Al Rashidiya park. Photo by Richard Zulueta

By Isabella Y. Manlangit

76 students support the annual “Clean up the World” drive of the United Nations Environment Programme at Al Rashidiya park on November 20, 2016.

The drive is an annual event, organized by UNEP, in cooperation with the Dubai Municipality. Participating schools are assigned to specific areas to clean, ranging from parks to the open deserts. Students were provided with shirts, caps, gloves, and large plastic bags to hold the trash they find.

They found things like cigarette butts, plastic cups, glass bottles, and in one instance, the carcass of a pigeon.

Afterwards, the bags were all collected and heaped into one pile for collection.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an agency of the United Nations and coordinates its environmental activities: assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

‘I want you to enjoy high school’



TPS Dubai – Chinkee Tan discusses topic on Financial Literacy to Grade 10 B students.

By John Marcel E. Villanueva

Chinkee Tan, Ranker.com’s number one speaker in the Philippines, related to TPS students that high school is the best; thereafter, he provided ways of success in life and on money, so that the students will realize the formula of it, as young as they are.

Talking about the purpose of life, Tan advised the students to find something that they are good at and find something that they love. In making money, he said that the first goal is to make oneself the best, exemplifying Michael Cinco, Michael Jordan, and Manny Pacquiao, who are on top of their chosen careers.

“Mailap ang pera. The more you chase money, the more it goes away,” he explained.

Mr. Chink Positive specified instead, “Kung ikaw ang pinakamagaling, hahanapin ka at babayaran.

“If you are the best, they will chase you, they will pay you.”

He challenged the students to instantly start creating ways to make money, because there will be a time that parents will stop working for them.

The financial literacy advocate also mentioned to handle, grow, and protect money to enjoy it.

Students support gov't 'Applied Nutrition' advocacy

By Isabella Y. Manlangit



Credits to Nylsen de Villena

With a subject in committing to get fit, Eunice Mendoza (2nd from left) answers questions from a KHDA representative.

Twelve high-school students from TPS attended UAE's first ever Applied Nutritional Convention, which was aimed at discussing ways to reduce obesity in the UAE. It was held at the World Trade Centre from November 7 – 8, 2016.

Students from different schools presented different solutions to obesity and mingled with leading nutritionists, CEOs, delegates, and stakeholders from all over the world.

There were also seminars given by experts in the nutritional field, which focused on the effects of obesity on the economy of the UAE, and on one's health.

TPSians presented home-made granola as a healthy snack alternative, nutritional planners for different age groups, and smoothies created from almond, milk, fruits, and vitamin pills.

We were privileged to be there and it made a large impact on me," Jizeth Ibarra, an exhibitor from TPS said.



TPS teachers gird for online teaching

Staff Report



November 5, 2016 – The Philippine School Dubai Assessment and ICT teams train TPS Abu Dhabi colleagues in using i-Ready diagnostic online system for students.

According to Curriculum Associates, research proves that i-Ready can deliver transformational results for all students. It shows how to unlock i-Ready's potential to engage students in rigorous, standards-aligned learning, support teachers in planning exceptional differentiated instruction, and provide the foundation for leaders to shape school and district cultures where data drives decisions every day.



KG Heads attend Education Leaders' Forum

By Francisca Militante Coral



KG 2 Department Head Rowena Bien (left) collaborates with other school educators.

Kindergarten Department Heads Francisca Militante Coral and Rowena Bien attend the Early Childhood Education Leaders' Forum at the Collegiate American School, Dubai on October 20, 2016.

The different school organizations meet at least four times a year for the purpose of sharing the best international practices amongst leaders; receiving professional development and networking. It is organized by Patricia Mezu, Director of Professional Minds FZ LLC, and Rhonda Hearn, KG Coordinator of Collegiate American School.

According to Coral, TPS Dubai is the only Filipino school who was there. "We are blessed to meet these different folks with different strokes," she said.

The schools in attendance were Collegiate American School, Emirates International School (Jumeirah), Little Gems, Deira Private School, Delhi Private School, Universal American School, Diyar International Private School, Fujairah Kidville Nursery, Victoria International School Sharjah, Nibras School, and City School.



TPS KG1 Head Francisca Militante Coral (left), with educators of different schools

367 TPSians take 2016 NAT

Staff Report



October 25, 2016- Dr. Abelardo Medes(left), the official representative of the Department of Education – Bureau of Education Assessment, facilitates National Achievement Test at The Philippine School – Dubai.

NEWS

TPS - Dubai hailed 'Best School' in climate change confab

... from front page



WINNERS ! Students (in red and black shirts) of The Philippine School Dubai bested over a hundred other school youth environmentalists in the UAE. Photo by Allan Cariaga



'Why is the World's Climate Changing?' L-R Ace Bernabe, Simond Lars Lenon, Lian Marianne Garcia, Eunice Rainielle Mendoza, Isabella Manlangit, and Janrel John Martin recite their winning poem .

By Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla

Ace Bernabe, TPS 9th Grader, said that the event was an eye-opening experience. "A number of youths from different schools expressed their best thoughts and took action regarding one of the greatest problems which is the climate change," he clarified.

The eleven Filipino students who received accolades through trophies, certificates, and medals were Simond Lars Darwin Lenon, Lian Marianne Garcia, Samantha Nicole Delgado, Ace Bernabe, Isabella Manlangit, Eunice Rainielle Mendoza, Kyla Alexandra Macatlang, John Lloyd Gonzales, Karr Frederick Roces, Mark Kingsley Simeon, and Janrel John Martin.

TPS receives Senior High permit, offers K-12



Grade 11 students A.Y. 2016-2017

The Department of Education issued a permit to TPS to operate a Senior High School Program. It was released on July 21, 2016.

Educators target higher benchmark

VPAA, Department Heads visit Deira International School

By Sheillamarie Bustamante



L-R Jessie De Guzman, HOD-Filipino Elementary; Madonna Timbang, HOD-Science Elementary; Rowena Bien, KG2 Coordinator; Francisca Coral KG1 Coordinator; DIS Principal Ian Ward; VPAA Dr. Riza Danao; Marites Rodriguez, HOD-Mathematics Elementary; Sheillamy Bustamante-HOD-English Elementary. and Mariza Icaro-HOD-Social Studies Elementary

The Vice Principal for Academic Affairs, Dr. Riza R. Danao, and the core subject heads visited Deira International School on November 23, 2016. This was a part of their benchmarking projects, which focused on teaching strategies, assessment methods, school plans, and facilities.

Deira International School Principal, Ian Ward, welcomed hospitably the TPS team to visit classes, and to tour around the areas of the Early Years and Year 1-5 pupils.

TPS teachers were also given chances to have quick conversations with DIS educators and subject area heads.

"This experience delighted our minds. We aim higher and dream bigger for TPS, especially for the students," Elementary English-HOD Sheillamy Bustamante said.

Deira International School, Al Badiya has a 'Very Good' rating from the Knowledge and Human Development Authority of Dubai.

Teachers celebrate 'Bonifacio Day'

By Rachel Malaluan



November 30, 2016- In celebration of the Bonifacio Day, TPS teachers received an invitation from the Philippine Consulate and UNTV for the film showing of the movie 'Isang Araw lang.' It was held at Modul University, Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Dubai.

According to UNTV representative Eleanor Balanguit, "Isang Araw Lang" is about a good jeepney driver, inspiring the people in his community to do good despite the odds. The movie hopes to inculcate a sense of hope and aspiration among overseas Filipinos, presenting to them a renewal of confidence on what they are able to contribute to the global community.

NEWS ||||

New SSG President goes for 'Project HOME'

By Erin Mitchel Abadilla



Failing the SSG Vice – Presidential position last year, Simond Lars Darwin Lenon never thought that he will have a better leadership destiny. Lenon is the new president of the mother organization of the school year 2016-2017. He named the entirety of SSG’s plan for the school as ‘Project HOME,’ which would focus on student-centered projects.

The election, held last November 6, 2016 in the students’ respective classrooms, ended with Lenon, having 429 votes.

“I would like to be more open to students and implement anti-bullying programs. I want to have working freedom boxes. I also want to impose improvement in other non-academic fields such as photography, videography, Battle of the Bands, and Dance Revolution. Along with this, I know that memories are vital, and we want the students to enjoy their time in TPS, so we want to improve celebrations and social gatherings,” the student leader stressed.

“We would like to emphasize the last letter of our ‘Project HOME,’ which is love. We believe that love is important for anything to grow. For this, we would like to ask for your full support in order to make this school feel like your second home, as it should be,” he clarified.

SSG 2016-2017

SIMOND LARS DARWIN LENON - PRESIDENT
 LOUISE ALEXIS PITOY - VICE PRESIDENT
 PATRICIA MARIANO - SECRETARY
 YZABEL BENCY SALIBIO - TREASURER
 CLARENZ CUETO - AUDITOR

GRADE LEVEL SENATORS

KURT ANDREI PARAS - GRADE 10
 VAUGHN DELOS SANTOS- GRADE 10
 RESETHAIL JADE SITSON- GRADE 9
 KEISHA MANALO - GRADE 9
 KYLA MACATLANG - GRADE 8
 MARTHA PUNZALAN - GRADE 8
 BEAUX CONSUNJI - GRADE 7
 MAXINE GENEROSO - GRADE 7
 ASHANTI BACAYO - GOVERNOR
 RAISSA SHANE DUMAGAN- VICE GOVERNOR

GRADE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES

LUKAS MANLANGIT - GRADE 6
 GABRIEL LIBATIQUE - GRADE 6
 LARA JINKY MAE BARRIGA- GRADE 5
 CYRUS SERVINAS - GRADE 5
 PAOLO CACANANDO - GRADE 4
 PAMELA RONCALES - GRADE 4

‘Obesity Campaign’ launched

By Carl Bryan Valdez



L-R School Nurses Len Solomon and Melanie Mendones

“Childhood obesity has placed the health of an entire generation at risk.”

This was the reason behind the clinic’s program, the biggest loser contest. The competition has the aim of reducing obesity, which will inspire students to be more aware of their health and boost their self esteem, confidence, and discipline.

“That gives a child a second chance,” remarked nurse Len Solomon. Obesity is considered as a world problem now, and that it includes about 30% of the world population who are either overweight or obese.

That means 2 billion people are suffering with this ailment, and that’s not half of the problem for obesity causes many diseases like heart related problems, diabetes, and even death. Obesity also causes depression to everyone it affects, which is an even worse side-effect.

These facts inspired the Clinic to start the Obesity Campaign Program for they know that losing weight is not an easy task no matter what the circumstances are. Through this program, these students would know that they’re not alone.

We asked them about what the students should expect and according to nurse Melanie Mendones, “Expect that you will have a life changing time in realizing that there is a healthier path that you can take to help improve the quality of your life.”

“This competition will have a great impact to you, not only to your weight but impact your life as a whole, healthy living is a change, a change for the better,” nurse Edralin said.

“The only rule for this competition is to lose weight for a better life and try your best for a better tomorrow;” nurse Melanie Mendones added. In return, the clinic has a surprise reward waiting for those who want to achieve a better life.

SEN Dept. fortifies services, caters 30 SEN students as of Nov. ‘16

By Wenchelle Villondo

TPS has a mission to utilize all available resources in planning, implementing, and monitoring the provisions of special education programs, and related services to children with special needs and gifts, and talents.

The school’s ultimate goal of Special Education is the integration or mainstreaming of learners with special needs into the regular school system, and eventually, in the community.

The Philippine School is catering children with special needs and they are provided with Special Educational Needs (SEN) programs and services. The school accepts children with the following disabilities: (1) Children with Learning Disabilities, (2) Children with Mild Autism, (3) Children with Mild ADHD, provided he/she is manageable by regular teacher in the regular classroom setting, and (4) Gifted and Talented Children.

At present, the SEN Department has three well-resourced staff to implement the programs and services needed by the school departments for the children.



Advocacy on Special Education! SEN Department campaigns and gives lectures regarding anti-bullying.

There are ‘Advocacy Periods’ during the first two weeks of the opening of the school year 2016-2017. There are also seminars to the regular teachers on how to handle children with special needs, assessment on the children referred by the regular teachers, and conferences for the IEP making. SEN teachers also inform the child’s academic performance and social behavior.

Type of Need	Number of Children
ADHD (with & without diagnosis)	4
Medical Conditions (with diagnosis)	1
Speech Disorder	1
Communication and Interaction (ASD) (with and without diagnosis)	4
Specific Learning Difficulty (with and without diagnosis)	5
General Learning Difficulty I (with and without diagnosis)	6
General Learning Difficulty II (with and without diagnosis)	4
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (with diagnosis)	2
Gifted	3
Talented	0
TOTAL	30



Pull-out system! SEN teacher Violeta De Leon gives individual instruction of the partially integrated mainstreamed children under SEN Program.

NEWS

Students shine in int'l speech org

By Simond Lars Darwin Lenon



Many promising, youth speakers are getting interested in joining the new international speech organization affiliated with toastmasters international. Some TPSians took time to personally venture into the newly founded Oryx Gavel Club.

“Over the past two weeks I was able to open up to people in a way I wouldn’t have been able to normally.” - Sean Lenon.

L-R Patricia Endaya, Sean Lenon and Nyah Villarate deliver prepared and impromptu speeches.

Gavel Clubs are open to those individuals who are unable, either because of age or other circumstances, to be a member of a regular Toastmasters Club. Gavel Clubs operate the same as Toastmasters Clubs, following the same Communication and Leadership Tracks, using the Competent Communication and Competent Leadership manuals just as Toastmasters do.

Oryx Gavel Toastmasters Club began its journey on July 20, 2016 when the topic to help the youth develop their speaking skills was brought up in an informal gathering of friends. The people behind are all Toastmasters from different clubs in Dubai led by TM Josie Conlu-Romulo.

The club's sessions occur every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the ITC Training Centre in Al Qiyadah.



The kick-off meeting at the Deira Business Village



Oryx Gavel Execom at the International Training Center



Toastmasters who serve as mentors are TM Kent Sabejon, MTM Angelica Orbeta, MTM Shola Zamayla, MTM and Founder Josie Conlu-Romulo, TM John Marcel Villanueva, and TM Daniel Jose.(not in the picture)

NEWS ||||

TPSians excel at Canon Photography , Film -Making Workshop

By Simond Lars Lenon



TPS participants and qualifiers L - R—Mark Simeon, Aimee Hular, Lars Lenon, Jeremiah Cerdon, Thomas Firma, Xandrine Namocatcat, Erika Parcia. courtesy of Kabayan Weekly and Department of Foreign Affairs

Various Grade 10 and 11 students from The Philippine School-Dubai showcased their excellence during the Photography and Film-Making workshops, which was sponsored by Canon at the Philippine Consulate in Al Ghusais.

The students who have participated are Mark Kingsley Simeon, Jeremiah Adrian Cerdon, Aimee Chloe Hular, Simond Lars Darwin Lenon, Xandrine Raisa Namocatcat, and Thomas Firma from the Grade 10 Level and Erika Parcia from Grade 11. TPSians, along with 15 other students from other schools, collaborated in the workshop.

The 10-session photography workshop was launched, conceptualized, and organized by Mrs. Yasmin Cortes, wife of Philippine Consul General Paul Raymond Cortes. Quoted from Kabayan Weekly, Cortes stated, “The workshop is one of

our ways or avenues to interact more with the Filipino students and youth.”

According to him, he hoped that one of the participants would become a Brillante Mendoza, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, and Mike de Leon in the future and re-elevate the film-making scene in the Philippines.

Renowned photographers and film-makers in the Middle East, Mr. Raul Gabat of Canon and Mr. Eros Goze, conducted the lessons for the workshop. The two mentored the students with everything they need to know; from knowing the proper way of holding the camera to photography tips, techniques, and rules. The technological devices such as the cameras, and lights have been provided to the participants by Canon, the sponsor of the event.

After the ten sessions, twenty two participants have been trimmed down to ten.

Five of the seven participants from TPS were able to make the cut, occupying one-half of the total number of qualifiers. They are Jeremiah Adrian Cerdon, Aimee Chloe Hular, Simond Lars Darwin Lenon, Xandrine Raisa Namocatcat, and Thomas Firma.

They then proceeded to the film-making module which was conducted by Filipino Film-maker, Mr. Danny Rodriguez.

Thereafter, they worked with the rest of the ten qualifiers to create a short film entry to the Dubai 48- hour Film Project, which they conceived, written, and filmed from November 10, 2016 to November 12, 2016. Their short film entitled “Oblivious” was premiered on November 24, 2016 at the AM Studio in Al Qouz.

Alumna enjoys Murdoch Scholarship

By Dorothy Enzel Yao



Anne Wellien Jalaug Frewen is one of the lucky students who were given a Walter Murdoch Academic Excellence Scholarship in Murdoch University, Dubai.

As a past student of TPS, Anne was very overwhelmed as she received the confirmation scholarship letter from an academic director of Murdoch University. She was given 25% scholarship, which is the maximum scholarship, that the institution can give to non-Emirati students.

As a scholar, she believes that studying in Dubai would help her grow and gain more experience. Dubai made her more aware on how much more she needs to learn. It just pushed her harder to perform her very best. She believes that, in Dubai, being one of the fastest growing economy business centers in the world; she will be given tools needed to achieve her goals.

At first, she doubted herself and her capabilities. She was unprepared of the step she was taking, since being a scholar entails higher expectations ; however, with the support of her family, friends, and teachers, it was made possible.

Although she was known as an athlete, she didn't let it affect her studies negatively. “Balancing both is not easy,” she stated. She advised that one must learn discipline . Her father helped her with it ; making sure to keep the four important S's in her life: sleep, studies, swimming and social downtime, which are essential to keep a positive mindset. She manages her time by planning ahead and doing work in available time. She tries to be ahead of schedule, and if she's fortunate, she can get enough rest. Jalaug explained that sports can only negatively impact studies if you let it. She said that setting and knowing your priorities will make balancing easier.

“It does not matter if you're a scholar or a regular student. Trying to do your best and aiming to achieve success is something available for everyone, the only difference is actually putting in the world to reach your goals,” Jalaug concluded.

Robotics Club reinstated

Staff Report



The Philippine School– Dubai held the Club Day last November 30, 2016. One of the club participants was the TPS Robotic Circle.

The club called the attention of all students who are inclined in building something new out of Legos with the supervision of Ms. Annielyn Pineda and Mr. Joey Arevalo, advisers of the said club.

The club helped students to open their imaginations, creativity, and innovations with the use of different types of materials which are controlled by a computer system. Overall, it was a fantastic activity and a great engagement for the students.



New moderators of Robotics' Club Mr. Joey Arevalo and Ms. Annie Pineda

FEATURES

Bottomless



One sunny afternoon at the Sharjah Rotana, I was swimming with my friends in a pool, which was unusual to my eyes. Its shape was of an uneven triangle.

The pool radiated a deep shade of blue; perhaps the color was royal blue. It looked like there was nothing underneath the water, it looked like it was endless.

My friends bugged me to swim with them to the edge of the triangle. I've never been so agitated.

My mind was filled with unimaginable, insane thoughts. Contrary to my first decision, I joined them. Even though I didn't know how to swim in deep parts of pools. I was inching closer and closer to my friends. Every tiny, feather light step led me to something I wish never happened. In a flash of a lightning bolt, the floor swallowed me, whole. My two, bare feet cannot find the floor. My imagination of the pool being endless become true. My hands were flailing around, searching for something that can hold me. I kept on yelling to my mom.

The water was continuously flowing inside my mouth. It felt like I was experiencing a tsunami, and it was fighting with me.

It was as if the pool didn't want to lose the fight; it was waiting for me to give up. The pool was bottomless. I thought that small, single moment was the end of me. I thought it was over for me, but my great, courageous buddies came to save me.

They held my hands and led me to a place where I can finally rest and get this over with. My friend's kind, helpful mother and father helped me out too. I was a bit flabbergasted at what happened, and my facial expression obviously said I did not want to be there anymore.

As soon as I got out of the endless pool, I felt a little heavy because of all the water I drank. I'm thankful because I didn't get poisoned by the chlorine. I sat down on a chair and took a fifteen-minute rest.

If there was one thing that would make me remember this experience, it would be to always think before doing something. If you know you can't, you can go try it later, but if you think that you can and you know you can, then do it.

By Janela Acodesin;
Retold by Jizeth Ibarra

'Honor those who care'

by Kaye Alliana Villanueva; Retold by Isabella Manlangit

It was a calm, bright Sunday in Florida, USA. I was there visiting my grandparents and enjoying the sights. Looking out of a window, I saw people walking, children playing, and students returning home from school. It appeared to be a normal day, but for me there was a significant experience from the ordinary.

One afternoon, my mom told me that we were going to visit a home health, where they allow a person with special needs to stay in a house with nurses and caregivers, who are ready to offer assistance when needed.

They are composed of kids, teenagers, and senior citizens who have chronic, serious illnesses. We were visiting because my aunt owns the place. It was such a shocking and nerve-racking experience for me, because it was my first time to see people in that situation.

When we arrived at the home health, the patients were smiling and waving at us. They seemed joyful and untroubled, as if they weren't sick at all.

As we stayed there for a while, I was able to listen to their heart-breaking stories. One patient had no mother and her father was in jail. She had no one to care for her and to keep her diabetes in check. Other patients suffered from autism, anxiety, cancers, Alzheimer's, and, unfortunately, many more illnesses.

We had to end our long and meaningful conversations because they needed to go to bed, and we had to leave. Before leaving, I saw some one crying, shouting, and staring at a blank wall in their room.

On the way back home, I realized how hard they try to fight their sickness, manage the pain they're feeling and especially the complication of trying to be the normal person they see in others.

These patients need someone who truly understands, loves, and accepts them for who they are.



Kaye in Florida, USA

I'm grateful for all the nurses and caregivers who take good care of them. They are the ones who let the patients feel contented and fortunate. Most importantly, they are their family to them and they are the reasons why the patients' lives have been prolonged.

I've learned that we should give importance to our parents as long as we have them because they were the first ones to accept us, no matter what happens.

Let's be thankful that we are blessed with the people around us, and for what we have because some people take their parents for granted.

The simplest thing we can do for patients like the ones I met is to treat them like our family, even if we're not related by blood.

"Family is not about blood. It's about who is willing to hold your hand when you need it the most."

FEATURES |||

New Teachers of Goodwill

By Ruth Bernadeth Perez, Danielle Anne Avendano, Khelly Kaye, Kristianna Juliana Nicole Abril, Mariah Quisiah Martinez, and Yuri Andrei Bautista

JOHN PAUL MARIANO

Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major in Mathematics
University of Perpetual Help System JONELTA, Isabela, Philippines



"Learning is like a circle- it does not end, it is infinite."

ARMANDO ROSAS

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration,
Major in Accounting Professional Education Units
Lyceum of The Philippines University, Manila, Philippines



"In learning, students should not only be using the head, but should also be touching the heart."

RYAN DE GUZMAN

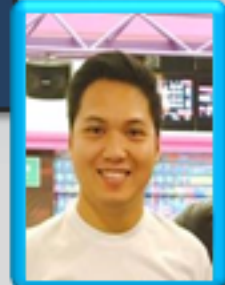
Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major in General Science
Divine Word College of Calapan, Philippines



He loves to move rhythmically with music. He received an award for being an outstanding member of the Himig – Imbay Dance Troupe in the Philippines.

ANTHONY BONAYON

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Major in TLE
University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines



He hopes that his students will realize that respect is the most important of all the values.

SILVESTER AQUINO

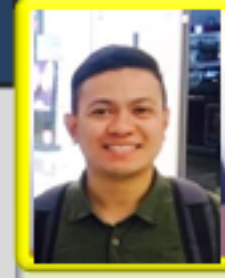
Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major in TLE
Pangasinan State-University, San Carlo Campus, Philippines



Fulfilling his parent's dream for him, he dwelt his passion in teaching for the youth.

RODNEY FERCOL ESPENIDA

Bachelor in Business Teacher Education,
Master in Business Education
Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines



Sharing his knowledge and skills is one of his most significant intentions.

New Teachers of Goodwill

JUN RITZ ROSELO

Bachelor in Secondary Education
North Western Visayas College, Philippines



He loves creating something unique from scratch. He also loves drawing because it expresses what he feels through it.

BRIAN RATON

Bachelor in Elementary Education /
Masters Educational Management
Saint Louis College La Union, Philippines



Seeing his students make him love teaching even more. "Teaching is the noblest profession," he said.

JHON PAUL SAPON

Bachelor of Science Education, Major in MAPEH
Tarlac State University, Philippines



He is a teacher that has a huge passion for physical exertion and skills. He was once awarded as an "Athlete of the Year" in his former organization.

WILSON PADILLA

Bachelor of Business AD, Major in Management Units
of Education, Major in Social Studies
Polytechnic University of the Philippines



His first choice was to manage a business; however, he felt that he really loves teaching. He was awarded as an "Outstanding Professor" by his former school in the Philippines.

RICARDO COMUYOG

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education
Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines



He is in the industry of education for 16 years now, showing how much he learned from all these years of teaching.

ANGEL PARAYNO JR.

Bachelor of Elementary Education
Pangasinan State University, Philippines



"My teachers motivated me to teach," he said. He found few things missing from how they taught him; therefore, he challenges himself to bring out the best in him.

FEATURES

New Teachers of Goodwill



JOEY AREVALO

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Batangas State University, Philippines

Following his sister's steps, he was motivated to become a teacher. He was inclined in enjoying and teaching 'Robotics.'



JANREY QUIBEN

Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major In English
Philippine Normal University, Philippines

"Teaching is an earnestly strenuous job, but seeing my students learning something and applying what they've learned into perspective is such a rewarding feeling. It's the best feeling ever."



MOHAMMED ATTIYA LASHIN

Bachelor of ICDL, Major in English
Cairo University, Egypt

"You should be interested to learn."



EMILY BATOON

Bachelor of Elementary Education,
Major In General Education
Mariano Marcos State University / CTE Philippines

She prioritizes to teach children the value of respect and kindness.



NAEM AHMED

Bachelor of Education Courses
DAR Alaloum Faculty - Cairo University

"I like to challenge myself a lot," he said. A call for him was to teach his students how to express and speak in a different language, which is Arabic.



ZENAIDA GONZALES

Bachelor of Elementary Education
Divina Pastora College, Philippines

Seeing her students growing and striving for their dreams is what inspires and pushes her to teach. "I may not be the best teacher, but I can always be a second mother," she said.

New Teachers of Goodwill



KRISTINE LINCUNA

Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major in Mathematics
University of Perpetual Help System Dalta, Philippines

"Being a student is challenging; however, you always remind yourself that all the hardships will be worth it. You are in that position because God permits you, he has a greater plan ahead of you".



GENAIKKA MAYBUENA

Bachelor of Elementary Education,
Major in General Education
University of Visayas, Cebu, Philippines

She is very glad that she became a teacher because she can teach young ones to become what they ought to be. She wants to be an inspiration to future generations.



MIRA LUNA CRUZ

Bachelor of Secondary Education,
Major in Science and Mathematics
Angeles University, Pampanga, Philippines

From the start, she really wanted to be like her grandmother, her motivation to become a teacher. She is strict and sweet.



JOAN MONTIANO

Bachelor of Elementary Education
Cavite State University, Philippines

She is a type of teacher who can always be there for you . DREAM.BUILD.CREATE.GROW. These are her four words for her little students. She wants her students to learn in their own pace.



JOANA MARIE SALEN

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Philippine Normal University Manila, Philippines

"Nothing in life worth having comes easy from a teacher that is beyond measure."



LORIE EVASCO

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education,
Major in Chemistry
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology,
Philippines

"Put God first in everything you do; He will direct you and crown your efforts." She has been teaching for 18 years and as time goes by she loves her profession even more.

FEATURES |||

New Teachers of Goodwill



MARY GRACE ABEJORO
Bachelor of Elementary Education
Bicol State College Of Applied Science and Technology,
Philippines

Students inspire her to teach. It is simplistic, but it is one of the most inspiring thoughts.



LOTUS ESTRELLA
Bachelor of Elementary Education, Major in Early Childhood / MAED Major in Basic Education
CEU Manila / Northcentral Technical College, Philippines

Her passion to teach is what inspires her to impart her knowledge. She can help the students to be developed holistically.



JASMIN JONSON
Bachelor of Secondary Industry Education, Major in ICT
Technological University Manila, Philippines

The thought of being a teacher when she was a child made her love the profession; thereafter, it became a passion.



AFAF KUKU
Baccalaureate in English Teaching
Kurdafan, Sudan

She is a teacher who is beyond measure. She makes sure that everyday, her learners benefit from her teaching. She said that nothing under the sun is impossible.



SARAH MOHAMED OSMAN
Graduate of Computer, Pharmacy, and Rural Development
University of Gezira Sudan

She is a kind of teacher that won't give up on you. The smiles of her students drive her to teach.



NAJAT MOHAMED ALI
Graduate of Computer and Business Administration
Kurdofan University / College of Islamic College

She has only one wish, and she hopes that her students learn a lot from her. She also hopes to hear from her learners how amusing it is to speak and learn Arabic.

Geoscience Tour : A K-12 prod

Staff Report



Students observe the type of blocks submerged in different water containers .



Chemical Testing Division
Students were informed about the different chemical compositions.

The Grade 11 students underwent an educational field trip and an immersion to the GTS Geoscience Testing Laboratory in Jebel Ali on November 29, 2016. This aimed to educate the students about the different construction tests.

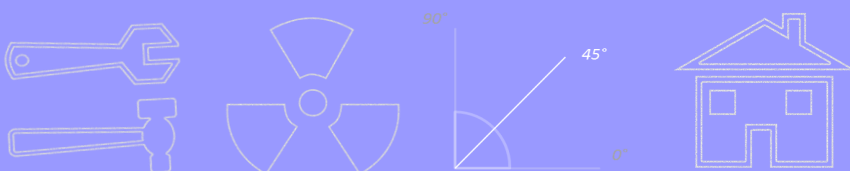
The Senior High School students were given informative details and actual manipulation of the testing materials.

They were able to witness Microbiology analysis, material testing (civil), Geotech investigation, and chemical or environmental analysis.

“It is a place which proves that the process of production is time consuming because the material has to go through multiple tests and analysis,” Grade 11 Troy Nucom said.



Construction Material Testing Division
Students observe different types of blocks that are connected to the construction device. They have pipes that transport water into the other end.



FEATURES



Dubai Saturday Club set for second season

Mohammed Al Shehhi, chief operating officer of Dubai Design District, Abdulla Al Karam, director general of KHDA, Saeed Al Nabouda, acting director general of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority and a pupil of The Philippine School Dubai, announce the start of the second season of Saturday Club. Victor Besa for The National

By Nadeem Hanif

DUBAI // A weekend club where children can learn artistic and entrepreneurial skills proved such a hit that applications for the second season are already pouring in.

The pilot season of the Dubai Saturday Club this year provided 100 pupils from 40 schools with extra tuition during the three-month programme.

Abdullah Al Karam, director general of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority, said after the huge success of the initial project the regulator was aiming for a more focused scheme this time.

“We had set a limit of 100 children and the numbers got booked very quickly,” he said.

“But we discovered that 100 was too high, so this time we will have 50 pupils.”

Last year there were six sessions, held every second Saturday for three months; this time round that will increase to eight spread over four months.

“The club provides learning outside the classroom and away from the traditional method of teachers telling students what to do,” Dr Al Karam said.

“We were keen for there to be a wide variety of students from different backgrounds because we felt it was important for children to develop and build networks and friendships with peers they would perhaps not normally get in contact with.”

Isabella Manlangit, 14, from The Philippine School in Dubai, took part in the first Saturday Club earlier this year.

“I was inspired to take part by the vice principal of our school who said the KHDA were looking for artistic-minded students to take part in a Saturday club,” she said.

“I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and do more with my Saturdays than homework, so I decided to take part and it was a fantastic experience.

“I met and talked with teenagers from other schools I would never normally get the chance to interact with.”

As well as learning more about the creative process, club members were also mentored on business skills.

“It was great to get knowledge from entrepreneurs who helped us understand the world of business and the skills needed to succeed in it,” she said.

Saeed Al Nabouda, acting director general of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, was delighted at the success of the first Saturday Club.

“We know from studies that the need for people to be creative in the workforce is going to be very important in the coming years,” he said.

“By getting pupils into contact with professionals who are creative so that they understand the process of turning an idea into reality is very important.”

Mohammed Al Shehhi, chief operating officer of Dubai Design District, which helped to support the first season, said it would continue to do so.

“We see this as a win-win situation, not only for the students but also the designers and creative professionals who take part and share their expertise,” he said.

Hind Al Mualla, chief of creativity, happiness and innovation at KHDA, said the club was open to 12 to 15-year-olds in Dubai.

“Once they send in the applications we will take a look at them and then decide who the best candidates are,” she said.

The Saturday Club was inspired by the UK’s National Art and Design Saturday Club.

The sessions will be held on two Saturdays a month next February, March, April and May.

Each session will be delivered by community mentors working in creativity and design; entrepreneurship; technology; and wellbeing.

The programme concludes with pupils inventing or creating a prototype of a product or service that will benefit all.

Pupils interested in taking part should visit www.dubaisaturdayclubs.ae or email nhanif@thenational.ae

This article is purely credited to ‘The National.’ <http://www.thenational.ae/uae/education/dubai-saturday-club-set-for-second-season>

TPSians win Al Islami dance feat

Staff Report



The Philippine School Dubai – Dance Company was declared CHAMPION in the recently concluded “Dance to Fitness Competition” sponsored by Al Islami Arabian Center Dubai, UAE.

The Philippine School Dubai – Mix Movers was declared 1st Runner-Up in the recently concluded “Dance to Fitness Competition” sponsored by Al Islami Arabian Center Dubai, UAE.

FEATURES |||

DLC UAE NATIONAL DAY



DLC UAE NATIONAL DAY



FEATURES

Trekkers & Wanderlust



Kyla Patricia Flores

Greece

"I relate myself to this place called " Delphi" because legend says that the people come here to ask advice from the Gods, and I could say that I am a very approachable person."



Francesca Velasco

Japan

"Japan has always been a dream destination so it was a dream come true for me. I felt at home because most Japanese people were friendly."



Christopher Jan Nicomedez

Vatican City

"The Colosseum has features of stupendous architecture and longevity and even horrors. It relates to me in a way that even how long and burdensome the challenges in my life might be, I will still carry them out with conviction and strength."

Trekkers & Wanderlust



Khelly Ocampo

Yerevan, Armenia

" Armenia is a beautiful country that I can call home. I have always dreamt to see something unexpected. I didn't expect that it would be a surprise to my eyes with its wonderful people and scenery."



Jendrich Quiambao

Canada

" The Capilano Suspension Bridge in Vancouver made me realize that not even Acrophobia can stop me from reaching my dreams."



Keisha Manalo

Singapore

"I went to The Merlion which means "sea" and "lion." I can relate with one of the traits of a lion as being courageous and strong. As a teenager, I try and explore new things with courage and I stay strong in every failure."

By Asheneth Macatangay, Beaux Nathania Consunji, Mariah Quisiah Martinez, Julienne Gail Sioson, Carl Joseph Ocampo, Christian Joseph Cortez, Dhansel Sanico, Yuri Andrei Bautista, and Isabelle Maat

FEATURES ||||

'You can't express without experience'

TPS Insights Exclusive Interview with an Award Winning Film Director Jan Xavier Pacle



By Eunice Rainielle Mendoza

Jan Xavier Pacle, better known as 'Janix Pacle', made Filipinos proud from all over the world as he won the prestigious 2016 SPORTEL award on October 25, 2016 held in Monaco. His finest work that earned him the award is a documentary about a cyclist's passion.

Lando Dizon suffered a heart attack while cycling, but that didn't stop him from cycling. A film brimming with determination, hope, and passion that captivated the hearts of those who watched.

Janix Pacle is an Independent Film Director. He graduated at Saint Louis University in Baguio city and finished Bachelor of Arts in Communications, majoring in Advertising and Broadcasting. At a tender age of 11, he started his life in the media as a photographer in a school paper. In high school, he first planned to be a successful photo journalist but later found his way in film making.

"I didn't really choose my steps, I was just going where the door is open and used whatever is around to my advantage," he said. He first began as an editor to his peers. Later, he became an editor for ABS-CBN Baguio for a magazine show. He went to Qatar and, with his skill, took the role of a video production manager for an event company. With prior knowledge regarding photography, he used it and translated it to motion pictures.

"Later, I just had the knack for directing and cinematography," he quoted.

At this point he started doing independent films and then later took a job as a film director for a production company.

If possible as a student, can we spend some of our time to explore this field? Janix answered that filmmaking as an art form can't really be just a hobby. There's more to it than just pressing the record button and acting.

"It's either you put effort into it or just forget about it. There are professional filmmakers and amateur filmmakers, no hobbyist. Video on the other hand can be a hobby, like youtubers, and such," he added. What moment could make him realize that film making is indeed more of a career?

He remarked, "When I realized I would rather earn from doing what I love rather than earn from something I have no love for."

He added one common misconception of the public regarding film making: That it's as simple as pointing a camera and acting.

Curious about his role model that can move him out of his comfort zone to be able to reach his success, he stated, "Role models for me is really quite difficult to answer. I fell in love with film because of the craft. Not because I admired someone and wanted to be like him. But to answer who made the most impact in my career, it's my father."

His father had a huge impact. He was the one who led and taught Janix the art of photography, which formed the first step to his path in film making. Once he was exposed to film, he began to admire some filmmakers like Akira Kurosawa, Robert Zemeckis, Satoshi Kon, Darren Aronofsky, Zhang Yimou, and Spielberg.

He is locally a Gallaga fan. He studies and analyzes their films, hoping to be better at his craft. If given a chance, he would surely love to co-direct and learn a thing or two.

As an independent film maker, surely he must've watched a lot of films. What films could capture the heart of Janix?

"Hard to say again. In terms of art, I like many films like Millennium Actress, Paprika, Seven Samurai, The Bad Sleep Well, all of the Spielberg films, but in terms of pure entertainment, I think I have watched Jurassic Park more than a dozen times."



Janix advised that in making films, budgets should always be covered. He stated that film makers should always be patient in securing funds and never get into production without knowing that you are fully covered. Another is the failure to double check, which consequently makes Janix do the work twice.

When asked what inspires him most, he stated "Life, basically. You can't express something without you experiencing it first." His films focus on tugging the audience's hearts. Each scene and word expresses a moral that one can only learn in life. His films mostly depict stories that are true to life and are relatable. If given a chance, he would like to tackle the genre of fantasy.

With his recent achievement, what could make a film great? "Objectively, you can look at its technical aspects, writing, directing, cinematography etc. But as a sole audience, it will be purely subjective. If the film makes an impact to you, then wouldn't you think it's a great film?" he deduced.

Photo credits to: Jan Xavier Pacle



Janix (right) working with Hollywood Actress Max Collins



L-R Janix Pacle (center) also worked with Comedian Leo Martinez (extreme left) in a movie project in Qatar.

OPINION



DESERT PEN

Erin Mitchel J. Abadilla
Editor-in-Chief, TPS Insights
2016-17

EDITORIAL

Get there

“If students understood the lessons, they must be able to use it,” Dr. Lolita Andrada, a Phoenix Publishing Consultant, emphasized this during her professional seminar with the teachers at the beginning of the academic year. This, therefore, required various differentiated activities outside the classroom. It is of no wonder, that The Philippine School provided many learning opportunities in the school level, regional level, and national level. Let us reiterate the learning activities that happened within the first few months of SY 2016 – 2017.



Despite the school’s challenges switching to the new campus, the school kept its promise of attaining quality education through the provision of many student – centered learning opportunities in and out of TPS.

During September, students participated in the National Level of the KenKen International Championship. Three of the contenders, namely, Aeron Alde, John Doringo, and Francis Sandrino topped 2nd and 3rd in the mind boggling puzzle game.

Two more extra-curricular activities were carried-out in October. These are the Green Hope Speech and Dance Contest, and the Al Islami Dance Competition. The participating students were able to apply their public speaking and dance skills. It was very evident that they understood the arts of public speaking and dancing for they claimed the first place in both categories.

Recently in November, a wave of learning opportunities splashed down on the students of The Philippine School – Dubai.

These include the photography workshop sponsored by the Philippine Consulate; the Applied Nutrition conference of the Dubai Municipality in the Dubai World Trade Center; the instillation of many cultures through the celebration of the United Nations Day; the Science Rocket Challenge by the Emirates Aviation University, and the upcoming Bayanihan speech contest held at the Philippine Consulate.

The learners were able to apply their knowledge in photography, in health, about the different countries in the world (as well as appreciate them), in Science, and in public speaking in the Filipino language.

In reference to Dr. Andrada’s line, our editorial staff can proudly say that TPSians are really learning for they not only limit their education within the four corners of the classroom, but also outside of it.

TPS provides a plethora of learning opportunities for students, and in turn, the students participate. We all expect that more students and different faces will join and be chosen in the upcoming extra-curricular learning activities that will be presented in the future.

For news and opinions: email us at insights@thephilippineschooldubai.com

#TeamStudents



Toe the line

Simond Lars Darwin G. Lenon
SSG President 2016-2017

“Everything we do is from the people, with the people, and for the people.”

This was my party’s tagline during the campaign, and as the president for this school year’s student body, I would like to adopt the same attitude and motto for the Supreme Student Government of 2016 - 2017.

What does this quote and #TeamStudents mean? The Supreme Student Government (SSG) would prioritize the student’s benefits and demands first.

We refer to ourselves as “Team Students” because we will, on most occasions, side with the students and their betterment. All of the decisions we will make, and all the factors we will consider, we will have the students’ best interests in mind.

Our way of proving our faith and loyalty to the student body is by implementing Project: H.O.M.E, an acronym which stands for Hope, Growth, Memories, and Excellence.



We have already started implementing the first set of our projects which are: (1) the annual Charitree Foundation — a project where Christmas Trees are set up around the campus and students pay 1 – 5 AED to hang an ornament on the tree, and at the same time spread the spirit of Christmas. This activity will be giving students the chance to help those in need as 100% of the accumulated funds will be given to charity.

We have the first ever SSG Honestore, a mini-stationary where students are free to pick up any material they need. This is not limited to stamps, sticky notes, book marks, stickers, crepe paper, and corrugated paper. They have to pay the corresponding price in the provided box or jar.

Students wouldn’t need to rush the night or day before to buy materials required for school projects as they would be freely available in the Honestore.

The merit cards for (pilot) grades 4,5,6—which aim to encourage good behavior and correct mistakes without compromising their anecdotal and academic records. This program, initiated by Intermediate Level Key Teacher Ms. Arlene Sandoval and Governor Ashanti Bacayo, will be helpful to students as the merits they collected can be used to get monthly discounts on the SSG Honestores and they are rewarded when they have done good deeds. We also have started collecting the 5 AED Student Membership Fee for this school year. The accrued funds will be used to finance the projects of the Supreme Student Government.

We plan to execute similar activities throughout the school year, which would develop students’ talents and skills in craftsmanship, entrepreneurship, artistry, academics and values. An example is the launching of leadership and green programs not just for the elementary and high School, but for the primary and kindergarten levels as well.

It is of our goals to teach students of young ages to learn how to segregate waste and care for the environment, through simple activities such as picking up trash and dropping them in the proper container. We plan to bring back previous programs such as Battle of The Bands, Dance Revolution, Photography and Film Contests, among others.

Our vision for this school year is to help students grow not just in academics but also give them a chance to shine in the fields they are passionate about. Our government believes that all students are intelligent in their own way, and we would like to cater to them to achieve their potentials as it is of our duty to do so. After all, The Supreme Student Government would not be functional without the students.

‘ We will have in mind the students’ best interests . ’
- Simond Lars Lenon

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Alumni Corner



Imaginative steps

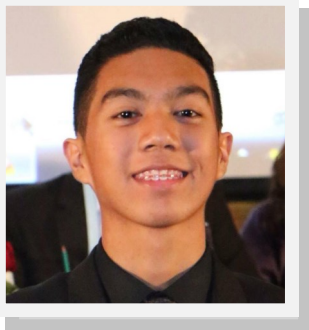
College is much different than high school. It is a new environment, new curriculum, and new people. Being in college makes you realize how far you've come, and how much of an adult you've become. It gives you a much clearer picture of what your future career and your work field would be like. It shows you the responsibilities that come with the job you want, and how to best do it, but how can one qualify as a college student?

Passion

I discovered throughout almost two years of experience that it is definitely not easy. But when you choose something that you personally enjoy doing (and are confident that it's something you'll still be passionate about in the far future), it gets easier. Before I even went to college, my parents reminded me to visualize what I truly desired to do in the future, and to choose according to that. They didn't give me any limitations, and instead encouraged me to follow my dreams. Despite how cliché it may sound, it may have been the most important advice I received regarding my career. I told them that I saw myself working in digital arts, Animation to be specific, and no matter how uncommon it was; and how new it sounded to us; they still supported me from beginning until now.

Positivity

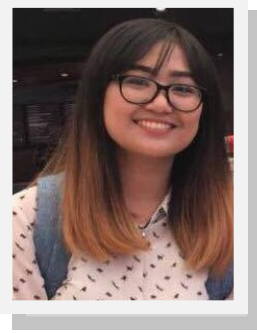
The pressure of college can be strong enough to take a toll on a person emotionally and physically. I'll admit that I have broken down and cried in some occasions because of how difficult it was to handle. But I thought about the times when I felt that I was enjoying the work, the moments where I understood a certain topic, and the satisfaction of seeing the end result of our hard work. Those positive thoughts constantly reignite my passion and have helped me get through two years of college, and I'm sure will keep on being useful as I continue the rest of my studies.



Andrei Martin Marquez
TPS Alumnus 2016
Grade 11 taking up Accounting, ICT,
and Chemistry Electives
American International School, Dubai

Give it a shot

One dream of mine is to have a great future and to be able to explore the world. Getting a notable degree and gaining knowledge through education will help me attain that dream. I had to make one important decision that is to think bigger than myself.



Kristine Jimenez
TPS Alumna 2014
Bachelor of Animation
SAE Institute Dubai

Time Management

Back when I was in high school, I heard college students talking about how they have no free time to spend on hobbies and such because of how heavy the workload is in college. I thought they were exaggerating, but once I experienced college life for myself it all made sense. It seems like time goes too quickly and before you know it, deadlines are already approaching. In my opinion, this is the case especially when a student is fresh out of high school and is still adjusting to the differences between high school and college.

In college you need to divide your time between a lot of things, and how you balance your time is very critical. For me, I have to divide my time between university work and classes, spending time with my family, going to church, going out with friends, and resting at home. It is a difficult task, as sometimes one of those tends to demand more time than the others. But it is a matter of priority, so if you are firm about which ones are more important or urgent, then it would be a big help. My fellow schoolmates and I tend to stay up far too late to finish projects (some sacrifice sleep fully for the sake of meeting deadlines), and it is an extremely unhealthy act. This is the result of failing to practice time management.

' Good implementation of discipline is probably one of the common factors that TPS and AIS have.'
- Andrei Martin Marquez

Adjusting from a Philippine curriculum to an American one is not hard as it looks or as it seems. The curriculum that the Philippines is offering is sort of similar with the American curriculum.

My expectations from the school were very different from the reality I faced during the start of the year. I expected being in an international school would not be open to Filipinos. I actually expected to be bullied in my new school and I prepared for it. I set my mind to just ignore everything and to just focus on my academics. But I was shocked, the school was full of diversity; Arabs, Iranians, Afghans, Uzbeks, Turks, Indians, Pakistanis, Russians, Iraqis, etc. It was really a new world for me, having a lot of cultures coming together and respecting one another.

Decision Making

Having more freedom is definitely the biggest perk of this stage for me. College signifies the fact that you are only one step away from living an adult life, which to me means getting a job and being responsible for yourself, and with that comes the freedom in making choices that will affect my future. To be fair, I do miss relying on my parents to make important decisions for me, but I am aware that being slowly given control over my future will help me in developing proper decision making.

This is the stage when our mindsets began to differ. I learned to think about my priorities more. In high school, things were more tolerable, and it was easy to fall into procrastination and to slack off from time to time. But in college you have to set a clear goal for yourself, and to constantly remind yourself of how you need to adjust certain aspects of your life in order to achieve your goal. The stakes are much higher in college too, considering failing a class would be more costly in a monetary sense. I developed a higher value for my education when I realized that if I fail a subject in college, it will cost not only my time but also money that my parents work hard for. There is a lot of pressure along with that but I have learned to use that pressure and turn it into motivation to better myself with my studies.

But do not sacrifice your health for your studies. Yes, it is very important to do a good job and to be invested in your academics but it is also important to take care of yourself. After all, we cannot fully enjoy successful careers if we are not in good condition.

Another is to take some time to relax. In relation to physical health, taking care of your mental health is just as important. I suggest making sure that you take some time to have fun outside of university to let your mind relax for a bit.

It opened my eyes to see a new perception and I have never experienced being treated coldly.

It has helped me to learn more about other cultures and traditions from around the world. It would increase my global connection.

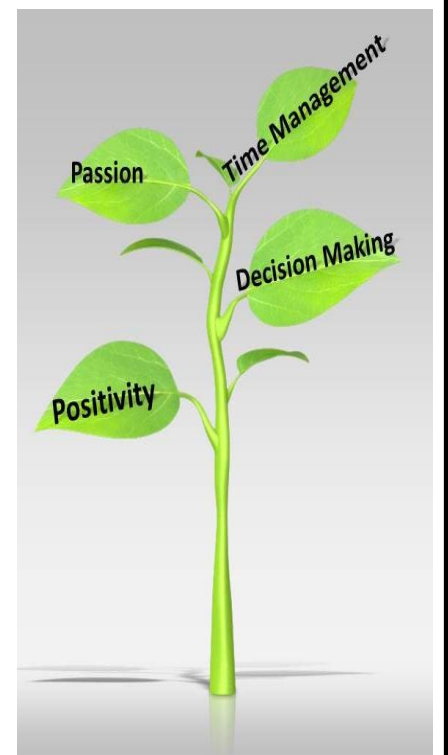
We have the chance to take electives for the path that we choose to take. I chose Accounting, ICT, and Chemistry as my electives. We have to have at least one Science elective; Chemistry, Biology, or Physics. I took Accounting and ICT to help me for my career path, which is Finance and Management. We have English, Math, PE, Arabic, Economics, and Islamic as our major subjects.

These subjects are required for grade 11 students. Grade 12 students have Calculus instead of Economics. I was placed in a special class for non-Arabs.

It would be more difficult to become productive if your mind is burnt out from continuous work without rest, but along with that, do not abuse your break times.

It is a little intimidating at first, but I realized that it was a welcome change. Those factors helped me pass the important stage that helps set a person's life to a chosen path.

' Before I even went to college, my parents reminded me to visualize what I truly desired to do in the future, and to choose according to that.'
- Kristine Jimenez



Our Arabic is special and it is easier compared to Arab students who are able to speak the language fluently.

Since we have an Islamic period and I am not a Muslim, we go out of the class and take Life Skills instead, where you get to have different sorts of activities of your choice, we usually just end up playing sports and eat.

In our PE class, the teacher allows you to play any sport you like. There is a wide range of sports available like basketball, volleyball, football, badminton, and etc. They also gave us a physical fitness test.

I am now adapting to my current situation, having old and new friends who provide me endless support. Get advice from your parents as well, it is important that you are on the same page as them.

Opportunities are endless, but it is up to you to grab that opportunity.



TPS alumna garners pirate's role in Peter Pan play at DUCTAC

By TPS Insights

TPS alumna Margaritha Yvhonne Lacson had advanced her acting inclinations, after H2 Productions Middle East, a theater play organization, notified that she got the role as one of Captain Hook's pirates in the Peter Pan play. The show will run from December 20-27, 2016 at Dubai Community Theater and Arts Center, Mall of the Emirates, Dubai.

The show was specifically a pantomime, which is a theatrical entertainment, mainly for children. This involves music and topical jokes. It is based on a fairy tale or nursery story, usually produced around Christmas.

"I auditioned for the role in September. To be honest, I didn't expect that I would be getting any role. There were lots of hopefuls who came, and they were all very talented. The audition was intensive. We were asked to perform a monologue piece, sing a song and dance. We had to prove that we were triple threats on stage," she narrated.

She treated her recent involvement bigger than any previous musical theater experience she had. Lacson always loved performing stage musical, and she's glad that she learned a lot while performing there.

According to her, the rehearsals were more tedious than the auditions. They had to work on their performances repetitively, until they were certain that the audience would love their show.



Margaritha Yvhonne Lacson (second from right front row) is introduced as one of the pirates during the opening show. Photo credits to H2 Productions, Middle East

"Performing on stage does not only require big dreams, but also your heart, hard work, and your willingness to learn." - Margaritha Yvhonne Lacson

Social Studies Mural Competition



1st Place: Grade 10A (The Grand Mosque)



2nd Place: Grade 10-D (Burj Khalifa)

Huminto upang magbasa

Ni Stephani Everson

Ang mahabang pagtunog ng batingaw ng paaralan sa unang araw ng Disyembre, taong dalawang-libo at labing-anim ang naging hudyat para sa unang pagsasagawa ng HUM o Huminto Upang Magbasa. Nanatili sa kani-kanilang pwesto ang mga mag-aaral mula sa iba't-ibang antas upang magbasa ng kathang pampanitikan sa loob ng labinlima hanggang dalawampung minuto.

Ang HUM ay isa sa mga gawain ng Kagawaran ng Asignaturang Filipino na naglalayong imulat ang kamalayan ng mga mag-aaral sa kahalagahan ng pagbabasa.

Bahagi rin ito ng adhikain ng bagong-tatag na organisasyon ng Kagawaran na pinangalanang PATINIG na nakatuon sa pagtuklas sa angking galing ng mga mag-aaral sa paggamit ng Wikang Filipino, paglinang sa kasanayan sa pagsulat at pagsasalita, at pag-alalay sa mga mag-aaral na nangangailangan ng tulong para sa kanilang pagkatuto.

Naging matagumpay ang pagsasakatuparan ng HUM dahil sa suporta at pakikilahok ng mga guro at mag-aaral.



SPORTS |||

'Giving up wasn't an option' - Raflores

By TPS Insights



TPS student Kyla Patricia Raflores (center) wins gold during the Desert Open Figure skating competition at Al Nasr Leisure Land's ice rink. Photo by Gilles Vandevorde

This was said by Patricia Raflores, a Grade 9 student, after a fever coincidentally glided over her during an Ice Skating competition in May this year. The result, she still carried the day anyway, with a gold medal.

"I had to finish my program. I told myself that giving up wasn't an option," she said.

Raflores managed to do her skating elements; however, she didn't expect anything at all.

According to her, when the organizers announced her name as the winner, she considered her feelings as something she'd never forget.

Raflores won two gold medals in "Artistic" and "Technical" categories.

'I don't watch my competitors when they perform, so that I don't get nervous.'
- Raflores

Double feat for Jazzville Basketball League



Photo credits to The Filipino Times website

By TPS Insights

Photo grabbed from Jazzville's Facebook page

TPSian students Robert Barcita, Mark Banaticla, Jericho Ferrer, Erwin Monteloyola, Louis Nicodemus, and Charles Palmes participate in U17 GCC All-Filipino Club Championship 2016 in Bahrain as members of Jazzville Basketball League.

The group brought home the 1st runner-up award.

The games were held last December 1 and 2, 2016 at the Zain Basketball Arena in Manama, Bahrain.

By TPS Insights

Three students of TPS, who are members of a community Jazzville Basketball League in Dubai, are overwhelmed to interface with the retired NBA legend Scottie Pippen at Al Satwa Park in November.

Andrei Almazan, Cedric Almazan, Louis Nicodemus, and Erwin Monteloyola were able to play basketball with Pippen. According to them, Pippen directed to their group to practice hard.

"I was honored to be a part of this activity and I use this as an inspiration to become a PBA player," Louis Nicodemus mentioned in an interview with Insights.

They were given free Nike shoes and bags during the event.

