



TPS INSIGHTS

Benedict Ocon is new Academic Director

The Official Newsletter Publication of The Philippine School (Sept.—Dec. 2017)



Tps Muhaisnah
The Philippine School, Al Muhaisnah 2, Dubai



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Welcome

Story on page 5

TPSians win spot in Yale University ; Tournament of Champions '17



By Ace B. Bernabe

Success at the recently completed World Scholar's Cup in Vietnam on June 25 2017 gave seven students the right to compete in the upcoming Tournament of Champions in Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut in November.

Earl Sumbillo, Breanna Bagalay, Beau Consunji, Aeron Alde, Franchesca Velasco, Jeremie Casanding, and Christian Goc gained an opportunity to advance into the final level of the competition. Caitlin Gonzales, Precious Tanes, and Natalie Javillonar also represented The Philippine School in Vietnam.

The World Scholar's Cup consists of four main events, namely: Team Debates, Collaborative Writing, The Scholar's Challenge, and The Scholar's Bowl.

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Photo by Dinah Goc

'You are the most organized'

By Yana Abriel M. Bautista



Representative of the Crown Prince Court Kevin Walis (center) visited TPS for Moral Education Program. L-R MEC Coordinator Arlene Sandoval, Acting Principal Roberta Rondilla, Academic Director

This was the message of Mr. Kevin Walis, a representative of the Crown Prince Court, when he gathered feedbacks about the Moral Education Curriculum in The Philippine School in November. Walis said that TPS was the most organized among the schools he visited.

"We aligned the curriculum of MEC with Dep Ed," Ms. Arlene Sandoval, the MEC Coordinator said.

The CPC representative scrutinized the organization of documents and curriculum mapping.

The MEC program of the school highlighted the significant partnerships with parents and the weekly home activities.

According to Sandoval, the MEC Department exceeded the allotted time given by the government.

The CPC deputy will also carry-out observations in teaching and learning in few weeks.

DepEd impressed with SEN programs

By TPS Insights

The student programs carried-out by the Special Education Needs Department gained praise from DepEd Representative Riza Gusano, during the visit of the academic authorities to TPS on October 1, 2017.

The inspector said that the Learning Assistance of TPS SEN Department was impressive, and the new policies of Dep Ed SEN curriculum would help fortify TPS programs.

Last year, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority inspectors in Dubai also recognized the department by pulling-out of children to give individual instructions.

This academic year, the parents or guardians who availed the program doubled.



Wenchelle Villondo (right), SEN Coordinator, explains the causes of Autism to DepEd official Riza Gusano.(left)
Photo by John Marcel Villanueva

Teaching and learning in TPS ; now with Smartboard



NEWS

TPSians: Champion again in annual Green Hope seminar

By Isabella Y. Manlangit



Champion again! Green Hope winners with Ms. Marites Rodriguez (left), Coordinator, Co-Curricular Affairs, Community Partnership and Alumni Relations

“What is wrong with us? If we all unite to bring in the change, we can do it right and flip the page. From a yesterday to a good day, we can do it all.”

TPSians sang as they remain strong advocates in taking action against climate change. For the third time, TPS took home gold in the annual Green Hope seminar – performance category. Nine schools in the UAE participated in the event, which took place at the Middlesex University on October 14, 2017.

Government officials, company CEOs, and students from different schools voiced their concerns about the growing threat of climate change.

“It is serious. It is deadly, and it is growing,” said Ms. Meera Al Shani from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. She encouraged all to work hard to mitigate climate change for a better future.

Senior High School student Samantha Delgado said that it is a privilege to be a part once again in the Green Hope advocacy.

“My favorite part of the seminar was the musical presentation and competition. Through these activities, I believe that it creatively raised awareness regarding climate change,” she shared.

Mendoza: new SSG Chief

Eunice Mendoza is the newly elected president of the Supreme Student Council – Academic Year 2017-2018.

By Jizeth Rose G. Ibarra



“First of all, I am proud to witness the accomplishments of the students of TPS this past election, I would like to give credit to those who shed sweat to dedicate their time, effort, and strength for the future of TPSians,” said Mendoza.

The top student leader of the mother organization of the school offered service with pride, and leadership with confidence in front of approximately 2000 TPSians.

“Good. Better. Best. We will never rest, until our good is better and our better becomes best,” the SSG President added.



Green House project launched in TPS in November

The Issue : Child Protection



The yearly session is sure to result in a more encouraging awareness of child protection.

The Guidance Center conducted its annual seminar program about Child Protection Policy on October 9, 2017. The organization invited Madam Helema Mohammed Abdullah, the Senior Executive for Child Services in Community Development Authority of Dubai.



“The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example.”

John Wooden

TPSians join Toastmasters

By Dorothy Enzel C. Yao

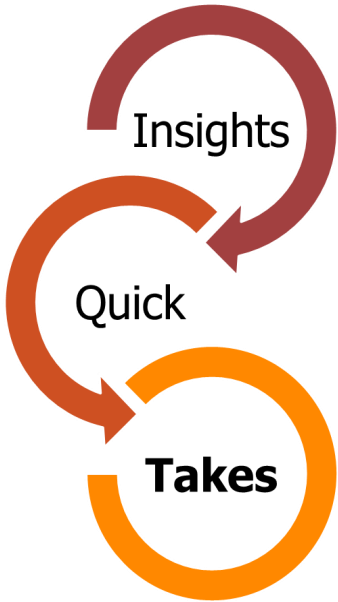
TPSians take extra mile to improve on communication and leadership skills with Oryx Gavel Toastmasters club. They also mingle and train with other members besides TPS.

Toastmasters International is nonprofit educational organization that operates clubs worldwide for the purpose of helping members improve their communication, public speaking, and leadership skills.



Following similar Toastmasters club meeting protocols, Gavel clubs use club officer titles and education manuals. However, gavel club members are referred to as “gaveliers”. Gavel clubs also provide Toastmasters members and clubs with an excellent opportunity for community service.

NEWS



TPSians qualify for the quarter finals of Brainiac competition in November.



TPSians participate in International Day of Tolerance.



Management and educators prioritize Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



Guidance Center regularly pushes Child Protection Campaign.



De La Salle University(DLSU) Manila conducts career orientation in TPS.

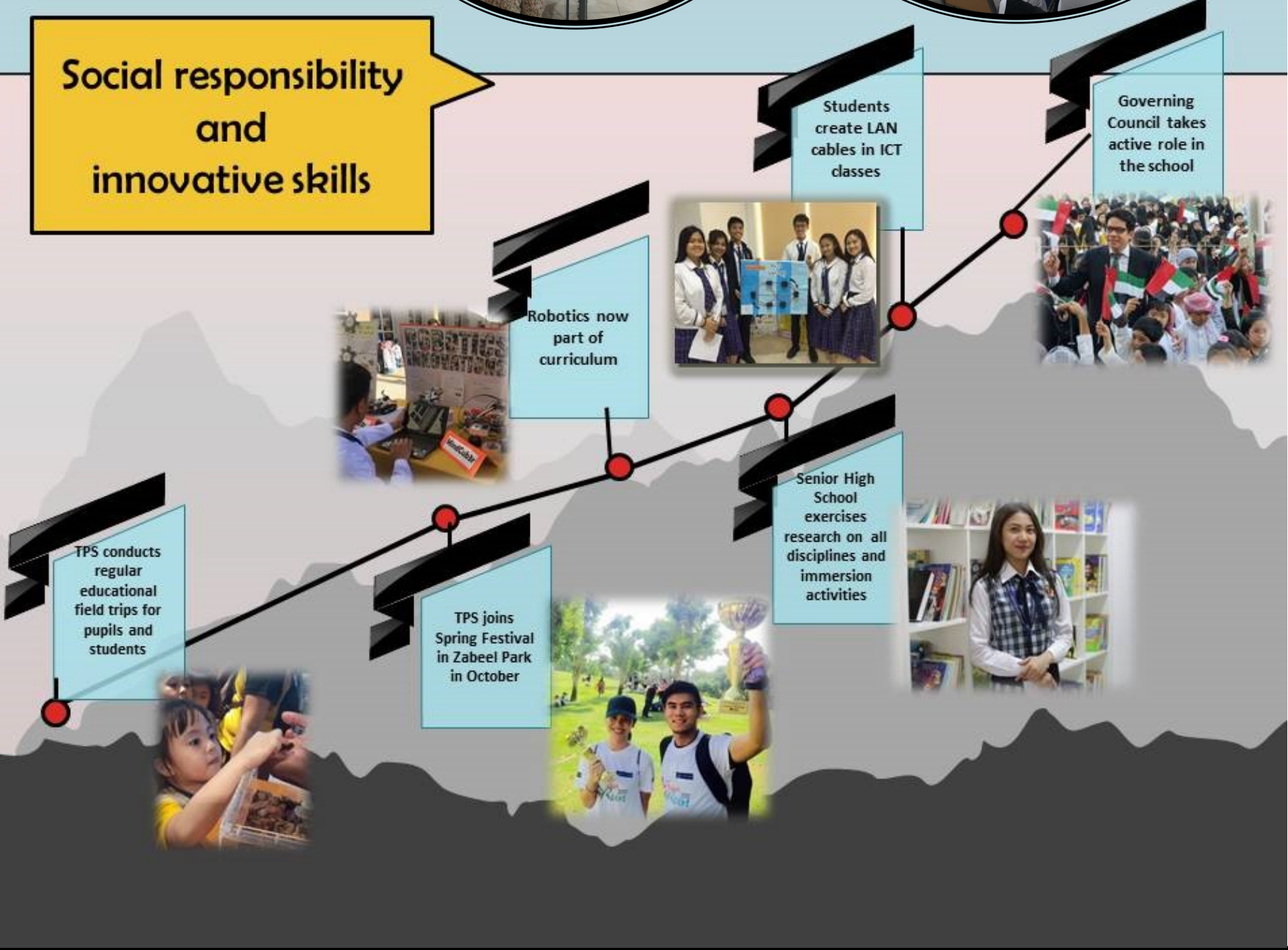


Teachers undergo training in creating Big Questions in lesson planning conducted by Oxford Discovery mentors.



MAPUA University—Career Talk in November

Social responsibility and innovative skills



TPS expects 'GOOD' DepEd rating in new campus

By TPS Insights

... from front page



On high level talks! Dep Ed officials and TPS Academic Heads discuss process of inspections.



The team competed against more than 3,000 middle and high school students. There were three global round venues this year: Cape Town, South Africa; Athens, Greece, and Hanoi, Vietnam. TPS team decided to participate in Vietnam.

relationships that I shared during the entire course of the event," he added.

Breanna Bagalay, said that the debate was shown as their strongest area. "The awarding ceremony was proved to be very successful for us because we were awarded as Yale University qualifiers," she shared during an interview with TPS Insights.

Grade 7 student Caitlin Gonzales said, "The Scholar's challenge was honestly the hardest academic event. We had to answer a 120-item test in an hour."

Ms. Dinah Goc, the Vice - Principal of The Philippine School, was very instrumental in coaching the students. Prior to the Vietnam competition this year, she also trained the students in their WSC involvement in Bangkok, Thailand on June 25, 2016.

Grade 8 student Christian Goc piled up awards in the academic competition, such as 72nd Best Scholar in the World; 11th Best Individual Debater; 17th Best in the History section of the Scholar's challenge; 3rd Best Scholar in the Middle East, and School Champion (an award given to the highest scoring scholar of each delegation).

"This is unlike everything I have experienced," Christian said. "It was truly a blessing to receive such honors. What was truly momentous for me was not just the amount of medals I won, but also the good

The Philippine School Dubai expects to receive a good rating from the Department of Education, after the education authority conducted physical ocular inspections, checked documentations, and observed classes on September 28 and October 1, 2017.

TPS Dubai is waiting for the official government recognition for its new Muhaisnah campus.

The inspection was led by DepEd officials: Director Marilette Almayda, Director Jocelyn Andaya, and Ms. Riza Gusano.

A series of meetings was held together with the school board, academic heads, and teachers.

According to the Academic Director Benedict Ocon, TPS gradually shifts into a new paradigm this school year, prioritizing innovations in school leadership and instructional delivery.

The scope of the inspection was not merely focused on facilities; however, it also included teaching and learning instructions.

While the school awaits the DepEd official report rating, it is conducting professional developments and innovations aligned to the UAE national agenda. TPS is also in the works for the anticipated KHDA inspection this school year.



TPS Dubai - Consul General Paul Raymund Cortes meets DepEd officials. L-R CFO Representative Rowena Valerio, Ms. Riza Gusano (DepEd), Director Marilette Almayda, Consul General Paul Raymund Cortes, Dr. Yasmin Cortes (wife of Consul General Cortes), Managing Directress Leticia Maniaul (TPS)



Governing Council, Academic Director stand pat on school development



L-R GC Chairperson Ben Lebigo Jr., GC Co-Chair Dr. Wafa Qasimieh, Managing Directress Leticia Maniaul, GC Secretary Josie Conlu - Romulo, Community Partnership Coordinator Marites Rodriguez, Academic Director Benedict Ocon, GC Head of Budget and Finance Mila Buenaobra, not in the picture (Head of Safety Alex Carlos)



TPS Insights Staff 2017-2018

TPS Insights is the official newsletter publication of The Philippine School. We welcome article contributions. Send us at insights@thephilippineschooldubai.com.

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Former ABS-CBN Reporter Edmir Capuno (extreme left) and English Language Teacher Jenileen Borbe conducted Journalism workshops in November.

Benedict Ocon is new Academic Director

By TPS Insights

On September 4th of this year, Benedict Ocon began his appointment as the Academic Director of The Philippine School in Dubai.

Ocon holds a Master of Arts in Education degree, with specialization in Social Science. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

He had thirteen years of professional teaching experience. He served as a university professor in Social and Behavioral Sciences, Chair for Curriculum and Instruction, Moderator of Student Government, Coordinator for House System, Chairperson for school's accreditation, Department Coordinator, and International School Department Head.

From his former affiliations, Mr. Benedict received professional and community recognitions which include: *One of the ten Most Outstanding Faculty Members* (consistently for three academic years given by one university), and *Transformative Teacher of the Year* given by a Catholic institution.

The new Academic Director is an author, an online education platform content writer, a fieldwork researcher, a journal article contributor, and a textbook writer. Some of his writings were accepted in international conferences, universities, and journals based in the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, New England, New Zealand, and Thailand.

He is also a conference and seminar speaker, and academic paper presenter.

His recent speaking engagements include topics related to ASEAN Identity, youth empowerment in the globalizing society, cooperative learning, issues and perspectives in teaching Social Studies, and decoding creativity in teaching. He also presented several academic papers in international conferences and fora.

What are some long-range objectives that you want to develop in The Philippine School?

I envisage TPS to be the frontrunner in innovative school leadership in Dubai, with transformative global educators, who provide state-of-the-art pedagogies in a student-centered environment.

The terms and concepts that were utilized are articulated from the UAE National agenda, and from the concept of multiculturalism. The former concept is something that we aspire for in a long-run, which means TPS will promote Filipino values and culture, in full consideration to UAE heritage and policies. We would like every member of the school to respect diversity and individual beliefs.

In relation to faculty capability building, the TPS Instructional Supervisory Framework was likewise conceptualized this school year. This framework is categorically divided into two formative or non-evaluative and summative or evaluative. In addition, the framework aims to set a benchmark of performance, gather data to provide formative assessment of teacher's instructional competency, enhance teachers' competency, professionalism, and collegiality through peer collaboration, and provide assistance and support to teachers on areas such as lesson planning, strategies, innovation, and assessment.

What is your strongest belief in education?

Education stimulates nation building; however, it is not a mere acquisition of knowledge and skills. It needs to be unified with values and character. Its ultimate purpose is to hone the hearts and the minds of every individual to prepare them for their role in the society. Education can inculcate one's logical capacity and affective faculty.

What professional practices were changed, revised, or added in the school that you initiated?

In my work as the Academic Director that officially started three months ago, I specifically aimed to create an educational framework that interrelates each school entity. True to the word "transition", TPS gradually shifts into a new paradigm this school year, prioritizing innovations in school leadership and instructional delivery.

In addition, a new Philosophy, Vision-Mission statement, and school objectives were introduced.



'I am looking at your kids as my own'

Special Education Needs Coordinator shares experience handling own son with autism

By Caitlin Norin O. Gonzales



Special Education Needs (SEN) Coordinator Wenchelle Villondo conveyed this message to approximately 48 parents who enrolled their children in a Special Needs Education (SEN) program at The Philippine School Dubai on September 16, 2017.

Villondo, who acknowledged having a son with autism, turned emotional while informing the parents the procedures and policies in availing SEN program.

"What the teachers need are support; there should be a feedback mechanism from parents. I am thankful that there is a SEN program," Roble Gonzales, the president of the SEN organization said.

"Forget about the academics, eventually the child will learn. Focus first in improving and shaping a child's behavior before academics. Don't worry, teachers are embracing your job," the Special Education Head clarified to the parents.

"Forget about the academics, eventually the child will learn. Focus first in improving and shaping a child's behavior before academics." - Wenchelle Villondo

Senior High attends DIAC Open Day 2017

By Polo Ferrer

The Grade 12 students attended the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) Open Day 2017 held at Dubai Knowledge Park on October 24, 2017. The annual DIAC Open Day showcased different academic institutions that are available to students once they finished high school at TPS. It also provides the students about the courses offered by various universities, their admission requirements, and scholarship opportunities.

"I've learned a lot about the different universities, what they can offer, and how their system works here in U.A.E," Alexis Quilang of 12 - C (HUMSS) said.



TPS Facade



TPS Entrance



Smart Board



Computer Laboratory



Science Laboratory



TLE



Canteen



Clinic



Library



Kindergarten Classroom



Music Room



Guidance Center



Playground



Toilet



Covered Court



Bus Transportation



