Leadership Exemplified
UT IN OMNIBUS

Glorificetur Deus
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ing in a place where there is no leader is like driving a car without a steering wheel.

In every situation, we need at least a strong-willed person we can lean on during our hardest times. We need someone who can make sacrifices just to bring hope, happiness and harmony to all. This person whom we look up to is called a leader.

A leader becomes our light when we see ourselves wallowing in darkness. A leader becomes our shield to protect us from our foes. A leader becomes our inspiration in facing the different facets of life.

St. Scholastica’s Academy of Marikina led by Sister Angelica Leviste, OSB, Marikina Mayor Del De Guzman, and student leader Ma. Isabel Cruz, together with the 26 club presidents in the high school department, are just some of the many leaders in the 21st century.

Directress Sister Angelica Leviste, OSB, who became a Prioress back in 1983, is described by many as a caring, patient and peace-loving individual.

Sister Angelica is a staunch advocate for teaching the Rule of St. Benedict not only to the Scholasticans but also to the people who embrace the Catholic faith. Christians are born to love one another, to take up and embrace their crosses in life, and to follow and serve the Lord.

In an exclusive interview of Blue Heights with the directress, Sister Angelica said that SSAM is a school of the Lord’s service for she believes that the Benedictine education draws inspiration and values from the Rule of St. Benedict: the monastic tradition, leadership and openness to the fast changing world.

Blue Heights: Who is a born leader?

Sister Angelica: When God created us, He did so out of love. He brought us into this beautiful world which He created, and showered us with gifts and talents. These countless seeds were meant to grow, take deep roots, bloom and bear fruits, which we can relish.

It means doing errands for others with joy – it means praying, working and cooperating with one another. All these are ways of developing our potentials. They strengthen us, hone our character, and make us secure.

Blue Heights: Making decisions is part of being a leader, whether small or big one. What are the difficulties in decision-making?

Sister Angelica: Difficulties come and go.

Through listening to one another, open communication, dialogue and prayers, the leader with her council and the entire assembly are able to arrive at a consensus.

St. Benedict says: ‘As often as anything important is to be done in the community, the head shall call the members together, explain the agenda at hand, and after hearing the advice of the members, let the leader ponder on the issue, pray over it, weigh the issues, and decide what is best for the group. (RB 3:1-3). Remem- ber, we are mere stewards of God. It is He who will judge right!’

Blue Heights: What are the important values a leader must possess?

Sister Angelica: Humility — being fully aware that “God is God and I am not.” This means, in other words, “That in all things, God may be glorified,” and not me. (RB 57:9).

The other characteristics of servant leadership are: listening, empathy, awareness, compassion and kindness, persuasion, reconciliation, Christian humility joined to strength of character, certain strictness tempered by mildness, silence and prudent speech, a person of prayer.

Blue Heights: How should we deal with diversity in the community?

Sister Angelica: Disagreements are natural in a community. The leader must be aware that he/she will have to adapt to a variety of characters, who have different gifts, tastes and temperaments. St. Benedict gives good pointers on this topic. One will have to attend to individual differences and use argument, appeal and reproach, threatening and coaxing by turns, stern, devoted and tender as only a father can be. With the undisciplined and restless he will use firm argument; with the obstinate and dou-ble and patient, he will appeal for greater virtue. He will use strictness tempered by com- passion and understanding. (RB 2:11, 25-35).

The leader must show by deeds, more than by words, what is good and holy. He will love all his members, and pray for them each night.

Blue Heights: What are your thoughts about SSAM and this year’s theme?

Sister Angelica: This year’s theme is SSAM and its inspiration and values from the Rule of St. Benedict, the monastic tradition, and openness to the fast changing world.

We integrate ourselves into the needs of the Church and the world in the mission of Evangelization. As a socially oriented school we set our DIRECTIONS every year.

For school year 2015 - 2016, we have YEAR of the POOR, DO JUSTICE and LOVE KINDNESS, LOOK to JESUS, SAVE MOTHER EARTH, SHARE with OTHERS and SIMPLIFY LIFESTYLE.

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Blue Heights: What is your view about leadership?

Sister Angelica: A leader is a person who is treated and cared for as sacred vessels of the altar.

“The love of Christ is to come before all else (RB 53:7).” Pray for enemies for the love of Christ is received in the guests (RB 53:15); in the sick (RB 36:1); in the princess and superior (RB 2:2, 63:13). Christ is found and adored in other human beings (RB 53:7). This means that we should deeply respect students, faculty staff, administrators and strangers. This attitude should spread to the local community, ties, and to all material things. All are to be treated and cared for as sacred vessels of the altar.

Blue Heights: How is the young honored to be great leaders in the future?

Sister Angelica: As children, we started looking at little responsibilities: class officers, prefects, members of clubs, organizing events, sharing our talents and material resources especially with our neighboring communities. It was from doing errands for others with joy – it meant praying, working and cooperating with one another. All these are ways of developing our potentials. They strengthen us, hone our character, and make us secure.

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Moderator: Mrs. Nelia Zafra  

Taekwondo  

Zonta Club

Mayor Del De Guzman has always been around ready to reach out to every Marikinon. In fact, he does all things with a generous heart. Just like a father to his children, Del’s leadership style is characterized by his good deeds and words of wisdom. An advocate for pro-people policies and reforms, Del continues to mobilize his programs that gears towards the 7K vision: Karunungan, Kapayapaan at Kaayusan, Kalusugan, Kabuhayan, Katatínan sa Pahayag, Kapaligiran.

Marikina City’s 20th local chief executive firmly believes that every Marikinon deserves a high quality of life, what with the city government’s implementing projects and programs promoting respect for one another to attain peace and order, and hardwork to reap progress.

Del’s first experience as a public servant was when he became a youth leader in the mid-1980s. Under the administration of former President Corazon Aquino, Del was then active participant in the 1987 and 1989 Konsulahan Kabataan National Youth Conference. In 1988, Del formally started his political career when he was elected as a municipal councilor. In 1992, he won as a vice-mayor of Bayani Fernando Del became a congressional representative from 2001-2007, and won the hearts of the Marikinons as he garnered the highest votes in the marcial election.

He likewise spearheaded the enactment of RA 9290, otherwise known as the Footwear, Leathergoods, and Tanneries Industries Development Act, which seeks to revive Marikinon’s shoe industry and authored seven other Republic Acts and authored seven other Republic Acts and authored seven other Republic Acts and authored seven other Republic Acts and authored seven other Republic Acts

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Mayor Del: It is my policy as a leader to always consult the people, especially when it comes to implementing programs. We can always have as many programs we want, but we really don’t know if those programs are really for the people. We have to ask our constituents if it is the right program for them, or we can directly ask them what programs they need.  
Blue Heights: What are your strategies to achieving successful programs and projects?

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Blue Heights: What have you considered your major contributions to Marikina City?

Mayor Del: I have tried to win back the confidence of the people through compassion- ate leadership. As much as possible, we would like to promote discipline, but we can always implement the laws and discipline we want compassionately. It is not necessary that we use our strong iron fist just to make our people follow or be disciplined. We always try to ask them, tell them what to do, talk to them, and be compassionate.

Blue Heights: Tell us why you should be elected again as Marikina City Mayor?

Mayor Del: For the past five years, actu- ally, we have laid down a 10- year program for our city; we call it the 7K program. The first K is Koronangun or Education. The second is Kalusugan or Health. Third is Kapayapaan or Peace and Order. Fourth is Kapaligiran or Environment. Fifth is Kabuhayan or Livelihood. Sixth is Katatínan sa Pahayag or our Program for Housing the homeless. Seventh is Katatínan sa Paglilingkod or Good Governance.

Blue Heights: What is unique about you as a leader?

Mayor Del: I don’t exactly know, but they’re saying that I have a compassionate style of dealing with the people, and I’m really trying to be closer to the people.

Blue Heights: What are the most impor- tant values you demonstrate as a leader?

Mayor Del: As I mentioned earlier, a good leader is a good follower. I follow what I think the people really need so I can never go wrong.

Blue Heights: How do you promote change and innovation through your projects and programs?

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Maria Isabel Cruz
Student Council Organization President

Being the leader of the high school body is no easy task, but for Student Council Organization president Maria Isabel Cruz, all the hardwork pays off when she sees the students in their best behavior and when the students actively participate in school projects sponsored by the Student Council Organization.

Popularly known as ‘Mais’ which is short for Maria Isabel, she has been performing a role of a student leader since 2012. Under the tutelage of SCO moderator Mrs. Anunciacion Gabol, student leaders, including your year level representatives, are expected to carry out their duties and conduct special programs emphasizing on discipline, cleanliness, order, peace and leadership. Her commitment to serve the Scholastics is something the students admire the most about Mais. She sometimes sacrifices her personal time to fulfill her tasks, such as, doing errands related to school activities and monitoring the students’ behavior inside the campus during snack time and lunch break.

Despite the challenges she has to face almost everyday, Mais always wears a smile and maintains to be a go-to model to all students. This school year, Mais shared that majority of students are taking part in a lot of the school’s social involvement programs. With this, they are taught how to be more sensitive to the needs of others.

Mais, who is also an honorary member of Blue Heights, shared with us her aspirations and perspectives about life.

Blue Heights: What are the most important values you demonstrate as a leader?

Isabel: A leader must be humble. No matter how high the position you achieve, you must keep your feet on the ground. Also, one must be patient because not everything goes your way. Not everyone will like you, so you must be patient because not everything goes your way. Not everyone will like you, so you have to maintain your self-confidence. An example is when proposing a project or an event like Kapatiran. I would hear different feedbacks about the said event and sometimes, no matter how hard times I try to convince them that the event will be fruitful, some just won’t show support, so what I do is to keep positive trying to set negative vibes aside. I just do the best I can so the event would turn out really great.

BH: How can a leader fail? When did you feel that you failed as a leader?

Isabel: When my constituents fail, I feel that I’ve let them down, and I keep on blaming myself. One time, I noticed that the students were not behaving properly and it was like nothing was in order and the teachers had been reprimanding them. I felt the time that I failed to fulfill my responsibility to discipline my fellow Kulasas, but that situation helped me to reflect on my lapses and on how to do better next time.

BH: What is your greatest strength as a leader?

Isabel: I’m a people-person. I like approaching people and asking them about their concerns. I make it a point to approach everyone and to make myself available for my fellow Scholastics who need my assistance.

BH: What is your greatest weakness as a leader?

Isabel: Stress. It is really hard to handle all my responsibilities, and trying to balance everything with all the school works and duties. At the end of the day I have to think about the people I can help. And I always keep in mind to enjoy the stress and pour my heart out in everything I do and have fun while doing it. Serving other people is always on my mind and that’s what keeps me going as a student leader.

BH: Are you more effective working in a group or independently?

Isabel: I prefer working in a group. I don’t have everything such as artistic skills, so it’s nice to work with other people whom I can learn from and share my knowledge with. And I don’t have every skill in the whole world. When in a group, I get to know the insights of different people, and from there we could all form a great and wonderful idea! It’s also nice to get different perspectives on a certain topic.

BH: How do you measure success for you as a leader?

Isabel: When the people I serve are happy and if we all succeed together, I feel that I’ve done a great job. One example would be the High School Dance which I believe was enjoyed by everyone.

BH: How do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Isabel: For now, I still don’t know what I want to be when I grow up but I see myself ten years from now having graduated from my dream school and having a stable job afterwards while being of service to others. In this way, I can practice the Benedictine values I have imbibed during my leadership in St. Scho, and share them to my future colleagues.

BH: What can you say about the leaders of today?

Isabel: They are very open-minded. They do not conform easily and they always have new and innovative ideas.

Based on my experience with other student leaders at SSAM, I have seen their eagerness in sharing their thoughts and cooperating with our co-leaders. I guess the future leaders will be able to contribute so much for the improvement of the society.

BH: What is the most difficult thing about being a leader?

Isabel: Having to balance my studies and my responsibilities as a leader is somehow difficult for me, but what matters most to me is truly being of service to other people. So no matter how busy my schedule can get, I try so hard to keep my priorities straight and try to accomplish things one at a time. Also, the most difficult thing about being a leader is the fact that everyone will be looking up to you, having big expectations and there will always be people who will constantly try to pull you down, but all you have to do is believe in yourself, stay firm and do things the right way and never forget to have fun.

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**Sining Tanghalang Pilipino** stages performances to train and teach skills from our community. The fine actors and actresses from our club will teach the students how to express their emotions and deliver their acting convincingly. Our experts will serve as mentors to our students. The Sining Tanghalang Pilipino (STP) also promotes unity in our club by accepting their own ideas. The student members will create their own script, choreograph their own routines, and design their own costumes. This will make sure that we will be able to balance and cooperate with our teammates. The Student Organizational Board enables them to be the best. They make and campaign for the student leader who they believe can serve them well. They will work together and make decisions. The STP is one of the most active clubs in our club, and it values the opinions of every member.

**Young Chefs** is a program that promotes unity in our club by accepting their own ideas. The student members will create their own script, choreograph their own routines, and design their own costumes. This will make sure that we will be able to balance and cooperate with our teammates. The Student Organizational Board enables them to be the best. They make and campaign for the student leader who they believe can serve them well. They will work together and make decisions. The STP is one of the most active clubs in our club, and it values the opinions of every member.

**Grace Poe**

President aspirant Senator Mary Grace Poe Llamanzares was allegedly born in Buenavista, Guimaras on September 3, 1968. Left as a founding member of the Iloilo-based Iloilo City School of the Philippines, she then ended up with film stars Fernando Poe, Jr. and Susan Roces as her legal adoptive parents. Poe studied Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of the Philippines in 1990, where she met and fell in love with general aspirant Joseph Estrada. Following her father’s death on December 14, 2004, Poe and her family permanently returned to the Philippines, the following year. Senator Grace Poe became a Convenor of Kontra Daya, a coalition for the reforms of the Philippine system against the election fraud. In 2010, she was appointed chairwoman of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). While at MTRCB, she promoted “intelligent viewing” in a reformed rating system for television programs. Elected as senator in 2013, she was notified for her legislative initiatives on the First 100 Days Bill, as an act that strengthens the system of Birth Registration of Children in Need of Special Protection in the Philippines. Film tourism Bill, Sustayn sa Batang Pilipino Act.

**Miriam Santiago**

“Acting酚inds out much about a person. It is a way a person expresses emotions and talent. Through acting, people learn more about themselves.” – Miriam Santiago

**Mar Roxas**

“I listen to others’ opinions. “I keep encouraging my kids to express their opinions. They make me see new things in our studies. “ – Patricia Camba

**Rodrigo Duterte**

“You must have been preparing for yet another facade in the field of politics. The excitement wheel is on the office of the Malacanang as to which among the presidential candidates can amass millions of votes and win the hearts of the Filipinos voters in the coming election.” – Rodrigo Duterte
After revealing that she had already defeated the stage four lung cancer in a new conference, she announced her intention to run as president for the third time. Santiago ran as president in 1992 and 1998 but lost to Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada, respectively. Controversy also surfaced after she eventually chose Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. as her running mate. Defending Bongbong, she said that “I would not be a politician if I were not able to handle the stress of being in a family that has a long history of corruption.” In one of her speeches, Santiago said, “I believe God has a plan to solve the problems our country is facing. Mar can be trusted in everything.” – Patricia Roces, 7-5, Agno.

A president should have good qualities that the country can be proud of. If I would be a politician, I’d go for Mar Roxas. Although he comes from a wealthy family, he makes it a point to humble himself and to give service even to the poorest of the poor. Above all, I choose to support his campaign for intensifying PNoy’s ‘Daang Matuwid’.”

The Sodality of Our Lady promotes a door to the Holy Year and every Catholic individual is urged to have a door open at the Cathedral during the Christmas celebration of Christ’s kingship on November 20, 2016. The Pope announced that a Door of Mercy will be opened in every cathedral during the Holy Year and every Catholic individual is to practice mercy just as God the Father is. To fulfill this mission, aletheia.org enumerated the 56 ways to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy. 1. Resist sarcastic or the antithesis of mercy. “Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth; keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!” (Psalm 131:3).

11. If you didn’t mean to be a pain in the neck to someone, admit you were and ask the person to forgive you.

12. Take a tip from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and carry around 45 Starbucks and McDonalds gift cards for the homeless.

13. Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family.

3. Call someone who you know is lonely, even if you understand why they’re lonely. Especially if you do.

4. Write a letter of forgiveness to someone. If you cannot send it, write it down.

5. Learn to say this prayer. “Dear Lord, bless [annoying person’s name] and have mercy on me!”

6. Plan a mini pilgrimage to a local shrine; make an effort along the way to live the corporal works of mercy “welcoming the stranger” as Christ.

Blue Heights

Kulasas show their expressions of love and mercy

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4. Write a letter of forgiveness to someone. If you cannot send it, write it down.

5. Learn to say this prayer. “Dear Lord, bless [annoying person’s name] and have mercy on me!”

6. Plan a mini pilgrimage to a local shrine; make an effort along the way to live the corporal works of mercy “welcoming the stranger” as Christ.
If you're sharing a treat, take the smaller portion.
18. Offer to run an errand (groceries, dry cleaning pick-up, dog walking) for a busy parent or homebound person.
19. If you can't sit down beside a homeless person to talk for a while today, at least send a donation to a ministry that does do this (such as Christ in the City).
20. Make a list of your 'enemies.' Then, every day, say a prayer for them.
21. Memorialize the 14 corporal and spiritual works of mercy and show your children what they mean.
22. Instead of losing patience with someone online (or in person), try to hear that person's fear. Ask God for what Solomon asked for: "an understanding heart!"
23. Offer to drive an elderly person to Mass.
24. Recall a time you were not given the benefit of the doubt, and extend one to someone else.
25. Put down the phone and really listen to someone else. With eye contact.
26. Have alternative drinks, other than water, for times when those who have been struggling with alcohol come to visit.
27. Take advantage of sales to buy small toothpastes, soaps, shampoos, socks and feminine products/indies; donate them to parish outreachs or make gift bags and have them ready to hand out where needed.
28. Create a short end-of-day ritual to ask for (and extend) forgiveness with those you live with. "Do not let the sun set on your anger." (Eph. 4:26).
29. Make a list of your 'enemies.' Then, every day, say a prayer for them.
30. Give away something of yours (that you really like) to someone you know would enjoy it.
31. Give away something of yours (that you really like) to someone you know would enjoy it.
32. Pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet as you are traveling to or from work.
33. When mercy for others is difficult, pray Cardinal Merry del Val's Litany of Humility.
34. Make a gratitude journal for your spouse and jot down little things he or she does that you're grateful for. Bite your tongue and go write in it (or at least read it) the next time you want to criticize in a moment of frustration.
35. Learn to make an Ignatian "Examen" every night. Remembering God's mercy each night helps us be merciful.
36. Respond to provocation with the respect you wish a person would show you.
37. Learn the Jesus Prayer and use it.
38. Take a few minutes during the week to stop at a church and sit before the Tabernacle simply to be with Christ, the Merciful. If you cannot do that, meditate upon the crucifix.
39. Pray a novena for the good of someone you dislike.
40. Dig out your most attractive stationery and handwriting an actual letter to someone as a means of demonstrating his or her importance to you.
41. Can you play the piano, or any instrument? Can you recite poetry? Give free "concerts" to the forgotten people in nursing homes and assisted-living centers.
42. Ask the Holy Spirit to groan for you when you cannot bring yourself to pray for someone who has done you an injury.
43. Lead with a kind comment with every night helps us be merciful.
44. When conversations devolve into "the dark joy" of gossip, help change the subject.
45. Offer to read to someone who is feeling ill or is just feeling blue.
46. Visit the graves of your ancestors, or visit a local cemetery and walk around, praying a rosary for all the souls buried there.
47. Go on retreat. It's a way to be merciful to yourself and the people around you, who know you need to go on retreat. If you cannot do that, at least try to make a day, or evening, of recollection.
48. Admit your jealousy to yourself and your confessor.
49. Offer to pray with someone, even someone you encounter on the street or public transport who looks like they could use it.
50. Keep holy cards, short prayers or blessed medals handy and give them out to people you meet as you are inspired as a blessing to others.
51. Offer hospitality in your home to someone or a group of people you would normally never invite over.
52. With a few other people at your church, plan a party and invite all those from "the highways and byways" to come.
53. If someone you know seems to lack faith, share some of yours — tell him or her how Christ has changed your life.
54. Pay the parking or toll fee for the person behind you.
55. Give the much-maligned Pope Benedict XVI a fair reading sometime. You'll be surprised.
56. Pray every day for the souls in Purgatory. Pray for your dead.
Humans of St. Scho

Showing mercy and compassion

They may not have the power to change the society, but they have the power of words to inspire the world.

"Adapting the hectic schedule, we will make it a point to go to Church as a family every Sunday and holy days," – Ms. Anabelle Leonor, Security Guard

"After my mother died, my dad told me that when we help others, we also help ourselves. Being merciful is not merely saying that you pity someone; being merciful is when you take an action to help others. From now on, I’ll try my best to be more sensitive of others. From now on, I’ll try my best to be more sensitive of others." – Mr. Mar Evan Morales, Araling Panlipunan teacher

"I would translate my thoughts into action. Hindi puero ‘Naanawako attitude’ lang tapos wala naming action. We wholeheartedly spend our resources to make someone else’s life more meaningful." – Mr. Mar Evan Morales, Araling Panlipunan teacher

"I will be more patient and understanding enough to accept other’s weaknesses." – Mrs. Evangeline Orga, head librarian

"I will show mercy by sharing my time, talent and treasure to those in need. I participate in missions, outreach programs, and other charity works. Even in my dental clinic, I give consideration to patients who can’t afford the fees. I live to our Philippine Dental Association’s Hymn: “We serve the rich and the poor. All hardship we endure. Be it night or day we have no complaint, our oaths do we uphold. Our lives are dedicated to heal and alleviate.” – Dra. Cecilia Datu, grade 10 parent level representative

"We recognize Him as a merciful God through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I can be merciful by living out His Gospel and setting good example to my students and colleagues." – Ms. Grema Gandara, Technology and Livelihood Education teacher

"We show our compassion and mercy by listen- ing to people who seek advice and by being generous to those who are in need." – Ms. Cecilia De Leon, English teacher

"When I see beggars on the street, I would give them what I have, may it be food or money. I know that it can make them happy even in the simplest way." – Angie Garcia, 10- St. Teresa

"I’ll teach the less fortunate how to fish." – Aspirant Resa Sanchez

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Grade 10 Action Plan

Community-based projects can touch people’s lives

What started as a simple research has gone beyond classrooms as students put their plans into action.

H as anyone thought of studying the 43 articles of the Philippine periodical, “La Solidaridad” just to figure out the image of China? How about studying the programs and projects of some barangays in Marikina City?

Those were just a couple of interesting research topics of the grade 10 students that compelled them to conduct surveys and interviews, tally the results, analyze facts and figures, and make conclusions and recommendations in their English class. Likewise, the students designed action plans gearing towards community development, which is part of the interdisciplinary activity of the grade 10 students. Taking the lead in the interdisciplinary activity, the Social Studies Area and the English Area conceptualized the action plan before its formal implementation. With the full cooperation of other teachers in various disciplines - math, science, health, PE, music, filipino, CLE, computer and TLE - the action research was made possible as they became research advisers and chaperones during the implementation of the chosen action plan per section.

St. Angela class focused on giving a free symposium about the image of China in the 43 articles of La Solidaridad at the SICC last February 2, 2016. Michael Charleston “Xiao” Chua, a history professor at the University of the Philippines, discussed the relationship of China and the Philippines. Prior to that event, another group of the same section donated some old books and rendered their services for a day at the Marikina Public Library last January 27.

St. Veronica class organized a seminar on Disaster Preparedness in the gymnasium of Barangay Marikina Heights attended by more than 200 grade 3 pupils with their teachers last January 28. The second action plan was the making of a promotional video of the senior high school at St. Francis.

Five sections, together with the assigned teachers, mobilized their action plans simultaneously on January 29. These were St. Irene, St. Catherine, St. Cecilia, St. Teresa and St. Frances. St. Irene class sponsored a training on soap making for 15 mothers. They were also given initial capital to start up their little business. Another group distributed grab bags to the students of Barangay National High School. St. Catherine class sponsored 25 posters informing the sari-sari store vendors and their customers about the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003. These were posted on the walls of their classrooms as students put their plans into action. Please turn to page 40.
New building at SSAM welcomes K12 students

By Ennica Millo

E ven if it will take one more year for the new building to reach its completion, the incoming grade 11 students have expressed optimism that there will be a large number of students, private or public, to try senior high school at SSAM.

The newly constructed senior high school building, which started its groundbreaking in 2013, has enough rooms to facilitate classes for a large number of students, have expressed optimism that there may not be sufficient due to limited funds. The Scholastican and school based organization asks for the continual support of every administrator, and technology-based instructional tools for the completion of the eight-storey building. According to the alumnae and the local government units together with public and private school administrators, and the general government units worked together to provide students with the quality education they need.

St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina, in fulfillment of its mission of promoting Benedictine education as it opens its doors to incoming senior high school students starting June 2014. The school’s major preparation began during the groundbreaking ceremony of the senior high school building in May 2013. The new building, after almost 3 years, is now approaching completion. The soft blessing was held last November 5, and the building is now used for the computer classes of some sections in the high school and art classes of the grade school.

SSAM will be offering the Academic Track and the Arts and Design Track for senior high school. Under the Academic Track are four strands, namely, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Accountancy, Business, and Management (ABM), Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS), and General Academic (GA). Three strands namely, Media Arts, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts will be offered under the Arts and Design track.

The full implementation of the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum has taken place in schools nationwide under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III.

The full implementation of the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum is set to take place in school year 2016-2017. After President Benigno Aquino III signed RA 10533 or the Basic Education Curriculum Act in May 2013, the Department of Education together with public and private schools administrators, and the local government units worked together to provide students with the quality education they need. The full implementation of the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum is set to take place in school year 2016-2017.

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The school has been a second home away from the children’s home. There’s time to pray, work, study, and play.

The school fair highlights the importance of family.

School directress Sister Angelica Leviste, OSB cuts the ribbon to start formally the school fair, “Putok sa Bundok 2016,” which was organized by the Parent Teacher Association. The two-day event features child-friendly rides and exciting games for all ages, dance concerts, musical presentations and Bingo games aimed at helping the school increase its funds for the completion of the senior high school building.

Food stalls are a click among the students during the school fair. Students queue for hours to buy their favorite foods like fried noodles, fries, pasta, and pizza.

Landscape artist Mr. Nicanor Blancada greets the guests with his herbal plants and bottles of pain relieving oil in different scents.

4 pupils set the atmosphere as they presented “Paypay de Manila,” the grade 6 pupils presented a Bicolano inspired dance number called “Pasco de Bicol,” and the kindergarten pupils danced Pampanga’s “Sinulog.” Graceful in their Filipiniana costumes and handkerchiefs were the grade 5 students in their rendition of “Alcamfor de Bacolod,” the grade 3 pupils presented “Balse de Marikina,” and the grade 1 pupils danced the “Sinulog” of Cebu.

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A variety of dances showcasing Filipino culture and traditions put the High School Dance Club on a pedestal once again after a successful annual dance concert last February 5 at the SICC.

Called “Kulasayaw,” the Dance Club opened up with traditional dances like “Binak-anagan,” “Pansal” and “Ragaposahan” depicting the dainty Filipina ladies during the olden times. Clothed in a fashionable Filipina outfit, the dancers showed the gentleness of movement that seemingly tells a story about courtship and beliefs of our ancestors.

Grade 9 student Dada Teruel did a solo performance enough to make the audience glued to their seats. Silence was observed while watching how the dancers offering their talents and successes to the Lord in their rendition of religious songs such as “Ave Maria,” “Shine Down” and “Arms of an Angel.”

Contemporary jazz dances and hip hop performances of the dancers gave more color and added more spice in the concert. Andrés group, Tisha’s Group and Nicole’s group received a tremendous applause from the young audience in what seems to be called a dance showdown. Former Dance Club members from batch 2014 and 2015 were also guest performers. Dance Club moderator/coach Mrs. Ingrid Grozen, Andi Lopez, Gilian Madrid, Kyla Pagdangasan, Dada Tersed, Laila Tolombsan and Agatha Virrey, (Grade 10) Decca Lumanlagas, Rima Sagrit, Jodel Villamale, Nicole Del Rosario, KC Gatchalian, Bonnie Sumandul, Andrea Ozcampo, Tisha Asonayon, Bea Galloso, Angela Gutierrez, Ana Bernardino, Nica Gonzalez, Gab Gutierrez and Camille Javier.

The Dance Club members show their dancing prowess on stage in a concert called “Kulasayaw.”

DelRio was grateful for the all-out support of the Scholastica’s in their annual program. The Dance Club members are composed of (Grade 7) Sofia Polona, Alyanna Jocson, Leana Tabunan, Yani Dayag, (Grade 8) Stefanie Arevalo, Gabrielle Jauring, Shannen Arabit and Chloe Oteyza, (Grade 9) Meizie Apolida, Anna Arauca, Jairmic Cruz, Alex Gatchalian, Alexa Mateo, Rizal.

The Octave band, which comprised of the students at Marist, bested among the ten contenders. Blue Heights photographer and layout artist Naia Soriano won second place and GAE group of St. Scholastica Academy notched third place.

What may be described as the Battle of the Bands, Guitar’s Club special event called Band Collision gathered around music enthusiasts for a friendly competition. Hernandez, who became one of the judges, inspired every- one with his words of wisdom for the young talents and enjoyed some jamming session with the contestents.

Guitar Club moderator Mr. Dindo Zafra, together with Mr. Elbert Moting, helped in determining the top three winners at Band Collision.

The city government led by Mayor Del De Guzman visited SSAM to show support to the administrators for putting up a two-day school fair. It was also the opportunity for the mayor to visit the new building that houses several classrooms and laboratories for the incoming grade 11 students.

High school principal Sister Ida Morin, OSB, together with other Benedictine Sisters, ushered them to the newly constructed senior high school building. The school is now ready to welcome incoming grade 11 students for the next school year; however, there are some equipment and other instructional materials to be purchased.

On the other hand, the PTA organized Bingo Socials to help support the school in the completion of the senior high school building particularly the gym and the auditorium. All students at SSAM were invited to join the Bingo Socials at the SICC. A set of Bingo cards worth P250 could get you a greater chance to win P75,000 in cash.

The Octave band, which comprised of the students at Marist, bested among the ten contenders. Blue Heights photographer and layout artist Naia Soriano won second place and GAE group of St. Scholastica Academy notched third place.

The 15-year-old Soria revealed during her radio broadcast on Del Radio that she didn’t expect to win because she felt dissatisfied with her performance. On the other hand, Hernandez saw the creativity and passion of Soria as she was playing her two original compositions titled “Lungs” and “Playing with Knives.”
It's that time of year when sisters and brothers from other Benedictine schools gather in one place not to pit wisdom in academics but to pit skills in various sporting disciplines.

This year, the ABS or the Association of Benedictine Schools Sportsfest was held in Marikina and SSAM played a humble host to seven other schools.

More than 120 student athletes gathered for this year's inter-color competition.

The two-day event opened on February 19 featuring basketball, volleyball, badminton and swimming.

The ABS Sportsfest aims to promote unity and solidarity among the participating schools, namely, Holy Family Angeles, Saint Peter's College Ormoc, St. Scholastica's College Manila, St. Scholastica's Academy San Fernando, St. Agnes Academy Legazpi, St. Scholastica's College Westgrove, and Host St. Scholastica's Academy Marikina.

On the early morning of the first day of the sportfest, the opening ceremony kicked off with Princess Guiser, a former kulasa and iskolar ng bayan, as the event's keynote speaker.

Bagging the titles Best Digger, Best Setter, and Most Valuable Player in the 40th and 41st Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) back in her high school days, Guiser shared her experiences as a student athlete to become a source of inspiration to the participating athletes.

According to Guiser, there was a point in her life that made her want to give up, but she remained persistent in pursuing her sport, volleyball.

SSAM high school principal Sister Ida Morin, OSB, together with the teachers of the different Benedictine schools, released the doves before the formal opening of the games.

The doves were symbols of peace that evokes the climate of harmony in which the games should take place.

This year's theme is "Solidarity through Sports." ABS Executive Director Sister Rosario Obiniana, OSB explained that sports help enrich the values of the youth.

"Watch your thoughts, they become words. Watch your words they become actions. Watch your actions they become habits. Watch your character they become destiny," Sr. Rosario said.

SSAM Directress Sr. Angelica Leviste, OSB said, "It is for the values of friendship and bonding. We attain peace and solidarity through sports.

Suffice to say, the games were a huge success and students and the administration alike are looking forward to more fun and enriching activities next year.

One solid family

The Drum and Lyre Club welcomes the guests during the parade.

Players from different schools take some warm-up exercises for the real game.

Selected students and faculty members of St. Scholastica's Academy Marikina greet the group of (third from left) Sister Jessica Arante, OSB of St. Peter's College, Ormoc.

Referees the competition, all student players have a short and lively presentation during the teambuilding.

The Yellow Team shines anew with its energetic performance during the 30-minute teambuilding.

The Blue Team shows cooperation as they try their best to have a synchronized body movement.

The passion of Red Team is evident at the start of the teambuilding. An example of solidarity.

Follow the leader. The Blue Team shows cooperation as they try their best to have a synchronized body movement.

The color that defines integrity of creation, the Green Team gives the spectators a friendly atmosphere with their cute gestures and cheery personality.

Jan Cuyco
Rosary Month celebration underlines Year of the Poor

By Mia Quisumbing and Ninna Yumul

The Rosary Month celebration at SSAM is brimmed with prayers and reflection. Students offer their God-given talents to the Blessed Virgin through a meaningful presentation onstage. (Left) Music teachers Mrs. Janice Derilo and Ms. Gloria Diuco with their students perform as an expression of love for God and Mother Mary.

Grade 9 students bring up social issues in a musical play

By Trishia Sarmiento

Social issues in the country enlightened the minds of the young students. The grade 9 students staged a musical play last December 17 at the SICC. Written by Frank G. Rivera, “Oyayi,” the musical play revolved around problems and struggles of the society. It was given a flavor and twist when the grade 9 students presented their original songs and production numbers.

The 200 sawrealas focused on the simple life of a typical Filipino family. The Batungbakals went through difficult situations that tested each member’s courage and faith.

The PTSI project of Zonta Club in Pintong Bukawe last November 29 was acknowledged by Zonta International District 17 as it earned third place in the Z-Club Outstanding Service Award for promoting women empowerment and gender equality. Z-Club moderator Ms. Beverly Grace Abeglos stated that the aim of the project is to reach out to the student leaders in Pintong Bukawe and share to them their knowledge about hygiene, posture and etiquette so that they may become better and effective leaders in their community.

PTSI promotes green nature

By Clare Pillos

Green nature. That is the campaign of the grade 9 students and their families during the Parent Teacher Students Interaction last September 12 as a response to the school theme, “Save Mother Earth, Share with Others, Simplify Lifestyle.”

The students were embraced with love from their children during the prayer led by the selected students of St. Rita. They recited the “Nutri-Jingle” performance.

Unity highlights ASEAN Festival

By Inajera Cabang, Jacqueline Lopez and Sohna Montes

Globalization has propelled every individual to practice flexibility in all situations. Different cultures have also motivated the people to consider unity as the key to achieving prosperity.

In this year’s ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Festival organized and sponsored by the grade 9 students and teachers, unity was emphasized in their interdisciplinary activity which culminated last October 7 at the SICC.

The ASEAN Festival was marked by colorful costumes representing the member countries, namely, Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

SSAM Zonta Club receives Outstanding Service Award

Zonta Club of Marikina and is under Area 1 of District 17 along with Manila, Mandaluyong, Antipolo, Rizal, Bulacan and Pampanga. District 17 is composed of the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

According to SSAM Z-Club president Aila Reyes, “Being recognized by the Zonta International because of our programs is truly heartwarming. I hope that we would be able to continue with these projects to give inspiration to students who wish to help the less fortunate.”

Ms. Abeglos shared that their club also conducts leadership trainings. “The Z-Club continues to express their advocacy of empowering the youth to become leaders in their community,” she stated.

The club continues to aid the students in Pintong Bukawe National High School in their activities.

Zonta International, which was founded in 1919, is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

The grade 8 students show their creativity and style during the Sabayang Pagbigkas.

The grade 8 students, who were dressed in colorful costumes made from recyclable materials, shared historical facts about the country they represented for the students to acquire more learning and excite them to gain interest in social issues.

Moreover, the participants in the ASEAN Festival demonstrated their verbal communication skill through the Sabayang Pagbigkas dealing with the socially relevant issues.

PTSI promotes green nature

Dressed in green, the participants enjoyed the rest of the day chitchatting with co-parents, sharing laughter with the Kulasas, and enjoying sumptuous food and cool drinks.

The PTSI became an avenue for the students to be more open to their parents. “Even though there were technical difficulties, we were able to resolve them quickly. It felt good to see most parents getting along with their own daughters. I’ve learned how interactions like these can help strengthen my relationship with my parents,” Hannah Rana of 8-St. Rita said.

Please turn to page 25
Confidence and teaching skills at Students’ Week showcased

By Mia Quisumbing

The student-teachers in their smart casual wear have been preparing themselves for the challenges of teaching the way their real teachers do.

Standing for an hour with their high-heeled shoes, the student-teachers had to endure leg cramps or muscle pain and try their best to come up with effective teaching strategies for the students to enjoy the class and learn the lessons well.

During their preparation, they were given a brief orientation before they formally start their classes. Lesson plans and schedule of activities were given by their subject teachers before the challenge starts.

For the three-day Students’ Week, Ms. Isabel Cruz played the role of high school principal Sister Ida Morin. She had middle coordinators, namely, Meylyn Lunzoo as the academic coordinator, Alexandra Gropio as student activities coordinator, and Mitch Fernandez as the student formation coordinator.

Student Math Coordinator Mariel Gapat revealed that her teaching experience was a test of time management.

“At first, I thought it was going to be an easy week. I planned to go to my classes, teach, give a quiz, and relax afterwards, not everything goes as planned,” Gapat shared.

The Students’ Week is a special event offered to the Scholasian students who want to take up the role of their subject teachers for three consecutive days. Student-applicants have to meet certain requirements to qualify as teachers. Student Formation Coordinator Ms. Annunciation Gabue would invite interested students to submit a letter of application. A student is qualified to become a teacher if she does not have any failing mark and has no grade below 80 in any of the subjects, and has a conduct grade of at least B+ in the first semester of the current school year.

Chosen student-applicants were given a brief orientation before they formally start their classes.

Blue Heights receives medals in writing contest

By Jan Cuyco

Blue Heights writers bagged 10 medals in the 17th Division Press Conference and Contests last October 9 in the awarding ceremony at the gymnasium in Pasarang Elementary School.

They also got a trophy for winning third place overall in the English category. Moderator Mrs. Menere Nasiad and Mrs. Laniflor Adigue, together with the winners, took home the awards in the said writing competition.

Of the ten Blue Heights writers who were awarded certificates of recognition and medals, seven were in the English category, namely, Clare Pillos (third place) and Jan Cuyco (second place) in newswriting, Trisha Sarmiento (fourth place) in feature writing, Ella Baduria (fourth place) in sports writing, Eunice Mita (fifth place) in editorial writing, Sofia Montes (fifth place) in copyreading and headlining, and Isabelle Mullillin (fourth place) in science and technology.

The winners in the Filipino category were: Lyka Valmores (fourth place) in Paglipat na Balita, Mia Quisumbing (first place) in Pagsulat ng Edukasyon (fifth place) in copyreading and headlining, and Isabelle Mullillin (fourth place) in science and technology.

Del Radio, Radyo ng Marikina, formerly known as dzBF, was created on May 13, 1994 through City Council Resolution No. 192. Del Radio is daily from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and accommodates free public announcements with the use of especially designed speakers. Since Del Radio is a low-power AM station, listeners must have an old transistor or a radio with a 1700 kHz AM-band to be able to gain access to its live programs.

“Chit-Chat with Kulasas,” which airs every Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon, can also be viewed through Ustream, a company that provides video streaming services to more than 80 million viewers and broadcasters. The new radio programs talk about youth-oriented and informative topics. Some of the entertaining segments are “Vocal Butch” to enrich the vocabulary skill of the listeners, “Kulasas, I-kwento Mo!” to entice the young readers to share their stories as they seek advice from their equally young radio anchors, and “SportElia” by Ella Baduria. She will feed the listeners various sports activities from school to your community both local and international.

When asked about how the Kulasas started their so-called “career” in radio broadcasting, Blue Heights editor-in-chief Mia Quisumbing said that the opportunity came as a surprise.

“We were just waiting for Mayor Del De Guzman for an exclusive interview with him for Blue Heights in his office. We met Sir Paul Sison of the Public Information Office and had a small talk about writing for school publication. He asked us if we’re interested in radio broadcasting. We gave it a try and now we’re enjoying it,” Mia said.

Blue Heights moderator Mrs. Menere Nasiad expressed her gratitude to Marikina Public Relations Head Paul Sison who motivated now radio anchors Eunice, Jan, Naia and Mia a great opportunity to learn and grow in the field of media.

Kulasas reach out for the needy families

Students, teachers and non-academic staff work hand in hand in packing the goods to give to the adopted communities of SSAM. Every year, thousands of students prepare canned goods, noodles, sachets of milk, chocolate and coffee, rice, and viand to donate to the less fortunate families. This is their simple way of reaching out to the poor communities in Marikina City. High school principal Sister Ida Morin, OSB has continuously been making efforts to reach out the poorest communities in Marikina City and San Mateo Rizal by giving them not only donations in kind but also livelihood trainings and community-related seminars to improve their living conditions.

Students, teachers and non-academic staff work hand in hand in the packing of goods to give to the adopted communities of SSAM.
The value of sharing emphasized

By Eunice Millo
Photography by Sarah Nicole Josef

The Catholic celebration of the Year of the Poor has been the framework of all activities since the beginning of the school year. Hence, this year’s English Month was celebrated to be one with the poor while empowering students to use English as a communication tool.

Anchoring on the theme, “Spreading God’s Love, Simplifying Lifestyle, and Sharing Talents through English Communication,” the English Area headed by Mrs. Grace Abdon together with the parents, Mrs. Myra Tingson, Ms. Janina Iglesias, Ms. Cecile De Leon, Ms. Charity Ramos, and Mrs. Menere Nasuid and English coordinator Mrs. Grace Abdon took the liberty to ask some pupils regarding the books they wanted to read, to observe how the pupils read and understand stories, and to have a personal sharing with the administrators and teachers in the recipient school.

Mrs. Abdon expressed her enthusiasm for the kids when she formally turned over the books to KMES principal Mrs. Edna Constantino. The principal was thankful that finally the children have a personal sharing with the administrators and teachers in the recipient school.

For the English teachers of St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina to start the reading session, Grade 8 teacher Ms. Cecilia De Leon, Grade 10 teacher Ms. Charity Ramos and Mrs. Menere Nasuid and English coordinator Mrs. Grace Abdon prepared fun-filled learning activities for all students from grade 7 to 10.

The activities prepared by the English Area gave the students the opportunity to share their knowledge and talents through speaking, acting, playing, and reading.

The grade 7 students organized “Read-Along” activity with volunteer parents and guardians. Each class had invited parents and guardians as resource speakers as they discussed and integrated values in one or two chapters of their assigned novel. The students were given a chance to interact with the parents who have their own strategies of teaching and incorporating values based from the novel. A storytelling telling session was also part of the grade 7 activities for the English month. It was held during the English period per class from November 23 to 26.

The grade eight students harnessed their skills in performing through the Readers’ Theater. Using a variety of tones, voicing, and expressions, they were able to give life to a story.

Brain power games such as puzzles, word search, boggle, and the like were the primary activities of the grade 9 students. They had fun while enhancing their vocabulary and communication skills.

The grade 10 students surprised the audience with their speech choir entitled “Reverse Creation” with the inclusion of selected scenes in the nine circles of hell based on the novel of Dante Alighieri, “Dante’s Inferno.” The presentation was held last November 27 at the NICC. Arte Etra under the moderationship of Ms. Cecilia De Leon emceed “Suton” which means approaching death.

The story revolved around a group of friends namely, Rue (Tiffany Mendoza), Wolf (Mikaella Coruña), Felix (Patricia Santos), Eli (Daniella Dayag), Amelia (Denisse San Jose), Dakita (Naomi Wells), Magpi (Kerlyn Brousdale), Collin (Janina Bustista), Tony (Close Cruz), Cassady (Close Sison), and Mari (Kikaella Miller) who were looking for answers about the sudden death of their friend, Ali (Danielle Andrea). It was later revealed that Rue, who happened to have a crush on Ali accidentally killed him. The play was directed by Naomi Wells and Mikaella Coruña.

Arte Etra president Mikaelia Miller shared her experience during the play. “I was really thankful that the play was a success. I hope that every Scholastican will be able to pick up life lessons in our presentation. We wanted to emphasize how the young generation gets swayed by peer pressure,” Miller said.

Games that can enrich the memory and increase vocabulary such as scrabble, word factory, cross-word puzzles, and the like are a hit among Scholasticans.

Kapitan Moy Elementary School receives hundreds of children’s books in English

Happy faces and excited feet were seen among the grade 3 pupils of Kapitan Moy Elementary school while waiting for boxes upon boxes of books to be delivered to their small rooms. They could not hide their emotions as their teachers gave them instructions before the program started. The Book Drive sponsored by the English Area was held last January 15, 2019, as part of the Social Involvement Program of the high school department.

Hundreds of pupils sat on the floor near the library of the two-story building while waiting for the English teachers of St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina to start the reading session. Grade 7 teachers Mrs. Myra Tingson and Ms. Janina Iglesias, grade 8 teacher Ms. Cecile De Leon, grade 9 teacher Ms. Charity Ramos, and Mrs. Menere Nasuid and English coordinator Mrs. Grace Abdon took the liberty to ask some pupils regarding the books they wanted to read, to observe how the pupils read and understand stories, and to have a personal sharing with the administrators and teachers in the recipient school.

Mrs. Abdon expressed her enthusiasm for the kids when she formally turned over the books to KMES principal Mrs. Edna Constantino. “We are very happy that you chose our school for this outreach program. I am very touched by your generosity,” Mrs. Constantino said.

The Parent Teacher Association - grade 7 representatives, together with some grade 7 students, donated school supplies such as pencils, notebooks and crayons for the pupils. Likewise, they gave some snacks to the more than 250 pupils.

Grade 7 representatives Mrs. Jane Trimox, Mrs. Lour Lopez, Mrs. Roselle Josef, Mrs. Daidin Cidro and Mrs. Lanie Atanacio showed compassion to the school children in the public school while watching how they endured the heat and congestion inside the classroom. As observed, the children had no space to move around the classroom. In fact, they all crammed inside a tiny classroom and kept themselves cool by a small electric fan hanging on the wall while listening to the discussion of their teacher. The children’s books came from the high school students of SSAM.

A young boy grabs a book and checks out the visuals first before reading the story. This usually happens to the majority of pupils before the formal reading lesson starts.

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 29

FROM PAGE 28

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Learning through discovery for the school's librarians has given them the opportunity to see their strengths and weaknesses as students. It is one of the primary reasons why schools all over the country has been streamlining lessons and activities to acquire needed skills and expand their knowledge.

During the celebration of the 81st National Book Week, high school librarians set up worthwhile activities that merely focused on the theme, "The Filipino Reader in the Era of ASEAN Integration" on November 11, 2016.

The weeklong book celebration addressed the students’ reading comprehension skill as they prepare themselves in the era of ASEAN integration. The Book Exhibit, for one, provides new reading materials discussing the ASEAN member countries, namely, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Grade 10 student Kevyn Brondial said that the National Book Week gave her more opportunities to learn how countries work together to attain world peace and unity.

Grade 9 student Jywel Nacu said, "I've had fun seeing a lot of fellow students in the library during recess and lunch time excited to read new books displayed in the library." Mrs. Evangelina Orga, head librarian, made sure that the students have something to look forward to during the National Book Week. Students watched movies in the library as a form of relaxation.

“I enjoyed watching movies and playing some games,” Emery Barcelon, a grade 9 student said.

High school teachers and students also took part in a project called "MiGaanine Ulay-Ulay," wherein a wide collection of old read materials were on sale. Proceeds were used for the school’s Social Involvement Program activities.

An intense competition will therefore raise the bar for innovation, quality and productivity, which will enable businesses to compete head on with other players.

On the other hand, librarians Mrs. Cynthia Valenton, Ms. Mary Ann Sarrengo and Mrs. Evangelina Orga facilitated the "Pick-A-Prize" activity that provides an equal opportunity for all students and teachers to get some cool giveaways wrapped with joy to be shared with the children.

Student activities coordinator Mrs. Josephone Atlas arranged all the details for the said event. She said that the highlight of the Club Christmas Sharing was to provide happiness in several creative ways.

The children went home with Christmas giveaways wrapped with joy to be shared with other, and good stories they could tell their families.

Class Christmas Party

Students from the grade school and high school departments, together with their teachers, came to school as early as 5:00 in the morning to attend the mass at the jampacked SSCC. For the Kulasa, the dawn mass set on the last day of their class marked a special get together with their classmates before the two-week Christmas vacation started.

High school principal Sister Ida Morin, OSB invited everyone to extend their help to the victims of typhoon ‘Nona.’ The students themselves offered prayers, cash and goods showing their compassion and mercy to the less fortunate ones.

Inside the classroom, the students were seen preparing their food to share, exchanging items with friends, surprising their dear teachers with sweet notes and gifts, showcasing their talents in their colorful presentations, having their fun while performing some games, and taking photos to complete the three-hour Christmas party.

HS faculty shares love with poor families

The high school teachers invited 27 poor children from Pintong Bukawe, San Mateo Rizal to go down the city and mingle with them last December 8, 2015 at the Sister Joaquina Dining Hall in St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina. The event was hosted by English teacher Ms. Janina Iglesias and Science teacher Mr. Albert Mutuc.

Faculty president Mrs. Rhodora Benito and Social Involvement Program vice president Mrs. Myra Tingson organized the event dubbed as "Pamaskong Handog ng mga Guro" anchor on compassion and mercy. This year, the said department hopes to give more to the needy communities. The high school teachers prepared a bucket of goodies enough for each family to share with each other, some raffle prizes and games for married couples and children to enjoy.

The high school faculty pool in their resources to give something for the 27 poor families.
A total of 34 employees were recognized for their loyalty, dedication to work, perseverance and commitment to service in the annual Service Awards held last February 8 at the Sister Immaculata Hall.

Head librarian Mrs. Evangelina Orga, who obtained the longest years in service among the awardees, took the opportunity in her speech to thank the people who had been with her through thick and thin, and through the ups and downs of her 35 years of working for SSAM.

“It has been an amazing experience to be of service to the Benedictine community. It is the trust of the Sisters that inspires us to continue our commitment to service. I do acknowledge the people who have moved and touched my life throughout my years at SSAM,” Mrs. Orga stated.

The Service Awardees for school year 2015-2016 are the following: (5 years) Mrs. Veron Angeli T. Gabor; (10 years) Ms. Jasmin S. Emborgo, Mr. Mario L. Tesoro; (15 years) Ms. Beverly Grace A. Abergos, Ms. Jasmin S. Emborgo, Mr. Mario L. Tesoro; (20 years) Ms. Marybel P. Plante, Mrs. Myra R. Tingson and Mr. Ricky T. Acebuches; (25 years) Mrs. Ma. Grace T. Colacio, Mrs. Luminada V. Cruz, Mrs. Rosie M. Cruz, Mrs. Rosario C. Gamboa, Ms. Elisa N. Garcia, Ms. Marissa T. Mangubat, Ms. Diana M. Shib, Ms. Josefina M. Pascual, Mrs. Carolyn C. Soriano and Ms. Carmen G. Soriano; (30 years) Mrs. Susan B. Rodriguez and Ms. Amanacion T. Gabon; (35 years) Mrs. Evangelina C. Soriano and Ms. Carmen G. Soriano; (40 years) Mrs. Anita C. Ramos, Mr. Joselito Pascual, Mrs. Rosa C. Soriano and Ms. Carmen G. Soriano.

They are a cool friend. There is no dull moment when with Anita. She can make you laugh in her simple and funny gestures and expressions. A sweet mother and a responsible wife. She will defly all odds for her family's sake. A creative teacher. Her lesson plan is not only laden with Benedictine values, but also activities that stir the imagination and motivate her students' interest.

A woman with high aspiration in life is Triza Mannag. She is a simple, genuine, warm-hearted and high-spirited individual. Though often mistaken as a high school student, she is strong-willed, persevering and willing to extend her assistance, time, talents, and knowledge with family, friends and colleagues. She loves to cook and bake. She can juggle her activities well. It is a surprise how she is able to manage her tasks calmly. She exudes with confidence and has the character of a true Scholastican.

One of the baby-faced teachers in the high school department, Beverly has been a teacher for more than ten years. Don't be deceived by her looks because she can be tough when the situation calls for it. She is smart, tech-savvy, helpful and compassionate. She may be single, but her students regard her as a surrogate mother and an elder sister for they can approach and talk to her all the time. Being an alumna of SSAM, she continues to inculcate the Ten Hallmarks of Benedictine education to her students.
TLE Week fosters business acumen of HS students
By Enniece Milia

The Technology and Livelihood Education area launched its string of activities that fosters the students’ quickness of mind and understanding in dealing with the operations of the business in the weeklong TLE celebration last December 7.

Anchoring on the theme, “Sa Bagong TLE, K-12, Tiyak ang Asero, Tiyak ang Pag-Unlad,” the TLE Area aimed at providing opportunities for the students to widen their knowledge about Beauty Care, Handicraft, Dressmaking, Commercial Cooking, and Information and Communications Technology in various activities.

In line with the implementation of the new K-12 curriculum, the grade 10 students were given a chance to actualize their business plans through an entrepreneur activity. Each section came up with their unique selling strategies to make the business profitable, and to increase funds for the TLE Area’s Social Involvement Program. One example is the Young Chef’s Club wherein the members sold their products during recess, lunch break, and club time at a very reasonable price.

A skills training seminar about nail care was offered to the Pintong Bukawe social workers. Selected TLE teachers shared their knowledge about nail art with their recipients at the Home Economics Room.

The TLE Week 2016 was concluded with a Talk on Entrepreneurship last December 20.

Invited speakers were experts in cookery, robotics, beauty care, handicraft, and dressmaking.

TLE teachers Ms. Jemelyn Aruaga, Ms. Gene Aldana, Ms. Bianca Fineza, and Ms. Zarina Duluz were able to fulfill the students’ goal of sharing time, talents, and treasures.

Outstanding projects and used clothes were donated to the poor people of Pintong Bukawe. A garage sale was put up to raise funds for the project, “Pamakong Handog.”

Mrs. Emma Sison talks about the basics of Blended Learning.

By Bing Nasadi

Teaching the 21st century learners seems to be a big challenge for the teachers these days. The arrival of new devices in the world market and the use of technology to achieve innovation must have compelled the teachers to be creative, flexible and dynamic. With the changes that took place in the knowledge and skill of the teachers, the high school administrators organized a seminar on Blended Learning last February 13 at the audio-visual room.

Resource speaker Mrs. Emna Sison from the De La Salle University shared her insights and ideas about Blended Learning. She talked about how the teachers can meet the expectations of the young generation of today.

With the knowledge that the teachers must have a broad knowledge about computers so they can easily explore new features. She also encouraged them to write a module or program the students need to reinforce their learning.

Blended learning is a combination of traditional instruction and digital platform to improve the teaching strategy of the students.

Through online learning management system like Genyo, which was introduced to St. Scholastica Academy Marikina, the students can gain access to a wide range of features that enhances skills and competencies.

Mrs. Sison said that the teachers must be able to confidently carry herself and make her stand re-tentive in their classes.

A test of character
By Mia Quimling

As with their prowess ownership, the candidates from different countries walked on the ramps of Miss Universe 2015 on that fateful day of December 20. The event was the attention of the world after Steve Harvey, the host, mistakenly announced Miss Columbia Ariadna Gutierrez as the winner, instead of Miss Philippines Pia Wurtzbach but there is another angle of the pageant that the Filipinos should look into.

One of the most awaited and intriguing segments of a beauty pageant is the “Question and Answer” portion. In the recent Miss Universe competition, Wurtzbach was the first to take on the challenge.

“Earlier this year, there was a controversy in the Philippines about the United States reapplying a military base in your country. Do you think the United States should have a military presence in your country?” asked Harvey.

This was how Wurtzbach responded: “I think that the United States and the Philippines have a good relationship with each other. We’ve been colonized by the Americans and we have our culture up to this day. Philippines is very welcoming with the Americans and I don’t see any problem with that at all.”

Simultaneous with the greetings that Pia received from her elated supporters, she also got some complaints and criticisms.

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Gabriela party-list remarked that she should discern the history of the Philippines and US.

“Where we find hate and darkness, may we bring love and hope, in order to give a more human face to society.” Behind the challenges brought by society lies love and hope which urges us to move forward in this journey.

A test of character
A woman should be able to confidently carry herself and make her stand regarding issues.

By Mia Quimling

Associate Editor

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“Where we find hate and darkness, may we bring love and hope, in order to give a more human face to society.” Behind the challenges brought by society lies love and hope which urges us to move forward in this journey.
Dear Chrism, 
Thank you for sending us your letter. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has been one of the most controversial politicians even before he officially submitted his certificate of candidacy. For one, his aggressive attitude has caught the attention of Filipinos due to his comments regarding the killing of drug addicts. This poses a good and a bad implication; therefore, our options to make better decisions.

I disagree also with the way Duterte was commented about the midterm elections. It was a far different decision from each other. Duterte was commented with his killing, but he seems not to be guilty about it. This kind of behavior Duterte shows would make the people think that it is okay towarehouse the leader whom they respect because he is doing it, why can't the citizens do the same thing? On the other hand, I'd like to call all of us to realize that RAM is NOT a womanizer. A 2005 Philippines Daily Inquirer article by a Knights of Rizal member reveals that Rizal had 11 love interests, but not one of these women were his lovers. In fact, Rizal discouraged his woman from using any of his principles in the time that was the propaganda Movement. It was a way for freedom for the Filipinos.

When it comes to the point of comparison between Duterte killing criminals, and women aborting babies, I beg to disagree with your statement about a woman's freedom of choice. We are in a so-called democracy by Catholics, who are not in favor of killings. In the part of our politicians, they are the leaders who have the power to make any decision, but abortions are not the way to solve the problem. Poverty should not be an excuse to take away the life of a helpless child from the services to have. There are lots of situations that

Your truly,
Christvin Juvlien Galang
10 St. Catherine

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Several weeks ago, I read a Facebook post regarding DelaRosa vs Rodrigo Duterte, which is currently one of the leading presidential bets for the 2016 elections. The post stated that DelaRosa was from the Philippines being hypocrites. This caught my attention as the number of likes and shares garnered buzzed up. Let me share with you some points in the post, and my opinions about it.

“You despise Duterte for womanizing, yet you dislike Rizal as a national hero.” One should not focus on the fact that both men were involved in multiple relationships with different women. If we were to compare Duterte and Rizal, we should look into their characters, such as how they were able to contribute to the well-being of the country. Rizal fought for the country with the use of pen, paper, and his experiences, not with the use of his words and rebellious attitude, just as Duterte does.

On the other hand, it is important to discriminate the real facts by killing minors, yet you don’t say anything about Rizal and women babies who were abandoned for unwarranted reasons. As a woman, I believe that we should respect even real persons in the personal decisions we make. I believe that it is just right for a woman to do what she thinks is best for her. Abortion is done usually because of poverty. The mother of a child knows if she can sustain the needs of her child or the mother she just doesn’t want to or can’t sustain child which she is urged to do away with the baby. On the other hand, the killing Duterte does is unquestionable. The fact that the death penalty is not practiced in our country shows that the country is one of the leaders of the world in terms of human rights. “You’d rather have leaders who don’t curse but build mansions using your taxes”. The problem is that the leaders of each country. What would other countries think of the Philippines with the way Duterte behaves even in public? What matters more to me is the way the politician leads—if he respects the dignity of the people in his every word or action. I noticed that most people nowadays just accept the information without thinking about it.
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chapter of its history – the American conquest 
Fernando Cuervo and the other cabinet members. For him, 
then immersed himself to a life in pursuit of happiness and 
the nation can stand on its own and prosper without foreign control propels Luns to assert 
his principles. Being both a commander of 
the revolutionary army, he is doubtful of the 
A ‘do-or-die’ decision must be made. The 
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Rotten to the Core
By Mr. Evan Morales

This explosive scene in Jerrold Tarog’s “The General Luna” contrasts us with a shameful reality. It has been more than a century since the Filipinos first took arms against the colonizing Americans but the Philippines remains a divided nation.

Politicians of all shapes and sizes impud-
antly act as parasites, feeding off the persever-
laboring who struggle to make ends meet. 
Today’s public officials, however, argue on a 
different platform, bringing on the table their 
own personal agenda. What’s worse is that their 
constituents passionately applaud their impre-
ciable silver tongues and empty promises.

These blind followers confuse a leader’s 
linguistic intelligence with servant leadership. A number of government officials who vow to serve the Filipinos indige in all forms of corruption. If there is one common element among these ‘political wolves’, it is the 
hidden motive to grab a slice of wealth from a bigger pie that the ordinary hardworking Filipinos 
baked themselves.

The movie’s opening scene where a group of prominent Filipinos calling for the 
decision conflict because of their opposing visions 
towards the Americans presents a glaring and striking force of contrasting ideologies.

Pedro Paterno asserts that the Filipinos must collaborate with the Americans. He 
strongly believes that the Filipinos and the Westerners will only exacerbate the worsening 
condition of the nation. Therefore, Filipinos must not fight the Americans. Some of the Cab-
net members, affirming Paterno’s principles, attempt to persuade the assembly by reiterating that 
Filipinos will be assured by the American regime the independence promised to them.

Rotten to the Core
From page 38

W hat are you willing to sacrifice to remain young forever? How will you 
be spending your life, by then?

These are the questions tackled upon in Oscar Wilde’s first novel, “The 
Picture of Dorian Gray”. A well-
loved classic, the story was written around the Victorian era where the life of wealth and 
pleasure was embraced by 
Art and philosophy enthusiasts, even fans of good romance stories who 
like to come to love this novel and its 
impactful language. It is the 
broadly-normal conditions that often 
mostly-must-take-life’s-awareness.

by Kly Macaraeg

Book Review: The Picture of Dorian Gray

The campaign season is on. In a few months’ time, the Philippines is to 
elect its new set of leaders who can either make or break the country. At this time, a lot of blogs, fora, write ups, debates 
and the like come up hoping to shed a light to the mind of the voters. This situation has 
plagued by a lot of controversies, but for 
some, they may even consider these every-
day events as dramas of this season. Some of us 
may have established a love-hate relationship 
with the characters of this election, a.k.a. the 
politicians.

Since Day One of the Filing of Candidacy, there have been a lot of issues. Can we 
expect the campaign date to be scheduled 
cast doubts. Does 
Dorian Gray’s spirit dwell within us? Should we idolize an 
ill-tempered man with noble intentions?

As Connie Willie argues, “That’s what literature is. It’s the people who went before us, 
who struggle to make ends in the past, from beyond the grave, trying to tell us about life and 
Death! Listen to them!”

The hard-hitting and poignant dialogues between and among the characters strengthen 
the objective of the film: to 

The film makes me realize that our nation 
has not really liberated from its oppressors. We 
continue to suffer from oppression brought about by corrupt public officials, 
the inferiority complex of the Filipinos themselves. The film makes me realize that our nation’s 
process. But if we start now, then we can be assured that we can guide the next generation. 
Do not do your tasks perfunctorily. Work with 
us in hand in solving issues that are seen by the 
prying eyes of the younger ones.

To the next set of leaders, I hope my vote will not be the first. I do not run for 
myself when I vote, rather I think of my students’ 
future. I hope for a better society not just for 
myself. Some of us are a winner on the other hand, 
most of us are fans of Dorian Gray and some who have not yet 
read the book abide. 
Wilde is known for his 
talents into practice. That we must 
all go through that 
process of trials and face ultimate battles in 
our lives. Which of you want to sacrifice your 
one’s sense of humor drive positive energy for 
the next years? Can 
you inspire a better 
government? Who do you vote for? From a literary 
lover’s point, one may wish that the next leaders 
are as logical as Sherlock when facing pressing 
problems of the society or as forward-looking 
as King Mongkut when thinking of the coun-
try’s progress. Campaign ads and interviews tell 
us what kind of leaders they are or can be. 
It is time for us to be the judges and choose who 
will be the true people’s hero. True leaders 
are also heroes. We are not expected to 
sacrifice our freedom and fight for liberation, 
but we can struggle to give the next generation 
the best possible childhood. 

As quoted by Wilde, “You can imitate the actions of a 
hero, but the spirit of the hero lives only in the ideal, 
not in the action. You are the hero only when you are recognized as such. Do not 
try to be a hero, but rather try to be an imitator of a hero.”

Wilde’s character is introduced in the novel as a “do-it-all” man who 
never really takes to be a hero. 
Is Heneral Luna a patriot or a traitor? Will 
these are the questions that are being considered by 
the Filipinos who are willing to work together in combating 
and eventually driving the Americans 
from the archipelago. The belief that 
pleasure after finding out that 
the day of Gray faces the fate of being 
entitled Aguinaldo.

This is a clear presentation of two oppos-
ing political ideas: “Americanism” versus “na-
tionalism”. As introduced by Richard Peet, 
“Americanism” refers to acquiring global 
outlook from an unequivocally American 

T O T U R N P A G E 3 9

pleasure after finding out that 
the day of Gray faces the fate of being 
typical hero who is always 
aging. 

Are corruptions and ages after he 
are not a "hero" nor a "villain". Heneral Luna’s charac-
ture scenes be-
table. 

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The Picture of Dorian Gray
By Ms. Charity Faith Faminialagao

Book Review: The Picture of Dorian Gray

The Picture of Dorian Gray is a 
true classic which has inspired 
many of our modern-day 
authors. The story tells the 
history of Dorian Gray, a 
young man who is given a 
dilight and pleasure after finding out that 
the day of Gray faces the fate of being 

The Picture of Dorian Gray truly is a 
great read for both the young and old, 
with Wilde’s legacy of keeping young forever 
certainly make everyone wonder the miracle of life.
To prepare the students during natural calamities, they have been given grab bags after a symposium on disaster preparedness sponsored by St. Irene class.

St. Catherine students support a healthy living. They put posters on the walls of the variety stores around Concepcion Uno. Another group of students gave a free demonstration lesson on food processing with the purok mothers at the Home Economics room of SSAM.

St. Teresa class invited dentists to give a free oral health lecture in Parang, Marikina while the other group distributed flyers and grab bags to the pupils of Nangka Elementary School.

PTA distributes eyeglasses for free

Having vision problems can be one of the major reasons why some of the high school students of Pintong Bukawe National High School have difficulty in their studies.

Based on the Needs Assessment, the students would complain that their vision has greatly affected their academic performance as they couldn’t concentrate in their studies and would fail to understand the lessons. Seeing their needs, the Parent Teacher Association, which is headed by Mrs. Leovie Susa, organized a free eye check-up to the 31 students of the high school students of Pintong Bukawe National High School.

Findings showed that only 2 of them didn’t need prescription glasses. Twenty-nine students were given prescription glasses by the PTA for free last February 17, 2016. Said outreach program was sponsored by the grade 9 parents of SSAM.

When colors collide, all teams unite

The whole high school body united their voices, filled the air with their built-up enthusiasm as they shook the gymnasium with cheers and yells. With this year’s theme centered on “Connect, Share and Simplify through Sports,” the Scholasticans always live out their Benedictine values as they started the day with a prayer followed by the National Anthem sung by the Glee Club.

Like usual, the Sportsfest had the ceremonial lighting of the torch followed by the Oath of the athletes. Former Kulasa now UP Lady Maroons member Ms. Marian Buitre shared her experience as a student athlete and her road towards becoming a regular of the UP Lady Maroons.

Opening ceremony

Early in the morning, the crowd was already pumped as the entrance of the athletes rocked the gymnasium with cheers and yells. The athletes also battled using their stamina and technique as they raced in the water. They also battled in different ball games: Basketball, Volleyball and Waterpolo where they struggled not only against the force of the water but also against the defense of their competitors.

Closing ceremony

Two whole days of sports and cheerleading ended with a blast as the winners were proclaimed on the third and final day of the Sportsfest with Dilawanag being crowned as the champion. Palantropo stood tall and proud on the three-day celebration of the Sportsfest last January 21-23.

Wearing a blue color theme, the Blue Heights’ SF vibes boosted the mood of the crowd as they sang and danced along to their upbeat song choices. Luntione as 3rd runner-up, Asolusyon as 2nd runner-up and Dilawanag being crowned as the first runner-up, Anakin as 2nd runner-up and Luntione as 3rd runner-up.

Singing

Singing Sara Bareilles’ hit song “Brave,” songbirds from each team color competed at the Music room during the second day of the sports fest. After giving each of their moving performances, Yellow team’s Denise Chicano won the competition free bagging lessons on the instrument of her choice at the Music House.

Sports

As the opening ceremony’s curtain closed, it was the time for the athletes to shine as they battled amongst their competitor teams in their different fields. The athletes showcased their prowess physically as they competed in the different ball games: Basketball, Volleyball and Kickball where the pressure is set high towards the players.

The athletes also battled using their stamina and technique as they raced in the water and fought in Waterpolo where they struggled not only against the force of the water but also against the defense of their competitors.

It’s a battle of wits not braves as the players strategized, broke the defense of their opponent and claimed the victory in Chess and Games of the Generals.
Game results

TABLE TENNIS – SINGLES
1ST - YELLOW * 2ND - RED
3RD - GREEN * 4TH - BLUE

TABLE TENNIS – DOUBLES
1ST - RED * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - YELLOW * 4TH - GREEN

BADMINTON – SINGLES
1ST - GREEN * 2ND - RED
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - YELLOW

BADMINTON – DOUBLES
1ST - RED * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - GREEN * 4TH - YELLOW

CHESS
1ST - YELLOW * 2ND - GREEN
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - RED

GAME OF THE GENERALS
1ST - YELLOW * 2ND - RED
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - GREEN

TRACK AND FIELD (50M)
1ST - YELLOW * 2ND - RED
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - GREEN

TRACK AND FIELD (100M)
1ST - YELLOW * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - RED * 4TH - GREEN

TRACK AND FIELD (RELAY)
1ST - BLUE * 2ND - YELLOW
3RD - GREEN * 4TH - RED

OBSTACLES
1ST - GREEN * 2ND - YELLOW
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - RED

TUG-O-WAR – LIGHTWEIGHT
1ST - GREEN * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - YELLOW * 4TH - RED

TUG-O-WAR – HEAVYWEIGHT
1ST - RED * 2ND - GREEN
3RD - YELLOW * 4TH - BLUE

SWIMMING - 4X25M MEDLEY
1ST - RED * 2ND - YELLOW
3RD - GREEN * 4TH - BLUE

SWIMMING - 25M BACKSTROKE
1ST - YELLOW * 2ND - GREEN
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - RED

SWIMMING - BREASTSTROKE
1ST - RED * 2ND - YELLOW
3RD - GREEN * 4TH - BLUE

SWIMMING - 100M INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
1ST - RED * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - YELLOW * 4TH - GREEN

KICKBALL
1ST - RED * 2ND - YELLOW
3RD - BLUE * 4TH - GREEN

VOLLEYBALL
1ST - RED * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - YELLOW * 4TH - GREEN

BASKETBALL
1ST - RED * 2ND - BLUE
3RD - GREEN * 4TH - YELLOW

CHEERDANCE AND SONGS AND YELLS
1ST - BLUE * 2ND - GREEN
3RD - RED * 4TH - YELLOW

CLEANEST AREA AWARD
YELLOW

The light shines upon this team as they prepare for the much awaited songs and yells and cheerleading competition.

The Pulantropo gives an opportunity for all to be happy and thankful for the blessings.

Strength and trust. The Green team unleashes all its power just to score some medals.

Grade 8 student Denise Chicano wows the crowd with her vocal prowess.

There are several ways for the Amuluyen to win in the competition. To practice. To play hard. To enjoy. To pray.

The players think of ways to seize the king. The pawns are just like us waiting for something.

The secret recipe to achieving success is teamwork.

The high school teachers take their time off from paperworks to celebrate Sports Fest 2016. After the much awaited Songs and Yells and Cheerdancing competition, the teachers ask for a photo opportunity to remind everyone of us that challenges and difficulties can be overcome through teamwork. Likewise, coming together as one big family is the most important thing of all.
The stage play of Sining Tanghalang Pilipino at the SICC last February 12 received rave reviews from the young audience. Titled “Trapik sa Text,” the story revolved around the three queen bees, namely, Sarah, Kat and Bea. The three thought that they were superior and could have the capacity to control other people’s lives. As the story move on, they faced life’s challenges that tested their so-called power to dominate others when they were about to be used for human trafficking. In the end, they learned how to value respect, generosity and the beauty that comes from within.

The colorful role of the characters gave the audience something to ponder on. The characters were applauded for they had successfully expressed life lessons and values that the audience can learn from. STP is moderated by Mrs. Sheryl Canca.

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Sining Tanghalang Pilipino

Reality bites at times
By Soña Montes

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THERE COMES A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE TO TURN THE PAGE, WRITE ANOTHER BOOK, OR SIMPLY CLOSE IT.

SHANNON L. ALDER