Pope Francis Wins the Heart of Filipinos

By Eda Madeilene L. White, 5-Persevering

“I ask you to pray for me.”

-Pope Francis

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle in his message last January 18 during the Pope Francis’ final mass attended by a record-breaking six million crowd at the Quirino Grandstand said, “We, Filipinos, promise: we will pray for you. But we also want to assure you, to remind you that Jesus, Jesus prays for you. ‘‘He shared what Jesus said to Peter: I have prayed for you, Peter (the first pope), that our own faith will not fail. Your Holiness, you are blessed. Jesus prays for you. How blessed you are.’’

In his homily, Pope Francis reminded Filipinos that the Santo Nino reminds us of our deepest identity. He emphasized a line from the song which says, “We are all God’s children.” All are members of God’s family. Saint Paul himself tells us that it is through Christ that we have become God’s adopted children, our true identity. This was seen when we rallied around our brothers and sisters who were affected by the Typhoon Yolanda.

Morning of the same day, the pope wanting to listen and to talk with the youth, had an encounter with them at the University of Santo Tomas. He shared that the challenge of becoming saints is to love – the most important subject he thinks should be learned in the university. As he says, real love leads us to spend ourselves in love and to give and die with empty pockets but with full heart just like St. Francis.

He encouraged them to be wise by thinking well, feeling well and doing well. He also said that we must allow ourselves to be surprised by the love of God.

Fulfilling his mission, Pope Francis visited the survivors of Typhoon Yolanda. Fourteen months before his visit, he saw the catastrophe from Rome and there he felt that he had to be here.

“Emmanuel: Wayfarer in the Land of No”

By Kelly Alyson S. Vergara, 4-Prayerful

Nina Sofia J. Mabeza, 6 - Patriotic

The grade school faculty of St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina together with selected students staged a musical play titled ‘‘Emmanuel: Wayfarer in the Land of No’’ last December 17, 2014 at the Sister Irmburg Covered Court.

Director, Mrs. Vivian C. Balba-Flores made the theme of The Year of the Laity, “Called to be Saints, Sent Forth as Heroes,” as her inspiration in coming up with the musical play.

It is a story about Christmas and the host of angels, Serafina, who are busy preparing for the birth of the little King. But then, the only place where He can be born is in a lowly manger. In addition, everyone was alarmed to discover that He was nowhere to be found after His birth.

Serafina, then left to look for the promised Savior.

On her journey, she met Emmanuel, a lad who accompanied her, unaware that she was already speaking to the One she was looking for. Together, they witnessed different human struggles in the world. As they journeyed, together

“Emmanuel, Wayfarer in the Land of No” made it >> 5

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Photo by Johannes Eisele
Thank You 2014
By Sister Alexi Lamarroza, OSB

When Eric Hoffer said, “The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings,” he may have been trying to explain how much difficult it is to count our blessings.

We can start with the finite numbers — the 1,713 students currently enrolled in our school. Yes! Each Scholastican and their parents and guardians who care for them are blessings.

Our teachers who are considered the second parents of our students here in school are great blessings for they play an important role in the development of students. Their roles are quite multifaceted. Their jobs to counsel students, help them learn how to use their knowledge, and integrate these learnings into their lives so they will be valuable members of our society. They know how each individual student learn, inspire them and really challenge them.

Our support staff who also care for our students and our surroundings, play an important role in ensuring that students are learning in a safe and supportive environment.

In addition, they foster positive, trusting relationships with students and improve school climate by encouraging parent and family environment in education. They model positive behavior and send positive messages to students.

Our Benedictine Sisters here and in different places in the world who keep in their thoughts and prayers our beloved students, parents and other stakeholders are another reasons to be grateful.

There are more blessings that could never be counted because they are simply so huge and there is no way to measure them.

We are thankful for our musical play, Emmanuel: Wayfarer in the Land of No, which involved the grade school department. I saw the cooperation of all the teachers, students, parents and our personnel.

Moreover, the celebrations throughout the year:

- Linggo ng Wika, Book Week, Bible Week, Science Fair, Sportfest of the GS Faculty and general Services and Non-Teaching Staff First Communion of the Grade-2 pupils, School Fair 2015, Field Demonstration, SSAM Got Talent and the many contests and competitions we participated here and abroad are living proofs of God’s unending love.

This school year, our greatest blessing as a nation is the presence of His Holiness Pope Francis in the Philippines. His presence truly made us feel the message of love and respect for one another, especially of God’s unending love.

Our support staff, School Fair 2015, Field Demonstration, SSAM Got Talent and the many contests and competitions we participated here and abroad are living proofs of God’s unending love.

The art exhibit of students and faculty, the various workshops we held and the many guest speakers and lecturers who were with us during the school year.

Yes! Each Scholastican and their parents and guardians who care for them are blessings. Do not forget to count these blessings.

Parents Talk About Love
By Anne Gabrielle D. Uyehara, 5 - Creative
Sophia Hannah Gabo, 5 - Reliant

Promoting a harmonious family life, St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina in partnership with its Parents-Teachers Association, headed by their president, Mrs. Mary Jane B. Trinos, held the second symposium of Christian Life Program for this school year at Sister Irmbug Covered Court on the 21st day of February at 5:00 a.m.

The talk was entitled, “Love Chat,” with speakers Mr. and Mrs. Alex and Judy Tinsay. Alex is a respected broadcaster and a host of 700 Club Asia, while Judy, like her husband, is active in their church ministry.

Together, they discussed about the different aspects or marriage life — physical, emotional, financial and social intimacy. They even shared how their family life is raising their children and the challenges that comes not only on parenting but most of all as husband and wife to each other.

The other guest speakers were Mr. Frank Arollado and Mrs. Magdalena M. Roble. Mr. Arollado shared about the challenges of distance from his home country since he is working in Singapore. Despite this, he enjoys daily video calls with them. He said that all things work together for all who love God. As an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), he commits himself to religious groups since he believes that it is important to put God at the center of any relationship.

Meanwhile, Ms Roble, a single parent and a mother of ten, imparted how she loves her children despite how difficult it was to raise them on her own. She added, “The greatest gift a man could have is to be a parent.”

Parents Talk About Love
By Ann and Jimmy Libas


Sa daalhan pagang na ito, nasaan ka ba?


Sa daalhan pagang na ito, nasaan ka ba?


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Sa daalhan pagang na ito, nasaan ka ba?


Sa daalhan pagang na ito, nasaan ka ba?


Sa daalhan pagang na ito, nasaan ka ba?

Remembering St. Scholastica

By Kaylee Dominique Ordonez, 5
Jean Marie Obispo, 4
Samantha Angeline S. Ong

St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina celebrated the Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Angelo Leal, OSB, a day before the feast of St. Scholastica. Remembering their patroness, the Grade School and High School Departments sang the “Hymn to St. Scholastica” with grateful hearts.

St. Scholastica, twin of St. Benedict, offered her life to God since her earliest youth. After her twin went to Monte Cassino and established his famous monastery, she also founded and supervised a monastery of nuns at Plombariola which is about five miles away from his brother’s.

She visited her brother once a year in a house which is just a distance away since she was not allowed to enter the monastery. Together, the twin spent time conferring spiritual matters. They prayed, had pious conversation and reflected. She would ask him to remain until the next day. But then, Benedict refused to spend the night outside his monastery. Scholastica then recourse to prayer and a furious thunderstorm burst so that neither her brother nor any of his companions could return home. After, they spent the night in spiritual conferences.

Three years later, she died and her holy brother saw her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven. He sent his brethren to bring his sister’s body and have it laid on a tomb which he had originally prepared for himself. She died about the year 543 and her brother followed her soon.

Scholasticans Enjoy Exposure Trips of S. Y. 2014—2015

By Arabella B. Rioflorido, 4
Alyanna Krishna J. Cinco, 4

Kinder to Grade Six pupils enjoyed the different educational exposure trips. Each grade level went to varied places in order to learn new things and have fun.

Introduced by Gerogre Shillibeer, a field trip is a visit to a place outside the classroom designed to accomplish objectives which cannot be achieved inside. Field trips as they can lead the learners in connecting schoolwork with the world, making it both memorable and tangible. In addition, this teaching strategy has features which enhances the curriculum such as facilitating learning of abstract concepts, motivating students through increased interest and curiosity, increasing student-student and student-teacher interaction and developing social awareness.

Here is a gallery capturing the best experiences SSAM pupils had:

- Kinder pupils at Goldilocks and Museo Pambata.
- Grade 1 pupils at Sariling Atin and Creative Thinkers.
- Grade 2 at Pinocchio show (above) and Creative Thinkers.
- Grade 3 pupils at Kulturang Pinoy and The Museum.
- Grade 4 pupils at San Guillermo Church and Zoocobia Fun Zoo.
- Grade 5 pupils at Bahay ni Rizal and Parasite Museum in UPLB Los Banos.
- Grade 6 pupils at the Malacanan Palace and AFP Museum.

Pope Francis wins .....

The pope in a yellow raincoat came to celebrate Mass in Tacloban City morning of January 17 despite Signal No. 2 of Tropical Storm Amang. In his homily, he reminded the typhoon survivors that although they have lost so many things, Jesus who was nailed to the cross will never let us down. In his throne, where He was consecrated as Lord, experienced all calamities that they we are experiencing. He is a Lord capable of crying and walking with his people in their most difficult times of life.

He also stood before 2,000 nuns and priests, morning of January 16 at the Manila Cathedral for his first Mass in the country. There, he reminded them of their ministry of reconciliation telling them that the Church of the Philippines is called to recognize and fight the deep cause of inequality and injustice contradicting Christ’s teaching.

Following this is an encounter with the family in the afternoon at the SM MOA Arena where he encouraged each family to be missionary disciples of Jesus. They must ready to go beyond their homes by caring for their brothers and sisters who are in need, especially those who do not have their own family.

The Pope, welcomed by millions of Filipinos on January 15 left the country morning of January 19 with huge crowd lining the streets for a final glimpse of him.
SSAM celebrates School Fair 2015
By Kayleigh Ann Tee Sy and Samantha Angelene S. Ong, 4-Prayerful

Putok sa Bundok 2015, St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina’s school fair, was a success. Aside from the different rides, arcade games and food booths, the celebration was also festive because of the talents shown not only by the students but also by the entire Grade School Department.

School Field Demo

Celebrating the theme for this year, “Listen with Love, Live with Compassion: The Benedictine Way of Spirituality,” the students from both Grade School and High School Departments held their Field Demonstration last February 7, 2015 at the High School Quadrangle of SSAM.

The Grade School pupils through the guidance of the Physical Education (P.E.) teachers presented dances representing each nationality according to the order of events that the Benedictine teachings were spread in the Philippines and in other parts of the world. On the other hand, high school students presented their cheers and yells.

Employees Got Talent

Quoting the Parable of the Talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance,” teachers are blessed by God because He knows they are going to share them. It is no wonder that students are talented.

Believing that talents are worth-sharing, employees of SSAM gave their brightest performance last February 7, 2015. The High School Department was represented by their own band who ‘rocked and rolled’ the night. Tuazon Community Center, School Personnel, Grade School Department and mothers of Scholasticans danced with the crowd through their ‘hip hop’ moves.

The East Drive Band, the alumnae group, wowed the crowd. It was truly a culmination of talents.
they realized that in the absence of the Savior, the laity can work together to fill the world with the spirit of Christ.

This musical play stars Jacqueline Andrieux and Nina Ty (both playing Serafina), Ma. Isabel Soriano (Emmanuel), Cassandra Munoz (angel 1), Genalyn Suelto (angel 2), Alyssa Salgusugan (shepherd), Ryan Torres (Joseph) and Liz Salomon (Mary).

Different presentations were also given by classes who won in the different contests during the English month. All out support was also given by the School Directress, Mother Angelica Leviste, OSB and Grade School Principal, Sister Alexis Lamarroza, OSB. The two English subject coordinators, along with the English teachers and the Grade School Faculty helped in the best way that they can all for the success of the play. The parents themselves also came out not only to watch the show but also to show their undying love for the children.

Proceeds of the show went to the different projects of the Social Involvement Program (SIP) such as the Mentoring Program which provides free training to selected public schools and HapagAsa, a feeding program at San Jose de Ampid Parish, and most especially for the purchase of the theater seats for the new building.

Mrs. Valle sings “Whispering Hope” with the Glee Club.

Kings looking for the Savior while singing, “Chasing a Star.”

GS teachers sing Gloria.

GS teachers sing “Everlasting Light.”

Newly elected student leaders set for S.Y. 2015—2016

By Samantha Maria Abegail K. Viray, S-Creative

New offices are set to be welcomed next school year after the electronic voting last March 5, 2015.

Outgoing Barangayette President Mai Angel Nicole Martinez gave her farewell speech after the Thanksgiving Mass held at the Sister Imburg Covered Court (SICC) on March 6. She thanked the school for the trust not only to her but to all the officers. She also recognized the help of their two mentors, Mrs. Concepcion Domeyeg and Mrs. Jennifer Medina.

The Barangayette turnover ceremony was held on March 18, 2015.

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Julienne Alexa Dayda</td>
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<td>VICE-PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Katrina Eliza Ramos</td>
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<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Frances Danielle Lorenzana</td>
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<td>TREASURER</td>
<td>Francesca Louise Chua</td>
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<td>AUDITOR</td>
<td>Chloe Ysabelle Villanueva</td>
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<th>PRO</th>
<th>Danhwi Yoon</th>
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<td>GRADE 3 LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES</td>
<td>Andrea Michelle Moreno and Darylle Caelyn Uy</td>
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<td>GRADE 4 LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES</td>
<td>Sheena Patrice Brazal and Leila Yasabelle Nabiala</td>
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<td>Mayrie Francheer Brilliante and Kaika Castillo</td>
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<td>GRADE 6 LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES</td>
<td>Anita Maria Ruiz and Rea Sophia Samontina</td>
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SSAM holds Service Awards 2015

By Angelica Mae Villena, 4-Prayerful
Kayleigh Ann H. Tee Sy, 4-Prayerful
Venice Expedillon, 4-Compassionate

Service Awards 2015 started with a prayer led by Sister Imaya Calinayan, OSB and the Christian Living Education (CLE) teachers reminding the whole community of the mission of St. Scholastica and St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina in bringing many to Christ. It is indeed through this that they can live a blessed and holy life.

During the reflection, Sister Imaya further said that they can only be called true teachers if their work is done with love, joy and enthusiasm. They should give honor to the One who sustain their lives, our Lord.

The prayer also included the singing of the song, “Blest Are You,” composed by Fr. Manoling Francisco of the Society of Jesus and the Philippine Conference on New Evangelization (PCNE) 2 participants during a conference session last January 16, 2015 at the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

Sister Angelica Leviste, OSB, the school directress also congratulated the 35 awardees through her welcome address. She appreciated them for living out the Benedictine way of life. The spirit of the teachers, according to her, is that of a community of people and not a spirit of a work place. They are committed and continue to commit themselves during good and hard times. All in the institution, as she said, is guarded by a common mission.

The different talents of teachers, non-teaching staff and service personnel in singing and dancing made the celebration more fun and special.

It was truly a day well-deserved by awardees along with all the people who continue to work in fulfilling Christ’s mission.

We congratulate all the awardees, most especially the members of the GS Faculty.

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<th>Years of Service</th>
<th>Awardees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Five Years</td>
<td>Rowena C. Garcia</td>
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<td>Catherine DC. Orfano</td>
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<td>Ten Years</td>
<td>Rachelle C. Camaya</td>
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<td>Fifteen Years</td>
<td>Pamela S. Baroman</td>
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<td>Luzviminda A. Canete</td>
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<td>Twenty Five Years</td>
<td>Cristeta M. Arcilla</td>
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<td>Leticia M. Delos Reyes</td>
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<td>Nieva J. Viray</td>
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<td>Thirty Years</td>
<td>Catalina B. Tungol</td>
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Feed the Hungry

By Mrs. Jennifer Medina

This school year, the Grade School Faculty decided join in the HapagAsa effort of the Diocese of Antipolo as they adopted the poorly nourished children of the San Jose de Ampid Parish. The teachers did not only donate for the food served within six months, assist in the feeding, weighing and preparing the children's food, they also interacted with the children through games, talent show and storytelling. The faculty went to the chapel every first Saturday of the month starting July to December of 2014.

It was a heartwarming six months. Some months were toasty warm, some rainy and one particularly stormy. Whatever the weather, the faculty would trudge on, eager to be of service to the marginalized.

Each month adds another 2-8 lbs to the children's weight. Some, though, unfortunately had difficulty gaining weight so parents were taught to be more mindful in selecting and preparing their meals.

The food being served daily were fortified with manna pack from the DOH. It is a mixture of different grains- wheat, barley, oats and rice which does not interfere with the real taste of the food. This costs about a thousand pesos. With the financial help given by the faculty, the children's meals were fortified.

According to the Bible, we have served the Lord if we have clothed the naked, visited the sick, and fed the hungry. At least, the faculty has taken one step closer to Heaven.

The Faculty would like to thank the pupils from the Grade School department for supporting the Nutri-Food Raffle and performing in the musical play, Emanuel: Wayfarer in the Land of No. The proceeds of these two endeavors had gone a long way in building up the Kingdom of God here on earth. And speaking of building, the faculty donated half of the net income of the musical play for the theater seats of the new building and Php10 000. 00 to St. Gabriel Parish of our Lady of Sorrows. Again these are from the proceeds of the faculty fund-raising activities. A portrait of St. Gabriel now watches over the faculty in the Faculty Room as well as in the GS Office.
Ni Danielle Sanchez, 6 - Patriotic

Wagi bilang salita ng taon ang “selfie” sa “Pambansang Kumperensya si Pagpapayaman ng Wikang Filipino at Sagawaan at Sining ng Wika ng Pilipinas” ngyari noong setyembre 13, 2002. Ang salitang selfie ay napili hindi dahil sa popularidad nito kundi dahil sa mahusay na pananlikasik at presensasyon na isinulat nina Noel Ferrer, kilalang talent manager at producer, at Jose Javier Reyes, batikang direktor sa telebisyon at pagsalita (ang ABC Online, noong Setyembre 13, 2002).

Ang salitang “selfie” ayon kina Ferrer at Reyes ay nakuha rin ang unang gantimpala para sa may pinakamahusay na papel, kung saan ang pinagbatayan ay ang kredibilidad ng mga tao na tinitingnan ang sarili nila sa mga cellphone na may kamera at magbayad ng koneksiyon para sa internet.

Ang “selfie” ayon sa Oxford Dictionary, ay isang katagang hango sa salita “self” na dinagdagan ng “ie” at tumutukoy sa isang litrato o patulong ng sarili nito. Sa Pilipinas ang selfie ay maituturing na konsepto ng gitnang panahon ng mga bagong teknolohiya ng komunikasyon.

Ang salitang ito ay nakuha sa Bulwagang Claro M. Recto sa Universidad ng Pilipinas-Iligan. Ito ay may temang “Wika ng Kagandahan, Kagandahan sa Wika.”

Kultura Quiz Whiz

Pahalang
1. Ang pinakamahusay na papel sa pagkatotoo ng mga pagsasalita sa wikang Filipino.
2. Ang pinakamahusay na papel sa pagkatotoo ng mga pagsasalita sa wikang Filipino.
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Pababa
1. Ang pinakamahusay na papel sa pagkatotoo ng mga pagsasalita sa wikang Filipino.
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Source: http://4pic1word.ws/
Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo
Ni Cassandra Kacole Yshabelle D. Munza, 5-Creative
Samantha Viray, 4 - Creative
Elsa Macalanao, 6 - Just

“Sabuh… sabuh nating itas ang ating sedula at puntil! Mahuhay ang Filipino! Mahubahy!”

Isa lamang iyan sa mga naalala kong simbolo ng buhay ng mga bayani. Noong taon 2014, ang Metro Manila Film Fest o MMFF ay nagpapakita ng hindi natatamo nga nagbukas ng isaipan at kamalayan ng mga manonood tungkol kay ni Bonifacio.

Ang bagong relasyon ni Amanda Bonifacio ang Unang Pangulo, unti-unting binukas anunting pinunta ng buhay ni Amanda sa pamamagitan ng pagbabalik-tanaw ng mga nag-aaral ng makabubong hemarasyon. Dito pinangunahan ni Joaquin (Daniel Padilla) at Andrea (Jasmin Curtis Smith) ang pagbisita sa isang Katipunan Museum sa San Juan kung saan nakilala nila ang tagapamahala nito ni Eddie Garcia.

Ang salaysay ng nagmamahala sa museo ay nagisusilbing ang pagpakita ng mga natatangiang kasama ang mga patrido. Pakikisama sa mga buhay ng mga bayani si Amanda Bonifacio. Sila ang mga makita niyang parusahan ang tatlong martir na pari. Pakikipagkaibig sa mga mag-aaral ng mga ilan sa La Liga Filipina, mga pakikipag-usap sa ating pambansang bayani na si Jose Rizal hanggang sa pagigaw sa bakuran ni Tandang Sora at pagpunit ng sedula ng mga Katipunan.

Tunay ngang dalang ni Amanda sa bagong relasyon ni Amanda para sa ikabubuti ng ating bansa. Nararapat lamang na siya ay kilalanin at bigyang halaga.

Jacinto wins Gold
By Bianca Antonette Sapalo, 5-Reliant

St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina Grade School Department is proud of Alexandrina Jacinto from S. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina Grade School Department. She joined in the Asian Swim Meet Championship to be held in Singapore.

Jacinto shared in an interview that she really enjoys swimming because she really likes it. She encourages those who aspire to pursue swimming to continue with their passion and dedication for it.

In an interview, Jacinto shared that she really enjoys swimming because she really likes it. She encourages those who aspire to pursue swimming to continue with their passion and dedication for it.

Swimming Enthusiasts

SSAM GS Department congratulates the following students for their achievements in the 72nd Philippine Swim League (PSL) Leg Series held last January 24-25 at the Diliman Preparatory School in Quezon City. Nicolette Beatrice Belgica of Grade 4 – Preparatory became the won silver for 4 x 400 Meter Medley Relay. Prior to this event, Nicolette had bagged several bronze, silver and gold medals in other swimming competitions she joined under the Marikina Aqua Bears Swimming Club. Meanwhile, Maxine M. Dalmacio of Grade 3 – Preparatory became the Bronze Medalist for the 200 Meter Individual Medley. She also ranked 3rd Overall in the Girls – 9 Years Old Group Category and has qualified to represent the country in the same category in September, 2015 for the South-East Asian Swim Meet Championship to be held in Singapore.

Team Malaysia successfully received the most number of gold medals.

 ASEAN School Games Wushu Competition held at SSAM

By Arabella Roanne R. Pepito, 6-Patriotic

Teams of ASEAN member countries participated during the 6th ASEAN Schools Games held from November 29, until December 7, 2014 in Marikina with the theme, “One ASEAN, One Vision, One Community of Champions.”

One of the sports in the competition, Wushu, was held at the Sister Imburg Covered Court (SICC) where officials turned the court into a wushu arena. Mats were placed on the ground, the platform was placed on the stage, and the flag raisers were put into place. In an interview, one official said that the reason they chose SSAM was because they wanted to showcase the best places in Marikina, and because SSAM had a lot of space.

Six countries participated at the Wushu Competition. They are the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, and Brunei. During the competition, the athletes donned colorful costumes as well as performed with non-lethal weapons. They wowed the judges. Many of the athletes practiced at the back of the court, being flanked by coaches and fellow athletes.

In the end, the athletes were exhausted, yet happy to win awards. Their hard work paid off.

The Little Blue Star