



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

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Fairview

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■ COVER STORY

OB Montessori Breaking Ground in Fairview



► **By Jeanne De Leon**
Grade 9-Sapphire

On a once-empty parcel of land, OB Montessori Center - Fairview has risen out of the ground. From a one-storey to a five-storey building, the campus continues to grow in size and population since 2010. The growing number of students has given way to the development of not only the campus but also the Fairview community. The formerly open area of land is now an urban community with its own church, malls, condominiums, subdivisions, recreational areas, and schools.

Located between the province of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, and Quezon City, Fairview is a link that binds both places together. People can go back and forth fluidly to experience both urban and suburban life. Because

of this, students of OBMC come from diverse backgrounds, as Montessorians come from places like Bulacan and as far as Marikina.

The students of Fairview campus learn to adapt to different environments and to interact with other social groups. The teachers and administrative staff, too, have eclectic backgrounds that enhances the learning environment of the students.

OB Montessori Center is part of the progress and development of Fairview. The presence of the school has attracted developers to invest and build more commercial establishments like Toyota Motors,

McDonald's, Hanging Garden's Event Place, and Brittany Square that cater to students and residential owners around the vicinity. These developments have given livelihood opportunities to the community.

Indeed, OB Montessori and the Fairview community are something to watch out for. On one hand, people are looking forward to the growth of this campus and its goal of nurturing students to become the future leaders of this nation. On the other, the city of Fairview will grow into a much larger neighborhood with accessible resources that are essential to a well-established community.

NEWS

The Culmination of a Montessorian Speaker

By Angela Nana, Grade 11-Amorsolo



For the first time ever, OBMC Fairview held its Senior High School Elocution, a speech contest where the pieces are written by the student participants themselves. All students went through rigorous training to be perfect for the big day last December 13, 2018.

The Elocution is a culmination of all the knowledge the students have acquired from Casa to Senior High, where they are asked to write and speak about societal issues and how to apply them to their chosen advocacies. Indeed, the student participants demonstrated prowess in all these.

The three finalists were Ian Pagdanganan, Kristen Bolaños, and Alleine Yerro, winners of third, second, and first place respectively. Pagdanganan's *The Crown of Education* was about the disparity

in the educational privileges of students from varying backgrounds, education being a right and not just a privilege.

Bolaños's *Living for Work* discussed the not-so beautiful side of education: "Teachers may be qualified—have the capability, mastery, and credentials to teach, but if the education system itself is faulty, if we, the students are suffering—learning less, and gaining all kinds of illnesses, I believe that that is no longer quality education."

The show stealer was "Kababae Mong Tao: A Toxic Pinoy Mentality" by Alleine Yerro. In Yerro's inspiring piece, she made an argument against objectification that many people pass for a compliment: "Kababae mong tao, malaya kang magdesisyon, gawin ang mga gusto mo, isyuot kung ano man ang nais mo, magsalita para sa sarili mo at higit sa lahat, panindigan ang mga karapatan mo ... Oo, babae ako. Lalaban ako."

Truly, Yerro stood for the women who have been objectified by the

mindset of a society to speak, dress, and act a certain way, and feel grateful for the "compliment."

"I wanted to give people the perspective [that] 'Hey, we're not talking about this since all these things are [the norm] already. Common *na yung may narerape, may nacatcall* and others. Why don't we normalize talking about this by having in-depth discussion on where these issues come from and how to fight it?" Yerro said.

Indeed, the finalists of the Elocution embodied the Montessorian values that the school has cultivated in them through the years. The Elocution was more than just the extra grades the finalists had earned, more than it being the final stage of the competition.

It was a demonstration of their personal development from the children they started out as, into the future-ready citizens of character into which they have matured.



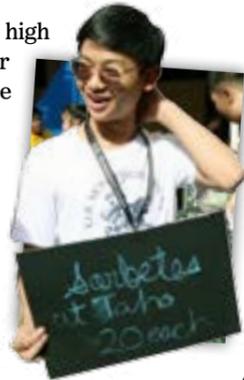
NEWS

Rain or Shine, Food Fair in 'Fair View'

By Samantha Mary Kloss, Grade 10-Emerald

On December 7, 2018, the high school students had their Food Fair and Minimart in the quadrangle of the campus. Held annually, the Food Fair allows each section one or two booths to sell a choice of items from food to beverages.

Each student is assigned a specific role during the Food Fair. Juliana Balingbing of 7-Emerald was the manager of her section's Pasta booth. She said that the experience of this day was incredibly stressful and tiring, but fully rewarding.



"Even though it is hard, it is still a learning experience," Juliana said. The transition from being the customer during her intermediate years to now being the manager and seller in the booth was an eye-opening experience, she added.

The Grade 7 stalls were Street Treats, Pasta, Salads, and Sari-Sari. Grade 8 had Sweet Endings, Native Kakanin, Taho at Sorbetes, and Sparkling Coolers. Grade 9 went with Meals on Wheels, Shakes, Potato Corner, and Ola! Mexico. Finally Grade 10 handled Minimart, Pinoy

NEWS

Battle of Chorales

By Bea Ecube, Grade 9-Ruby



these early years of children's lives are vital, as they serve as the foundation for the rest of their educational careers.

As the students go up the ladder of their education, OBMC makes sure that their skills follow suit. In Intermediate the students' abilities are taken to the next level through events like declamation, broadcasting, and stage shows. With each year comes a progression of difficulty for the students and as they work to memorize lines, overcome stage fright, or perform a traditional dance, their determination is fortified and their social personality is strengthened. Where elocution pieces in Casa consisted of mostly five- to eight-line poems, students in Intermediate can deconstruct a literary piece, create their own actions based on their personal perception, and confidently recite by memory a two-page piece before a large audience.

For over half a century, OB Montessori Center has given its students the opportunity to develop their confidence and showcase their public speaking skills through the *High School Chorale*. At this event students present to their peers a classic poetry piece and show their understanding of it.

Of course, confidence and skill in speaking before an audience is not something that comes overnight. Intermediate language teacher Ms. Rhea Geronimo shared that these particular traits are honed and developed throughout the students' stay in OBMC. Starting from Casa, they are taught and trained to appreciate literature through poetry and to develop confidence as they stand in front of a crowd.

At the mere age of six, a Casa student is already capable of learning a poem, memorizing it, and presenting it before an audience. Casa Coordinator Thaira Claire E. Legarda explained that



capable of building self-esteem. This is something they've directly witnessed in their friends over the years.

However, students cannot grow through speaking alone, so at this level OBMC begins to introduce more diverse literary works, including both local and international pieces. An OBMC student is taught the value of reading and comprehension, enabling them to develop their individual values as well. It is because of this that they are able to appreciate their growth and work hard for the greater output despite their busy schedule.

Training and mastery over time is what OBMC provides. Patient, well-equipped teachers and an engaging curriculum are the reasons why, year after year, parents can see their child's inspiring metamorphosis from a child to a self-assured individual. The path to becoming a well-spoken person is never easy, but good results will always come in due time with due diligence.

Rice Toppings, and the agricultural products from Preziosa Botanic Park and Farm Resort.

With the variety of items sold, the students needed to develop strategies to market their products. In this way, the Food Fair also teaches the students entrepreneurship skills. Andrei Laranas of 10-Emerald, assigned as a seller in the Pinoy Rice Toppings booth, said the Food Fair helped him discover his interest in starting a business when he grows up.

"I never thought that something as simple as the Food Fair would help me

see my potential as an entrepreneur." Seeing his fourth and last food fair, Andrei looks back at all his previous years including his experiences as a Casa student. From this, he developed the values of love for work and order. He shared that the Food Fair activity has always given him both stressful and fun memories, and he looks forward to what he can do with all he has learned.

Ms. Joyce Mapalad, the overall food fair manager for the Fairview campus, shared the following: "The Food Fair was very successful. There



were a few obstacles, especially the heat in the quadrangle, but I think this lets us experience how hard it actually is to work in these types of jobs. It teaches us values about work and inspires us to become economically independent."

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NEWS

OBMC Fairview Joins CineSophia

By Madison Motril, Grade 7-Ruby

Inspired by Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*, OBMC celebrated its annual CineSophia Short Film Festival on different dates in its respective campuses. The event aimed to show the Grade 12 students' potential and competence in filmmaking while also applying the ideologies from their Philosophy and English classes.

The philosophical theme chosen to unify this year's 18 entries was "Liyab: Transcending Societal Conventions in the Pursuit of Truth" influenced by Plato's aforementioned allegory. The philosopher used three prisoners trapped in a cave, who were led to believe that the shadows of things outside the cave were real, to represent the essence of philosophical education and his view on this. The challenge was for senior high students to show their individual interpretation with 15-minute films.

This year's CineSophia was particularly monumental for the

Fairview campus, as this marked our first time to join the film festival. Despite pressure to match the efforts of other campuses, coinciding with the college entrance exam season, the determination and hard work of Fairview campus's Grade 12 students were embodied in the films *Bahay-bahayan* and *Liham*.

Bahay-bahayan addresses the realities of a household in '90s Philippines faced with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder after the death of their child, especially in a society that looks down on miscarriages. The film expresses the prisoners' perceptions of reality centered in the family structure. Ms. Pat Nabong, UP Film Institute's summa cum laude, now Chicago-based freelance journalist and a judge for this year's CineSophia, lauded this film



for the "beautiful cinematography in some sequences despite some choppy transitions in others."

Liham deals with familial situations in the Philippines as well, albeit those that many are unaware of, such as the loss of a family member—through death, illnesses or old age—and lack of acceptance towards a member's identity. It therefore aims to pave the way for better understanding of these situations and the hardships that come with them. The bridge is a key element in the movie, as it serves as a link to the "foundations of the nation and the self" ▶

Ped Xing X: "Capturing Philippine Democracy"

By Shaina Caro, Grade 9-Sapphire

To know more about the state of democracy in the Philippines, the OB Montessori Junior High School students attended the Ped Xing: Politics 101 Camp at the University of the Philippines Diliman on January 19 to 20. This two-day camp annually conducted by the UP Political Society carried the theme "Ped Xing X: Capturing the Philippine Democracy."

It was composed of talks about Philippine Democracy, Introduction to the Discipline of Political Science, and different competitions such as essay writing, extemporaneous speech, debate, quiz bee, poster-making, and photography for junior high school students.

According to the invitation, the event aimed to shed some light on what makes Philippine Democracy different from other democracies. It tackled and explored issues about the Filipino's concept of democracy in a

socio-political perspective. The event equipped high school students to be more critical about our current social issues through educational discussions and competitive platforms.

Joining the Ped Xing Conference were the following representatives of OB Montessori - Fairview Campus: Bea Ecube and Madison Motril (Essay Writing in English); Shayna Fernandez and Mariel Bautista (Essay Writing in Filipino); Reynald Relato and Jhorick Howard (Extemporaneous Speech); Sophia Luna and Romina Young (Photography); Cassey Damian and Terrence Galarpe (Poster Making).



"Even though we weren't able to bag any awards, it was still a learning experience. I was able to gain more knowledge on how the government works and the current state of our country. Just being there [at Ped Xing] and learning new things made the event unforgettable." - Madison Motril, Grade 7-Ruby

NEWS

OBMC Intramurals 2018:

Catering to the Child's Development

By Krif Celine Lagapa, Grade 6-Saturn

OB Montessori Center holds its Intermediate Intramurals, an annual two-day sports competition, with the main goal of assessing the skills of students in different sports. This year's version was held on December 17 and 18 for the Fairview campus.

The day started with a warm-up led by the PE teachers. The students and teachers were divided into four teams, namely: Golden Vikings, Red Indians, Blue Hunters, and the Purple Knights. The teams played games like basketball, shower ball, badminton, and volleyball. The students enjoyed cheering for their teams and participating in their respective games. In the end, the Purple Knights emerged as winners in basketball and shower ball. As for volleyball, the Red Indians were able to beat the other teams.

Intramurals isn't just all about playing and competing. This exercise helps in the physical and emotional development of 9 to 11 years old children as they undergo maturity. During this stage, children possess the energy that they must utilize well and redirect into activities that will develop their tactile learning as they carry out physical activities. Another distinct characteristic of this stage of development is becoming group-oriented. All of these were evident



during the event as the students channeled their energy through sports and worked as a team.

A new activity was added also during the event, the Pep Squad and Cheer Dance Competition. Within six minutes, each team must perform a cheer made by themselves and a dance presentation afterwards, using a standardized music mash up. Students also used flaglets and pompoms that added to the energetic and enthusiastic vibe of the activity. Teachers, as well as the invited judges from the different departments of the campus, witnessed the students' creativity. The Golden Vikings were awarded as third runner-up, the Blue Hunters as second runner-up, the Red Indians as the first runner-up, and the Purple Knights were the champions.

Congratulations to everyone. Indeed sportsmanship reigns in OBMC!

NEWS

Joint Campout 2019

By Dana Carroll, Grade 6-Jupiter

On January 15 to 17, 2019, the Grade 6 and 10 embarked on their Joint Campout held in Preziosa Botanic Park and Farm Resort in Cavite. This was a great experience for graduating elementary students and for Grade 10 students to learn the importance of teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and camaraderie. The activities such as wall climbing, obstacle course, rope lines relay and rappelling challenged physical endurance. Survival challenges included fire building, tripod-making, and outdoor cooking. The importance of listening and communicating were also taught in the

bird box, a quiet place, pipe relay, and team work on a bamboo bike.

Food preparation was also one of the key tasks with each individual scout assigned to their own responsibility. After all the hard work, it was well worth it; the food was delicious.

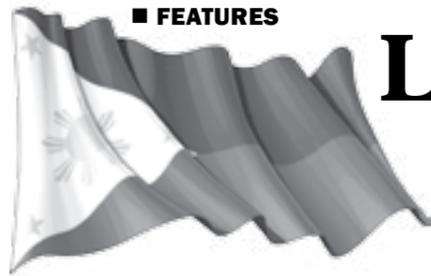
At night, gathered at the Teatro Botanico amphitheater with a bonfire blazing at the center, representatives from all sections presented memorable acoustic performances in singing or playing an instrument. The campers



applauded and sang along to the sound of music.

The next day, the rest of the activities commenced. Each activity accomplished had corresponding points recorded in a score sheet. At the end of all activities, campers were reenergized by lunch time. Joint Campout 2019 was a moment to remember! It was the camping experience that the participants will never forget.

■ FEATURES



Love for Country

By Madison Motril,
Grade 7-Ruby

Resounding in the distance are cannons, and it is all the ragtag army can do not to flinch. Rifles in hand, an unfinished prayer leaves the soldiers' lips as they head out to the battlefield. They do not dare to admit even if it is the last utterance on their deathbed, that it is tiring—tiring to fight against stranger and compatriot, foreigner and supposed soulmate. Years later, the struggle



of the same soldiers plays out on a movie screen. One line in particular could have been the guilty confession of the person you pass by on the street, a whisper

of a tired nationalist's heart, a line from one's journal, rather than that of a movie script. *Kalaban ang kalaban, kalaban ang kakampi. Nakakapagod.*

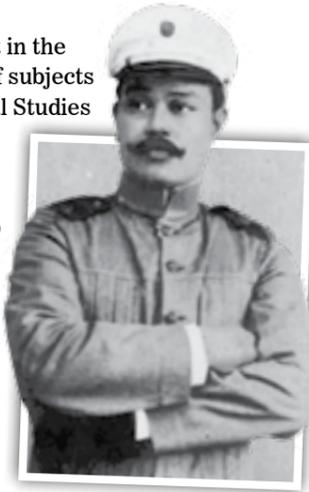
It is incorporated into our lessons, sometimes even emphasized, that Rizal's firing squad was composed of Filipino soldiers. I remember my shock when I found out that it was a native who directed the American soldiers to an alternate route around Tirad Pass—consequently leading to young Gen. Gregorio del Pilar's demise. It was surprising as well that Filipino authorities led the assassination of the Fiery General Antonio Luna. Numerous revolts during the Spanish Colonial Period were cut short by Spaniards accompanied by natives.

If one is asked why they study history, their answer might be "to know other nations' cultures," or maybe even "it looks good on my resume." Perhaps, the most relevant response today is "to learn from the mistakes of the past, so that we are not condemned to repeat them."

One would think that with the

advancement in the curriculum of subjects such as Social Studies and History, we would have learned before now to prevent and eradicate the mistake of betraying our own countrymen. Is it simply history repeating itself that even years after the gruesome struggle against foreigner and countryman alike, numerous Filipinos continue to die at the hands of fellow citizens? We prioritize issues of countries opposed to us, yet we fail to recognize the issues we have against each other.

Despite these issues, knowledge of the aforementioned betrayals do not represent our country, our people, and our history as a whole, while the sight of Filipinos openly proclaiming their



■ LITERARY

Search the Universe

By Job Antonio Brioso,
Grade 9-Ruby

Her carmine lips to my autumn hair
Her golden smile beams a green light
Sapphire eyes wave to my desire
A faint rainbow, pairite to a miner's eyes

But her colors are a fallacy
Never meant to be touched or felt
Another shattered heart joins the dust
Come sweep it up, a Juliet arrived

All stars to your pure glimpse
All stares at your glitter mist
But with you singing heaven hymns

I'm on holy ground,
far from your kiss

Writings on the wall covered in white
"Look not at the stars, they blind in secrecy"
Another shattered heart joins the dust
Come sweep it up, my Juliet arrived.

Nothing compares to her aberrance
Never felt solace like in her hands
What we have is unorthodox
Love hides in shame, turns a shade of green.

patriotism only inspires me to do the same. So, all is not lost!

With numerous social media platforms at our fingertips, it has become increasingly easier to make such declarations. However, any statement will mean nothing if we do not act in a similar way. Even the smallest of efforts can make an enormous contribution to showing our nationalism. Enlightening family members, young and old, using this knowledge is also a key component in exhibiting our love of country.

This knowledge also applies to all types of love—romantic, platonic, familial, and even nationalistic. On such a meaningful month as February when one plucks the courage to profess their feelings for someone special, it is only fitting for us to also find the inspiration to love our country, not only through our statements, but all the more through our actions such as helping underprivileged children or actively keeping the environment clean.



■ LATHALAIN

Di na tayo tulad ng dati, kay bilis ng sandali

By Ian Pagdanganan, Grade 12-Jose

Sa panahon ngayon, napakadali na lang para sa mga taong ipahayag ang kanilang mga sarili sa pamamagitan ng isang pindot. Sa halip na sumulat ng isang liham, ang ginagawa ng karamihan sa atin ay pumunta sa mga social media sites katulad ng Facebook, Twitter, at Instagram. Kaya naman, nagmumukhang ganito ang pagpapahayag ng nararamdaman sa isang tao:

Mon, 9:40 PM
"Uy friend, may ginagawa ka ba ngayon?"

"Wala naman bakit?"

"Kasi kailangan ko ng tulong mo."

"O, ano yun?"

"May babae kasi akong nagugustuhan, tapos 'di ko alam kung paano ko sasabihin sa kanya."

"Ano ka ba!"

"Ikaw ata si James Reid ng paaralan kaya magiging okay naman ang lahat kapag sinabi mo sa kanya nararamdaman mo. Sino ba siya at ano ang nagustuhan mo sa kanya?"

Mon, 10: 30 PM
"Noong Grade 7 ko pa talaga siya nagustuhan, tapos ang bait niya talaga sa akin kahit bago ako sa school."
"Lagi niya akong tinutulungan sa mga assignments, at kahit may problema ako sa buhay nandiyan siya palagi para sa akin. Eh ayun, unti-unti ko siyang nagustuhan."

"Alam mo naman na medyo torpe ako pagdating sa mga ganitong bagay."

"Sino na ba kasi 'yan? Ako na mismo ang kakausap sa kanya para sa'yo."

"Ikaw."
✓ Seen at 10:45 PM

Chocolate, cookies, and nuts make a great combination and they are healthy too. Phenylethylamine in chocolate stimulates feelings similar to those who are in love and helps improve your mood. Oatmeal cookies are rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants like avenanthramides. Walnuts have the combination of healthy fats, protein, and fiber that helps increase satisfaction and fullness. This recipe is good for those who want to eat chocolate in a healthy yet delicious way. Treat your loved ones and yourself a piece of happiness!

FUN FACT: Oatmeal and walnuts are good for the heart.

*Photo by Sir Marvin Tandayu

By Charisse Lee, Grade 9-Sapphire

Char's Kitchen (Valentines Edition): Chocolate Oatmeal-Walnuts Bar

While in line at La Bistro Fontana waiting for your turn the sight of sweet delicacies is enough to get the heart pumping extra fast. Your imagination engages you to the flavorful taste of chocolate that melts in the mouth with buttery smoothness. Yum! But on Valentine's

Day treat your special friends to your very own creation. You can try this recipe below:

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ sticks of butter
- 250 g of semisweet chocolate
- 2 tbsp. of corn syrup
- Crushed oatmeal cookies
- Handful of chopped walnuts

Procedure:

1. In a saucepan, combine the butter, semisweet chocolate, and corn syrup together on medium low heat. Stir the mixture until smooth and melted.
2. Pour the chocolate mixture into a bowl of crushed oatmeal cookies and chopped walnuts. Mix the ingredients well.
3. Transfer the chocolate mixture in a square pan lined with wax paper. Refrigerate for 20 minutes. Then, serve.



4th QUARTER

Schedule Bar

March

- 1-2 - Grade 5 Overnight Camping
3rd Qtr. PTC
- Le Bal - 9
- 15 - Founder's Day
- Grades 6 and 12 Final Exams - 25-28
- 25-28 - Advance Casa Final Exams
- Parent Year-End Conference - 29
- 30 - Inter-Campus Varsity Games

April

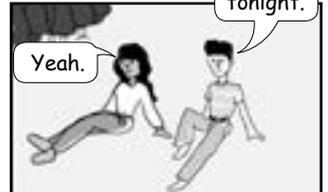
- Grade 1-2 Year-End Exhibit - 2
- 5 - Year-End Exhibit and last day of classes for JC and JAC
- Grade 1-11 Final Exams - 5-12
- 12 - Last day of classes
- Graduation Ceremony - 16
- 30 - Year-End PTC and clearance deadline

You-TOPIA

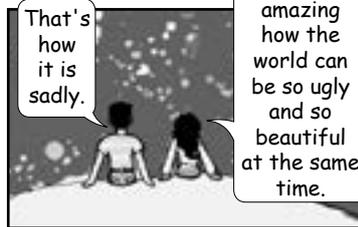
By Joel Roble, Grade 9-Ruby
Illustrated by Miguel Fermin, Grade 11-Amorsolo



The moon looks great tonight.



Yeah.



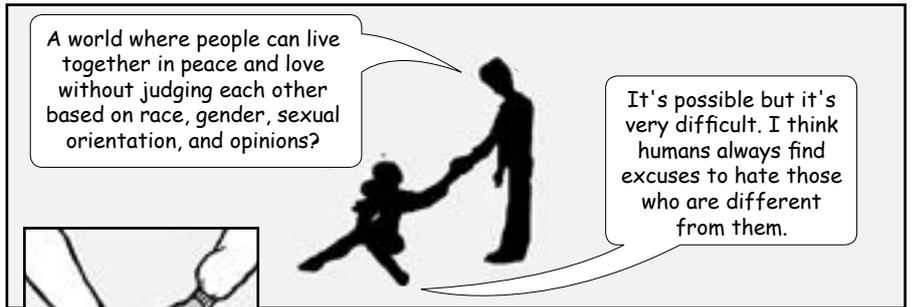
That's how it is sadly.

It's amazing how the world can be so ugly and so beautiful at the same time.

I guess this is part of God's plan. A balance to everything.

Good can't exist without evil, and without chaos.

Do you think it's possible? A Utopia?



A world where people can live together in peace and love without judging each other based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and opinions?

It's possible but it's very difficult. I think humans always find excuses to hate those who are different from them.



I do know a place. It's comparable to utopia.

Where?

Sudoku

9			7				6	
	8		3		4	9		
	2	7			6	3		
3				4		8		6
	6	2		3		4	9	
5		9		6				2
		6	2			5	4	
		3	6		1		2	
	5				9			3



You



Miguel