



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

COSMIC JOURNAL

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VOL. 12 NO. 1

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019



OBMC: “A Forerunner in the Resurgence of Filipino Culture”

► By Yvette Bergantiños
(12 Tinio)

OB Montessori Center (OBMC), at first glance, can give one the assumption that it is just an internationally influenced school. The name “Montessori” pertains to the universal educational method founded by Maria Montessori in Italy. On the other hand, the first part of the school’s name, “OB,” which stands for “Operation Brotherhood,” is sometimes ignored. These letters pertain to the school’s mission to integrate its students into society as god-fearing, altruistic, caring individuals—in Ms. Sara De Guzman’s words, the “classic man in a fast-paced world.”

An oft-forgotten feature of the Montessori system is that it allows schools to integrate their own

traditions, cultures, and practices in its curriculum. True to this, Dr. Preciosa Soliven modified OBMC’s curriculum to cater to the needs of Philippine society when she founded the school, starting with the Casa program, in 1966.

From Casa to Senior High, the curriculum gives students the core values they need in order to grow as well-adjusted Filipino citizens. The use of Filipino language and the appreciation of Philippine literature, as well as the *Buwan ng Wika* celebration, is one example. Aside from learning about the beauty of

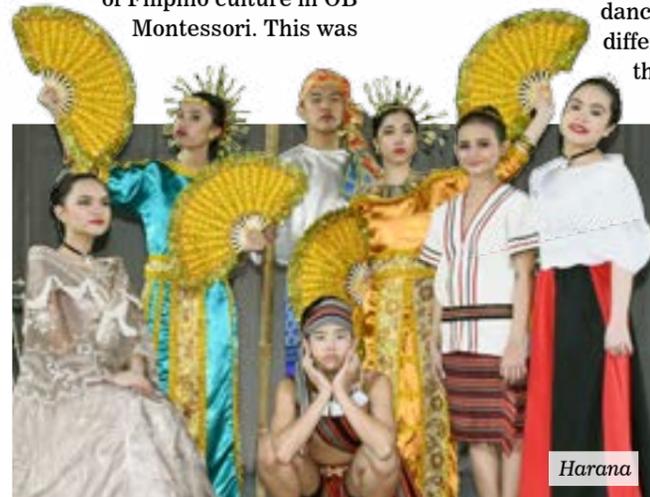
the Filipino language, students are also taught about local plants and animals, as well as locations and practices found in different parts of the Philippines. In addition, the productions of *O Bayang Mahal* and *Harana* have encouraged students to develop an appreciation for the Philippines’ rich culture and history.

These few of examples show that OB Montessori Center always has and continues to integrate the Filipino culture into its curriculum until today, in order to prepare its students to be socially aware and contributing members of our country’s society.

Kamusta Ka, Kultura!

► By Pia Vistro (11 Amorsolo)

O Bayang Mahal: Sounds familiar doesn't it? It was a momentous spectacle staged by students back in 2013 at the Greenhills Campus and in 2014 at the Angeles Campus, which marked the beginning of the resurgence of Filipino culture in OB Montessori. This was



Harana

followed by *Harana*, a joint production with Philippine Opera Company (POC) in 2017 (Las Piñas) and 2018 (Fairview and Angeles). All these productions showcased various aspects of Philippine culture in dances and songs from different regions of the country, along with indigenous legends and epics.

Presently, OBMC promotes Filipino culture to its students in many ways. For instance, the school celebrates *Buwan ng Wika* through activities and shows

for teachers and students in every department. The Minimart now includes booths selling Filipino delicacies and street food. Indigenous games like *kadang-kadang* have been added to the Intramurals.

Furthermore, OBMC sponsors the screening of Philippine movies for students, and often invites noted Filipinos like author F. Sionil Jose, Film



Kadang-kadang



O Bayang Mahal

NEWS

4th Graders inducted in Growing Up Ceremony



► By Marco Hermo V (6 Mercury)

The Grade 4 students of Greenhills and Sta. Ana campuses were formally inducted into the Scouting Movement at the Growing Up Ceremony held on September 7, 2019, at the Maria Montessori Hall.

This special day marked the cub and star scouts' final acceptance as full-fledged boy and girl scouts. During the much-awaited ceremony, the parents donned the neckerchiefs on their children, which symbolize responsibility and commitment to the Scout Ideals. The students also received their scouting vests on which they will attach their merit badges that represent the qualities of a good scout. To showcase the scouts' learned skills, selected students

demonstrated how to build a fire, pitch a tent, and assemble a tripod. Using these skills will help the students survive in the wilderness.

As full-fledged scouts, these 4th graders are now committed to care for the environment and the animal and plant kingdoms. They will also experience a few outdoor activities, such as wall-climbing and harvesting, when they venture out on their Day Camping activity at the Precioza Botanic Park and Farm Resort next year. A new adventure awaits the Grade 4 students!

OBMC's Growing Up Ceremony marks the beginning of a Montessorian's life committed to building a better world.

OB MONTESSORI CENTER
COSMIC JOURNAL
The Voice of Montessori Education

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(12 Tinio)

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ERRATUM

In "Art Leaves Its Mark" (January-February 2019 Issue) Ella Reyes of 9 Topaz should have been listed as Arielle Angela Reyes of 9 Ruby.

Academy director general Leo Martinez, actress and singer Celeste Legaspi, and recently chef Claude Tayag, fashion designer Len Cabili, tech founder Gian Javelona, and rap artist Alaric Yuson to speak to the students concerning current topics in the Philippines in order to inspire them. OBMC has published Filipino textbooks, written by its Filipino teachers, for Grades 1 to 6.

OBMC teaches Philippine culture through experience and immersion instead of memorization. This goes beyond mere surface-level understanding of our culture, and puts it in the students' hearts, thus developing nationalism and love of country that will allow them to become more devoted members of society.



F. Sionil Jose



Celeste Legaspi



Len Cabili



Claude Tayag



Gian Javelona



Alaric Yuson

FEATURES

Grade 10 Retreat: Finding A Fresh Start

► By Moira Sabarre (10 Sapphire)

The Grade 10 had their retreat at the Preziosa Botanic Park and Farm Resort this July. The retreat was a chance for the students to take time away from their busy schedules and restart, to strengthen their relationship with God, and to bond with their classmates. The activity helped them learn to face their problems and to move through the strength of Christ.

True to the Montessori way, which students may at times take for granted, a sense of order

was evident in their everyday actions that involve work.

"The Montessori Method is something that is ingrained within every student," said Louise Ayuyao of 10 Ruby, "in just the same way, this retreat has impacted us and every Montessorian will carry the memories and lessons from this experience in moving forward."

Through all the stress and worries that students go through, the retreat helped them know more about themselves, their relationship with others, the things they value, and how they've grown.

Many of them were able to find a fresh start by learning the importance of apologizing and forgiving; that failure can be turned into success; difficult times strengthen one's perseverance, patience, and ability to resolve problems. In life, we may face challenges, but it is up to us to decide how we let these problems affect us. Always remember that these situations don't define us and that we can surpass them and learn to be better, stronger persons.



Renaissance in Cultural Heritage

► By Robyn Lopez Dionisio (12 Lumbera)

July shifts to August and we are reacquainted with *Buwan ng Wika*, an old friend we have not seen for a year. During former celebrations we thought only in retrospect, celebrating the past by dressing up as ethnolinguistic groups and notable historical figures, sharing iconic foods of the provinces, and performing songs and dances through our extracurricular clubs. There is nothing wrong with celebrating our past; however, perhaps there is some fault in celebrating our past alone.

Senior High Filipino teacher Mr. Gerard Gamboa put it into perspective, when he explained that Filipinos have been content with *Buwan ng Wika* as an opportunity to remember our cultural heritage as if it were something stagnant. Instead, last August the celebration went beyond remembering our language and culture solely as they were and placed a spotlight on them as dynamic and flourishing parts of what make us Filipino.

This year's *Buwan ng Wika* encapsulated OBMC's aim to make relevant and level up our perception of the Filipino identity. Activities such as spoken word poetry, poster making, poem and essay writing, OPM Idol, and the Living Map: *Hindi Lang Wika ... Buhay!* (a mini-production directed by Floy Quintos and performed system-wide) gave students the chance to showcase their appreciation of Philippine culture and languages.

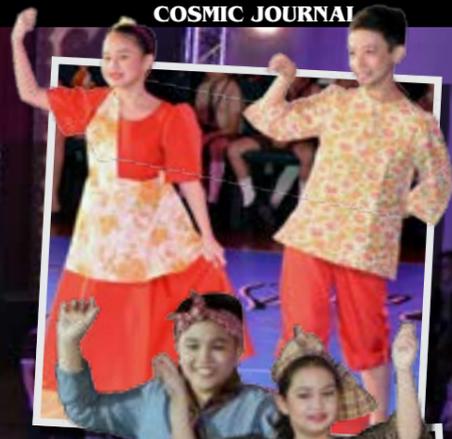
No longer will *Buwan ng Wika* be a mere performance of activities about what our culture and language has been, but—simply put—a celebration of what our Filipino identity has become so far and where it is heading.



O Bayang Mahal

Hindi lang Wika... Buhay!

*Direksyon: Floy Quintos
Koreograpiya: Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group
Paglapat ng Musika: Krina Caybyab*



Mga Nagsipagwagi para sa mga Paligsahan sa Buwan ng Wika

Pagsulat ng Tula:



1. Alexander Ivan Dave Leus (7 Jade)
2. Sofia Millendez (10 Emerald)
3. Regina Tandogon (12 Tinio)

Pagsulat ng Sanaysay



1. Alban Batacan (7 Topaz)
2. Fatima Mamacotao (9 Emerald)
3. Lance Velandria (11 Luna)

Poster



1. Alexi Isabel Blanco (7 Jade)
2. Sabine Lao (10 Ruby)
3. Dabin Go (12 Tinio)

Spoken Word



1. Via Hunice Pan (12 Jose)
2. Antoinette Mei Surigao (12 Lumbera)
3. Renee Macling (12 Tinio)

OPM Idol

Solo

1. Leika Lacson (10 Ruby)
2. Chelsea King (7 Sapphire)
3. Gabrielle Concepcion (11 Amorsolo)

Band

1. Zoe-jin Castro, Lorena Dela Cruz, at Quixyz Mercado (8 Emerald)
2. Joseph Danielle Gonzales (12 Jose), Samuel Pocholo Miguel Garrido (12 Tinio), Lyza Assumpta Balita (12 Jose), at Angel Joyce Malgapo (12 Tinio)

FEATURES

Len Cabili's 'Soft Power': A New Approach to Cultural Influence

► *By the Cosmic Journal Team with Robyn Lopez Dionisio (12 Lumbera)*

This year's *Buwan ng Wika* celebration at OB Montessori Center included something new: A presentation entitled "Apat na

Kwento ng Makabuluhan at Malikhaing Pilipino," where four innovative Filipino artists from various

disciplines revealed their approach to expressing the Filipino identity and cultural heritage in today's modern setting. From Claude Tayag in art and food to Gian Javelona in technology and Alaric "Anygma" Yuson in Philippine rap, our guests last August 20 at the Greenhills campus have left their marks on their professions, both by their excellence and their commitment to exemplifying what is unmistakably Filipino.

Another

speaker was Ms. Len Cabili, creator of *Filip + Inna*; a company which produces contemporary fashion with ethnic flair. Rather than replicate or imitate the work of ethnic artists from the Archipelago, Ms. Cabili travels throughout the country seeking such artists and their artistry, then employs them to produce their work as they have learned it, which she incorporates into her apparel. Working without the time constraints of production line pressure and recompensed with a proper wage, the artists and their unique traditional skills are treated as rare treasures, not economic commodities. As she says, "Who better to learn tradition from than

those who practice it?"

Ms. Cabili refers to her business approach as "Soft Power," through which our cultural heritage can influence society with better effect than through the violence and greed of "Hard Power." She attributes her company's great success to her belief that this soft power can move society in the right direction. She further believes that anyone can follow her lead in advancing the nation's condition by promoting its culture. "Learn more about your province, its culture and its past," she says. "The more interested you are in our history, the more you can find ways to incorporate it in what you do."



LITERARY
Hindi Isa Lamang ang Depinisyon ng Pagiging Pilipino

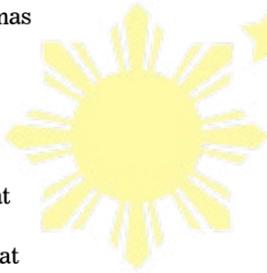
► *By Camille Aban (12 Jose)*
 Bawat linggo, tuwing Sabado o Linggo, pumupunta kami sa probinsya ng nanay ko.
 Sa San Mateo, Rizal ito kung saan ang simple lamang ng buhay.
 Malayo sa ingay ng mga busina at usok ng mga sasakyan, nagtataasang gusali, at nakakasilaw na mga ilaw ng Maynila.
 Maglalaro ako sa kalsada kasama ang aking mga pinsan, tapos pupunta sa sari-sari store para bumili ng softdrinks at kendi.
 Sprite sa plastik na supot, Juicy Fruit na chewing gum, at minsan pa ay may dala-dala pa akong plastic balloons.

Uuwi kami bago pa dumilim sa labas at kakain ng pinaghandaang pagkain.
 Pininyahang Manok, Dinuguan, Tinola, at ang paborito kong matamis na

Maharlika

► *By Sofia Santiago (6 Venus)*
 This is the culture I have learned to love, A culture I am really proud of. Our culture surely stands out, Believe in me, rid all your doubt.
 We are creative, first of all, In works of art, we stand tall. Crafts, literature—any form of art, Every masterpiece comes from the heart.
 Don't forget about respect As our manners we try to perfect. We are courteous, polite, and kind, All those virtues we keep in mind.
 We work hard to reach our goals As perseverance is woven in our souls. With or without the help of friends, We use all means to achieve our ends.
 All these are true, I have not lied, In our glorious culture, we should take pride. The characteristics I have told, This is the legacy we have to uphold.

Leche Flan.
 Pagdating ng gabi at nakalabas na ang buwan, maririnig na ang ingay ng mga nagviveoke at nag-iinumang.
 Kapag ako'y naroon, nararamdaman ko na "mas Pilipino" ako. Nararamdaman ko na napapaligiran ako ng "totoong kulturang Pilipino."
 Tuwing pauwi na kami at nasa kotse na kami, tumitingin ako sa labas at pinapanood kung paano nagbabago ang mga siksikang kalsada, at maliliit na mga bahay at tindahan.
 Habang tumatagal ang biyahe, sila ay nagiging mga malawak na kalsada at highway



puno ng mga naglalakihang billboard.
 Dalawa silang magkakaibang mundo at kultura.
 Ngunit, ano nga ba ang "totoong kulturang Pilipino"?
 Ito ba ay ang pag-viveoke, pagmamahal sa Sinigang, o ang pagiging "fashionably late"?
 Sari-sari ang kulturang Pilipino.
 Katulad lang ng sari-sari store, o ng mga sangkap ng Sinigang.
 Galing "Adobong Manacc" at "Kadenang Ginto," hanggang *Noli Me Tangere* o *El Filibusterismo*, hindi isa lang ang depinisyon ng kulturang Pilipino.
 Iyan ang kulturang atin.

Hindi katulad

► *By Lorraine Castillo (12 Lumbera)*
 Ako'y limang-taong gulang, malinaw ang aking alaala
 Pumunta ako sa playground kung saan naglalaro ang mga ibang bata
 Sa sandbox ako nakisabay sa mga kaibigan ko
 Gumuhit kami ng mga karakter sa buhangin
 Biglang dumating ang klasmeyt kong si Drew
 At tumapak sa aking guhit na para bang
 Isa iyon sa kanyang mga laruan
 Sinumbong ko siya kina Mommy at Daddy
 Sabi ko "Nay, Tay, ayoko na doon!"
 Pinigilan nila ako, sabi ni Mommy, "Anak... joke lang 'yon."
 Biro lang 'yon. Normal lang 'yon."
 ... Bakit ganoon?

Ako'y labindalawang-taong gulang, malinaw ang aking alaala
 Pumunta ako sa basketball court para makilaro kay Kuya
 Pawis na pawis at nakakapagod ang laro... ngunit ako'y masaya
 Hanggang biglang tinawag ako at pinigilan ni Mommy
 Pinagalitan at sinabihan na magsuot ng palda
 Hindi raw para sa akin ang paglalaro ng basketbol

Ako raw at hindi yung bola ang dapat hinahabol
 ... Bakit ganoon?
 Ako'y labinlimang-taong gulang, malinaw ang aking alaala
 Nagsasagot ako ng mga tanong sa aking takdang-aralin
 Bigla akong tinawag ni Mommy para hugasan
 Ang mga plato na ginamit nina Kuya at Daddy para kumain
 Naglinis din ng mesa pagkatapos namin
 At naglaba ng mga damit, naglinis ng CR, at nag-ayos ng kwarto
 Tulog na sina Kuya at Daddy noong inayos ko ang kwarto
 Hindi man lang ako tinulungan, hindi naman daw kailangan
 ... Pero bakit ganoon?
 Ngayon, ako'y dalawampu't-limang taong gulang at kasama ni Abby
 Pinapanood ang kanyang kapatid at ama na naglalaro ng basketbol
 Nakatuon ang mga mata ni Abby sa bola
 Ngumiti nalang ako at sinabing, "Anak, sumali ka kaya sa kanila."
 Ngumisi siya ngunit nag-atubiling nagtanong
 "Pero 'Nay, hindi ako katulad nila."
 "Sus, baka mas magaling ka pa sa kanila!"
 Binigyan ko nalang siya ng ekstra na basketbol,
 "Okay lang 'yon, Abby. Malaya ka."

FEATURES
Ako'y isang Montessorian dahil...

► *By the Cosmic Journal Team*
 - Eisha Jesieka Pineda, 9 Sapphire -
 // ... dulot ng aking edukasyon ang kalawakan na umuugat mula sa talinhaga ng mga diskurso sa silid-aralan.
 - MM Marajas, 10 Sapphire -
 // ... pinairal sa atin ang disiplina sa pag-aaral, sa pananalita, at sa pag-kilos. Naniwala ako na 'self-developing' ako na estudyante.
 - Fathma Mamacotao, 9 Emerald -
 // ... parte ako ng kabataang patuloy na nag-aaral at lumalaban para sa pagbabagong inaasam. //
 // ... isa akong batang edukado di lang sa mga paksang kusang itinuturo sa isang paaralan kundi pati na rin sa mga pangyayaring nagaganap sa ating mundo at sa realidad nito. //
 - Joel Altea VII, 9 Ruby -
 // ... tamang kaugalian at kritikal na kaispan. Katulad nang kasabihan na Seipsum Facit Persona o Man Make Himself, ako lamang ang tanging tataguyod sa buhay ko. //
 // ... ako ay masinop, disiplinado, at ang pinaka-importante sa lahat, matapat. Kahit gaano kahirap ang mga hamon sa eskwelahan, hindi ako nandaraya. Ito ay dadalhin ko sa buhay. //



FEATURES



ACQUAINTANCE PARTY

► *By Raphael Pagtalunan (8 Emerald)*

Why that character?

Ash Ketchum from Pokemon: "I used to watch the show before, and I like this character." - Carlo Regino, 7 Jade

Spiderman: "I like the hero for who he is." - Carl Sebastian, 7 Ruby

T'Challa from Black Panther: "He represents those who aren't given much light and gives hope to people of color." - Zoe-jin Angelique Castro, 8 Emerald

Ben10: "I really like the story, characters, and animations. As a kid, I also wanted to have the powers he has." - Constantine Pazcoguin, 8 Topaz

Midoriya Izuku from My Hero Academia: "They're an inspiration and they ought to inspire each other and the audience." - Sophia Sian, 8 Sapphire

■ NEWS

An Act of Gratitude and Care

► By Carl Harvey Nardo (10 Topaz)

More than 60 student-volunteers from Greenhills, Angeles, and Fairview campuses planted 100 mango and 30 coconut saplings at the 50-hectare Scout Ranger's Village, Camp Tecson, in San Miguel, Bulacan on September 14, 2019. OB Montessori's JHS CAT cadets guided by Commandant Capt. Jose Mari Dela Peña and Sgt. Ann Mobilla, together with the Grade School's Save the Earth members joined by Agriculture teachers planted the saplings in a two-fold initiative involving OBMC's environmental awareness program and its community development plan for the village.

The students then toured the camp to get acquainted with the scout rangers and their families, how they live on base, and their sacrifice and service to our nation. They are the toughest unit in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), typically the first deployed in ground zero. The students also visited a museum dedicated to the heroic efforts of scout rangers and military personnel during the Marawi siege.

According to Capt. Dela Peña, this tree-planting activity is the first of a 3-phase joint project of OBMC with the Philippine Army's First Scout Ranger Regiment. Phase 2 is teaching propagation techniques and plant nursery care to the wounded and disabled warriors. Then phase 3 is converting the day-care center at Camp Tecson to a Pagsasarili school and Mothercraft Center, which completes the cycle of caring for the Rangers' prepared environment, their homes, and their families.

As the Corps Commander for school year 2019–2020, I invite everyone to take part in our school's mission to give back to our soldiers and fulfill our duty toward our environment. Let us continue planting saplings of hope for the future!

