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COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

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Las Piñas

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PRIDE OF OBMC! (Left to right) Pocholo Catoto, Van De Jesus, Julia Samson, Kelly Martin, Gabrielle Jagunap, and Ethan Ortiz Luis.

OBMC takes the crown for the 2019 FedEx/JA ITC Nationals

► By Zafina Tenorio (9 Emerald)

Three teams from OB Montessori Center (one from Angeles Campus and two from Las Piñas) took the only three podium spots at the national qualifiers of the 2019 FedEx/Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge (JA ITC) held in Makati on June 24.

Angeles Campus bested 10 other teams and secured the first place. Next to them were Pocholo Catoto of 8 Ruby and Van De Jesus of 10 Ruby of Las Piñas campus. Coming in third were 8th graders Gabrielle Jagunap (Sapphire) and Ethan Ortiz Luis (Ruby) also from Las Piñas campus.

FedEx/JA ITC is a program created to help students from schools around the world learn the value of innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity.

Before the competition, lectures were hosted by the Asian Institute of Management to improve the students' knowledge on business and entrepreneurship. Ortiz Luis said that they revolved around stories of how



OBMC represented the Philippines at the FedEx/Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge in Malaysia working with about 60 participants from the Asia Pacific region.

people started their businesses and what it took for them to be successful. The lectures also increased the students' skills in critical thinking and public speaking, which aided them in the preparation of their product presentations.

"I learned more about the strategies of creating a market plan," he said.

In acknowledgement of the OBMC

education system, Ortiz Luis said that the school has taught him focus and determination.

"It really motivated me in making our product, especially the prototype," he said.

All podium finishers in the national qualifiers were the Philippine representatives, who competed in the international finals in Malaysia from August 18 to 22.

NEWS

Hindi Lang Wika ... Buhay!

Isang musical production sa direksyon ni Floy Quintos ang itinanghal sa OB Montessori Center - Las Piñas bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng *Buwan ng Wika* ngayong taon.

Sa tulong ng koreograpiya ng Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group at musika ni Krina Cayabyab, matagumpay na naitanghal noong ika-13 ng Agosto ang *Hindi Lang Wika ... Buhay!* na nagpapakita ng iba't ibang sayaw at

musika ng mga etnolinggwistikong grupo sa Pilipinas tulad ng Sebwano, Igorot, Maguindanaon, at iba pa.

Ayon kay Mrs. Sara Soliven-De Guzman, chief operating officer ng OBMC, layunin ng pagtatanghal na himukin ang mga mag-aaral na ipagmalaki ang mga kulturang ito, hindi lang sa buwan ng Agosto kung hindi araw-araw.

► **By Andrea Garfin**
(10 Ruby)

"Instead of just focusing on the use of Filipino, we wanted to showcase the

different languages that are often ignored, as well as help the students become more familiar with the cultures we don't get to see much of, especially nowadays," ani Mrs. Soliven-De Guzman.

Bukod sa nasabing pagtatanghal, dinaos din sa iba't ibang araw ng Agosto ang mga kompetisyong tulad ng pagbuo ng poster, pagsulat



OBMC - Las Piñas welcomes SY 2019-2020

► **By Ashley Esguerra** (10 Ruby)

The opening of classes at OB Montessori Center - Las Piñas on July 1, 2019 had a smooth and organized proceeding, students said.

"Everyone was attentive, and the process was easier than expected," said Alexi Rae Pruna of 9 Emerald who transferred to OBMC this year. Mika Llanto of 8 Ruby affirmed that the staff were "very accommodating."

In order to aid the students who are new to OBMC, the teachers and other staff were stationed near the entrance to properly direct them to their respective classrooms. The school also lessened traffic conditions by having people assist those arriving in private vehicles. This gave the normally hectic first

day a more orderly start.

Mrs. Leonida Indiongco, Las Piñas Campus Manager, found the direction of this year's opening of classes to be an improvement from last year.

"It was better and more organized in terms of the preparation, guidance of students, and accommodation of the Casa and Primary parents," she said.

Many new students are already looking forward to what's to come in 2019. They anticipate a meaningful year where they can make new friends during the various events and activities prepared for every grade level. Some notable events include the Fun Day and Intramurals, as well as the *Buwan ng Wika* celebration.

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ng tula at sanaysay, dagliang talumpati, at OPM Idol.

Nagkaroon din ng kumperensiya sa porma ng TED Talk sa OBMC Greenhills noong Agosto 20 na dinaluhan ng mga mag-aaral ng Las Piñas Campus mula ika-9 hanggang ika-12 na Baitang. Pinangunahan ang nasabing programa ng iba't ibang mga tagapagsalita tulad nina Alaric Yuson, na tinalakay ang mga makabagong tula at awit, at Leonora Cabili, na nagbigay diin sa mga estilo at pananamit ng mga katutubo.



NEWS

2019 ACQUAINTANCE PARTY

► **By Christine Manansala** (10 Ruby)

The first three weeks of high school have been eventful for everyone—from a Dale Carnegie activity for every class to the introduction of the SIP (Scientific Investigatory Project). This has been a monumental step for the Grade 7 students, who are getting adjusted to the new schedule.

On August 19 the freshmen partied through music, games, and throwbacks

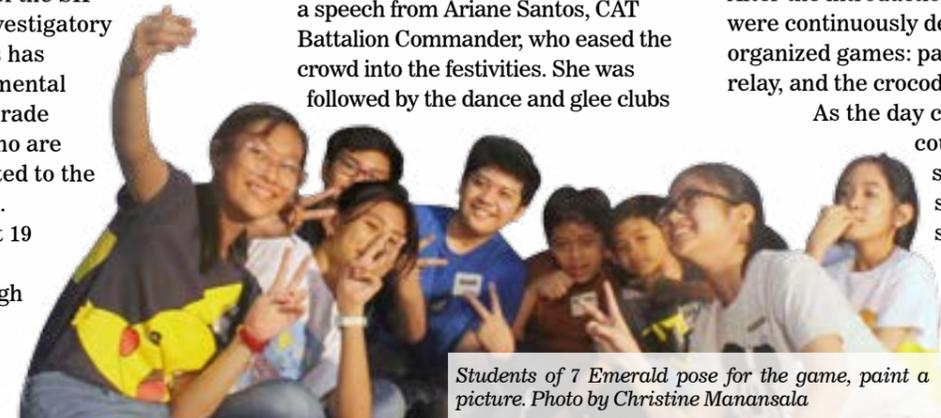
of their favorite cartoons. Grades 7 and 8 students filed into the gym at 1 p.m. for the 2019 Acquaintance Party.

The event was kicked off with a speech from Ariane Santos, CAT Battalion Commander, who eased the crowd into the festivities. She was followed by the dance and glee clubs

with their renditions of "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing" by Tori Kelly and "Heroes" by Alesso.

Despite the nerves, Grade 7 students entered the stage and introduced themselves with their own distinctive quotes ranging from the insightful, "I believe the pen is mightier than the sword" to the notable "*Gusto kong kumain.*" After the introductions, the students were continuously delighted through organized games: paint a picture, relay, and the crocodile race.

As the day concluded, we could all say this for sure: "Grade 7 students are starting high school together resolutely and are planning on making their journey worthwhile."



Students of 7 Emerald pose for the game, paint a picture. Photo by Christine Manansala

FEATURES

OBMC - LP Pride: Psychometrician Board Exam Top 10

By Abigail Pepino (12 Jose)



Jerieka Fernandez interviewed by Abigail Pepino

Jerieka Nicole Isabella D. Fernandez is a Montessorian through and through, from Casa to high school. She graduated as class valedictorian in both grade school and high school (Batch 2012). Not only was she active in academics but she was also an outstanding COCC Officer as Battalion Commander.

"I had to go to OBMC Greenhills at 6 in the morning for summer COCC trainings," she recalls. "I had to



wake up early so my Dad could drive [me] to Greenhills."

Her parents are both doctors at the Perpetual Help Medical Center, Las Piñas—her father as a general surgeon and her mother as a pediatrician and an occupational doctor. Her three other siblings, all alumni of OBMC, are now pursuing their own science-related careers.

Jerieka took up BS Psychology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and graduated in 2016 as *magna cum laude*. She is now a student at the UP College of Medicine, and has plans to specialize in either neurology or psychiatry. In 2017, during her second year in medical school,

she took the Psychometrician Board Exam and ranked in the top 10.

She is grateful for the principles, work ethic, and understanding of critical analysis which OBMC has instilled in her.

"I got used to a lot of note taking in class and I've brought that habit with me to my college classes," Jerieka shared.

Jerieka is proud of her achievements. Looking back at the years she spent in OBMC, she says that her former school played a great role in her college success, and she feels prepared for her future endeavors. Her message to the lower levels is to not stress too much, to balance work and friends, and to have fun while learning.

FEATURES

The Clubs of OBMC - Las Piñas

By Ciara Russegger (9 Emerald)



Varsity Club



Science Club



Math Club

At OBMC, learning is not confined to the prescribed day-by-day subjects that all students are required to take. They augment their learning experience with clubs—extra-curricular activities after dismissal time, once or twice a week. Clubs conduct practical activities and participate in events on and off campus, enhancing and expanding on students' lessons as well as improving social skills and providing an avenue for recreation and personal improvement.

Students may choose between ten

different clubs, from academic to non-academic. Each club has its unique activities and features—even the members who join are unique! For example, the Science Club, performs experiments in the science laboratory. The Marching Band lends its musical talents to CAT graduations and mall shows. Meanwhile, the Glee Club performs in school events and concerts.

Former Rainbow Catering Club moderator Ms. Jocson stated that the members of the Rainbow Catering Club, who host birthday parties for Casa and

Primary students on Fridays, are "creative and very passionate about cooking," while Mr. Canlas, former moderator of the Writers' Guild, fondly describes its members as "people with blasting creativity that needs to be expressed."

With their individual uniqueness, all clubs have their particular appeal to students. Entrepreneurship Club is an excellent choice for those who want to develop their business and communication skills, while COCC's appeal lies in its instilling of discipline,

respect, and honor in its members. Dance and Varsity are good clubs for the athletic student interested in self-expression and rigorous training. All the academic clubs exercise students' minds and encourage strong analytical and logical skills such as the Math Club.

All students are encouraged to join one or more clubs to improve themselves, explore their interests, and—most importantly—make the most out of their time at OBMC!



Marching Band

FEATURES

Humans of the Green Campus: Meet Kuya Edwin

By Alliyah Beloso (i2 Jose)

As the city becomes more of an eyesore daily, it would be nice to see pockets of nature's beauty. Fortunately, the students of OB Montessori Center - Las Piñas get an eyeful of nature from their self-sufficiency farm.

The farm has been a part of the campus since it opened in 1998 as a project of OBMC Founder Dr. Preciosa Soliven, who networked with Professor Charupant Thongham of the University of Kasetsart, Thailand. Professor Thongham saw the open spaces and turned them into the simple yet beautiful farm it is today. Though

the students know of the farm, they do not know who is behind all its present beauty.

For 35 years, Mr. Edwin Danao has been working on the greeneries of the campus.

He recalls that one of the first things he did was to plant the mahogany, miracle, and tamarind trees Dr. Soliven brought from Thailand; these were strategically placed around the campus along the borders of the school to lessen the city dust.

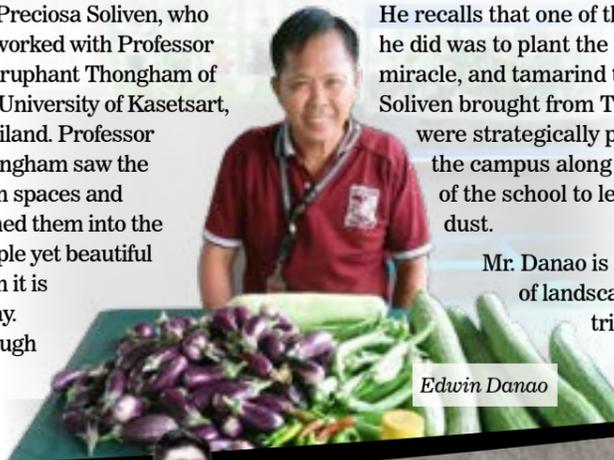
Mr. Danao is also in charge of landscaping. He trims the grass to give

the farm its fresh, neat look. He also prunes the hedges and is the great mind behind the "I Love OB" living sculpture in front of the farm. Aside from taking care of the flora, Mr. Danao also takes care of the campus's fauna, tending to its doves, chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs, and fish.

As the chief caretaker of the campus's self-sufficiency farm, Mr. Danao wishes that students would be more inclined to agriculture as it is vital to the survival of a nation.



Self-Sufficiency farm



Edwin Danao



■ FEATURES
Music Through the Ages

► By Vincent Alimario (11 Amorsolo)

Music has been around for as long as man's existence and it is considered a pillar of human ingenuity and creativity. In OBMC, music is present in the development of the child. They are formally introduced

to the subject in their Casa years, then they begin their academic foray into the realm of music and arts by learning the rudiments beginning in their Primary years. The Primary Department has an extra-curricular activity called the Primary Angel's Choir, where they begin their exposure to the

performance side of singing and acting. They apply these learned skills in a graduated level in their Intermediate years, when they can choose to continue with singing in the Intermediate Angel's Choir, or play the angklung, an instrument which originated in Indonesia. In High School, the students are given a multitude of extra-curricular activities to join. This includes more comprehensive and in-depth learning in their music curriculum. The information learned from the music lessons becomes critical to their overall development, as it helps shape their critical reading, listening, and analyzing skills. Involvement with the High School's Glee Club or Marching



Angel's Choir



■ FEATURES
The Concert at The Park

► By Andrea Garfin (10 Ruby)

Marching Band with band master Conrad Nicolas

The OBMC Las Piñas Marching Band, alongside their Greenhills and Angeles counterparts, amazed the huge crowd that gathered last May 19 to witness their first-ever large-scale solo concert at the Luneta Park. The hour-long performance featured hits such as Coldplay's *Viva la Vida*, *September* by Earth, Wind & Fire, and *The Avengers Suite* (Theme), among others. The performances were led by the four OBMC band masters: Mr. Antonio Almiñe and

Mr. Ramon Ciriaco of Greenhills campus, Mr. Conrad Nicolas of Las Piñas, and Mr. Paul Geliberte of Angeles. According to Mr. Nicolas, the Concert at the Park was their biggest show to date, and as always, they received an enthusiastic response from the audience. It was the biggest crowd they had ever performed for outside of OBMC, as well as being the most diverse with outsiders, parents, and even passers-by dropping in for a listen.

Equipped with their passion, mastery, and hours of intense training, they serenaded the people at the Park, filling the evening air with sweet harmonies and melodies to touch the hearts of the crowd. With the success at Luneta, the Marching Band hopes to continue performing at bigger venues, and with their level of dedication alongside the support of the school, there is no limit to what they can achieve.



Angklung Ensemble

Band teaches the students how to improve their time-management skills, as well as their organization and self-discipline in balancing their increasing academics and commitments to their respective clubs. These two clubs are constantly practicing and rehearsing, due to either performing in various school events, outside at exhibitions or mall shows, or in competition against other schools around the country. However, this does not mean that every child is equally interested in music or the arts; but the things they have learned throughout their participation in these activities and in the subject itself will have a great impact on how they handle challenges, especially later in college.



■ FEATURES

Mother Knows Best

► By Zafina Tenorio (9 Emerald)

A mother's love always chooses what is best for her children. As a parent, Dra. Leah de Mesa chose to give her children the Montessori experience in the Las Piñas campus. She enrolled her daughter Chimes, currently in Grade 7; Jared who is in Grade 5; and her youngest, Jackjack, who is now in Grade 1. Based on the concept of metamorphosis, Dra. De Mesa shared her thoughts on her son's changes from the beginning of his Montessori experience to the present. In an interview during the previous school year of 2018-2019, Dra. De Mesa described her son's first day of school as "more of a

homecoming rather than a first day." She explained that Jackjack, had a gleam in his eye as he searched the shelves for materials to work on. As she watched him from outside his classroom, Dra. De Mesa shared that her son only looked up at her once to give her a thumb's-up to say, "I'm okay, Mommy. You can go now." The first-week trial allowed her son to grow more at ease with the OBMC environment. When we think of the word 'metamorphosis,' we think of the word 'change' as well. Dra. De Mesa said that her son, who has a visual disability, had never gone through advanced lessons and had only a knowledge of basic colors. Although worried, she followed through with whatever assignments her son was given every Friday. As time passed, Dra. De Mesa observed that her son became more independent and more curious about the things around him compared to the first weeks, emphasizing that Jackjack had also become assertive with the things he can do. "My child went in with nothing but he walked out of Casa with everything I had hoped for," she exclaimed. Jackjack received the medal for winning second place in the Poetry Festival during his Casa graduation last April. On her son's graduation, Dra. De Mesa happily shared, "Am I happy? No—I'm ecstatic!"



Casa graduation 2019 child speaker: Jericho De Mesa

■ HEALTH ALERT
Dengue Alert!

► By Abigail Pepino (12 Jose)

After the extreme summer heat, we now progress to the rainy season. Colds, influenza, cholera, dengue fever, food and water contaminations become increasingly common during the downpours.

Lately, a national epidemic in the Philippines was declared after having over 622 deaths due to dengue. The virus is transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. The infection causes flu-like illness and may develop into a potentially fatal complication called severe dengue. It is a great concern to public health. With the increasing number of dengue fever cases in the nation, it is essential to know how to keep from being infected. Here are a few helpful tips on how you can prevent it:

- ☞ Apply mosquito repellent
- ☞ Use aerosol or insecticides sprays during the day to prevent mosquito bites
- ☞ Cover or empty all stagnant water storages
- ☞ Eat a healthy diet and take your daily vitamins
- ☞ Get enough rest and sleep



The rainy season brings with it a lot of health problems. With the cumulative number of dengue cases, we must be mindful of both our health and our environment. We must keep our immune system strong and keep our surroundings clean and free from mosquitos to prevent the virus from escalating.

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■ OPINION

CMO No. 20: Ang Pagkasira ng Ating Bansa

► By Megan Margaret Antonio (12 Jose)

“**A**ng wika ay palatandaan ng Aidentidad ng isang bayan... ang nag-uugnay sa estudyante sa kaniyang pamilya, komunidad na kaniyang pinanggalingan, sa kahapon ng bayan,” pahayag ni Bienvenido Lumbera, Pambansang Alagad ng Sining at propesor sa UP Diliman. Ngunit, kung tatanggalin ang pag-aaral sa wikang Filipino, hindi ba ito magiging katulad ng pagpuputol ng ating koneksyon sa ating identidad? Pinalalakas ng wika ang koneksyon hindi lamang sa ating sarili, kundi maging sa mga mamamayan at sa bansa sa kabuuan.

Gayunpaman, upang matiyak na walang mga paksa na uulitin sa *high school* at kolehiyo, inaprubahan ng Korte Suprema ang Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order No. 20 (CMO No. 20) na tanggalin ang Filipino at Panitikan bilang mga core subjects sa kolehiyo. Sa halip, ang plano ng CHED

ay ipakuha ang mga paksang ito sa *senior high school*. Pinangangatuwiran ng CHED at Korte Suprema na ito ay konstitusyonal dahil ang Filipino at Panitikan ay nananatili pa rin sa primarya at sekondaryang edukasyon.

Ang pagtanggap ng Filipino bilang isang *core subject* ay isang pagpapasya na maaaring humantong sa tinatawag nating *cultural genocide* dahil mayroon nang halatang pagpabor at higit na pagpapahalaga sa ibang wika tulad ng Ingles na ginagamit sa ating mga batas, malalaking diyaryo, at madalas ding ginagamit sa pagtuturo.

Ang Filipino ay higit pa sa pagmememorya ng mga salita at pag-aaral ng gramatika; ito ay isang paraan upang kumonekta sa ating kasaysayan at lumaban sa pagkonsumo at dominasyon ng mga banyagang kultura sa panahon ng globalisasyon.

Kailangang itaas ng masa ang kanilang ulo na nakayuko at ipaglaban ang pag-unlad ng Filipino bilang isang instrumento na ginagamit upang hubugin ang isipan ng mga tao at isang *social glue* na nagbubuklod sa ating kapuluan para sa demokrasya, kalayaan, at kabutihan ng Pilipinas.



► Artwork by Alexi Pruna

■ ENTERTAINMENT ■

Magbugtungan Tayo! ► By Megan Margaret Antonio (12 Jose)

Ang bugtong ay isang uri ng panitikan na ginawa upang masukat ang talas ng pag-iisip. Ito rin ay nagsilbing libangan sa pre-kolonyal na Pilipinas. Karaniwan itong may dalawang taludtod at iisang tugma katulad ng sumusunod na mga halimbawa:

1. Kung kailan mo pinatay saka humaba ang buhay
Sagot: Kandila
2. Ako ay may kaibigan kasama ko kahit saan
Sagot: Anino
3. Nagtago si Pedro labas kanyang ulo
Sagot: Pako



4. Buto't balat lumilipad
Sagot: Saranggola
5. Ayan na, ayan na 'di mo pa makita
Sagot: Hangin

Ang wika ay mahalagang bahagi ng ating kultura. Ang puno sa larawan ay simbolo na kailangang pagyamanin ang ating wika upang ito ay tumubo. Kailangan itong alagaan upang magamit araw-araw at maipasa sa susunod na henerasyon. Ang mga wika sa Pilipinas ay hindi lang basta sinasalita kundi isang malaking bahagi ng ating buhay.

Egg Waffle

► By Millen Ross Lazaro (11 Amorsolo)



Tara na't awitin ang tema ng Buwan ng Wika ngayong taon! Punan ang mga blangko ng tamang liriko:

'Di lang wika ... kundi _____!
'Di lang _____ ... kundi diwa!
Iisa ang _____.
Pinag-ugnay ng _____!
Yaman nati'y ipagbunyi
Tuwing _____ ng wika!

Sagot: buhay, salita, lahat, Maykapal, Buwan