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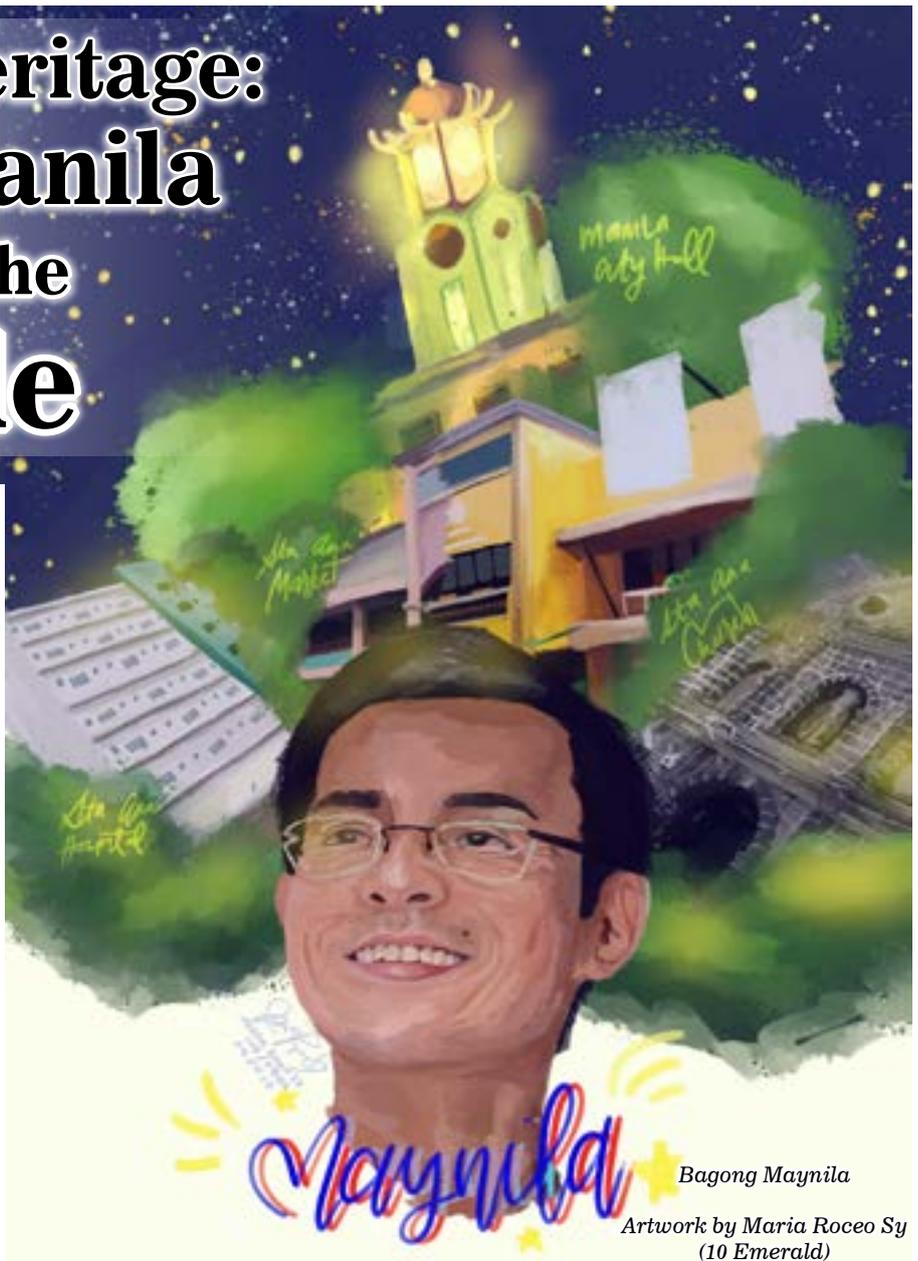
Sta. Ana Heritage: Giving Manila Back to the People

► *By Gabino Joaquin Barcelona
and Charles Edmon Perez
(11 Amorsolo)*

Along the streets of Sta. Ana, Manila, a rich history spans all the way from the Spanish colonial period up until the Second World War. Declared by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines as an area of history and culture, Sta. Ana's gems can still be seen until now, one of which is the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church at the center of the plaza.

From the church to the abundance of heritage houses dotting Sta. Ana, such as the Lichauco and Amparo-Santos ancestral houses, efforts to preserve such gems are still being done to this day. Just recently, the church received an exterior renovation to preserve its historical appearance as a legacy to its community. The efforts to preserve these heritage sites show how the stories behind each one are part and parcel of the beauty that is Sta. Ana, Manila.

The new Manila Mayor, Isko Moreno, has been fighting to protect this vital cultural heritage since his inauguration. He has been



Bagong Maynila

Artwork by Maria Roceo Sy
(10 Emerald)

instituting various reforms and improvements seeking to create a *Bagong Maynila*. Chief among these reforms is the clearing operations in clogged areas of the city. The previously chaotic streets of Recto, Divisoria, Soler, Carriedo, and others have now been cleared of

street vendors, and it is regarded as his biggest accomplishment so far.

Mayor Isko has also placed importance on preserving the rectitude of Manila by dismantling illegal operations, such as gambling

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NEWS

First Day of School: A Day Full of Surprises

► By the Cosmic Journal Team

With more than 800 students returning to school, not even weather disturbance could stop their jitters and excitement for the first day of classes in O.B. Montessori - Sta. Ana on July 1.

To no one's surprise, OBMC - SA's first day was greeted by a class suspension, bringing mixed emotions from students across all levels.

"I felt both nervous and excited this start of the school year since I will be meeting old and new faces," Deacon Abram Pahate of 7 Emerald shared, "However, I was still looking forward to finish the whole day as a high school student for the first time. It left me wanting more."

With high spirits and heightened anticipation, 5th grader Caleb Ysaiah Morales shared how he got off to a smooth start despite the suspension.

"The first day of classes was fine. We were given the school rules, we pushed back our chairs, and we did homeroom," Morales said with a big smile on his face.

Teachers and other school staff were also among those who welcomed the school year on a happy note even with the unexpected first-day suspension.

While heading into another school year, all are expected to prepare for more surprises such as this. Nerves may continue to rattle at the start, but the energy always remain high.

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Changes and Constants► By **Gabino Barcelona**
(11 Amorsolo)

Another summer has come and gone, and a new school year has begun. In these times of change, we tend to look for constants in our lives. For the locals of Sta. Ana, they need not look further than the local market right along Pedro Gil Street.

The Sta. Ana Market is a place familiar to any resident. Hosting vendors that range from *palabok* eateries to textile merchants, the market has ingrained itself into the community. However, time can alter any constant. Amid high-rise buildings and commercialization, the local vendors and businesses in the area are still fighting to maintain their livelihood.

"I started working here three years ago," said Retzel Manio of Starchic Meatshop, "but this booth has been owned by my grandfather since the market was first built." A family-owned shop, like many in the market, Starchic Meatshop is run by Manio along with her three sisters.

"Income is good, especially around Christmas," the vendor said. In spite of the presence of corporate alternatives like Savemore, the sisters persevere to get by.



Renovated, fully air-conditioned and functional, Sta. Ana public market is now a haven for customers looking for fresh and affordable products.

This mentality carries over to other booths such as Emil's Sari-Sari Store, owned by Ramona Enriquez. "The companies do affect business sometimes, but we work hard to get more customers and earn [a profit]," she said.

When surrounded by privately-owned malls and restaurants, these vendors have considered the option of shutting down or selling their booths. On the one hand, Enriquez said, "I would have to think it over, but even



The newly renovated Sta. Ana public market boasts of clean, orderly stalls manned by courteous sellers. Photos by Alyssa Desiongco (9 Emerald)

then I don't think I would say yes [to an offer to sell]." On the other hand, when asked the same question Manio responded: "My family built this, and that's something I can't give up, no matter the price."

It looks like these vendors are here to stay.

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NEWS

OBMC-Sta. Ana donates books to F. Amorsolo Elementary School► By **Reenon Darren Cabilzo**
(12 Jose)

As part of OB Montessori Center's outreach program to connect with its community and fulfill its mission, the Sta. Ana campus donated books to the F. Amorsolo Elementary School last July 18. It also initiated the setting up of a library system in the said school. Mrs. Maricel Magsino, OB Senior Librarian, worked with Ms. Generosa Soledad, F. Amorsolo Librarian, in arranging the books in the newly redesigned library.

This venture is a dream come true for F. Amorsolo's Principal, Mrs. Carmelita Miranda, who had reached out to different schools for this initiative. Ms. Miranda is thankful for the response of OB Montessori Center.

"*Importante ang pagbabasa* (Reading is important)," says Ms. Miranda, "*May iba talagang itinuturo ang mga libro sa mga bata sa tinuturo sa kanila sa isang klasrum, at ang library ay isang paraan para maipadala namin iyon.* (There is something different about the way books teach children compared to the normal classroom setting, and a



F. Amorsolo Elementary School Principal Mrs. Carmelita Miranda (far left) and Librarian Ms. Generosa Soledad (far right) show off the books donated by OB Montessori. Joining them are the team from OBMC - Sta. Ana: Mrs. Christy Morales (HS ACO, center), Ms. Maricel Magsino (Head Librarian, 2nd from right), and Gabino Barcelona (Student-writer, 2nd from left).

library is an avenue for these children to find this knowledge.)"

Libraries are not being prioritized, according to Ms. Miranda, since classrooms claim more significant space in most public schools. Yet the number of books acquired by the school through donations has necessitated a designated room for them within its property. She asserts that historically, the role of books has always been deemed as important to the development and education of our Philippine society. Even in this internet-dominated age, books remain a connection to a physical form of knowledge that cannot be replicated digitally.

OBMC recognizes the power and importance of education, which have always been present within the institution, especially in the form of physical books—even those beyond its own walls. This program helps continue that tradition.

Philippine Readers and Writers Festival 2019► By **Ianne Ramirez**
(8 Emerald)

Kicking off the *Buwan ng Wika* celebration nationwide, the National Bookstore (NBS) held its 6th annual Philippine Readers and Writers Festival on August 2 to 4 at Raffles, Makati.

Back with more book signing, discussion panels, and meet-and-greets with distinguished Filipino authors, the festival proved how much the Filipinos regard reading as part of their own lives.

Students from across all campuses participated in the said festival to boost their reading and writing skills with the help of Filipino writers whose works are familiar to most of us, such as Jose Dalisay Jr., Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, AA Patawaran, Dean Francis Alfar, Ambeth Ocampo, and many more.

Most of the talks encouraged readers and writers to help spark the interest of the youth in getting to know the country's literature.

As part of one OBMC community, we must all take time out and allow literature to permeate our lives.

(Continued from page 1)

Sta. Ana Heritage: Giving Manila Back to the People

Snippets of the clean-up drive along Pedro Gil Street, Sta. Ana, Manila. Photos courtesy of Manila Parks Development Office

fronts and illegally built barracks, even in private malls around the city. This, along with conducting surprise inspections and visiting the city's landmark sites, proves how dedicated the incumbent mayor is in fighting for Manila's soul.

These changes can be seen in our own Sta. Ana with its newly cleared and cleansed streets, allowing *Manileños* to truly admire the abundance of cultural houses and heritage sites in the district. The mayor has also sought to protect the integrity of the local Sta. Ana Market, recently demanding its operator, XRC Mall Developers, to pay their unpaid obligations to the city or risk losing their control.

All these improvements allow the beauty of Manila to truly shine and ensure that the city, not just its streets, are given back to the people.

■ FEATURES

Acquaintance Party 2019: Sparking High Energy among High Schoolers

► By Kayryll Guinto (8 Emerald)

Entering a new environment may be intimidating, but as you are thrust into another world and see unfamiliar faces, the OBMC Acquaintance Party gives you the welcome you deserve.

Sparking high energy at the start of the school year, the Acquaintance Party once again fulfilled its vision of fostering camaraderie and friendship in Junior High School to welcome the new batch of Grade 7 students.

Seventy-four freshmen filled the



Foro Romano Hall with wonder and delight as they showed their colorful cartoon-

inspired tees on July 19. This year's theme focused on the students' favorite teen cartoon shows.

Setting the party in motion, Rachel Leigh Salazar of 10 Emerald shared a glimpse of her high school journey through her inspirational speech.



Salazar concluded her speech with one of her favorite heroic movie lines: "With great power comes great responsibility." This was to remind the new students to uphold the spirit of Montessori brotherhood at all times, for they are part of the OBMC community.



The High School Glee Club and Dance Club then extended their warm welcome to the Grade 7 students with their opening numbers. Sharing the same energy, the 7 Emerald and 7



Ruby students introduced themselves as they danced to the beat of Sunflower and Immortals, respectively.

"We are more than excited to see what this school year has to offer to our students," said Ms. Noelyn Yamat, a Grade 7 class adviser. "We hope to see the same energy as the school year goes on."

Montessorians Welcome Taiwanese Visitors

► By Ikea Raine Pahate (9 Emerald)

OB Montessori - Sta. Ana welcomed Taiwanese delegates of the Rotary Club Manila-sponsored student exchange program last August 7, 2019. There were 12 high school students and two teachers, accompanied by Rotarians of the Binondo chapter. The visit is part of Rotary Club of Manila's program of cultural immersion and participation among the youth. Our very own Macy Yvonne Abejuela, 11 Amorsolo student, was among the Philippine student-delegates sent to Taiwan last April 2019 for the same program.

Leading her students in the Montessori way of welcoming the guests was Campus Manager Mrs. Katherine Chua, together with HS Academic Coordinator Mrs. Christy Morales, and selected Junior High School students. After a hearty lunch at Café Terraza, the school presented a brief video clip on the Philippines. Two Grade 5 *Supling* scholars, Marian Mabilin and Caleb Morales, also demonstrated to the visitors how the traditional game *Sungka* is played. Two of the guests, Ryan and Kenny, eagerly played the game as well.

From an introduction to the Philippines, the school went on to focus on its facilities, with Mrs. Morales leading the tour. The delegates were amazed at how clean, organized, and functional each classroom and laboratory room are. They were even more amazed when Mrs. Diamond Ramos, Casa Academic Coordinator, took them to a Casa classroom. They saw how independent, concentrated, and orderly the Casa students are while working with the different Montessori Materials. The visitors even worked with the materials alongside the Casa students!

Afterwards, the Dance Club members, led by club moderator Mr. Restie Dela Peña and Ms. Faye Tancinco, a former Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group (ROFG) member and now a Primary teacher, showed the guests how to perform the *Timikling*, a



High school students show Taiwanese students how to cook the Palitaw.

traditional Filipino dance. They gamely took turns dancing along.

The exchange students were then brought to the TLE laboratory for a final treat of learning to cook the traditional Filipino snack *Palitaw*, as demonstrated by TLE teacher Ms. Geneva Aguinaldo and selected members of the Rainbow Catering Club. All enjoyed a delicious snack consisting of *Palitaw*, *Maja Blanca*, and *Salabat* or Ginger Tea.

The visitors went home in high spirits, bringing with them their fruitful and meaningful Montessori experience.

Rainbow Catering Service: Re-packaged, Re-launched

► By Ikea Raine Pahate (9 Emerald)

Do you want to have the best birthday party ever? Look no further because OB Montessori's Rainbow Catering Service is here to give you one. Now with an improved program, menu, and a list of fun themes, Rainbow Catering is sure to give you a birthday party you'll definitely enjoy.

Relaunched last school year, the catering service is hosted by the Rainbow Catering Club of the High School Department. The club is composed of junior high school students, trained to prepare and host birthday celebrations for Casa and Primary students.

Club Moderator Geneva Aguinaldo explained how "the students will be the ones to conduct the parties—from preparing the food, decorations and giveaways, to the [flow of the] program." The

club's members are given lessons in organizing, party planning, marketing, food packaging, costing, and hosting as part of their Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) subject.

Parents and birthday celebrants can choose the theme, program, and menu they want. Themes include Disney Princesses, Circus Parade, Pokémon Anime, Pirates, Mario Kart Racing, and Avengers or Justice League Superheroes. There are four menu packages to choose from, with each package consisting of invitations, name tags, party hats, giveaways, and thank you cards.

The Rainbow Catering Service not only gives the happiest birthday party experience, but also hones the talents and skills of our Montessorians. Now that is truly a meaningful Montessori education!



More Fun to Travel in Sta. Ana

► By Luwis Pineda (6 Mercury)

OB Montessori - Sta. Ana is located along the busy street of Pedro Gil, Manila. As a city, Manila is packed with different vehicles every morning, especially during rush hour, when most students and working adults commute to their respective destinations. Since there are many modes of transportation available for students, going to school is not a problem and can even be fun!

Most of the students come from Manila, Mandaluyong, and Makati. Some parents or drivers bring the students to school using private vehicles. In cases where parents are unable to take their children to and from school, there are school bus services that make sure that the students arrive at school safely and on time.

Riding public transportation or commuting is one of the few options a student can choose when they travel to school, depending on their location and their budget. Students can take jeepneys that stop right in front of the school for a minimum fare of 8 pesos. Other options are tricycles and pedicabs. The fresh air when riding them make these travel options exciting to ride every morning.

If you want to avoid the horrendous traffic on the road, Sta. Ana has another trick up its sleeve: the ferry boat! The Pasig River Ferry Boat - Sta. Ana Station is located at the back of the public market, which is a few meters away from school. It is a cheap and quick way to travel, while enjoying the view of the Pasig River.

Whichever mode you opt to take, always keep in mind the Safety ABC rule: "Always Be Careful!" for you to reach the school ready and happy.

These different modes of transportation indeed make it more fun to travel in Sta. Ana!

Tips to Rise Above the Water Crisis

► By Mehar Ganshani (9 Emerald)

The recent water shortage was a nightmare to many people in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Many were unprepared for this water crisis, which took more than two months to be resolved. The limited water supply during the summer months dried up the summer fun from almost everywhere, from residential homes to commercial establishments and even business offices. This was a learning experience for many. Here are some ways on how to conserve water and to be prepared in case the water crisis strikes again:



Courtesy of images.google.com

- 1 Always close taps and faucets tightly when not in use.
- 2 Reuse laundry water for cleaning floors and walls.
- 3 Be prudent in your use of dishes and utensils.
- 4 Be sure to wash your vehicles only when necessary.
- 5 Choose efficient faucets and showers with low water flow.



Young advocate Marie Chelsea Beatriz Cruz represented the Filipino youth at the recent Child Rights in Action in France this July. Photo by Marie Chelsea Beatriz Cruz (10 Emerald)

A Student, An Advocate

► By Leela Francesca Rodriguez (9 Emerald)

To forge her path, 16-year-old Marie Chelsea Beatriz Cruz is busy planting her own seed with her golden hands and seeing it bloom right in front of her and the lives she has touched.

As young as she is, Cruz has been the epitome of an empowered individual. "I used to think that age was a huge factor if you wanted to help the society, but now, I realized that it does not really matter. What is important is

your passion for helping others."

Her golden hands started creating light and awareness at an early age. "My journey as a young advocate started at the age of 4. I was exposed to different outreach activities such as Brigada Eskwela, Little Picassos, Summer Art Camp, and many more," Cruz shared. "It was then I realized how lucky I was and it made me think that perhaps, I can do something." This led her to go out into the world and make a difference.

Offering her an opportunity to start touching other lives, her aunt who works for a non-government organization (NGO) asked if she would be interested in serving as the Philippine Representative to the 2016 Cities for Life Summit in Paris. Without hesitation, Cruz served as the Philippine delegate that year, and continued her journey in Children as Actors in Transforming Society (CATS) in Switzerland the following year.

Moreover, Cruz attended the Child Rights in Action Forum (CRIFA) Relais le Bocage in Pontmain, France, as the only Filipino youth representative among 150 other child delegates from 15 countries in July this year. On Mount Saint Michel, she advocated for the importance of child's rights and conducted surveys with the International Institute for Human Rights and Peace.

Overflowing from her hands were both blessings and responsibilities. To give back, Cruz immediately organized The Golden Hand Project in 2017, which stemmed from CATS' 90-Day Challenge to make a personal project within the allotted time. It is still up and running to this day. It aims to bridge the gap between the ideal community and the current community we live in through helping others, which she considers as precious as one's golden hands.

From these experiences, Cruz has only one piece of advice to the youth: "Do not let age be a hindrance in sparking change. Doing something helps you move forward."

Adjusting to Senior High School

► By Charles Edmon Perez (11 Amorsolo)

The transition from Junior High School to Senior High School may be a terrifying thought, especially with teachers constantly frightening us with how the workload is twice as much as before, how readings will become more extensive, and how requirements will have stricter rules. Some of us wince at the thought of moving away from the experience we have grown accustomed to. While I can personally tell you that your teacher's terrifying tales are indeed

true, there is a way to overcome Senior High School: always plan for and keep tabs on what is due as far as a week ahead.

Planning and keeping tabs on upcoming due dates have always allowed me to deliver my requirements on time. Because of the week-long preparation, I can assure that my output are high quality. Planning early on also prevents those late-night cramming sessions that we, students, are all too familiar with.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Where are our Senior High Graduates?

► By Mehar Ganshani (9 Emerald)



Kharylle Gale S. Carnaje

Kharylle Gale S. Carnaje, Second Year Student, AB Consular and Diplomatic Affairs De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

1. What inspired you to take up the course?

I've always been fond of history, politics, [and] culture. My grandfather encouraged me to pursue this course because he is a diplomat in the United States, and every time we would communicate, we would talk about a variety of subjects. I believe that what truly inspired me to take up this course is my passion to serve my country, to learn more about politics, culture, and languages.

2. Are you a part of any organizations or club in your college? If yes, which position are you in?

Yes, I am a part of DLS-CSB Commission on Elections. I am currently the Commissioner for Internal Relations, a major position in the Executive Board also known as En Banc.

3. What traits has OB Montessori developed in you?

I believe that my Alma Mater has shaped me into the person I am today. I am not just a student, but I am also a leader. O.B. Montessori has helped me become independent, disciplined, socially and politically aware, and most of all it has taught me to love my work.

4. What makes you proud to be a Montessorian?

Just being a Montessorian makes me proud because [the school] has guided and molded me into this young and independent student leader that I am now.

5. What advice can you give to students and future graduates of OBMC?

The best advice I could give to students and future graduates is to always believe in yourselves. Believe that you are a leader because everyone is a potential leader. You are all born leaders [and] you have to believe that you are capable of being one. However, you are also students, which means that in order to become leaders, you must first accomplish your role as students. Be the best role models.

Seeing through your objective a week early will give you some well-needed rest to be at your best for the next day of school. I firmly believe that a student deprived of sleep cannot be productive in class, for speaking from experience, such a student will feel drowsy the moment he or she sits down. One's thoughts will be a mess, and unable to focus on the task at hand.

As tempting as it might be to play that newly-bought video game, to watch one last episode that would lead to you finishing a whole series, or to scroll on your Facebook feed one more time, always remember that these brief moments of leisure

come with a hefty consequence that you will come to regret later on. So as overused as this may seem, do not procrastinate. Always study hard.

However, you should always remember to make time for yourself. A leisure activity now and then is a necessity to stay



motivated for school, because while studying and planning ahead are important, we all need a break from the monotonous life we live as students. Always put your health first before anything else, because while grades are important, they will be unachievable if you get sick.

Senior High School only lasts two years, but it can be a fulfilling experience with the right attitude and the right work ethic.

The Great Maria Montessori

► By Remyne Fiona Millano (6 Jupiter)

Maria Tecla Artemisia Montessori was born in Ancona, Italy on August 31, 1870. She was an Italian physician and educator, who was also the first female to study medicine in the country.

Her journey in medical school was not easy. She endured the discrimination and mockery of others for being the only female student in their class. In 1896 she reached her dream of becoming a full-fledged doctor.

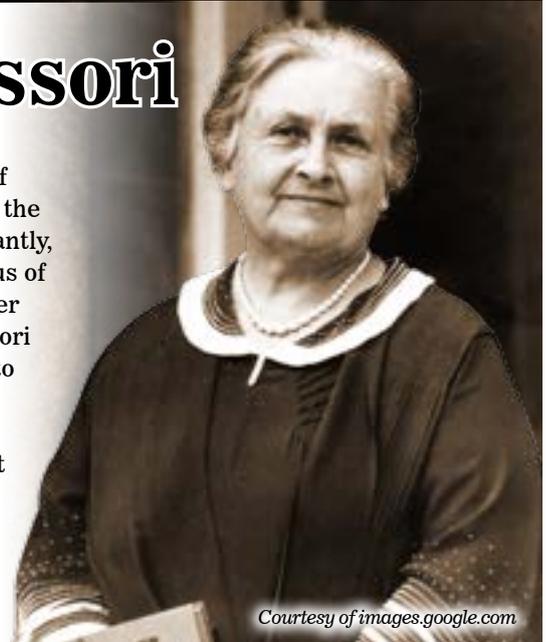
Without realizing it, her work with mentally deficient children at the Orthophrenic Psychiatric Hospital paved the way for her career in education. "Casa Dei Bambini" or Children's House was opened in 1907 with Maria Montessori teaching the children with materials she fashioned. She based her method on scientific observations of human development. In time her way of teaching spread like wildfire, capturing the interest of educators from different countries because of the startling transformation of her students.

Dr. Montessori's discovery of an educational method was just the icing on the cake. More importantly, she was able to channel the focus of education toward the child rather than toward the adult. Montessori believed in the child's capacity to learn.

Children studying in Montessori schools have a great advantage over those who are studying in traditional schools. The Montessori system emphasizes and works through the important developmental stages of a human being.

It gives importance to the intellectual aspect of the child, but it also gives weight to the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development of an individual.

At present there are about 20,000 Montessori schools around the world. The Montessori system of education has produced well-known and successful personalities: Mark Zuckerberg (Founder of Facebook), Larry Page and Sergey Brin



Courtesy of images.google.com

(Founders of Google), Jeff Bezos (Founder of Amazon.com), and the late Steve Jobs (Apple). These are just some of the famous and successful products of this educational system. According to them, their Montessori education has greatly contributed to their creative, solution-based thinking and success. Undeniably, the Montessori system of education helps children reach their full potential.

■ Health Alert

Repel the Dengue Scare

► By the Cosmic Journal Team

The rising number of dengue cases in several regions in the country moved the Department of Health (DOH) to declare a national dengue alert last July. According to DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III, 106,630 dengue cases have been reported nationwide from January 1 to June 29, 2019. This is an 85 percent increase from the 57,564 cases reported over the same period last year. Duque asserts, "Dengue is a viral disease with no known vaccine or specific antivirals. Effective surveillance can also help in reducing cases and deaths if areas with clustering of cases are identified early." The viral illness, caused by female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, include symptoms such as sudden high fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, skin rash and mild bleeding.

Since dengue is now a year-round disease in the Philippines, the DOH reminds the public to practice the 'Enhanced 4-S Campaign':

- Search and destroy mosquito-breeding sites,
- Secure self-protection measures like wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts and daily use of mosquito repellent,
- Seek early consultation, and,
- Support fogging/spraying only in hotspot areas where an increase in cases is registered for two consecutive weeks to prevent an impending outbreak.

"The first step to prevent dengue is within our homes; it is important to remove any space or container that can hold unnecessary stagnant water [and that] may become a breeding site for mosquitoes," Duque stressed.

Here are other practical steps that can be done to protect oneself from mosquito bites:

- Use mosquito repellants, even indoors.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Make sure windows and door screens are secure and free of holes. If sleeping areas are not screened or air-conditioned, use mosquito nets.

