



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

# COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

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Greenhills Edition

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## COVER STORY



# Halloween, OB Style!

By Francis Eugene Cordero and Antonio Maceda, Grade 11-Hidalgo

**H**appy October! 'Tis the month of ghosts and goblins, costumes and candies, tricks and treats; it's Halloween! This annual celebration has been primarily associated with frightening imagery as celebrants in a multitude of costumes ranging from mythical creatures to monsters enjoy trick or treating, an activity where celebrants visit several locations and request treats, usually in the form of sweets, from the occupants.

Years ago, Halloween was a largely overlooked calendar blip in OB Montessori Greenhills. During the writers' time as primary students, school decorations were minimal or nonexistent. First to third grade students were given the

opportunity to don different kinds of costumes and trick or treat at various offices in the campus. Due to the tender age of the participants,

costumes relating to terror or violence were shunned in favor of

*Continued to page 2*

## Change Isn't Coming, It's Here!

By Yma Bergantinos  
Grade 11-Amorsolo

**B**EHOLD, THE new **Cosmic Journal!** It is new in various ways. To begin with, more people are now involved in the making of the Cosmic Journal. In addition to the system-wide Main Editorial Board, each campus now has a Campus Editorial Board and – wait for it – a *Student* Editorial Board! This enables each campus to issue its own **Cosmic Journal** four times a year, a considerable increase over the previous output.

Also, the Writer's Guild of each campus is now tasked with training and supplying the bulk of the writers for each issue. Photojournalists and illustrators are also being tapped from the student body.

These changes ensure a more student-centered publication in conception, contribution and content for this and each succeeding issue. So sit back and enjoy YOUR **Cosmic Journal!**

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more innocent motifs such as superheroes and princesses.

In recent years the school has taken deeper notice of the yearly ritual, giving it increased emphasis by gradually adding more decorations around the campus and assigning different themes per year. From the theme of educational children's cartoons in 2010, to blockbuster movies like *Harry Potter* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* in 2011 and



2012, the school moved to Superheroes in 2013. Fairy tale characters took center stage in 2014 and 2015, as students relived the stories of characters such as Humpty Dumpty, Rapunzel, and the Three Little Pigs. In 2016, students were greeted

with a spate of characters from animated children's movies like *Super Mario*, *Po from Kung Fu Panda*, and *A Bug's Life*.

For the most recent celebration, the theme became more educational. Halloween 2017 featured the

cultures of some of the great ancient empires: Egypt, Rome, India, China, Inca, and Greece. All offices and stalls on the first and second floors were transformed by large set pieces highlighting cultural designs, while the staff members dressed



in traditional costumes. Students were able to witness and even join a "Pharaoh" dancing in the quadrangle, accompanied by personnel dressed in Egyptian style.

This is but a foretaste of what is to come in this year's celebration, which carries the theme "United Nations." Once again the celebration of Halloween will be a source of joy in the lives of both children and adults, as OB Montessori Greenhills campus continues to take advantage of every opportunity to combine fun and learning for all its students.

■ FEATURE

Artwork by Miguel Tadeo Ycasiano, Grade 12-Lumbera

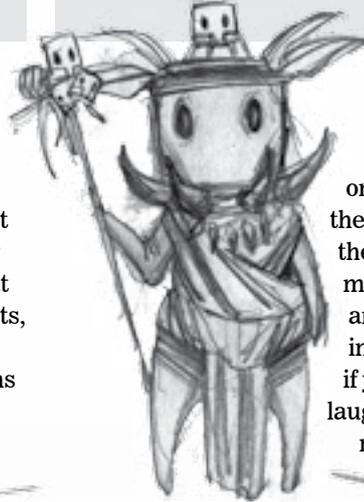
# Philippine mythology for Halloween

Caption by Ryan Dionisio  
Grade 12-Tinio



## MAYARI

Despite being blind in one eye, the Goddess of the Moon, War, and Beauty seems to know no limits. When she isn't lending the sky with her beauty at night, you can find her either at the most prestigious beauty pageants, on the battlefields, or comforting her brother Apolaki as he mourns their being forgotten by the people they protect.



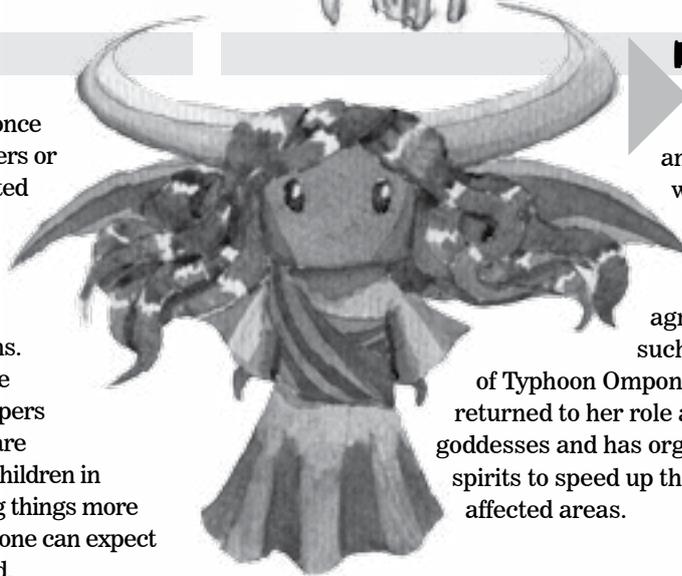
## MASIKEN

Masiken once dwelled in the jungles and guarded the many entrances to the Underworld, making sure no one gets in. Or out. Now he roams the many tunnel and pit mines in the country, making sure that the miners follow the rules of nature and avoid opening an entrance into the Underworld. Though, if you happen to hear an eerie laughter coming from deep in the mine, get out while you still can.



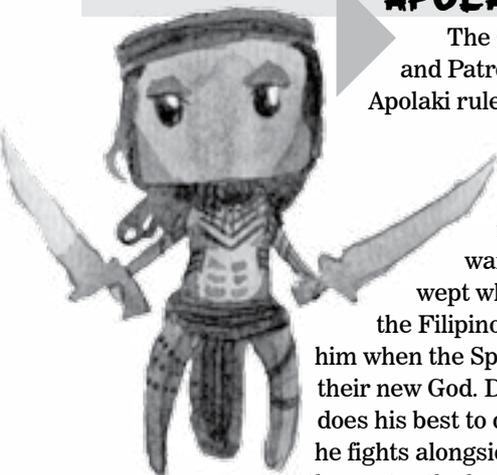
## ANSISIT

These proud people were once tied to the boulders or stumps they inhabited but now, with many areas overpopulated by Man and Lamanlupa alike, they've moved on to secretly live alongside us humans. The modern times have also soothed their tempers somewhat and they are more willing to aid children in finding their missing things more often. However, if a human adult insults them, one can expect sickness unless you apologize, and it is accepted.



## IDIYANALE

The Goddess of Agriculture and Domestication was once prayed to by workers and farmers. In the light of recent agricultural disasters, such as the devastation of Typhoon Ompong, Idiyanaale has returned to her role as one of the goddesses and has organized the nature spirits to speed up the rejuvenation of affected areas.



## APOLAKI

The God of the Sun and Patron of Warriors. Apolaki rules the sky and battlefield with his sister Mayari. Normally known for his skill in war, the Sun God wept when he saw how the Filipinos so easily forgot him when the Spaniards arrived with their new God. Despite this, he still does his best to defend the country as he fights alongside our soldiers when they enter the battlefield.



## MAGWAYEN

She guides the souls of the wicked to the Underworld of Kasamaan. She does this as atonement for causing the first death when she struck Pandaguan with lightning. Now she works alongside Pandaki as they gather and sort the souls that pass to the afterlife. Some have even seen Magwayen and Pandaki in hospitals, holding the hands of those about to pass as they decide where their souls deserve to go.



■ NEWS FEATURE

# Ang Larawan: Appreciation of Filipino Excellence

By Christine Margarithe Nobleza  
Grade 9-Topaz

**WHENEVER I** go on a history-themed movie marathon, the thought of my shared roots with these past heroes crosses my mind. Their hope and unfailing determination makes me proud to be a Filipino. *Ang Larawan* reminds me of this.

*Ang Larawan* is a musical based on Nick Joaquin's *A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino*, a three-act play that has been staged several times in the theater and in film both in English and Filipino. Co-producers Celeste Legaspi (who herself acted in the movie) and Girlie Rodis found the transfer of a musical on stage to a musical on film challenging, yet it is by far one of their most successful works.

Two sisters, Candida and Paula Marasigan, find themselves reduced to poverty before the break of World War II and are urged by their siblings and friends to sell their home and the self-portrait

of their father. Don Lorenzo had once been an esteemed painter in society before becoming a recluse. Amidst the nostalgic setting of the film that displays the traditional essence of Filipino culture, *Ang Larawan* succeeds in capturing true appreciation of art and sentimental value just before the coming era of materialism.

In a private screening of the film last September 19, 2018, the high school students of OBMC Greenhills watched as the actors sang in the old-world ambience of their surroundings and danced in their 1940s clothing. At the end of the movie, many were left with mixed emotions at having witnessed an unforgettable portrayal of an esteemed work in Philippine Literature.

For the open forum, Girlie Rodis and Celeste Legaspi were joined by OBMC alumna Rachel Alejandro, who played Paula. They happily related to the students some of the challenges and

experiences they had, and some of the lessons they learned, during the making of the film.

"For me, *Ang Larawan* is a painting of our true selves. Are we doing our best? Are we disciplined?" Legaspi explained. "Here in *Ang Larawan*, we dedicated our work to excellence."

Eight years ago they didn't have a budget or any idea of how to make a film. They only believed they had a very good piece worth bringing to life. "We just closed our eyes and jumped right into it. It really became our dream project," our three guests agreed. Along with other committed individuals and artists, matched with unwavering determination, they slowly made their dream into a reality.

Now that's a lesson students like me can take to heart. The history of the Filipino people is a history of struggle and challenges overcome by determination.



## Cruising through College Exams

Research by Samantha Onglatco  
Grade 12-Tinio

### HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THEM? <

1. Review your Junior High School lessons.
2. Plan a review schedule.
3. Start reviewing during the summer.
4. Read on different topics in order to keep your brain alert and to expand your knowledge.
5. Check the exam coverage of each university you are applying for so you will know what to review.
6. You may also opt to take review classes in review centers or hire a tutor to recall your lessons.

### BEFORE THE EXAM

1. Visit the testing area.
2. Do not try cramming.
3. Recharge with food and water.
4. Prepare exam materials.
5. Ready your test permit.

### DID YOU KNOW



There is no standard grading scale that all institutions in the tertiary level follow. However, the most common one is the 1-5 scale, with 1 being the highest. Some universities do it in reverse.



ALUMNI PROFILE

In Focus:

# Ang Bituin sa Larawan

By Lyza Balita  
Grade 11-Hidalgo



**RACHEL ALEJANDRO** is one of many successful products of OB Montessori. She has proven that she is a force to be reckoned with in the entertainment industry, showing her grit and perseverance throughout her music and acting career. She obtained accolades such as the Awit Award and the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Foundation Award, to name a few. Starring in various movies and TV series such as *Mumbaki* and *Halik sa Apoy*, paved the way for *Ang Larawan*, her most recent film, where she plays the character of Paula Marasigan.

As with any star, she too had her beginnings. Her first steps to greatness included her journey at OBMC Greenhills.

“What struck me on my first day at OB was that all my classmates spoke their minds,” Ms. Alejandro said.

Inspired with how confident and articulate her peers were, she was able to attune herself to the environment. She now realizes that this confidence was one aspect of her training in OB Montessori that helped lead her to who she is today.

Balancing her career and her studies, however, turned out to be quite the challenge. She would have to miss school work. Fortunately, her teachers gave her time to help her catch up. She remembers with fondness her third and fourth year advisors, Mrs. Illuminada Duran and Mr. Jesse De Silva, who constantly supported her and even urged her to aim for valedictorian.

“I felt very much supported as someone who was slowly carving a career in show business, which isn’t always easy,” she says today.

OB Montessori helped her develop her skills, as the people around her served as her constant source of motivation and support to get through all the challenges that she had to face. She has progressed from diligent student to successful entertainer, further proof that she has consistently exhibited the unsurpassed greatness of a Montessori alumni.

## ams

College exams are some of the most crucial tests that you will have to take throughout the course of your life. And for most, it’s nowhere near a cruise.

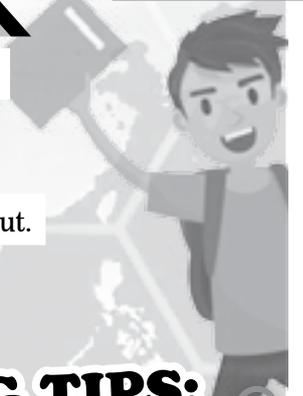
### EXAM

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### AFTER THE EXAM

1. Know when the test results come out.
2. Don’t stress too much. Easier said than done.
3. Pray!
4. Check the test results once it comes out.



### DURING THE EXAM

1. Arrive early.
2. Wear something appropriate. If it’s somewhere warm, do not wear anything too thick. If it is cold, bring a jacket.

### TEST-TAKING TIPS:

- Read the exam instructions carefully.
- Do not underestimate time pressure! Manage your time wisely as you take the test. Do not stay too long on any item.
- If you do not know the answer, make a smart guess. Remember to answer all items (except for the UPCAT) and not to leave any item blank.
- Relax during your breaks. Allow your brain to recharge.

■ FEATURE

# Leave a mark and make it a good one!

By Cheska Rufo and Noelle Velasquez  
Grade 10-Ruby and Grade 6-Earth

**D**O YOU know that you have some sort of dual citizenship? That's right! You are also a digital citizen because you use the Internet and digital devices. And as with the real world, you leave your mark there too.

These traces are called digital footprints. Every time you use the Internet, you leave a mark that can help others trace your online activities. Whenever you click on a website, that immediately goes into your search history. Keeping your searches and posts safe helps in keeping a positive digital footprint.

Retaining a positive digital footprint is also important when doing your homework. You should pay close attention to what you search and put into your work.

Here are some tips to have a positive digital footprint towards academic integrity:

1. Visit only the trusted websites for your academic works. Websites with *.edu*, *.gov*, or *.org* in their URL are the reliable ones.
2. Paraphrase borrowed concepts and cite your sources properly. Always acknowledge the author to avoid plagiarizing and stealing of ideas.
3. Be careful what you share. Share only those that are valid and true. Always check the links of the information you wish to use. Check the credibility of the author and the relevance of the information.

Digital footprint says a lot about what kind of person you are. Keeping a positive digital footprint is the first step not only to becoming a responsible digital citizen but also to becoming an accountable person. If you must leave a mark, remember: make it a good one!

■ Q & A

## OBMC SAYS: Insights on digital footprint

By Joseph Antes and Joel Altea VII  
Grade 10-Emerald and Grade 8-Topaz

The following are reactions and insights from students and teachers on digital footprint:

- How is digital footprint connected to academic integrity in this day and age?

Justin Choi  
Grade 8-Topaz

Digital footprint can help check the information's validity from how reliable the source is.

Ellyrizza Fevidal  
Grade 9-Topaz

Due to us students being able to harness world information, we often commit plagiarism because of such information being within arm's reach.

Raphael Pagtalunan  
Grade 7-Emerald

One of the benefits of digital footprint is that it can be used to check whether you have cited your sources correctly. The knowledge of having a digital footprint can also discourage disrespectful acts online and promote academic integrity.

- Do you think that being a responsible digital citizen aids in being a student of academic integrity?

Ms. Kate Francisco  
JHS Computer Teacher

Yes, think of the nature of habit. If you practice integrity online, you are most likely practicing it with all the outputs you submit in school.

Maria Bianca Dagle  
Grade 9-Emerald

I don't think that being a good digital citizen will aid in being a student of academic integrity. With all the advanced technology floating around, the students will find a way to hack the digital footprint system.

Miles Bea  
Grade 10-Emerald

I think that a digital citizen would aid in being a student of academic integrity because that particular citizen is aware of his or her responsibility to pursue scholarly activities, without ruining the essence of learning within them.

TEACHER PROFILE

# Philippine dancesport champion coaches OBMC’s new varsity team

By Pia Vistro  
Grade 10-Ruby

**D**ANELLA PUBLICO has spun, twirled, and performed on dance floors all over the world. One of her most memorable competitions was a prestigious event in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, where she won the silver medal. Now, she does the same—performing with heart and soul—in the halls of OB Montessori.

“I’m proud of [my] achievements as a competitor, but now also as a coach,” Publico said. “I feel proud of my students because if they excel in their respective events it is a reflection of what we as coaches contribute to their dancing.”

After only six months of her coaching, the OBMC dancesport team has come home victorious from national and international competitions.

**Beginnings**

Earlier this year, OBMC offered its students a new extracurricular



**NEVER COMPLACENT.** Danella Publico and the dancesport team are set to compete again, pushing them to make the most of their practice.

*Photo courtesy of Rhea Venancio, Grade 12-Jose*

activity: dancesport. Quite a few took interest, and the OBMC team was formed. To help shape the aspiring dancers, the moderator sought the help of all-around Philippine dancesport champion, Danella Publico.

Publico first engaged in dancesport during her college years, eventually deciding to pursue it as a

career despite being a graduate of Management Economics. As of 2018, she has been dancing competitively for ten years and coaching for four.

Even though she has only been the official coach since April, she has helped the dancesport team improve greatly. She expects hard work from all her students, and that includes their attendance and attitude.

ENTERTAINMENT

*Hi OB Community! Ready to test your skills? Try looking for the 10 differences here.*

**Spot the difference**



By Kyle Fronda, Grade 11-Amorsolo

■ SPORTS

# Weekend of Champions

By Ysabelle Dominguez and Carl Nardo  
Grade 10-Ruby and Grade 9-Topaz

**S**PORTS REQUIRE from athletes not only physical capability and mental toughness, but also values such as determination and hard work. OB Montessori Greenhills takes pride in having three decorated varsity teams in different sport events: dancesport (ballroom), volleyball, and basketball.



## Dancesport debut

The dancesport varsity team amassed four gold, four silver, and two bronze medals from eight categories in the 4th Pilipinas Open International Dance Championship last September 9, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel Manila. Together with a pair of teachers, three couples, and a soloist from the High School department participated in standard ballroom competitions.

“I promised my coaches and partner that I shall redeem myself and bring home gold next time,” Thomas Oliveros, who placed fifth before, said. Together with his partner Josephine Thurman, he kept his promise and they got gold and silver medals during the next competition.

Under the tutelage of Coaches Danella Publico and German “Boggs” Enriquez, the top standard ballroom couple in the Philippines, the guidance of proud mentors Mr. and Mrs. Dela Peña, and with the love and support of their parents, the team achieved greatness.

“I couldn’t have done it without my partner Jerecho, my teammates Pia, Carl and Reina, and Josephine and Thomas, and our coaches,” Maxine de Guzman, who recently competed in Malaysia, said. The rest of the team agreed.

## Valor in volleyball

The volleyball varsity team also stepped up to the



plate and took home the silver medal in the recently concluded San Juan Association of Private School Administrators (SAPRISA) meet.

“My teammates and I are like sisters,” Joanne Reyes said, while new member Kyla Go agreed, “We form some sort of sisterhood.”

Middle blocker Alessandra Suva even believes that the school can expect a higher finish from the team. There is no doubt that they will do so, especially under the mentorship of head coach Arnold Zumel and club moderator Arwin Sumatra.

## Basketball bags it

After winning the silver medal at the same meet, varsity member Vincent Roman said, “Winning feels great since we are a relatively young team because we lost our seniors. The school can count on us to work harder and to strive for a better finish.”



“There’s more to the game just playing it, and my teammates show that,” Co-captain Sean Banzon said, adding that he felt proud of his teammates. They battled it out in the court despite jitters and won game after game, eventually finishing with silver medals. The basketball varsity team is led by Coach Joph Cleopas and club moderator Mark Gervacio.

We all do not receive every opportunity to represent our school. Nonetheless, we must cheer and rejoice for our fellow students who represent our institution with pride. It takes so much heart and soul to become an athlete; *ad dolore ad gloriam* – from pains to gains.