



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

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Las Piñas Edition

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■ COVER STORY

OBMC's 1st Palanca Award

By Renee Andrea Garfin
Grade 9-Ruby



FIRST-TIME CONTEST

Participant Jaz Villanueva from Grade 8 Emerald took home the second place prize in the Kabataan essay competition during the 68th Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature (2018).

Her winning piece—given the topic “How will you encourage the Filipino youth to read more books?”—is a three-page essay entitled “Boundless.” According to her, it is titled as such because she believes that books and the knowledge granted by books are boundless.

Prior to her first year of high-school, Jaz had what she described as a disgust for books and reading. “I was never really the type to read for fun.” She said, “To me, they were just requirements.” She would have gone on with the same mindset had it not been for her seventh grade textbook, a Philippine anthology, which was one of the culprits of her sudden love for literature. She was inspired by the wide selection of prize-winning pieces and was further encouraged when she found out that some of the stories were written by young individuals. “If people my age were doing it (writing award-winning pieces), I thought why not try it out too,” she said.

Another reason why her outlook on literature changed was because of her experience with the library here at school, where she was exposed to a large selection of books with varying genres and themes. “There was this one book that I really loved and enjoyed . . . It was *Divergent*,” she shared with a laugh. She said that the library played a crucial role in her conversion from being repulsed by books to being drawn to them, as she found many interesting titles and stories she would not have found otherwise.

Continued to page 2

Change Isn't Coming, It's Here!

By Yma Bergantinos
Grade 11-Amorsolo, GH

BEHOLD, 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**!

OBMC's 1st Palanca Award

Continued from page 1

Her supportive family, too, played a big role in her road to winning the award. She said that without their help, she never would have found out what she needed to do to submit a piece for the competition, as it is very difficult to enter the Palanca awards. Her English teacher, Mr. Regie Canlas, was also among the people who offered words of encouragement and advice. He would always remind Jaz to “keep on writing,” and thanks to all of the people who supported her and her exposure to all sorts of books, she did.

As of today, re-entering the contest is undetermined as she said that there are still many other things she has in mind that she would like to try. The world is her oyster, and her passions are yet to be unveiled, but one thing for certain is that she will continue to achieve many great things in her life, and her school will be right behind her to support and assist her in achieving her goals.



■ FILM REVIEW

A Blast to the Past: “Ang Larawan” is Definitely Worth Watching

By Erika Ashley Meg Jayma
Grade 12-Tinio

IF THERE is one thing that Loy Arcenas’s film *Ang Larawan* had accomplished on August 24, when

viewed by the high school department of O.B. Montessori Center, Las Piñas campus, it would be that it had enraptured not only the attention of its audience but their hearts as well.

Director Loy Arcenas took Nick Joaquin’s popular elegy *The Portrait of an Artist as Filipino*, that had inspired several plays, and transformed it into a cinematic adaptation that truly housed the essence of the original elegy. It didn’t leave out a single detail of its story as most movies would with their books these days.

The story of *Ang Larawan* revolves around two spinster sisters, Candida and Paula Marasigan, who are struggling to continue living in their childhood home in Intramuros, right before World War II. With the financial problems looming over them, the two are being forced to face the dilemma of keeping or selling the last painting of their father, Don Lorenzo Marasigan, with everybody around pressuring them to do so. Loy Arcenas’s treatment of such a story, set in a time when society is pushing for change and the main characters continue to stubbornly cling to the



Continued to page 7

■ PROFILE OF AN OBMC GRANDPARENT

A True OPM Heritage: Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo

By Megan Margaret Antonio and Ciara Alessandra Russegger
Grade 11-Luna and Grade 8-Emerald

“WHEN I sing *kasi*, it’s my most spiritual moment. I’m using something that was given to me—it’s a blessing, and I’m sharing it with other people. I think that’s prayer.”

Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo is a singer and actress from Cavite City and is the third of the five children of National Artist for Visual Arts Cesar Legaspi. She is married to Nonoy Gallardo, an OPM composer. They have three children, and one grandson who studies at O.B. Montessori Center, Las Piñas.

Celeste began to sing during her kindergarten years and to perform professionally at age five, earning an income of ₱25 per performance. While studying at Maryknoll College, she involved herself in theater and appeared as *Magnolia in Show Boat* and as Nancy in *Oliver*. After graduating, her career further rose upon joining the ASEAN Tour in 1975 followed by a solo concert in CCP’s Little Theatre. She starred in dinner musicals *Doon Po Sa Amin* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1978, earning Best Dinner Theater awards for both. With talent manager Girlie Rodis, she co-founded Musical Theatre Philippines, producing seven musicals from 1988 to 2008. However, Celeste’s biggest contribution to the music industry was leading the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit or OPM, a foundation that set its sight to further cultivate and advocate original Filipino music.

How long have you been in the music industry? What got you started?

As an amateur I started in school, singing and performing in the glee club, operettas, and other school activities. As a professional I started in the early 70s as a member of

a singing group, the Ambivalent Crowd; then with the Up from Down Under Band; then with the Time Machine Band. After I went into television; did recordings; had solo concerts.

You started young as an artist. What’s the fondest memory when you were still a student-performer?

When I was performing with the Ambivalent Crowd it was lots of fun. Doing the musical *Showboat* in the Fleur de Lis Auditorium of St. Paul College of Manila was a great challenge. I was 17 then.

How did you realize after graduating from college that you wanted to pursue being an artist in the music and film industry?

After I gave birth to my first child, I decided I missed music deeply and that’s why I started singing again.

What made you choose Filipino music as a genre to focus on in your career?

Before my second recording I was singing covers of songs by Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli, and other popular singers at that time, but I wasn’t happy with them.



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Then Rolando Tinio asked me to sing translations of pop songs that he wrote in a concert at the CCP in 1974. In that concert I fell in love with Filipino lyrics. Then my second recording, *Ako at si Celeste*—had “Saranggola ni Pepe,” and it became a hit. At that point there was no turning back for me.

What’s the most challenging situation you overcame as an artist and advocate of Original Pilipino Music (OPM)? How were you able to get through it?

In the early 70s, although I had hits, my image as a performer was considered too elite and snobbish, which was difficult to overcome. I just remained true to myself. I was very happy singing and performing, so I just ignored all those comments.

As a mom, do you encourage your children to pursue the same career as you did? How do you deal with differences in their interests and talents?

All my children are artists. We have always encouraged them to pursue excellence in any field they are happy in. There has never been a problem with differences in their interests. We all enjoy the same things.

Continued to page 4



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A True OPM Heritage: Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo

Continued from page 3

Now that you have a grandson, Diego Samson, who is a second grader at OBMC Las Piñas, how do you balance being a *lola* to him while pursuing your career even up to now?

Whenever my schedule is free I enjoy playing with him. Talking to him. Cooking for him. He's a sweet funny kid. I love being with him. But it is certainly his mother who sets the rules and guidelines. We all follow her rules and style.

Here in OBMC, there are a lot of aspiring actresses and performers as early as grade school and high school. What advice will you give these students as someone who had the same dream before?

I always advice young people to read everything they can. In any field they dream to be in, reading will help tremendously. It's important to have something valuable to say in whatever career one chooses to excel in. Learning how to sing or dance or act can always follow later.



TEACHER PROFILE

Balancing the

By Alliyah Marie Beloso
Grade 11-Amorsolo

IT IS an accepted fact that OB Montessori has a roster of teachers who work hand in hand to provide their students the values and principles of the school. Our campus at Las Piñas has its fair share of amazing teachers as well, but one teacher who has surely captured the interest of my fellow students and I is Mr. Allan Palileo.

Allan Palileo was introduced to my classmate as a three-time Palanca Awardee and chemistry teacher of the Grade 12; who, some say, can be quite intimidating. But recently, I was given the opportunity to interview him.

During the interview I learned that his love for science stemmed from his high school chemistry teacher who was very good in her job, as well as his interest in perfumes. His highschool years also included his love for writing as he had won a short story contest that was held for Christmas. Shifting from science, he said that he decided to pursue chemistry instead of writing since it was more practical and in demand at the time. But, he got back to writing in the early 90s when he gained a liking for theatre. His first script as a playwright was about a comfort woman, her granddaughter titled *Madumi*.

Cruising through College Exams

Research by Samantha Onglatco
Grade 12-Tinio, GH

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

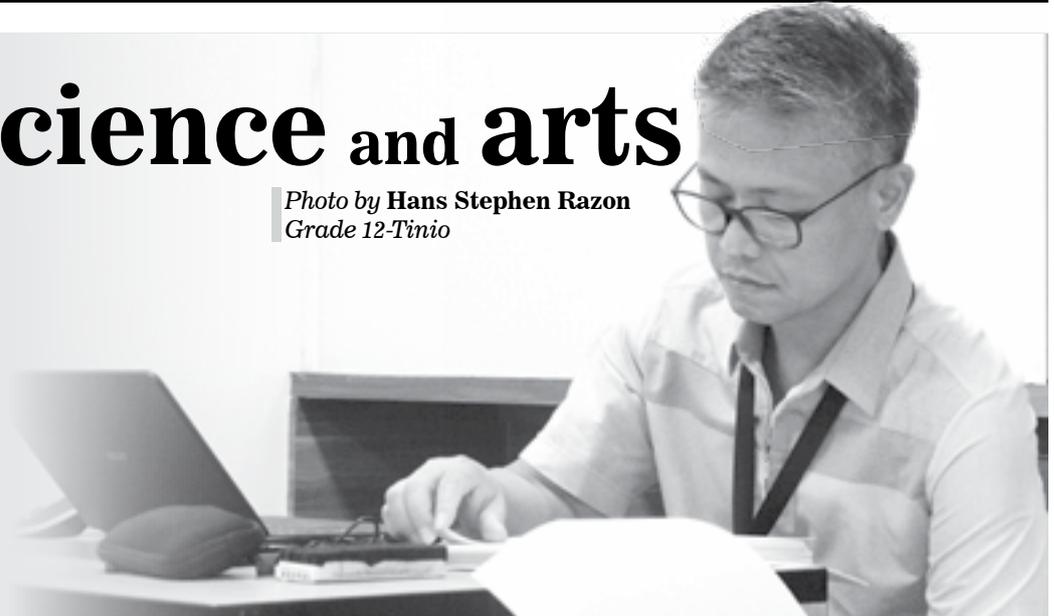


There is no standard grading scale that all institutions in the tertiary level follow. However, the most common one is the 1-5 scale, with 1 being the highest. Some universities do it in reverse.



The field of science and arts

Photo by Hans Stephen Razon
Grade 12-Tinio



Madumi was the first piece that won for him a Palanca award, the highest award in Philippine literature. Following this were two more Palanca Award winning pieces: *Lakhan-bini*, a story about Gregorio De Jesus meeting Emilio

Aguinaldo 33 years after the death of Andres Bonifacio, and *Indio Anak-Banwa*, a story set in the pre-Spanish era about a chieftain's rise and fall.

I asked what he thought about the people who look down on the arts as a field that does not bring an individual much profit; he gave a short reply: "Totoo naman." But then he continued with this statement: "If you want to write, you write what you want to write, as it is important to enjoy what you do."

Sir Palileo told me about his experience in submitting his pieces for the competition. He said his first script, which took him six months to write, was also the first

script to win him a Palanca award. He added that submitting his works were not difficult but the wait took months. The most admirable part about his experience was what motivated him to submit more entries. He simply said that he submits whatever he thinks is worth submitting. It shows that he has a lot of faith in his talents, which something students can learn from.

To end our interview I asked if he had any advice to give those who want to venture out into different fields while maintaining their current field of work or study; he said, "Though everything is difficult, you should do the difficult thing you like the most."

Exams

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.

BEFORE THE EXAM



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.

■ LITERARY

Ang Paglalakbay: Ang Pagkilala sa Wikang Pilipino

(Winning piece in the Buwan ng Wika essay-writing contest)

By Lhareen Lazo
Grade 12-Tinio

ILANG **TAON** rin ang dinananas na hirap sa pagpupumilit na gumaling at matuto ng Ingles sa pagaakalang may “angat” ang pagkatuto noon. Iyon din kasi ang turo ng aking ina. Ngunit kahit pa maraming limitasyon at hadlang sa paggamit ko ng wikang Filipino, kailanma’y hindi ito nawala sa akin. Malaki ang naitulong ng iba pang tao sa labas ng tahanan at eskwelahan gaya ng mga regular na taong nakakasalamuha ko tuwing bumibili sa sari-sari store, pagpunta sa palengke, pagkasakay sa jeep, at mga batang nakakalaro ko noon sa labas ng aming bahay. Dahil sa kanila, napayabong lalo ang aking bokabularyo at gamit ng wikang Filipino. Dagdag pa nito, natututo na rin ako ng nga wikang “uso” at naayon sa panahon. Marunong akong magsalita sa Jejemon, umintindi at magsalita ng Bekimon, makaintindi ng bali-baliktadna salota, magsalita ng may puntong Tagalog at minsan pa’y nagpapaturo rin ako ng Kapampangan at Ilokano sa aking mga kakikilala. Dala ito ng kagustuhan kong mas maintindihan ang aking kultura. Malaki rin ang ambag ng media sa paggamit ko ng wika. Alam natin na ito ay globalisasyon. Marami man itong nahihila na makisama sa ibang kultura, tumutulong din itong mapakita kung saan tayo naiiba bilang mga Pilipino. Naalala ko rin ang mga palabas lamang na napapanood ko ay “dubbed translation” na cartoons” sa GMA o ABS-CBN. At bilang batang

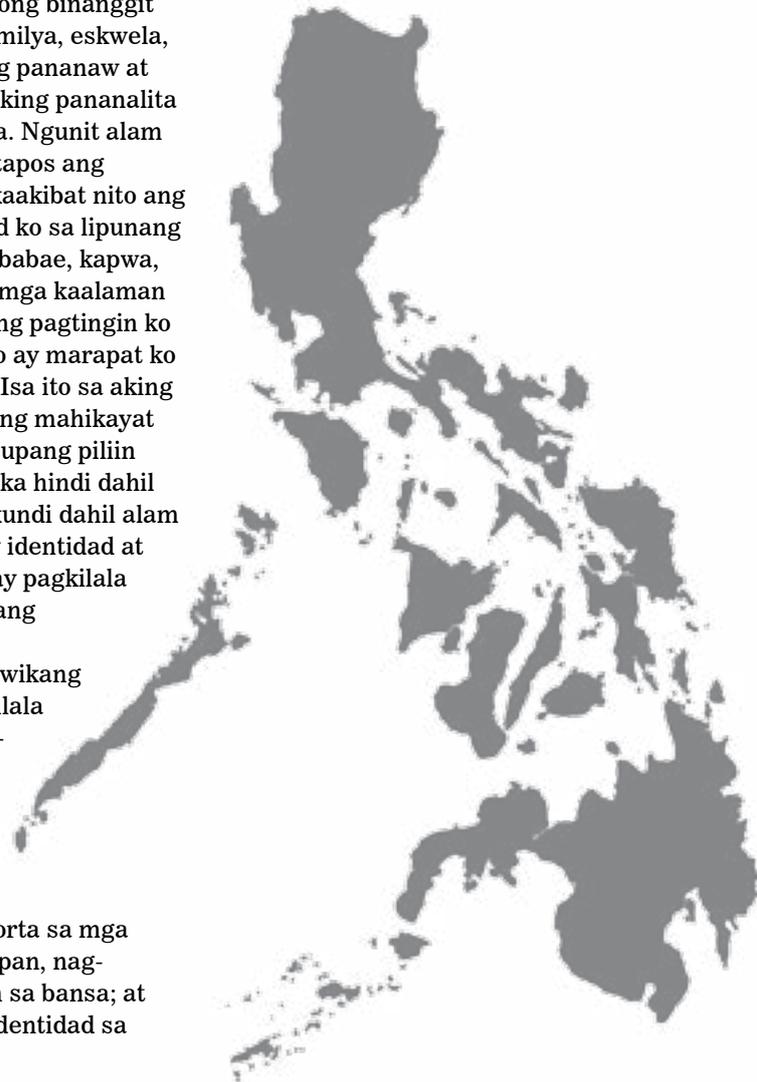


lumaki sa bahay na mas ginagamit ang Tagalog, mas naiintindihan at nararamdaman ko ang mga ito.

Sa paglalakbay kong makilala pa ang wikang Filipino, utang na loob ko sa mga institusyong binanggit sa itaas gaya ng pamilya, eskwela, at lipunan ang aking pananaw at lalong-lalo na ang aking pananalita at paggamit ng wika. Ngunit alam kong hindi pa napatapos ang pagkakatuto dahil kaakibat nito ang mga responsibilidad ko sa lipunang Pilipino bilang ate, babae, kapwa, at estudyante. Ang mga kaalaman ko sa wika at lalim ng pagtingin ko sa kahalagahan nito ay marapat ko lamang ibahagi pa. Isa ito sa aking mga adbokasiya—ang mahikayat ang kapwa Pilipino upang piliin ang sarili niyang wika hindi dahil dito siya nakatira, kundi dahil alam niya na ang wika ay identidad at ang paggamit nito ay pagkilala sa sarili at sa lipunang kinabibilangan.

Sa paggamit ng wikang Filipino, mas nakikilala ang sarili dahil nag-udyok ito upang ako ay mamulat sa nangyayari sa paligid, makapagbigay ng simpatya at suporta sa mga Pilipinong nahihirapan, nag-uwi ng karangalan sa bansa; at maipahiwatig ang identidad sa

pamamagitan ng pagyakap sa kung ano ang atin hindi para ikahiya o ikasuklam, kundi mas makilala pa ang sariling kultura dahil kung ano ito ay iyon rin ako. Marami ng isyu ang hinaharap ng wika dahil sa panahon ngayon, tila hindi mawari kung ito nga ba ay hindi na sinusubaybayan dahil sa “conyo” o “Taglish.” Ngunit gayunpaman, tinatawag lamang ako nito upang mas palakas in at itulak ang aking adbokasiya na siyang nabanggit sa itaas.



■ LITERARY

Ihip-turok

(Winning piece in the Buwan ng Wika poetry-writing contest)

By Jerome Lorenz Pericon
Grade 11-Amorsolo

Ihip-turok,
Ihip-turok
Lasing sa masaya
Usok na pumapalibot tuwing siya’y
bumubuga

Ihip-turok, Ihip-turok
Huwag na daw siyang umuwi
Sapagkat mas importante na siya’y
nakangiti
“Hoy Rommel! Anong
nakakatawa?”
“Patay na ang iyong ama, tila ikaw
parin ay masaya!”

Ihip-turok,
ihip-turok
Hindi na masaya
Pinalayas kagabi at wala nang pera
Nakahiga siya sa gilid
At nagmumukhang tanga
Nakabukas ang kanyang palad
At nanlilimos ng barya

Ihip-turok,
ihip-turok
Siya ay gutom na

At sa huling sandali,
ay mayroong kakilala
“Rommel? Rommel?”
Andito ka lang pala!”
“Huling session mamayang gabi,
baka gusto mong sumama?”
Walang tanung-tanong
Agad-agad siyang pumunta
Ihip-turok nanaman
At siya’y magiging masaya

Lasing sa alak, halaman,
at panturok na iba pa
Buong gabing tuwang tuwa
Buong gabing sayang-saya
Hindi niya namalayan
Na nakapatay na pala siya
Wala nang malay ang babae
Pero pinagpilihan pa rin nila
Salit-salitan ang mga kalalakhian
Sa pagmomolestya at ang malala
Ay ito’y patay na
Ihip-turok,
ihip-turok
Ito ba ang tunay na masaya?
Kung hindi ang iyong sagot
Ang kalaban ay droga.

A Blast to the Past: “Ang Larawan” is Definitely Worth Watching

Continued from page 2

past, is just glorious. He took the story, so invested in the historical concepts of Philippine culture, and produced a musical drama variation that continues to appeal to the Filipinos’ music-loving hearts.

A surprise guest on the day of this film’s showing was Celeste Legaspi, a well-known Filipino singer and actress. With every question that was fired at her by the students, she happily answered each one. When asked how long it had taken them to complete the entire movie, Legaspi confided that it took them nearly five years!

This news came as a shock to the student body; however, it actually made a whole lot of sense. Every single concept of the film had been tastefully crafted—from Boy Yniguez’s rich cinematography of tight close-ups timed perfectly and the warm colors set the tone to nostalgic; Gino Gonzales’s thorough production design of each set and costume that were just gorgeous and historically accurate; Ryan Cayabyab’s music coordinated so well with the dramatic storyline, enhancing the actors’ passionate portrayals. It was clear to point that each day in making the film was well spent; the product made it appear as if there was no screen separating the audience from the cast. So, if there is one thing to do in your spare time or to add to your movie list, it’s definitely *Ang Larawan*.

Schedule Bar

Public Speaking Month

November 5, 2018

Classes Resume

November 9, 2018

Junior High School Holy Confirmation Ceremony

November 12-14, 2018

Senior High School 1st Semester Final Examinations

November 19, 2018

Senior High School start of 2nd Semester

November 20-22, 2018

Casa 2nd Quarter Examinations

November 19-23, 2018

Primary 2nd Quarter Examination

November 19-21, 2018

Intermediate 2nd Quarter Examinations

November 21-23, 2018

Junior High School 2nd Quarter Examinations

November 26, 2018

Poetry Contest Grade 7-9

November 30, 2018

Regular Holiday - Bonifacio Day

■ NEWS

OBMC LP stages Philippine Opera Company's "Harana"

By Abigail Anne Pepino
Grade 11-Luna



ON OCTOBER 4, the Las Piñas campus of OB Montessori Center staged the Philippine Opera Company's *Harana* at the multi-purpose hall, showcasing the diversity of the Filipino culture through a 'Musical Culture Journey of Authentic Filipino Music.'

The joint production team of OB Montessori Center, Philippine Opera Company (POC), and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group (ROFG) equipped the hall with long fabric backdrops, colorful lights, mounted projectors, and spacious stage to make it suitable for the performances. Members of the different working committees were stationed at their respective posts to ensure the seamlessness of the show.

Student participants from primary to high school performed a variety of folk dances, beginning with a traditional *Igorot* dance, choreographed by members of the ROFG; selected members of the High School Glee Club, along with the Philippine Opera Company (POC), sang famous folk and classical songs

from different regions in the country.

The Primary student participants added more color to the "Bukid Medley" while performers from Intermediate in their colorful barongs, sang and danced to the tune of "Kalesa." Moreover, chosen members of the Dance Club and Glee Club took part in the "Katutubo Medley" and "Nais Ko," – performances that represented the different ethnic identities and their lifestyles.

"It was great that they showed how '*Harana*' [sic] or what '*Harana*' is. *Harana* is an act of showing utmost respect for the woman that a man is courting. In our generation, *harana* is something that we rarely see, especially in the metro." Jared Torralba, a Grade 11 student shared to express his appreciation of the show.

The program concluded with the recitation of the *Panatang Makabayan* and the singing of the songs, "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" and "Ako Ay Pilipino."

