

OBMC FV stages first-ever Spectacle 'Harana'

By Juliana Balingbing
Grade 7-Emerald

The lights dimmed in the hall. Everyone remained silent, the students looking every bit excited to see their schoolmates perform. A few minutes later, the stage shone with light as songs like *Magkaugnay*, *Salidumay*, and *Chua-ay* filled the hall. When the Philippine Opera Company (POC) approached the center stage, it was clear—the Fairview campus of OB Montessori successfully launched their first-ever musical spectacle entitled, *Harana*.

Harana is the Filipino tradition of courting a lover with a serenade. For OBMC's *Harana* the performers crooned the Fairview community with a repertoire that values Filipino identity and culture. *Harana* featured arrangements inspired by Muslim, Cordillera, and other Filipino influences. The audience was also able to witness a little of what traditions are like in different ethnolinguistic groups.

Through diverse dances and songs, the concept of *Harana* showcased the beauty of Filipino culture. Choreographed by the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, the POC performed

on stage with the Primary and Intermediate Choir, Dance Club, and Glee Club.

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Let's welcome the new campus manager of OBMC Fairview—Marita Francisco, R.N., L.P.T.



Mrs. Marita Francisco is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Accounting from Arellano University. She holds an MA in Education major in SPED from St. Joseph's College and an MA in Nursing major in Administration from Manila Central University. She is also a licensed teacher.

She has been with OB Montessori for 22 years, starting as a Casa teacher in 1997.

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NEWS

Montessorians in Action: International Coastal Clean-up

By Carla Saludes and Pete Roxas
Grade 11-Amorsolo



Around 50 OB Montessori - Fairview students participated alongside the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) in the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) at the Manila Bay on October 20th. Fully equipped and ready to clean the bay of its litter, the students were able to dig up an estimate of 15 to 20 sacks of trash, mostly filled with fragments of plastic wrappings.

As unfortunate as it may be that these coastal clean-ups must occur every month to keep the seaside clean, people are still willing to repair the damages and bring Manila Bay back to its former pride and glory.

"It was a huge eye-opener," Ian Pagdanganan from 12-Jose said, "we have an obligation towards nature." This coastal clean-up served as a supplemental practical experience for their class in Science 4: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.



He, along with the rest of the Senior High School students, fulfilled that obligation as their participation was solely voluntary. Their science teachers oriented them on the activity, briefed them on safety and hygiene precautions, and even talked about the different types of environmental clean-ups.

According to one of the coastguards, refuse is accumulated because Manila Bay acts as one of the main catch basins in the Metro's circuit of creeks and rivers. With the perpetual cycle of improper waste disposal, trash continuously

piles onto the banks of the Bay. In this regard, different organizations, along with the ICC and the PCGA, have been participating in the monthly maintenance clean-ups to help keep Manila's waterways clean.



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NEWS

OBMC 9th Graders "Stay Connected" with Parents

By Charisse Lee, Grade 9-Sapphire
Anthony James Antonio, Grade 8-Sapphire

To maintain strong, loving family relationships, OBMC Grade 9 parents and their children participated in a seminar on Nov. 10, 2018, at the Teatro Preciosa.

Relationship and Parenting Consultant Mrs. Maribel Dionisio, together with coach/facilitator Mrs. Aiza Caparas-Tabayoyong, led the seminar entitled "The Midlife Parent and the Teenage: Staying Connected." Both speakers were from AMD Love Consultants for Families and Couples.

"I learned a lot, like keeping up my communication with my parents. The speakers did an excellent job and kept us, students, and [our] parents interested," Angeleen David of Grade 9-Sapphire said.

The seminar aimed to empower the parents in gaining the necessary skills to help their child go through a critical stage in their development and life.

Mrs. Leenzee David believed that the seminar taught her how to better communicate with daughter Angeleen, deal with different styles of decision-making, and understand how different approaches to parenting affects children.

The event started with the parents and students in different rooms. The parents remained at Teatro Preciosa, while the students stayed in Room 204.

Time management and empathy were discussed with both parents and students. The parents focused on how to understand their children, while the

students were given a talk on how education can empower them.

According to Mrs. Priscila Garcia, mother of Oliver Garcia (9-Emerald), the seminar was an interesting activity. Not only did it help her to understand her son better, but it made her feel closer to him.

The second half of the seminar dealt with more personal topics such as empathy and self-care. The parents, on the other hand, had an additional session on how to maintain a strong marriage.

In the end, everyone came together at Teatro Preciosa Hall where both parents and children had an open dialogue with each other and participated in a Q & A.

"It's fun. My mother and I interacted with each other. My mother knew more about me and realized my problems," said Oliver Garcia.



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Then from 2000-2015 she held the position of Academic Coordinator; and from 2015 to the present, as the Casa Department head. She is a member of the trainers team of the OB Montessori Teacher Formation Course, conducting training sessions for newly-hired members of the faculty and administrative personnel.

Marita is married to Mr. Ricky Francisco who oversees Dreamweaver, the family business of beddings, pillows, and other merchandise. They have raised four children, all of whom graduated from OB Montessori Center. Rikki Martin is an IT specialist at Asia United Bank; Rikki Marvin, an IT consultant at Lingaro; Rikki Marcial, a licensed pharmacist at PhilPharma Wealth; and Rikki Mae, a graduating nursing student at the University of Santo Tomas.

With her education and training, Mrs. Francisco brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge in the efficient implementation of the learning program toward achieving the vision and mission of OB Montessori Center.

We welcome you, Mrs. Marita Francisco, to OBMC Fairview!



NEWS

Casa Celebrates the United Nations Day

By Clara Francesca Barja, Grade 5-Mercury

Neither one, two nor three, but at least ten personnel from the Environment Care Office (ECO) worked overtime to set the stage for our Casa students. Two days before the big event, our kuyas and ates began to set up the props and decorations that represent the member countries of the United Nations. Then on October 26, 2018, the fruit of their hard work was witnessed by the parents and guests who attended the Casa United Nations Day at Teatro Preciosa.

Donning the national costumes of countries from the different continents, the students of ages 3 to 6 paraded with all smiles to the delight of their teachers and loved ones. For a month, the children prepared and practiced

their songs and dances. They practiced twice a week with the guidance of their Music teacher Ms. Patricia Buenaventura.

The main emcees for the event were two selected Grade 6 students: Atria Alvarez for the morning session, and Francesca Arpon for the afternoon session. Some Casa students assisted in hosting parts of the program. They were Vihaan Master and Audrey Victorino for the morning session, and Jibril Abdul and Amerie Doma for the afternoon session.

The OPM classic "Salamat, Salamat Musika," grand prize winner of the 7th Metropop Festival in 1984, fittingly ended the event since the song declares that music is a universal language.

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"This Spectacle is not just a show of talents, but a venue to teach and pass on our music to the younger generation," Glee Club moderator Mrs. Shylla Odoemene said.

She added that the students were challenged in mastering these songs due to its rhythmic style. What amazed her the most is that while

there was a struggle, the students actually could do it and do it with such wonder.

Harana ended with "Anak," an iconic Filipino pop song. The constellation of all the performers left the crowd speechless, reflecting on the share of language,

music, and dances in forming our national values.



The United Nation's Day celebration at OBMC Fairview was a fun-filled activity for the Casa students and their parents. It promoted camaraderie, friendship, and cooperation—human bonds that contribute to our achievement of lasting world peace.



NEWS

Rondalya Para sa Lahat: A Showcase of Talents

By Keisha Isobel Hipolito, Grade 6-Jupiter

On November 9, 2018, members of the OB Montessori Center Rondalla Club traveled from Fairview all the way to UP Abelardo Hall Auditorium to participate in "Rondalya Para sa Lahat." Intermediate students of OBMC played banduria, octavina, double bass and guitar alongside former and current head administrative and members of various music departments and societies.

"Memorizing the chords and the songs were challenging but the moment we went on stage and performed what we practiced for months made everything so worth it," Denver Pineda, a Grade 6 student said.

The UP College of Music, Music Education Department, Philippine Society for Music Education, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts, united to form a grand event that showcased the talents of rondalla clubs. Together with OBMC Rondalla were Talayan Children's Rondalla, Timoteo Paez Elementary School Rondalla, NCCA Employees' Rondalla, University of the Philippines Rondalla, and Celso Espejo Rondalla that entertained the audience with their harmonious ensemble of the stringed instruments. OBMC Rondalla Club

performed "Bagagto," "Auralee" (Love Me Tenderly), and "Polka."

The concert of the Rondalla performing groups brought delight and smiles to the faces of the audience. More than that, it is the participants of OBMC who brought home joy and confidence as they got to perform before a large crowd.

"It was fun and exciting since it's my first time performing in public and I learned to perform with unity together with the rest of the club members," said Byron Cablay, a Grade 5 student and member of the Rondalla.



FEATURES

Making class relevant again: The Grade 8 English Tea Party

By Kristina Alaine Triumfo and John Derrick Casantusan, Grade 8-Sapphire

It's the 17th or 18th of October. You are about to enter Teatro Preciosa. The pleasant music and the aroma of scones, mini quiches, and smoked salmon fill the air. Amid this hustle and bustle, the brewing of mixed berries and Earl Grey tea stands out. The noise and smell helps you know it's that time of the year again—the Annual Tea Party.

As a guest, you are greeted by the ushers in a polite manner. You and your partner have your picture taken by a photographer before you are finally escorted to your table. You are served water by the bartender and afterwards, the tea. The hosts introduce themselves and showcase the food and set-up prepared by the working committee.

OB Montessori Grade 8 Students played host to the Annual Tea Party on October 17-18 at the Teatro

Preciosa Foyer. It was an activity of social graces and culture patterned after the traditional English afternoon tea party to hone the students' skills in baking, food service, hosting, table manners, and proper etiquette, taught in Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) classes and in their Homeroom period. Students took part in planning the two-day event under the supervision of TLE teacher Ms. Joycelyn Mapalad. The entire section of 8-Emerald and half of 8-Sapphire were assigned as the working committee for the first day while the remaining students from 8-Ruby and 8-Sapphire got the same experience the next day.

The composure of the event managers and eloquence of the hosts were complimented with their tastefully appropriate dresses and suits. The occasion also showcased the students' natural aptitude for leadership and communication.

One of the student-managers in this year's tea party was Kate Buendia of 8-Ruby: "The responsibility given to me helped me to be more confident, and [to] discover that I can also lead people."



FEATURE

Joyful Spirit of Togetherness

By Athea Pandong, Grade 9-Emerald

"A Gift for All of Us" art work by Pete Roxas, Grade 8-Amorsolo

The sound of merry children caroling "Joy to the World" outside the door, the sweet aroma of spaghetti being cooked the kitchen, and the colorful, eye-catching *parols* we Filipinos hung up on this special time of the year—this is Christmas, Pinoy style!

The early sun still set to rise, yet so many people are awake to make their way to the church plaza in time for the 4 a.m. *Misa de Gallo*. This is probably the first noticeable action, which is a time-honored practice carried over from the Spanish colonial period. Back then religion heavily influenced Christmas, a season sacredly celebrated as the time of Jesus Christ's birth. And so even to this day, attending the dawn masses together is strictly important

for Filipino families, especially for the *Misa de Aguinaldo* on Christmas eve. After this Christmas vigil, the feasting begins! *Lechon de leche*, *puto bumbong*, *queso de bola*, and *leche flan* are just some of the most popular dishes and desserts prepared for the Noche Buena. The feast is often enjoyed while the music of the *Cumbancheros* or the town choirs is heard playing in the church plaza.

Christmas music blasting from loud speakers, the mouth-watering

smell of delicious meals filling the kitchen, and the glowing lights of the Christmas tree are probably some of the things experienced during modern-day Christmas. But lately, some Filipino families have found new ways of spending the Christmas holidays, like traveling abroad, sight-seeing locally or going on food-trips.

With technological advances to boot, Filipino families have found other ways to enjoy the Christmas break besides going to mass and eating. Families wildly sing karaoke, watch movies on Netflix, or play video games such as "Wii" and "Just Dance." Technology is also a way for families, who are apart from one another, to connect via Skype and Facetime. But sometimes these technologies can also distract us from our bonding time with family. This is particular to the younger ones who tend to spend their Christmas break playing and binge-watching to relax while school is out.

Spending time with one's family on Christmas is an important Filipino tradition which began all the way fback to the Spanish era, and even with present technologies, we must not forget the spirit of family togetherness on this special season. This holiday is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and to bond with family, because these are greatest gifts a person can receive on Christmas day.



LITERARY

Little Tree

By Gabrielle Fernandez
Grade 8-Emerald

Comes the season anew
When we take you out the box,
Adorn you with trimmings
In a cozy corner of the house to stand.

For weeks the little tree will tower,
Waiting like the kids counting days
When Christmas day would come
By its foot, gifts would be laid
Until young and old each take them

And unwarp them with excitement.
This little tree will stand
To see the playful pup
Steal the red balls,
To hear the children's carols,
To welcome the



adoring guests
Awed by the twinkling lights,
To smell the noche buena feast,
To witness the joy from families reunited,
To spot the lonely soul
Longing for a loved one.
This tree will stand and bear witness,
Until the season is over
And it is dismantled and returned
to the box,
Bringing with it memories and keepsakes
Of the most joyous season of the year!

TIPS

How to Afford a Noche Buena

By William Goddard
Grade 4-Venus

Christmas is in the air! It is the season to celebrate the birth of Christ the Lord. This is also the best time to prepare and cook delectable dishes to share with our loved ones. It is our tradition to set a grand meal called *Noche Buena* on Christmas Eve.

But with the inflation that we are experiencing now in our country, how can we afford a good *Noche Buena*?

Here are some tips on how we can still have a bountiful feast on our table as we welcome the coming of Christ:

- Save money at least a month before the occasion. Deposit your money in the bank to be safe. You will then have a good budget to buy the things you need for the season.
- Plan ahead of time. Most likely, you will go to the market and find out

that 1 kilo of chicken costs P120, then a week later the price has gone up to P150. To avoid this, plan ahead of time and watch the local news to be updated on the prices of Christmas commodities.

- Find two or more brands and compare their prices. Brands vary in prices, so pick the one which has the lowest price.
- Stick to your budget. Avoid buying things that you don't need. It is a waste of money. Remember, money does not grow on trees.

With these tips, we might end up with a simple *Noche Buena*. But as long as we share it with our family and loved ones, we can still have the best celebration.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Entertainment

Crossword Puzzle

By Ian Gapoy, Grade 8-Emerald



- DOWN**
1. What does He brings you on Christmas Eve?
 2. Whose birthday is it on the 25th? (2 words)
 3. What do people from other countries wear on Christmas?
 4. One of the most famous Christmas carols
 5. God's servants
 6. "His" favorite drink

- ACROSS**
1. Who is the man in a red suit?
 2. Who stole Christmas?
 3. What does "he" give you on Christmas Eve?
 4. What are his little helpers?
 5. One of Christ's apostles
 6. Kid's favourite gift
 7. What does "he" ride to get to your house?
 8. What time does "he" come?
 9. What kind of kids does "he" hate?

Schedule Bar



3RD QUARTER

December

(Project Kaibigan Month)

3 – Advanced Casa: Poetry Contest / Intermediate (Grade 6): Public Speaking

Junior High School: – 7
Food Fair and Minimart

13 – Senior High School (Grade 12): Elocution

Primary (Grade 1): – 14
Indoor Camping

17 – Casa/Primary/Intermediate: 2nd Quarter Parent-Teacher Conference / Release of 2nd Quarter Report Card

Intermediate Intramurals – 17-18

20 – Students' Christmas Party / Last Day of Classes for Year 2018

Christmas Break – 21

January

3 – Classes for All Levels Resume Junior High School: Food Fair and Minimart

Primary (Grade 1): – 8
Backyard Camping

15-16 – Intermediate (Grade 6 & 10): Joint Camp Out

Year – End Parent Assembly – 17

25 – Primary (Grade 3): 1st Holy Communion

Junior High School: – 28-29
High School Intramurals

28-1 – Senior High School: 2nd Semester Midterm Examinations

Intermediate (Grade 4): – 30
Day Camping / Senior High School: Inter-Campus Debate Tournament

NEWS

OBMC's Trick or Treat

By Bianca Liezl Espinoza, Grade 6-Earth



OB MONTESSORI Fairview held its annual Trick or Treat Activity last Nov. 7, 2018. The theme for this year was United Nations. It aimed to give students the opportunity to explore another country's culture without the need of a plane ticket.

With their pumpkin baskets for their treats, Casa and Primary students came to school in cute, fanciful costumes. Some of them were dressed as superheroes, others as kings, queens, princesses or fairies. Some students chose to be their favorite Disney or fairytale character, while others confidently promenaded in their UN Day costumes.

As the children visited the different offices in the campus, they excitedly awaited for candies and other treats, at the same time, they were amazed to see the customs and traditions of different countries. The Guidance Office was decorated with paper cranes, lanterns, and cherry blossoms to create a Japanese vibe. A makeshift temple was also set up outside. Meanwhile, the Library greeted the students "Aloha" with its Hawaiian decor of parrots and tropics. *Pamaypays* and *banderitas* filled the Front Office's interior, as if it were in the middle of a *Pinoy Fiesta*. The cowgirl nurses at the Clinic introduced the wild, wild West through its Texan theme. Our Administrative staff didn't just give out candies to the ones with baskets or buckets, they also gave some to the Intermediate and High School students with nothing but outstretched hands itching for candies.

"Trick or treat" has been a usual custom around the world during Halloween. The "treat" pertains to the candies or sweets being given away. However, this year, OBMC made the experience more thrilling by providing another "treat": the means to explore different cultures and to marvel at the world's wonders inside one campus. Can't wait for next year's Halloween treat!

