



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

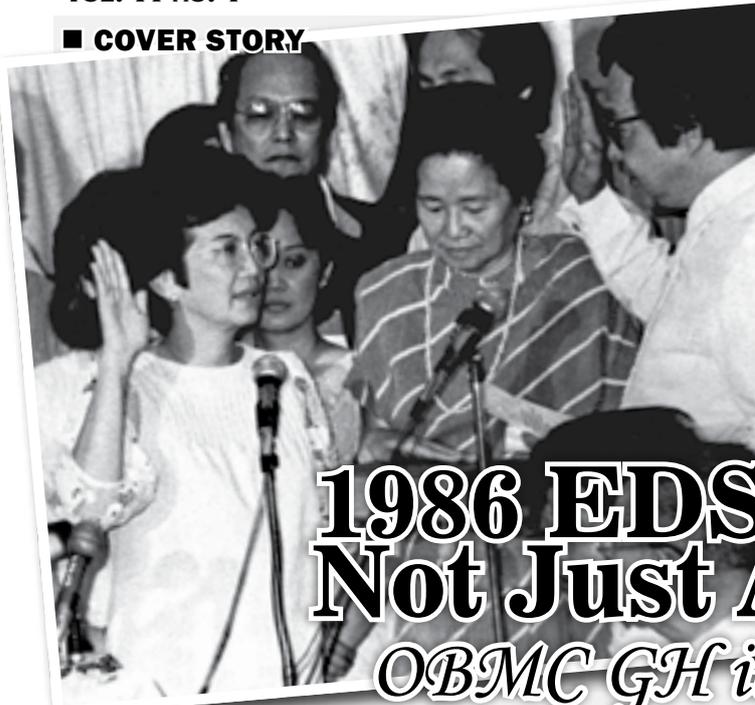
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COVER STORY



1986 EDSA Revolution: Not Just Another Party

OBMC-GH involvement in EDSA

► By Bianca Daphne Baleros, Grade 11-Luna

The 1986 People Power Revolution is a historical moment for every Filipino. It is a moment of freedom, solidarity, passion, and hope. On Feb. 22, 1986, the first call for the People Power Revolution happened, with plans of toppling the Marcos regime spread through the radio.

Mrs. Sara Soliven-De Guzman, our Chief Operating Officer, found out about the revolution quite differently. She had two major events to attend that day: her cousin, Luisito Soliven David's ordination as a Jesuit priest at Ateneo, and Lea Salonga's birthday at Club Filipino. She recalls, "During the ordination of my cousin at around 3 pm, I already saw my father talking to different people on the phone. He was getting several messages. He had to leave early. I

felt there was something going on but couldn't determine what it was. We left the house at around 6:30 pm to go to Lea's party at Club Filipino. While we were dancing, my father comes in and speaks to Fil Salonga, Lea's father. He tells Mr. Salonga to wrap up the party because there is a revolution happening outside. No one understood him or, I think, believed him right away. But he pulled me out of the party in haste and took me home."

Contrary to popular belief, the revolution was described to be beautiful by the people who were there to experience it firsthand. Different scenes were happening in different parts of the city. Some kids were playing, some adults were protesting, some were just sitting calmly and praying, but in everything unity stood out.

Everyone played a part.

OB Montessori Center also played a part in the 1986 People Power Revolution. OBMC students were encouraged to be socially aware of the current situation of the Philippines. This was achieved by the reading and discussion of the newspaper in the morning routine of the students. Classes were also cancelled on the days of the revolution to allow the students to participate on their own accord.

Not to mention that the heart of all this, which was at Epifanio de los Santos Avenue or EDSA, was only a mile or less away from OBMC, and Corazon Aquino was inaugurated as President of the Philippines in Club Filipino, which is a few steps away from the school. Because of the

Continue to page 2

Continued from page 1

proximity of these significant places to OBMC, some soldiers and protesters would often drop by the school to ask for refreshments such as bread, coffee, and water. Of course, they were given these refreshments by security personnel, with permission from school authorities. These acts may have been small, but they were indeed able to contribute to something far bigger.

The revolution continued on for three days, ending on February 25, 1986. The change was felt by every Filipino. Change wasn't only evident in the official government papers, but in the Filipino people as well. There were no barriers between the citizens. Everyone was united and worked together toward a better future for the country.



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EDITORIAL: ON PERSPECTIVES OF LOVE

Love is all around us.

By The Student Editorial Board

When the month of love is upon us, we may find ourselves being one of two kinds of people during this season: the ones excited to celebrate with their loved one, or the ones who are laughing bitterly at the occasion. It has been embedded in our minds that St. Valentine's Day is for the exchanging of cards and flowers and chocolates, and all the usual gestures we see in the movies, believing that is the only form of love there is.

F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, "There are all kinds of love in this world, but never the same love twice," which we believe holds true in all situations. Sadly, we have come to believe that St. Valentine's Day is only for couples, while we—lonely exceptions—are convinced that this day is not ours to celebrate. What we forget is that there is much more to this than just romantic love.

There is love in just being with yourself and working to pursue your dreams. There is love in waking

up every morning to an already-prepared breakfast. There is love in hearing your friend's laughter after a long grueling week. There is love in giving your grandmother a tight hug after school. There is love in spending hours on the phone with a friend, distance all but trumped by technology. There is love in choosing to forgive.

Love, in its truest form, is an exhilarating experience, no matter what kind and no matter what form. Sometimes love can be loud and sometimes love can be silent. Sometimes it is in words, sometimes it is in actions. It may not always be with a 'special someone,' but love is shared with each person we hold dear in our lives. No matter from whom, no matter what the form, it does not change the fact that it is still love.

On that note, the many different kinds of love, we found love in the form of a pen and paper and words. It is in our passion to help create and share



By Bianca Carlos, Grade 12-Jose

stories that we found love among the many types of love there are amidst us. Of the many things to celebrate this month, we would like to thank you for allowing us to do what we love, and we wish you love, may it be in the most unexpected way.

Here's to celebrating love every day, no matter what its form. Happy St. Valentine's Day, everyone!

NEWS FEATURES

Art Leaves Its Mark

By Ysabelle Dominguez, Grade 10-Ruby



Everyone wants to make a mark on their school before they leave, and typically they mean this in an influential or sentimental manner. But this school year six high school students were given the opportunity to leave a physical reminder of their time here in OB Montessori Center by painting a mural. This mural stands tall on the exterior hallway of the fourth floor adjacent to the intermediate classrooms. This

beautiful work of art depicts the Philippines' fauna, flora, and culture. Native tribes are painted to the left and a serene nature collage to the right, ranging from our high northern mountains to our low sandy beaches.

The team responsible for this mural was put together and headed by Dean Africa, an artist of the OBMC Publication Department, and

includes students Mikaela Velasquez of 9-Emerald, Ella Reyes of 9-Topaz, 10-Sapphire's Audrey Sin, Xsandrie 'Sandy Gamboa' Guimba of 10-Emerald, and me, Ysabelle Dominguez of 10-Ruby. Mr. Africa employed a vertical design dividing each mini collage, leading to a clean look that encapsulates the culture and natural beauty of the Philippines. Prior to working with OBMC in the Creative Section he had managed his own mural company, which made him just the man for the job.

We were all brought together in this project by our love of art and our desire to leave something behind. Our time together was filled with laughter, jokes, and even a particular song by a retro band. It all amounted to a mural that will stand proudly on the walls of this institution for decades to come.

This experience taught us something: Every student can make a mark, the only thing

holding us back is our initiative to try. What mark will you leave?



NEWS FEATURES

Every Day a Blessing

By Gino Cordero, Grade 11-Hidalgo

Twelve years ago, tragedy struck. A disease called *spinal muscular atrophy* (SMA) claimed the life of seven-month-old Enzo Lopez, devastating his parents Noel and Abby. Nine years later tragedy struck again, and their second child Rivo passed away from the same malady, at six months old. It was then that Noel Lopez swore to help others with similar ailments; and thus, the seed of an organization was sown.

Brave Warrior Kids is a foundation focused on supporting children with cancer, SMA, and other severe ailments—to bring life to their years, however few they might be. It provides them and their families with financial and medical support, funded by donations from various groups and individuals. In addition to Mr. Lopez, the board of directors consists of Drew Navarro, Ernest Tagle, RJ Jacinto, Ace Barretto, Reyman Sy, Pocholo Razon, and Adrian Ocampo, the organization's president. One thing they have in common, besides Brave Warrior Kids and a love of service: they are all proud alumni of OB Montessori Greenhills.

Although these men are advanced professionals with jobs and business of their own, the urgent need and grief of others, as well as each other's support and an unyielding faith in God's ultimate power, drive them to help children in need of assistance. Thus, when they came together to



spearhead the OB Alumni Homecoming (which has become an annual event), they also united as members of the Brave Warrior Kids Foundation.

With such support, the organization is occasionally able to take the extra step and hold celebrations in the children's honor. In one such effort they arranged a party for the children of Bahay Aruga, a halfway house for pediatric cancer patients. They gave out toys and food as a magician provided entertainment. To date, Brave Warrior Kids has helped around 450 children and their families.

In the OB Montessori spirit, this group seeks to turn darkness into light, fear into courage, and to bring forth hope to others when it is hard for them to see it. It hasn't been easy, but the lessons learned from Casa to High School taught them to go *ad dolorem, ad gloriam*; from pains to gains.



These Brave Warrior Kids remind us that every day is a blessing, and we should thank God for each one, and enjoy it to its fullest. Appreciate the little things; the random moments of happiness and laughter that make life truly worth living. It is

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."
- Abraham Lincoln

the aim of the foundation to bring these things into the life of every brave warrior kid whom they serve.

If you would like to become involved in Brave Warrior Kids, Adrian Ocampo invites you to visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bravewarriorkids and share it with your friends and relatives to help others become more aware of their foundation.

SPECIAL NOTE: February 15 is International Childhood Cancer Day

STUDENT PROFILES

"Go Fast or Go Last"

By Paul Cruz, Grade 12-Tinio

Nasungkit ni Darrel Ceña ang kampeonato sa isang karera sa Circuit: Sparco Cup noong taong 2018 sa kabila ng kanyang hirap na pinagdaanan bago ito magawa dahil sa parehong taon, bago magkampeon ay inakala niyang huling karera na.

Nasira ang kanyang preno habang pinapatakbo niya ang kanyang sasakyan. Ngunit, hindi ito naging hadlang upang mapahinto siya sa pangangarera, bagkus ay ginawa niya pa itong karanasan na ito bilang isang motibasyon at aral para mas ayusin, paghandaan at pagbutihan niya pa sa kanyang karera sa

STUDENT PROFILES

Speak to me in melodies

By Joseph Antes, Grade 10-Emerald

Maria Sophia Cinco-Baysa has always been a musically inclined person. She met her instrument at the age of eight, a violin originally used by her mother.

It was not love at first sight, Sophia said, but right after her first lesson she couldn't stop playing and so began her violin journey. Sophia is now a part of "Paraluman," the only violin group of the Greenhills Music Studio and the Philippine Suzuki Association Orchestra, an all-string orchestra based in Metro



Manila. To get where she is now, Sophia has had her fair share of hardships that she had to defeat using practice.

"One thing that bothers me is when people say that musicians put in less effort than athletes and when people say athletes spend more money and practice harder than musicians, because musicians practice just as hard and spend just as much money as athletes do, and yet we are considered less than athletes," Sophia said. Sophia appreciates more effort, little details, and technicalities thanks to the sound of the violin. To

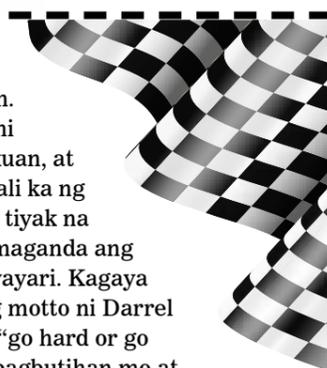
her, the violin is the seasons, strong at times and soft at others.

Here are some tips from Sophia for those who aspire to be violinists:

1. For beginners, try practicing the G Scale because the finger positions are the easiest on that scale.
2. Wipe your violin every day and change the strings every three months.
3. An easy song to start with is "Moon River," from the movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.
4. When playing the song try to find its emotion.

"For all the time I can't put things into words, there's music. It has become my first language. That's why I will never stop speaking it."

- Maria Sophia Cinco-Baysa



pangangarera. Para sa kanya, ang pangangarera at pag-aalaga sa sasakyan ay maihalalintulad niya sa isang tao, "dapat laging chinecheck up para malaman mo kung okay lang ba siya."

Noong bata pa lamang siya, hilig na niya ang mga sasakyan na laruan, manood ng mga pelikulang tungkol sa pangangarera ang kwento katulad ng *Fast and the Furious*, nanonood na rin siya ng mga aktwal na kompetisyon ng pangangarera ng sasakyan dahil dati pa lamang ay nangangarera na ang kanyang ama. Dahil sa mga ito, si Darrel Ceña ay sumunod sa yapak ng kanyang ama at naging isang mangangarera ng sasakyan.

Unang siyang nagmaneho ng isang truck na pang off-road. Noong nasa ikalimang baitang pa lamang sa elementarya ay lumahok na sa isang ganap na kompetisyon ng off-road. Simula noon, sunod-sunod na ang kanyang sinasalihang mga iba pang kompetisyon ng off-road. Ang pagsali naman niya sa

kumpetisyon ng pangangarera ay noong taong 2018 lamang. Panimula man kung ituring, marami na siyang sinalihang malalaking patimpalak sa pangangarera kagaya ng Slalom, Circuit: Sparco Cup, at Circuit: Fors, at sa kanyang mga sinalihan ay hindi siya nawawala sa mga nananal.

Ang pangangarera ay parang sa pag-ibig, hindi ka maaaring sumabak sa isang karera lalo na't wala kang ensayo at hindi mo kabisado ang

daanan. Marami ang likuan, at pag mali ka ng liko ay tiyak na hindi maganda ang mangyayari. Kagaya nga ng motto ni Darrel Ceña, "go hard or go last," pagbutihan mo at bilisan, bago ka mahuli, bago pa mahuli ang lahat.



VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

Love through a child's eyes

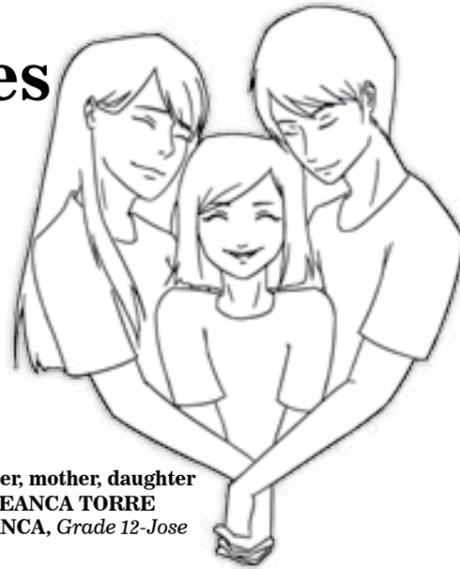
By Philler Siy, Grade 5-Jupiter

Kids like us know what it's like to be kissed by our parents, to share a sandwich with a friend, or to be hugged by a furry pet. The feeling of being able to give and to be given to is also very nice. It makes us feel that we've done what we are supposed to do to others. For some, giving and receiving gifts is a sign that they care for each other. And since St. Valentine's Day is upon us, the air is sure to be filled with love. What are your plans this coming February?

The first thing that comes to

my mind when I hear "St. Valentine's Day" is romantic love. This is the time when couples dress up and go to fancy candlelit dinners to celebrate their love. I also see lots of boys buying cards and flowers for their girlfriends. For me though, St. Valentine's Day should be enjoyed by everyone because it is all about love. Why not show our affection and appreciation to our parents by saying "I love you" to them? We can also be creative by making handcrafted gifts which we can give to our best friends, teachers, and relatives.

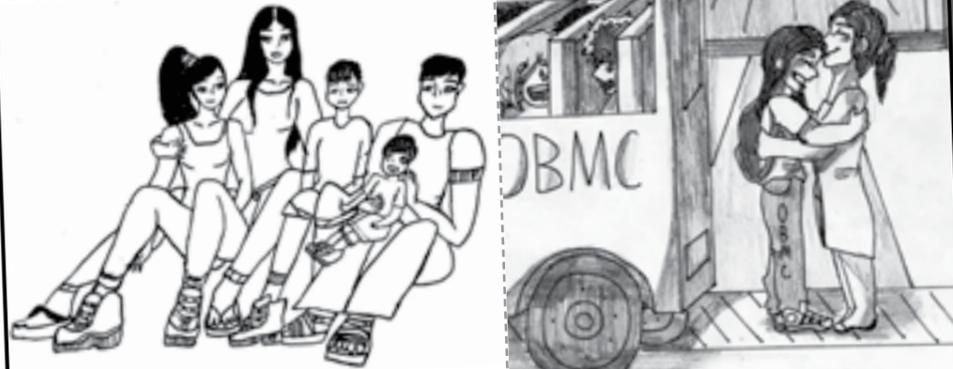
Time might be the best gift we can give on St. Valentine's Day or



Father, mother, daughter
by BEANCA TORRE
FRANCA, Grade 12-Jose

really, on any day of the year. Time is important because most of us are either so busy with school or work that we take spending time with each other for granted. Bonding is special because it strengthens our relationships with our loved ones. How about scheduling quality time with our family to play fun activities like Monopoly or bowling? How about making that call to your grandparents and having a long chat to let them know you are thinking of them, and that you love them? But anyway, on this St. Valentine's Day, why don't you just put a smile on someone's face?

STUDENT ARTWORK



By Alexander Singwatt and Ashkin Bautista, Grade 6-Earth

ENTERTAINMENT

Horoscopes

By Jeanne Macachor and Ras Rosete, Grade 12-Tinio and Lumbreira



Aquarius

(20 Jan-18 Feb)

This month will be a smooth-sailing breeze for you, your family and friends!

Sunsets will be an essential part of your growth this month.

Lucky Color: Purple

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Tila" by Clara Benin



Pisces

(18 Feb-10 Mar)

February is a good time

to do your old hobbies, or maybe even begin a new one! Everything may seem confusing at the moment, but it's only because you have to reconnect with yourself.

Lucky Color: Cyan blue

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Itutulog Na Lang" by The Juans



Aries

(20 Mar-20 Apr)

Hold on, Aries! February may be a hectic month for you with the final quarter of

the school year coming up. Remember to manage your time well. Skip that Instagram story!

Lucky Color: Orange

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Hanap" by Autotelic



Taurus

(20 Apr-21 May)

You may have to make it up to some of your friends this month, Taurus. Say hi to an old friend and eat lunch together. Beware of your own pride getting in the way of that.

LITERARY

Love, a Man, and Himself

By Lorraine Castillo, Grade 11-Luna

She was the teardrops that caressed my face
She was the clouds that I wanted to chase
She was the ice that burned me every time
She was both the justice and the worst crime

Never in my life have I tried so hard
To fix what had just been broken and scarred
Thoughts of her haunt the corners of my mind
Nails on a chalkboard, but it left me blind

The signs were there in all their glory
Could have put an end to this futile story
The words that she whispered for just me to know
Rooted me here, and where else could I go?

It always gets better, or so they say
Anything to make the pain go away
It's like it has dug in, a conniving screw
How do you remove something that's part of you?

Life was filled with the bliss that she brought
The demons inside me, how hard I fought
By her side, I had refused to leave
It was all a lie that I still believe

Why couldn't I have been entirely enough?
Was I just a burden that she found too tough?
I wish she would tell me the true reasons why
Something that's easier than a last goodbye

In the moment the world ceased to spin
I lost myself before I could win
This heart got itself into a war
Lost at sea and left to wash ashore

I looked out at the world, and then I knew
What I needed to do to get over you
I fixed my sails and went on my way
Looked in the mirror, and it was a new day

Lucky Color: Baby pink

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Made in Hollywood" by Lany



Gemini

(21 May-Jun 21)

What you think always matter, Gemini.

Remember to speak up for what you believe in this month (and always). Beware of a difficult choice this month.

Lucky Color: Lime Yellow

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Supercut" by Lorde



Cancer

(21 Jun-22 Jul)

You may be in danger of miscommunicating with someone close to you this month. Remember to choose your words wisely. Beware of how you talk to others this month.

Lucky Color: silver

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Portuguese" by Reese & Vica



Leo

(22 Jul-23 Aug)

Brand new things are to come your way this February, and greet them with an open mind! Be direct, straightforward and kind to those close to you as you

experience these new things.

Lucky Color: Yellow

Listen to this song on repeat:

"I Would Do Anything For You" by foster the people



Virgo

(23 Aug-23 Sep)

The month may not start going your way, but continue to push forward and you just might turn things around. This is a good month for money, so look into that too. Beware of traitors this month.

Lucky Color: Mint Green

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Boulevard" by Moon Mask



Libra

(23 Sep-3 Oct)

You will be forced to try new things in order to keep up with the month. February will end up rewarding you handsomely. Beware of the consequences of your smallest actions.

Lucky Color: White.

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Love It If We Made It" by The 1975



Scorpio

(23 Oct-22 Nov)

You might be disrupting

the peace more than you think. Ponder upon yourself and make peace with a certain someone. February will be a month of recovery for you. Beware of your temper and patience.

Lucky Color: Lavender

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Anino" by Up Dharma Down



Sagittarius

(22 Nov-21 Dec)

The only thing stopping you from improving this month is yourself. Choose who to keep, who to pursue, and who to leave. Beware of temptations all around you.

Lucky Color: Grey

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Makeup" by The Script



Capricorn

(21 Dec-20 Jan)

Your good intentions may end up harming another, more than you think. Beware of the effects of not speaking the truth.

Lucky Color: Sunset Orange

Listen to this song on repeat:

"Eighteen" by Beabadoobee



NEWS FEATURES

Life ↔ Camp

► By Alyssa Sahagun, Grade 6-Venus

After months of preparation, the day of the Grade 6 and 10 bivouac finally happened on January 10 to 12 at Preziosa Botanic Park and Farm Resort. This activity aims to build camaraderie among the members of each squad, while learning various life skills.

Before the actual execution of the activities, the 6th graders were oriented and assigned to their respective squads with their *ates* and *kuyas* from the 10th grade. The students were also given the rare chance to get to know the brave soldiers who fought against the ISIS-inspired terrorist group during the Marawi

Siege. These selfless soldiers were the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Scout Rangers, who kept us all safe, day and night.

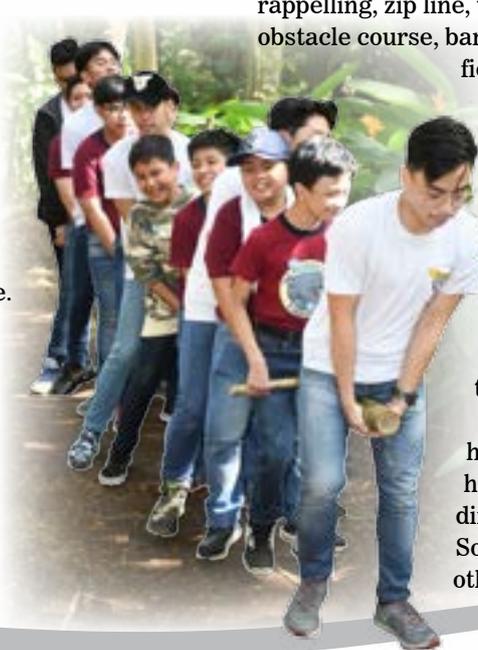
At their assigned activity areas, the squads had to overcome equally challenging tasks, which included rappelling, zip line, wall climbing, obstacle course, bamboo bike, mine field, aerodynamics, pipe relay, and rope course. Everybody had to perform outside their comfort zones to finish the grueling missions together.

When the sun had set, each squad had to prepare their dinner themselves. Some cooked, while others

cleaned, built fires, and washed dishes. The missions and chores from morning until night trained them to be well-functioning citizens.

After their satisfying dinner, the Scout Rangers instilled further in the students the essence of being a *makabayan* and may *malasakit* when they showed actual clips and pictures of what took place on the Marawi battlefield. The campers also visited the Geronimo Berenguer de los Reyes, Jr. Museum in General Trias, Cavite, the next day. The entire museum experience was a walk through the country's past. It surely did refresh everyone's knowledge about Philippine history, especially the time when we were invaded by the Spaniards and the Americans.

This overnight bivouac not only equipped the 6th and 10th graders for the ever-challenging world outside school, but also ignited the nationalistic spirit of these soon-to-be adults.



Love in service: Rainbow Catering

► By Cheska Rufo, Grade 10-Ruby

“Thank you, Rainbow Catering Club!”

These are the words I hear every time I finish another party for Casa or Primary students. It's a wonderful feeling, especially after cooking, packing, and preparing for hours to make sure the party goes well. The job doesn't stop there. I also put on a big smile, play, and dance with the kids to make them have a great time. This tiring routine comes with a small but heartfelt reward: seeing the grateful smiles on each of the young children's faces.

The Rainbow Catering Club is

a club of the Technology-Livelihood Education subject in the Junior High School. It began in 1983. The students members of the club offer party packages (complete with invitation, food, games, and music) to Casa and Primary student.

It can be a challenge to relate to younger children. We entertain them, help them eat, play games with them, and organize them to sing to the celebrants. Sometimes they can get into small fits when they lose a game. Amidst all

these things, I still find being part of the Rainbow Catering Club enjoyable. For a few hours I get to pause from the stress of academics and have fun with young children. I am also able to put a smile on their faces and get an excited greeting every time one of them recognizes me in the school hallway.

I have grown to love this job—the small joys it brings me and the happiness it brings to kids. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to throw a party for students in Casa and Primary, but most of all it takes love to put a smile on their faces. I love the kids I get to meet at every party. It brightens my day in ways that only love can. This is what being part of the Rainbow Catering Club is all about. Aside from the technical skills of organizing a “kiddie” party, I have learned to love the role that I serve.

