



“Rise Up!”: Indak Saliw dances for NCCA 2019

► By Athea Pandong (10 Emerald) and Kristina Triumfo (9 Sapphire)

Selected members from OB Montessori Center—Fairview dance club, *Indak Saliw*, performed to “Bangon” by alumnus Rico Blanco for the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Dance Competition, or *Sayaw Pinoy 2019*, held in the Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium on Oct. 20.

Forty-nine group contestants from all over the Philippines showcased dances that highlighted current societal issues that would

seize attention, tug on heartstrings, and provoke the mind. The competition required the integration of *malikhain* and *marangal* in the choreography, which led *Indak Saliw* to draw inspiration from the 2012 movie on Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, *El Presidente*. The dancers portrayed people from three social groups: indigenous people, working class, and the elite. Jea Mogello of 10 Sapphire played the president who would unite them all; which she eventually did. The presentation was a display of nationalistic pride.

“Since the song is ‘Bangon,’ we wanted to say ‘Rise up, Filipinos, and unite! We can do this together.’” Mogello explained.

She and co-member Alexa Belches of 9 Sapphire said that since their first competition happened to be a major one, the pressure was intense to prepare well. They allotted more time for practice, and memorized the choreography with their mentors’ help.

Amid the struggle to balance passion and their academic life, the two stated that all their hard work was definitely worth it since they got to improve their discipline, teamwork, and coordination as they were exposed to other dance styles and the world of competitive dancing.

“The anxiety will always be there. Actually, there’s a problem if you’re not nervous!” Belches shared, “But don’t let the fear consume and hinder you from taking the opportunity when presented.” Keep on pressing forward, Montessorians!



NEWS

OBMC FV Holds Swap Meet

By Aron Bernaldo (10 Emerald) and Nikolous Astronomo (10 Ruby)



OBMC—Fairview held its Swap Meet, an event that happens every other year, on September 11 at Teatro Preciosa. Everyone from grades four to ten were encouraged to bring old belongings that they no longer need and sell them to other students. This motivated them to recycle of old possessions. During the event, each section was given a stall in which to sell their items. They selected three to four students to serve in either the morning or afternoon shift and to sell the second-hand items to their clients.

The aim of the activity has been to hone the students' skills in entrepreneurship. It ended with the objectives met and many items sold. The earnings of each section were divided and given to the sellers and donors. The success of the Swap Meet led to all students, grades 10 and below, looking forward to their next chance of practicing their entrepreneurial skills.



FEATURES

Tea Party Unfiltered

By Madison Motril (8 Ruby)

Walking into Teatro Preciosa, your eyes immediately fall on the porcelain setup, each cup handle shifted to an exact angle, and not a single utensil out of place. Vividly colored decorations made by students adorn the walls as soft jazz becomes the day's soundtrack. As today's hosts begin the program with a smile, the familiarity of the event dawns on you—you are living out the tea party of your childhood dreams!

Cups of mixed berry tea and platefuls of delectable pastries later, your usher leads you back to your classroom. Your eyes drift toward the other Grade 8 students behind the scene. Juliet cap in hand, passing time in hushed conversations, they await their next line of duty. These students are the backbone and the soul of the OB Montessori Tea Party.

The event has become the 'eureka' moment of the students, the perfect

occasion to show their capabilities. "For students, by students" has been the get-up-and-go for the committees of the two-day Tea Party. "Blood, sweat, and tears" becomes the kind of phrase that seems cliché, but is the only one that fittingly describes it.

Even during breaks, students can be found kneading dough to get it just right or turning the teacup with the slightest flick of the wrist. Usherettes put on a smile with every pair of students they meet, hoping for a chance later to wiggle their toes for some comfort. As the day comes to a close, students exchange high-fives and offer cups of water as if to say, "You did well today."

The official photographer finally says, "Smile!" Tired as they are, the corners of their lips go up. Like every action the Grade 8 students have taken to make the Tea Party picture-perfect, the grin that they eventually break into is genuine.



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Editor-In-Chief
Athea Denise Pandong (10 Emerald)

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Contributor
Kelsey Sasha Tolentino, Jan Clemson Laboy

NEWS

Time to Reconnect

By Adriana Izon and AJ Antonio (9 Sapphire)

To bring parents and children closer together, OB Montessori Center—Fairview held a parent-student seminar last September 14 with the theme: *Staying Connected*. The students gathered in Grade 11 classrooms, while parents stayed at the Teatro Preciosa. They were guided by Aiza Caparas-Tabayoyong and Maribel Dionisio.

The relaxed ambiance of the venue helped Grade 9 students have an easier time participating.



Ms. Dionisio was tasked with engaging the younger audience. They worked on multiple activities regarding their duties at home and their plans for the future. The students complied readily and answered questions honestly. Meanwhile in the Teatro, parents discussed rules at home and self-care under the guidance of Ms. Caparas-Tabayoyong. They also

talked about family relationships and how they can be improved and maintained. The students and parents then



rejoined each other at the Teatro to compare notes. Then they also had the chance to suggest and point out things with one another, and gave each other words of affirmation. Towards the end, the room was filled with soft smiles and sniffles.

The speakers were effective in capturing the hearts and minds of their audience. They taught them that building close and intimate relationships is difficult, yet in the end, love will always overcome.

FEATURES

One Small Step for the Cub Scouts: The Scouting Investiture Ceremony

By Kelsey Sasha Tolentino (4 Saturn)

The 50th Joint Cub or Star Scout Investiture Program was held in Teatro Preciosa on Oct. 19. Cub and Star Scouts, their parents, and den parents were there to witness the program. It was hosted by the Primary Academic Coordinator, Mrs. Maria Le Mina, together with the P.E. and Scouting teachers, Mrs. Rowriel Nina Yumil and Mr.

John Toffy R. Santos. OB

Montessori Center—Fairview Campus Manager Mrs. Marita C. Francisco acted as Akela or the leader of the program.

Scouts wore their full scouting uniform when they paraded with their teachers, to the enjoyment of the audience. They also recited and pledged their Scout Promise, Scout Law and Scout Ideals. During the program, they demonstrated how to make calamansi juice and a clothesline for camping. Afterwards, each student's parents helped them don their neckerchief as a symbol of growth from

being a Cub Scout to being a Star Scout.

My role in the ceremony was to tell my experiences as a former Star Scout. I shared the things that I learned in Grade 3 and Grade 4 during the camping activities at Preziosa Botanic Park and Farm Resort in Alfonso, Cavite. I also shared the skills that were taught to us as scouts such as how to cook food with fire, how to pitch a dome tent, and how to make a tripod for cooking.

I felt proud and happy to witness the ceremony of Cub Scouts to Star Scouts. I saw in their eyes their readiness and excitement for a new chapter of adventure, which will come to them soon.



■ FEATURES

The Honorary Commodore from OB Montessori

► By Ma. Bianca Dagle (10 Emerald Greenhills)

Over a hundred cadets in gray and white regalia stand in position. Band members, instruments in hand, wear their butterfly uniform reserved for notable occasions in a campus filled with



honorary embellishments. A momentous one-star flag flying in front of them accentuates the anticipation and excitement in the air as they all await the one who is coming. The arrival of a commodore wearing a light blue polo shirt and navy-blue skirt is heralded by the cadets with a salute and by the band with the performance of a unique piece. The honorary commodore of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) who is being commended with Arrival Honors—not in one institution, but in each of the five OBMC campuses under her charge—is none other than Commodore Sara Soliven-De Guzman, the Chief

Operating Officer of OB Montessori Center. Promotion to a high honorary rank such as Commodore does not just happen overnight. Ms. Sara Soliven-De Guzman gained merits that slowly built up toward the promotion. Philippine Coast Guard Captain Jose Mari Dela Peña shares how, for many years, OB has offered a cadet program for its Junior High School students which focuses on the values of honor, duty, and service to country, and its C.O.O has furthered the partnership of her institution with the Armed Forces of the Philippines by consistently exposing the Montessori students to different

units of the AFP. The cadet program puts a premium on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction, embarking on an Environmental Awareness Program since 2015 in partnership with the PCGA. It has committed its students to their monthly coastal

clean-ups and mangrove planting. The school's Cadet Corps also holds an annual Testimonial Parade and Review honoring the men and women of the Armed Services by showcasing the skills and discipline they have acquired through four years of cadetship and student leadership. All this has



led to Commodore Soliven-De Guzman being recently inducted as a member of the AFP General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command Multi-Sector Advisory Board (MSAB), there providing advice to guide the command in the attainment of its mission and

functions, especially when they pertain to the youth. The promotion of Commodore Soliven-De Guzman not only brings honor to her, but to the whole OB Montessori community. It facilitates our deeper participation in opportunities to engage environmental and other issues, but now on a national level. Our platform toward a wider influence just increased greatly! Thus, the journey of OB Montessori Center and the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary continues.

■ NEWS

OBMC participates in Tree Planting

► By Maria Shaina Caro (10 Sapphire)

To contribute to the preservation of the environment, Save the Earth Club members and the Junior High School corps of cadets of OB Montessori Fairview, Greenhills, and Angeles joined the Tree Planting activity at Camp Tecson, San Miguel, Bulacan on Sept. 14.

The event aimed to apply lessons learned by the cadets in their Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Programs. It enabled them to experience cleaning the environment, and encouraged them to participate in other similar campaigns, as well.



Junior High School students were paired with Save the Earth members, and together they planted a total of 100 mango and 30 coconut saplings. The students were guided by scout rangers from the Philippine Army. "Tree planting was fun, even though it's just a little thing. It's a good start to saving our planet," Chelsea Macalinao of Fairview 10 Sapphire said.

After planting, the OBMC participants had a tour of Camp Tecson (where the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment undergoes training), including the camp's museum dedicated to the Marawi Siege. It was a day that will certainly be replicated in the future. With this activity, OBMC continues to uplift the nation.



■ FEATURES

Project Kaibigan: Rekindling the Spirit of Christmas

► By Josh Base (10 Emerald)

As we advance into the future, we move ourselves further from our ancient traditions. Christmas began two thousand years ago with the birth of Christ. From then up to the 20th century, it was all about feasts and open houses to celebrate God's gift of salvation. Fast forward to 2019; our way of celebrating Christmas has somehow altered the tradition of giving, shifting the focus from the less fortunate to gifting just our circle of family and friends.

To enhance the original reason of Christmas giving, OB Montessori Center started Project Kaibigan in 1985. It has expanded from blessing the Pagsasarili Preschools and the OBMC community helpers to assisting lahar victims of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption, five orphanages, two homes for the aged, a halfway house, Typhoon Yolanda victims, the Mangyan tribe, the Sta. Ana Feeding Program, the EFA Dakar Pagsasarili School, and OBMC service personnel (security guards and utility personnel).

Altogether, these communities are given food supplies and used clothing; in addition, child communities are given school materials. The OBMC service personnel and the community



helpers are given cash gifts and grocery items.

Project Kaibigan also supports the ongoing missions at Sitio Palan in Zambales. Its missions coincide with Easter and Christmas—two of Christianity's most significant events. The Easter Mission is involved with the Aetas, the indigenous people of Zambales, in celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also offers medical assistance, talks on livelihood, hygiene, grooming, and literacy programs. In the Christmas Mission, the Aetas and pilgrims participate in a Thanksgiving Mass to

celebrate Christ's birth. A Christmas tableau, which reenacts the story of Christ's birth, is presented by the Aetas and OBMC employees. Individual gift packs are prepared and given to the Aetas.

OBMC is doing its part to uplift society through Project Kaibigan. Whether it be something small, like carrying things for others, or donating items to charity, there are many ways we all can help others. Giving with love can never go out of style.



■ FEATURES

Whenever I See Families ...

► By Kurt Sitjar (9 Ruby), and Madison Motril (8 Ruby)

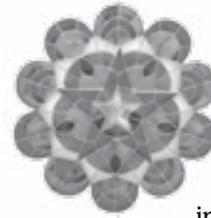
The *parol* shines brightly outside the home of siblings who have only their mother watching over them. Hunched over the laptop, they await to see their father's face despite the blurry signal. In another home, *Lolo* and *Lola* bring out another batch of fruit salad for everyone to feast on. Nearby, happy shouts of friends are heard as they unwrap their gifts. With every family comes a unique way of spending their Christmas.

This feeling is nothing new for Kurt Sitjar, the son of a marine engineer who works overseas. His father comes home every nine months and Christmas isn't spent with him most years. In situations like this, sadness is an understatement for what he feels but he learns to weather this storm. Kurt thinks of his father's perseverance as a way of showing his love for their family. He ends the holidays with a prayer that his father is safe at work, out of harm's way, and will get home to them.

Distance is also an obstacle for

Gavin Ulanday of 9 Ruby. Months are spent without his father, who travels the world as a nurse for various hospitals. This doesn't stop Gavin and him from communicating when they are absent from one another. At the moment, Gavin's home is one of joy because his father is right by their side.

Proximity, parting of ways, professions: even amid our stomachs being fuller than ever and our wallets slowly being emptied, these things seem to be the biggest obstacles of families during the Christmas season. So when the clock strikes twelve on December 25, spare a prayer for the single father jumping up and down with his excited children, for the parents looking out the window in anticipation of their child, and for those who find the meaning of the holiday outside of blood relatives. Spare a smile for those you are spending it with.



■ Opinion

In Defense of Christmas

► By Jan Clemson Laboy (11 Amorsolo)

As third quarter began, each day felt closer to that sweet, sweet vacation we had needed ever since the local malls started playing Jose Mari Chan's "Christmas in Our Hearts." In our homes we were already setting up Christmas decorations of *parols*, lights, and the like. But as we strategically craft our wish lists and save up for the gifts we plan to give, do we fail to realize who the people we interact with are?

Have you ever wondered what the belief of the saleslady who just helped you in the store today is? Or the religion of the people who hear the canned music piped in and see the decorations displayed in the malls? Or even what your classmates or co-workers in the room where you plan for your Christmas party put their faith in, if anything? Christmas

Christmas Edition

Char's Kitchen: Chocolate Truffles

► By Charisse Lee (10 Sapphire) Carmela Garcia (10 Emerald)



and not necessarily exclusive to a Christian-to-Christian exchange. It's more inclusive than invasive. Because of this, I sincerely believe that Christmas isn't just an annual event for Christians, but a thing that Filipinos dedicate three months to preparing for in order to show their appreciation to those around them.

So, despite your belief, religion, denomination, or whatever term you prefer, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Montessorians!



This mouthwatering bite-sized chocolate delicacy is perfect for some heartfelt bonding! Drizzle the chocolate truffle with white chocolate or dust it with powdered sugar and sprinkles for a moment of heavenly sweetness. A bite will surely wake up your taste buds and make Christmas extra special for you and your loved ones. Just follow the recipe below:

INGREDIENTS

- (Good for 12 pieces)
- 8 ounces chocolate
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Any toppings

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Chop chocolate into small pieces and place in a medium bowl.
2. In a saucepan, heat heavy cream until it starts to steam.
3. Pour and mix chopped chocolates in saucepan with heavy cream until melted.
4. Place mixture onto a baking pan and refrigerate until firm.
5. Scoop mixture and shape into balls.
6. Cover truffles with topping of your choice.
7. Place truffles on baking pan.
8. Refrigerate for 30 minutes and serve.

■ LITERARY

Kulay ng Ating Wika

► By Lara Eliz Doria (8 Sapphire)

Ang pambansang wika natin ay pinaghalo ng iba't ibang wika 'Tulad ng isang abstraktong larawan na puno ng sari-saring kulay

Ngunit ang larawan na ito ay may mga kulay na 'di madaling makita Kailangan natin intindihin ng mas malalim upang makita kung gaano ito kaganda

Kulay ng larawan ay unting-unting kumukupas Mga magagandang kulay ay nabubura Mga wika natin ay namamatay

Ilang mga wika pa kaya ang lilipas?

Itong mga kulay o wika ay nagbibigay buhay sa wikang Pilipino 'Pag mayroong mga wikang nalimutan ano pa kaya ang magbubuo nito?

Pwede natin itulad ang wika sa mga isla ng ating bansa Binubuo ng halos pitong libong isla Kahit na ang mga ito'y magkahiwalay Lahat ng mga islang ito ay itinuturing iisa

Ilokano, Kampampangan, Waray 'Tulad ng mga kulay o isla ang mga wikang ito ang dahilan kung bakit ang Wikang Pilipino ay nabubuhay

Mawala man ang mga ito Paano na mabubuo't mabubuhay ang ating pambansang wika?

Wika! Ating Bigkasin

► By Ma. Sophia Amorje Buntile (10 Ruby)

Maaiin, mahinahon; nagsasamang mga tinig. Bukas, sara ng mga bibig; ako'y nakatitig. Libo-libo man; halika't tayo'y makinig. Iba't ibang wika; ating bigyang pag-ibig.

Huwag hahayaang alisin; ang wika't kultura'y mahal. Sama-sama nating lutasin; at sabay-sabay nating bigkasin

Huwag ding hayaang paglamayan; mapansin ang kakulangan. Pahalagahan ng lubusan; upang ang banua'y may mapatunayan.

Wika't kultura, ang ating buhay. Ang lahat ay dapat, bigyang malay. Ito ang nagbibigay ng ating kulay. Halika't aalitan ang wika ng Pilipinong tunay.

Magkaiba't Isang Kulay

► By Jen Patrizo de Guzman (11 Amorsolo)

Pambansang wika'y tunay Buhay na buhay 'Di lamang iisa ang kulay Sapagkat may karamay

Pabago-bago ang panahon Oras o lokasyon Magkakaiba man ang kultura't tradisyon Pare-pareho ang diwa't emosyon Patuloy man sa pagsulong Ang oras na gumugulong Bumabalik pa rin sa pagtulong Sa ating wikang umuusbong

Kampangpangan o Cebuano O Ilocano O ewan ko, Basta't ang pagkakaintindi ko Luma'y nagbabago Bumabalik sa pagiging bago Sa tulong ng mga wikang ito

At matatas at nagkakatuwaang mga Pilipino Bumubuo ito Ng makabagong Filipino

Wika mo o wika niya Eka nga naman sila Magkaakintindihan ang dalawa Sapagkat magkakaibat sa paggawa Ng mga bagong salita

Sa pagkakaintindihan Kahit pa Magkaiba ang pinagdaanan niya Malayo man ang pinanggalingan niya Kahit ngayon lang ang pagkikita Dito pa rin bumubunga Ang mga bagong salita

Iba man ang kulay mo Hitsura o buhok mo Basta't nagsasalita nang totoo Kahit wikang katutubo Nababago man Ang kahulugan o motibo Iyan ay wikang Filipino Buhay na buhay sa pagbabago

Sa huli'y ating alalahanin Ang komunikasyon ng dalawa Kahit di magkaiba Bumubuo ng kanya-kanya Tinuturuan ang isa't isa Nagkakaroon ng pagkakaisa Nagpapaunlad ng wika't kultura



■ OPINION

'Tis the season of buying: Christmas as a tool of capitalism

► By Carla Andrea Saludes (12 Jose)

While we associate all things merry and bright with Christmas, the holiday is also heavily dependent on spending: Monito-Monita; *pamasko* from dear old *ninangs* and *ninongs*; renting that big karaoke machine for the family; *ampaos* from *titos* and *titas* whose names you may have long forgotten. You notice the halls decked with boughs of holly, you also notice the sudden abundance of advertisements and Christmas sales, like gift bundles in the supermarket and the 11.11 Manny Pacquiao ads on Shopee. According to Rappler (2017), 55% of consumers identified December as the heaviest shopping month.

Arguably the holidays have been reduced to materialism—a stack of bills we have to pay for all gift-

wrapped and painted red. Visits for *pamasko* have been reduced to merely being presented with gifts and money from relatives, and the intimate, humane side of spending time together has gone. The *palabunutan* in the classroom is tainted by the (ridiculously) inflated minimum gift price of 300 pesos. While there is nothing inherently wrong with consuming goods and gift-giving as a cultural practice, the idea of the holiday should not be reduced to that.

The materialistic aspect of Christmas is not *necessary*. While you buy that gift for the classmate whose name you have drawn completely by chance, it does not hurt to think about getting them something they actually want, not



just fulfilling the goal of reaching the minimum price. When we visit distant relatives, it does not hurt to share details of your life when they ask, regardless of how foreign it may feel. There are elements in Christmas that matter more than the material: the time you spend thrifting or the talent you exercise baking or the sweat you invest putting up the Christmas tree. The fact is that it is the most wonderful time of the year—with or without the gift-giving. We can redeem the holidays from the unfortunate sideshow it is becoming with things of deeper value ... **things from the heart.**

Crossworld

► By Juliana Balingbing (8 Emerald)

Christmas
Do you really know Christmas? Test your knowledge about this holly-jolly holiday!

ACROSS

4. A way to exchange gift
5. Well-known flower from the spurge family that is commonly used as an ornament
6. One of the things anticipated during the holiday
8. Famous novella during the holidays of 1843
10. Received on the second day of Christmas
11. Decorative wreaths of leaves, flowers, and etc
12. "Winter _____"

DOWN

1. Originally a two-act ballet performance during the holidays
2. The four weeks before Christmas
3. The best-selling Christmas single written by an American of Puerto Rican ethnicity
7. For Filipinos it is the night and feast before Christmas
9. He is the reason why we celebrate Christmas