



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

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Greenhills

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Paskong Pilipino for the OBMC Community

► By Carl Harvey Nardo (10 Topaz)

It's the most wonderful time of the year! What becomes most evident and most valuable every holiday season is our celebration of the Filipino culture as a people brought together by friendship and close community ties.

A Montessori Christmas

Since 1985, our Montessori community has had its own meaningful way of celebrating Christmas—*Project Kaibigan*. It has been our way of expressing gratitude for our blessings and extending to others such bonuses in the act of kindness. The project aims to aid the disadvantaged, and it evolved to include community work outside of the holidays. Later, it included disaster response, feeding programs, and even reaching out to alumni in need.

The school distributes every year a *Project Kaibigan* Christmas drive letter

enclosed in an envelope to the parents through the students. Then, a working committee

who handles the collected sum prepares the offerings and distributes it to its intended beneficiaries. *Project Kaibigan* has the school administration working together with the Coast Guard and the Armed Forces to bring joy to our many *kaibigan* most especially every Christmas. Generosity radiates in every corner of the OBMC community, starting from the home to the school and beyond.

We have reached many recipients over the last three decades: Pagsasarili



preschools and community helpers in the OBMC community, orphanages, homes for the aged, victims of calamities such as the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the 2013 Yolanda Typhoon, and indigenous groups, to name a few.

The true spirit of *Paskong Pilipino* does not rely on extravagant displays, but on the pure joy of togetherness with loved ones, blood relatives or not, on *Noche Buena*, or whatever gathering we celebrate in love.



FEATURES

Transformation in Palan

By Campus Editorial Board

You first notice the transformation on the road that accesses the Mt. Pinatubo Hidden Temple Shrine. On your left you see nothing but lifeless gray lahar, remnant of the 1991 eruption, but the right side is transformed: green and leafy. Comparing photos from the early days of the shrine with current vistas dramatically reinforces the point. Things have changed! And why not? This was destined as a place where devotees come to pray for the spiritual transformation of the Philippines. And come here they do, to the town of San Marcelino, ancestral home of Ramon Magsaysay, whose tragically shortened presidency itself focused on the transformation of poor provincial farmers.

OB Montessori staff and friends come twice a year—at Easter and Christmas, two festivals that focus

on transformation—to participate in the resurgence, providing medical, dental, educational, instructional, and spiritual assistance to the indigenous Aeta people in Palan and nearby sitios who are still affected by Mt. Pinatubo, almost thirty years

later. The social programs focus on interaction with the locals (typically, from 1000–1500 of them), while the spiritual services focus on the Mass, in which the transformation of the host leads to the transformation of the believer. Additionally, the December visitation includes a Christmas tableau, the Aetas themselves taking various roles, with training and costumes from the OB volunteers. Lunch follows, with generous gift packs added for each family to take home.

Is it all relevant? Yes! Is not the butterfly on the OBMC logo the symbol of metamorphosis? Change? Transformation? Palan puts it into action.



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FEATURES

The Honorary Commodore from OB Montessori

By Ma. Bianca Dagle (10 Emerald)



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 (COO) 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, OBMC 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 COO 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 in 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.

FEATURES

Christmas Encore

By Jose Marquez (9 Emerald)



Rondalla

Paco Park

Primary Angels Choir

OB Montessori Center's music clubs have come a long way! From back in the seventies with the formation of its first formal singing group and 1989 when the Marching Band began, OBMC has been home to some truly fine talents, both instructors and performers.

The Paco Park performance last September proved this to be true. OBMC's Chamber Ensemble, Angklung Ensemble, and Glee Club helped the park celebrate World Tourism Day as they performed numerous popular tunes. It was a truly



Angklung



Marching Band



Intermediate Angels Choir

wonderful evening of well-blended music provided by our fellow Montessorians, and part of a growing trend: No longer participating strictly in events that are OBMC-based and produced, the school is becoming more in demand for outside programs. The Paco Park performance brought back OBMC's yesteryears when the school would hold musicales there with Dr. Preciosa Soliven and the OBMC student pioneers.

Moving forward, in 2010 the school started exposing the different music groups to hotels and malls such as the annual Christmas Concert in Shangri-La Plaza. Bandmasters Mr. Antonio Almiñe and Mr. Ramon Ciriaco point to the diversity and excellence of the school's presentations for the annual resounding success.

Instrumental numbers might be offered by the cute Casa children of the Hand Bell Choir and Angklung Ensemble; while vocally, the High School Glee Club and



Glee Club

Christmas Concert 2019 in Shangri-La Plaza



Marching Band

Primary and Intermediate Angel's Choir serenade people who love every minute of it. Sometimes even the school's dance groups join in.

Finally, there is a unique twist: As mall shoppers exhaust themselves in Christmas sprees, they can stop and enjoy the songs rendered by the OBMC students.

Fantabulous!

CineSophia 2019: Freedom to question and grow

By Therese Marie Dungao (11 Luna)

As the 3rd CineSophia Short Film Festival with the theme *Kahilwayan* (Hiligaynon word for freedom) took place on Nov. 22 at the

Maria Montessori Hall, students from Grades 9 to 12 watched and reacted to 10 out of a total of 18 films that had been entirely written, directed, and produced

by OB Montessori's very own Grade 12 students from all five campuses.



Best Picture: "Pinto"



For Greenhills, the films were *Pagtubos* and *1248* from 12 Jose, *Kolorete* and *Pinto* from 12 Lumbera, and *Alpas* and *Let Our Response Be* from 12 Tinio.

Various experiences and challenges helped students discover, develop, and bring out new competencies they barely thought they had beneath their usual personas.



Pagtubos' main character, Via Pan, who was awarded as Best Actress for OBMC Greenhills, mentioned how she was able to further develop the values of "understanding" and "adaptability," alongside being able to work better both individually and with her group mates, as she strived to do her best by questioning, thinking critically, and internalizing the plot and her character for their film.

On the other hand, Khurt Go, the writer and one

of the actors of *Let Our Response Be*, mentioned how he was able to flesh out values such as love for work, work ethic, and teamwork.

In the end, the filmmakers and the audience now better recognize themselves as members of the Philippine society who have the freedom to question and think critically about many different issues, thus preparing them for the next big step they are to take.



Best Actor Kian Enriquez for "Kolorete"

Best Actress Via Pan for "Pagtubos"



► *Caption by Justin Choi*



Welcome to the Spider-verse! As part of OB Montessori's "Superhero" theme for this year's Halloween, our administrative staff have burnt the midnight oil in order to provide students of all ages a memorable experience for this year's Halloween!



While it's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me" —one of many famous lines from the Batman trilogy. It is a reminder to all students!

Our best and brightest scientists from OBMC-Greenhills are ready to make Science both fun and easy to learn. Just avoid turning into a green Hulk!



In Themyscira, the women have been known to all as defenders of truth and justice, and its Greenhills Chapter is no exception! Our fantastic administrative staff are here to attend to all student needs, for OB Montessori is truly the Themyscira of today!



"Ragnarok" comes from Norse mythology meaning "the end of everything." But at OB Montessori, they are just getting started!



■ LITERARY

I Am with Hope

► *By Chelsea Isabelle Misa (5 Saturn)*

I spend my days and night with Hope,
Bringing him wherever I go,
For I know he's all I've got,
He who's always got my back.

There were dark days we faced together
When the world seemed to end,
But Hope was there, brimming with confidence.
I closed my eyes, tried to sleep;
He held my hand and kept my peace.

Hope is courageous and patient;
He is always willing and strong.
There were times when I asked him to go,
But he stuck with me everywhere I go.

Life may keep throwing me these curveballs,
The Earth may refuse to stand still,
Misery upon misery,
I will keep swinging and see what I hit,
Because I know Hope is always with me.

twitterature SET

Maria Francesca Rufo (11 Luna)

"Why did you leave?"
She looked at her grandkids,
smiling and playing with their new toys,
before looking at her eldest son.
"To give you this, a life I never had."
"You are enough. Just stay here, please."
She hugged him and said,
"Always."

Mei Surigao (12 Lumbera)

Malakas ang kapangyarihan ng bituin para magpasaya. Bawat kislap ay katumbas ng ngiting di mapapantayan. Ikaw ang bituin na nagbibigay liwanag sa mundo ko. Nabulag man ako sa liwanag mo, ikaw pa rin ang sandigan ng damdaming naliligaw. Ang aking bituin—gabay sa madilim kong mundo!

Coleene Lapis (12 Lumbera)

Pumutok na ang fireworks, noong gabi mahimbing. Batang nagsasarado ng tindahan, oras na para magkasiyahan. *BOOM* ang tunog ng fireworks; tapos na ang taon. *BOOM* batang tumatalon; palapit sa kaniyang pangarap.

ARTWORK

A Casa student's interpretation of the Fun Day last October 11, 2019 at the Maria Montessori Hall



Artwork by George Anthony Raymund Fetizanan Junior Advanced Casa – Sunflower Noon

■ FEATURES

All is not lost!

► *By Philler Auchinleck Siy (6 Jupiter)*

Most of us have misplaced an item or two before, and there's no shame in admitting it. Whether it is just a pen or a fancy bag, losing something is never fun and always inconvenient. There is also no certainty that you will ever find it. The task is difficult and time consuming. To avoid that, here are some tips on how to find your lost possessions quickly and easily.

The first thing to do is to **retrace your steps** and try to remember where you last saw the lost item. Check where you keep your things in or the places that you frequently go to, like your desk, the shelves, the bag areas, the classroom, the canteen,

or maybe even the restroom. Do not panic! Focus and treat it like a treasure map.

If you still can't find it, you can **report it to your adviser**. He or she can help you find your things and can even get some assistance from our friendly and helpful utility personnel. Now you get to see the caring OBMC community at work!

Another solution is to **go to the Environmental Care Office or the ECO**. The ECO is located on the ground floor, right beside the clinic. It is the designated lost and found area, so you may find your lost item there. All you have to do is politely ask the staff what you are looking for.

If you still cannot find your stuff, do not sweat it! During the Parent-Teacher Conference at the end of the quarter, the ECO sets up a **lost and found booth** where all the unclaimed and found items are displayed. Here you can search for your lost possessions.

Most lost items will not get misplaced in the first place if you try to stop it. Prevention is important in keeping items safe. There are a lot of ways to do this, such as labeling your belongings properly, organizing where you store your things, and keeping it when you no longer use or need it.



FEATURES

OBMC hosts PALARONG PANSANGAY Opening

By Campus Editorial Board



Montessorians are models of dedication and hardwork in pursuing their passion. It is no surprise then for OB Montessori Center–Greenhills to be chosen as the host of the *Palarong Pansangay* Opening on Nov. 20, 2019.

Attended by different public and private schools under the division of San Juan City, the sports event carries the theme: “Tagumpay ng Atletang San Juaneño, tagumpay nating lahat.”

OB Montessori, no stranger to athletic victory, is on its way to producing world class competitors who take pride in being Montessorians and being Filipinos. An example is the dancesport duo, Maxine De Guzman and Jerecho dela Peña, who recently won a gold medal in the 2019 Palarong



Pambansa held in Davao City, and has represented the Philippines in different dancesport competitions in Southeast Asia.

“With the love for my craft, I am able to balance my studies and training to excel in both fields,”

Jerecho said proudly.

Love for work is one of

the core values that Montessori education hones among students. As early as Casa, the school integrates discipline and obedience for students to achieve love for their work.

Jerecho, like many OBMC students, eventually found love for his craft because of his determination to learn.

“We must learn to love our craft to produce high quality output to give honor to the school and the nation,” Jerecho added in Filipino.

