



O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER

COSMIC JOURNAL

The Pride of OB Montessori Center

www.obmontessori.edu.ph
O.B. Montessori Center Official Site

Sta. Ana

VOL. 12 NO. 2

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2019

The Year that Was and the Year that Will Be

► *By Gabino Joaquin Barcelona and Charles Edmon Perez (11 Amorsolo),
and Reenon Darren Cabilzo (12 Jose)
Artwork by Maria Roceo Sy (10 Emerald)*

In the Sta. Ana community, we always end the year by reliving a mood of festivity and solidarity that has been with the town for years. During Christmas, those from all walks of life can celebrate the values which unite us all.

Set against the night sky, the seasonal lights and decorations brighten up the surroundings. The Felipe Calderon Plaza glows, a marketplace crowded by a variety of vendors selling local food such as *puto bumbong*, *bibingka*, and *suman*.

Despite the constant business, the heart of the celebration still lies in Our Lady of the Abandoned Church that hosts the central *Simbang Gabi*. This series of devotional Masses is an intrinsic facet of the celebration, bringing people together in the spirit of Christmas.

Looking back, the spirit of togetherness and

always been observed by the people of OB Montessori Center–Sta. Ana. These

qualities are cultivated and developed, within the school's boundaries and beyond.

It is prevalent in events and activities that have been held through different approaches: the exciting Fun Day, where children interact with their families in various competitive yet fun challenges; or an activity more poignant, the Retreat for Grade 10, where students reflect on the things they have been through together with their classmates.

As we welcome the new year, more events arise to make our students even closer. The annual Bivouac will feature activities that instill within our students camaraderie, while the Intramurals aims to bring a sense of sportsmanship and teamwork in the various games. Lastly, the much-awaited Le Bal takes place in March. A night of elegance and rapport, this event enfolds a harmonious relationship between students beneath a backdrop of song and dance.

These events are a testament to the school's code of allowing us to build our character through the relationships we have with our peers. The brotherhood we share within the confines of our school emanates a bright ending to a triumphant 2019, and promises an even brighter beginning for 2020, perhaps as bright as the decorations set against the night sky.



■ NEWS

Entrepreneurship and Creativity at Work in Food Fair

► By Mehar Ganshani (9 Emerald)

The busiest and most exciting season for high school students is back!

As the holidays come closer, preparations for the annual Food Fair and Mini Mart begin at the start of the second semester. The event is an opportunity for students to apply their lessons outside the classroom. The lessons in the Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) subject help pupils for the fair.



These include food preparation, work distribution, booth design and set-up, marketing strategies and more. With an interesting twist, the Food Fair features International Meals. There are new booths selling delicacies from around the world such as Beef Wagyu of Japan and Bibimbap of Korea. Aside from these new menu, customers

explore local flavors of snacks and drinks in addition to favorite Filipino meals. Casa to High School students, alumni, parents and OB personnel always have something new to look forward to. Ms. Geneva Aguineldo, High School TLE teacher, says “The biggest challenge for students during the Food Fair & Minimart is how

they market and sell their product. Not only do they apply what is taught in the subject, but they also show their creativity.”

It is a real treat to see the Professional High School students work together to showcase what they have learnt throughout the year.



Book Donation Campaign

► By Allana Nicole Magsino (7 Ruby)

OB Montessori Center—Sta. Ana extended charitable efforts in another book donation campaign at the Fernando Amorsolo Elementary School (FAES) on October 2.

The school library worked with the high school student-leaders, so they could experience the environment of FAES and meet its students and teachers, who were given priority due to their reading needs.

Mrs. Carmelita Miranda, FAES school principal, has always believed

that every student in every school should have the chance to read books, which was why she was grateful for this opportunity to partner with OBMC—Sta. Ana.

With the success of this initiative, OBMC campus librarian Mrs. Maricel Magsino is set to schedule frequent visits to help her FAES counterpart, Mrs. Generosa Soledad, in maintaining the good condition of the their school library, where additional books such as textbooks

and reference books are available for borrowing.

As a whole, seeing other young students enjoy the books they donated made our student-leaders happy and grateful for the free access they have to an extensive range of books in their own school library. Student-leader Jave Dominique Cruz of 7 Ruby shared that her experience “was fun because [she] had the chance to help the students and teachers there.”



 COSMIC JOURNAL <small>The Voice of OB Montessori Academy</small>	
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■ FEATURES

How Operation Brotherhood Lives Up to its Name: A Snowball Effect

► By Cosmic Journal Team

What is in our school's name "Operation Brotherhood Montessori Center"? The first two words, Operation Brotherhood, date back to the fifties. According to Dr. Preciosa S. Soliven, Operation Brotherhood International was founded by the late Architect Oscar Arellano, then vice president of Jaycees International. They brought a Filipino medical team to Vietnam in 1956 to aid the war refugees in Saigon and Hanoi. The doctors and nurses were a great relief to these people who in today's history symbolize man's loss of freedom and liberty in the last half of the 20th century.

Dr. Soliven said, "Other Filipino doctors and volunteers made up a large OB team who went to Laos. Funding was provided by the Jaycees International, AID, and the Royal Laotian government, and a total of six Filipino medical teams spread out in Laos. The Filipino doctors were hailed as the 'true ambassadors of the Philippines' extending help to the beleaguered countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The doctors treated both villagers and rebels, dedicating themselves towards peace for the united brotherhood of men."

Thomas A.

Dooley, who worked in northern Laos in the late 50s (dying in 1961 of cancer), was a close friend of Mr. Arellano. Inspired by the dedication of the Filipino doctors and nurses he set up the now defunct MEDICO or Medical International Cooperation. His strong sense of civic service inspired Pres. John F. Kennedy to create the US Peace Corp in 1961. Emerging also in the same mold as



"Dr. America": Thomas A. Dooley

the Philippine volunteer movement introduced by OB in Asia at that time was the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

When the international mission was over, OB continued their work for the poor in the Philippines and invited Dr. Soliven to take care of educating the children of Sapang Palay (who were relocated from Intramuros in the early sixties). Eventually, the torch was passed to Dr. Soliven, who had become an advocate of the Montessori approach to education. Thus, our school's name: Operation Brotherhood Montessori Center.

Now on its 55th year, it still continues its efforts to help our fellow countrymen through its "education for all" platform, livelihood training, and community service missions in many parts of the country. As it grows, the number of beneficiaries also increase, especially in OBMC's efforts to make the holiday season meaningful to more Filipinos.

Operation Brotherhood Montessori Center's initiatives include *Project Kaibigan* and the *Sitio Palan*

Christmas and Easter Missions, both of which aim to provide assistance in health and/or education and to share

gifts to the less privileged; gifts as simple as packed food, school supplies, grooming kits, first aid kits, and used clothes.

The first recipients of the said missions are the students from the *Pagsasarili* Preschools and the school's community helpers. Aside from this, OBMC, in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also extends help to the nation's soldiers and their families, calamity victims, orphanages, and homes for the aged.

After more than five decades, OBMC is not just about operation. It will always be beyond brotherhood. Just like making the perfect snowball, it started as snowflakes, but with the right direction and consistency, it has grown larger than life.



Architect Oscar Arellano



■ FEATURES

Halloween 2019: When the Cap

► *By Miguel Joaquin Abellon (7 Ruby)*
Photos by Niña Fiunulla Cerbito (7 Ruby)
and Venize Mille Fernandez (7 Emerald)



On October 25, the OBMC community entered the superhero universe from Marvel to DC as teachers, admin personnel, and students from Casa and Primary joined forces for this year's Trick or Treat.

To make the celebration fun and memorable, offices and classrooms were decorated to be the perfect superheroes' playground.

With the Avengers theme, the library became the headquarters that featured the duo of Captain America and Black Widow. Both heroes had good time handing out candies and giving joy to the students. From the Avengers headquarters, the students soon entered Metropolis City and met the indestructible pair, Superman and Supergirl, played by the campus dentist and the school nurse.

Heading west, the Front Office broke the shackles of gender stereotype as they showed the world of Wonder Woman. The sounds of Central City and the creative



Indak Saliw The Becomin

► *By Ikea Raine Pahate (9 Emerald)*
Artwork by Kirsten Dava (10 Emerald)

Montessorians love to dance! They put much grit into each activity that involves dancing—such as cheer dance, P.E. practical activities, and the musical spectacle. Their interest became clear as day; this soon gave rise to the O.B. Montessori Dance Club.

The club has been around for about two years, but in that short

period of time, it has undergone quite a transformation. It is now known as Indak Saliw, meaning “to dance with the music.” The campus coach is Mr. Restie De Peña, a master of the art whose pupils qualify for competitions all over the country and abroad. He believes that anyone can learn to dance, as long as one is determined. Not only has

es Come Off

props conceptualized by the admin personnel made it realistic.

The spooky Batcave of the Guidance Office was last on the list. The cave-like walls and hanged bats gave off the Gotham City vibe. They even featured Batman and the Suicide Squad, which the students considered as two of their favorites.

All in all, the capes donned by the superheroes came off a success. Thanks to the hard work and brotherhood of the OBMC community. The CASA and Primary students are surely excited for next year's party!



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he helped Indak Saliw grow in numbers, but Mr. Dela Peña has also helped its members become more disciplined. They now work harder to strengthen their bodies to have better control of their movements. To widen their knowledge of dance, he teaches them different styles such as ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary.

All these changes has made our dancers more serious about the training they receive. Their hearts are set to becoming fit to represent our school. Once they are, we'll be there—ready to cheer them on!

TEACHER PROFILES

Turning the Ship Around with OBMC's Captain

► By Kyle Russel Catoto (11 Amorsolo)

Driven by passion for his work, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) Captain Jose Mari P. Dela Peña has been turning the ship around by shaping and molding thousands of students into future leaders for 24 years in OB Montessori Center.

Capt. Dela Peña has been part of the Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT) Program of his alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas (UST), since his college days. His friend and colleague, Mr. Paul Yumol, invited him to teach Leadership Training and CAT classes to junior high students at OBMC. Since then, he has never left.

Capt. Dela Peña, together with Chief Operating Officer Commodore Sara Soliven De Guzman, works with the Armed Services to help OBMC students become more aware and exposed to their community. Through joint camp-outs, coastal cleanups, and exposure to the heroes of the society, they guide the students in understanding their important

role as leaders in nation-building and encourage them to join various projects for a cause; thus, becoming “warriors for advocacy.”

Aside from being the head of the CAT program at OBMC, Capt. Dela Peña is also part of PCGA's National Service Training Program (NSTP) that aims to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster response to Filipino communities. The other PCGA projects include monthly coastal community cleanups, mangrove planting, symposiums with students, and medical missions.

For Capt. Dela Peña, his sense of accomplishment is to see his students apply in their lives the lessons taught in school and succeed in their respective fields of expertise while exhibiting the Filipino values of resilience, respect, care for the community, and bayanihan. He believes that the seeds that he planted in his students would bear fruit in the future. “Someday, someone will become somebody,” he added.



■ LITERARY

The Warmth My Father Brings

► By Johann Sven Sigrist (8 Emerald)

It is the week before Christmas
As the merry songs of carolers fill the air.
Everyone with a smile on their face, ready to go to
mass.
My situation, however, isn't so fair.

Amid the cold remarks and never-ending woes,
My father is my candle of light, my guardian angel.
His wings warm me as he holds me close.

His presence is enough to repel those—
Who bring forth despair in my life.
His words are enough to calm any argument,
As I stand by him, he holds back the strife.
Soon he arrives for the season, thus ending my lament.

Finally at the airport, I see his comforting face.
The joy I feel overwhelmingly flows as I rush to him,
He readies himself the closer I get, time fades as I pick
up my pace.

He opens his arms to share the bear
hug I give him.

He picks me up and swings me
around,
Then he sets me down to shake my
brother's hand.
With his arrival, my family
relationship is sound.
Before we even go, my brother's
presents are already in demand.

However, I don't care for the presents
or the treats.

I only long for the moments we can
play and sing.

For priceless are the times we can
meet—

the best present of them all is the
warmth my father brings.



Artwork by Roxanne Bechayda of Grade 9 Emerald

Countdown to Christmas: Worthwhile Things to Do During the Christmas Break

1 Give yourself a breather; take a break!

Christmas break is the perfect time to recuperate, relax, and rest from all the stress of school work and lessons. Spoil yourself: go on movie or eating binges; visit a museum; read a good book or listen to good music.

2 Show compassion towards the people around you, no matter how small or insignificant your actions may seem.

Christmas, no matter what beliefs you have, embodies the spirit of giving and kindness. You can start by helping do chores, spending time with family and friends, giving or donating what you can, and many more.

Abang

► *By Charles Edmon Perez (11 Amorsolo)*

Alas-singko na ng hapon nang Amagising si Lila mula sa kaniyang pananghaliang siesta. Pagod na pagod bumangon ang bata mula sa kaniyang higaan.

“Naku po, alas-singko ng gabi na at wala pa akong sinaing panghanda,” bulalas ng batang dali-dali lumabas sa kaniyang kuwarto at nagtakal ng bigas mula sa sisidlang gawa sa pinagtagpi-tagpiing bote. Iniayos ni Lila ang kanin at at pinainitan upang maluto. Isinunod niya ang tirang lato at galunggong. Mula sa pasilyo na kaniyang pinanggalingan, may narinig siyang paglapag ng mga paang dahan-dahang lumalapit. “Inay?” Sigaw ng bata mula sa kusina. Dalawang minuto ang nakalipas, wala pa ring sumasagot. “Bumalik yata sa kama ang Inay. Maglalampaso na lang ako sa sala,” pasya ng bata. Nag-igib si Lila ng tubig at kinuha ang kaniyang panlampaso. Buong lakas niyang hinila ang timba palabas sa kusina at itinabi ito sa gilid.

Subalit pagod, nakangiti parin siya. “Limang minuto na lamang at magpa-Pasko na,” bulalas ni Lilang napatigil sa malamig na simoy ng hanging

pumasok mula sa durungawan ng sala. Mula sa bubungan, may mga kalampag ng bakal siyang naririnig. “Si Itay lang yun,” hula ng bata at sinarado ang durungawan.

Mula sa ilalim ng mesa sa gitna ng sala, nakita niya ang kaniyang alampay na nangongolekta ng dumi. Matapos mag-unat, ipinuwesto ang alampay sa magkabilaang balik at itinali. Nakita niya na may punit ang kaniyang alampay, na siyang ikinalungkot ng bata. “Tastas na ang aking alampay. Sabi ng Inay, tatahiin nya daw ito bago mag-Pasko,” malungkot na inutal ng batang tulala sa kawalan sa labis na kalungkutan.

Minuto na lamang bago mag-Pasko, umalingasaw sa loob ng sala ang amoy ng uling. Napatigil ang bata; nasusunog ang sinaing. Dali-daling tumakbo ang bata patungo sa kusina. Sa pagmamadali, napunit ang kaniyang

alampay at natabig ang timba ng tubig. Agad na pinatay ng bata ang apoy. “Lagot! Malilintikan ako nito ng Inay,” takot na sinabi ng bata. Bagamat sunog, inihain pa rin nya ang sunog na kanin at pinainitang lato at galunggong. Wala pa rin sila Itay at Inay. “Bakit wala pa sila?” Tanong ni Lila sa kaniyang sarili.

Binalikan niya ang salang nabasa sa natapong timbang tubig at napatingin sa pinto. “Mukhang hindi na yata darating ang Inay at Itay,” bulong niya sa sarili; tono ay naka-nakang pumupuslit ng kalungkutan. Naglakad si Lila pabalik sa kusina at naapakan ang kaniyang alampay. Umupo siya, sabay bati sa sarili, “Maligayang Pasko, Ulila.”



Artwork by Roxanne Bechayda of Grade 9 Emerald

► *By Alessandra Ma. Antonia Gepte (12 Jose)*

3 Learn new things!

Discover new things and grow, whether these be academically or finding a new skill or hobby. Learn how to cook, learn a new language, learn to play an instrument, or even just discover new routes going to different places.

4 Reflect and grow in your relationships with family and friends, particularly the ones that need repairing.

Aside from Christmas being a time of giving, it is also a time of forgiveness. For your peace of mind and heart, choose to look past the pain, hurt, and pride you or other people have caused. Choose to forgive; choose to love.

5 Build your relationships with the people closest to you.

Show your appreciation and love for them by gifting them the best thing you can give—your attention, time, and presence.



TOP 10

Favorite Cafeteria Food

► *By Cosmic Journal Team*

Do you often have a hard time deciding what to eat for snacks or lunch? Here is a guide to help you decide what to eat on a school day. Listed are the top 10 favorite cafeteria food in the campus.



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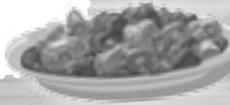
chicken (battered, fried, or roasted)

beef tapa

pizza

pasta bolognese

cheese sticks



6
7
8
9
10

breakfast meals (Spam, spanish omelette, corned beef, etc.)

lasagne al forno

pasta carbonara

beef salpicao

chicken curry



STUDENT GUIDE

Lost and Found: How to Avoid Losses

► *By Ysabella Claryze Morales
(7 Ruby)*

As students still developing the values of discipline and responsibility, we often find ourselves in that most unwelcome room of the school campus: the lost and found! We mistake the personal things of others for our own, get distracted and leave things behind, and often misplace our items in the most unlikely places. Our irresponsibility shows when we fail to check the completeness of our things. Sometimes, we search for a certain item all over the entire school when we actually left it at home! What a waste of time, right? To avoid mishaps and situations like these, here are some helpful tips:

- ! Before leaving the classroom, waiting area, cafeteria, or other school area, make sure that all the things you had when you came in are all still with you.
- ! Whenever your teacher gives you handouts, make sure to write your name on them and paste them immediately in your notebook.
- ! When your classmate borrows something from you, before handing it to them, make it clear that should anyone else want to borrow it they must ask you first. This is so you can keep track of your borrowed item.
- ! Make sure that you label your things with complete details. Then should you lose something, anyone who finds it can return it to you right away. You should keep all your personalized things and school supplies organized, so you know where to look first before assuming straightaway that you lost the item.