

Editorial

Principles, Towards the success of our Nation

Dream...Believe....Survive....are often heard in the television. But don't we realize that these will serve as our recipe to come up and formulate within ourselves the 'PRINCIPLES' which will guide our action to achieve our purpose in life.

Our 'Principles' are our self-invented laws. These are created like a road map that has directions which will guide us ultimately towards our final goal... SUCCESS.

We have our own dreams. Let us make our principles be guiding light to direct us towards the realization of our dreams and help us become disciplined, responsible and committed individual and citizen of the country.

Our country needs a man of principle. In this 2004 election, there is a call to each and everyone of us to exercise our right of suffrage. This is the time that we can vote for a leader based on the dictates of our principle and not on the dictates of politician's money.

Let us build a new life and a new country. We can only do these if we have our principles within us.....INTACT.

ISA PARENTS ASS'N blazing new trail

All classrooms installed aircon

Many concerned parents of ISA contributed air-con units for the comfort of the children and to make the classrooms more conducive for learning.

The priority of ISA's Parents Association is quality education; comfortable and cool rooms can be one of the important factors to achieve this aim. (ED)

Math teacher Ms. Buaron attends seminar in Manila

Ms. Josephine Buaron, a Metrobank Scholar who graduated magna cum laude from the College of Education, West Visayas State University will attend the Class 2004 Graduates Forum sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation Inc. to be held at Metrobank Plaza, Makati City on April 24, 2004.

This will serve as another learning opportunity to make her become a better-equipped and competent Math teacher. (ISCL)

BLOOPS & SHOOPS

Hi! Today I'll be giving you the lowdown on some of the latest buzz you ought to know about this energetic, magical and non-traditional school, ILOILO SCHOLASTIC ACADEMY which was built with love and dedication, learners as the center of ISA's goal. (ANE)

More than 100 join 1st Scholastic Summer Camp

As of April 14, 2004 the number of students enrolled in ISA's first summer camp has reached 130, total enrollment in various workshops is 163. If not for the concerted and untiring efforts of ISA's directors and faculty, this unexpected turn out could not have been attained. In fact, based on my insider's account, the number of enrollment surprised every board member! The 1st summer camp offered 12 different short courses, such as speech and public speaking, math, Chinese literacy, Mandarin for kids and adults, ballet, rhythmic gymnastics, literacy and comprehension, journalism and kinder literacy courses. ISA's very proud to say that it is not only catering to pre-school, elementary and high school students, but also to college students and professionals who enthusiastically enrolled in Mandarin adult class. (MAY)



Is she Kathryn's mother.....Yeah, she's teacher Joy.



"Sheresse, you belong to the science corner."

DepEd Officials visit ISA

The Department of Education officials Mrs. Estrella M. Mago, Education Supervisor in-charge of Private Schools DepEd Region VI and Dr. Elsa Consebit, Division Supervisor visited ISA on April 6, 2004. Since the school complied with all the requirements according to the standards of DepEd, they were impressed and overwhelmed with ISA's structure and curriculum. These compliments from the said officials made ISA family very proud. (RMJ)



Participants with their creative works

ISA's Administrator, Faculty Attended the Early Childhood Seminar in Laguna.

The seminar we had attended in Laguna was a wonderful experience. We learned strategies on how to be an effective pre-school teachers.

Our four-day experience at Sts. Peter and Paul Early Childhood Center gave us a brighter and clearer view of how teaching in pre-school should be done, so that learning experience will really become child-centered and age-appropriate. We have learned many things and met teachers from various regions of the country, more particularly Ma'am Sally Labanda, the Scholastic International Consultant and our resource person. (AJJ,SP)

ISA GOES WITH BLOOMING GARDENS....

In as much as the administration of ISA wanted to give the best to all the students, together with some parents, we decided to put up gardens to help soothe the inquisitive learning spirit of every student. Freshly cut Bermuda grass were used as ground covering. Flowers such as Yellow Bells, Calachuchi, Bougainvillea, thorn-free Roses and other colorful wild varieties occupy the round near the flagpole. At the back of the kindergarten building, a garden inspired playground is also being prepared with its different varieties of plants where the little ones can enjoy playing during free times. Palm trees surround the playground to provide a cooler environment. ISA is now taking to its full bloom with the pouring of the coming June rain, the grasses will surely grow to its fullest. (VSJ)

Editorial

Competent Teachers: Implementers of Quality Education

“If an architect builds with care, his structures may stand for centuries, but if a teacher builds with *love* and *truth*, what he builds will last forever.”

The role of teachers in nation building has been so indispensable that they are considered as “*The Architect of the Human Soul*”. Thus, they must be well-equipped with a spectrum of qualities to strengthen themselves when confronted with difficult tasks. Since teaching has become the center of their lives, they must acquire knowledge, skills and competency enough to make a positive difference in the life of every child.

Further, if one ever deserves the name *Teacher*, he should act with professionalism and integrity. One must also be knowledgeable about modern technology since this is the only way he can cope with the irreversible trend of globalization.

Likewise, a competent teacher develops the all-round personality making him strong and independent.☺

DepEd Region VI Official Inspects ISA infrastructures

In response to the invitation of our Executive Director, the Education Supervisor in-charge of Private Pre-Elementary and Elementary School of DepEd Region 6, Mr. Edwin L. Espino, visited the ISA campus last April 28. He inspected the pre-elementary and elem. classrooms. He had the occasion to see first-hand how classes were conducted in nursery, K1 and K2.



Mr. Espino with ISA Executive Director

His positive comments and professional suggestions regarding the setup of the classrooms and the instructional approach of ISA are encouraging. These insights shared by Mr. Espino will certainly be integrated in the guiding principles that would shed light in our bid to keep improving the plan of actions and gradual realization of the vision, mission and objectives of ISA. (PMC)

Wall Painting at ISA



ISA's work of art

“Impressions made through the senses are more vivid and lasting.”

Children love to study and learn in school where attractive and colorful things are found. Wonderful wall paintings make them excited about schooling.

These paintings show different activities children are engaged with and they make pre-school classrooms appear lively. (MABF 28)

ISA's Enrollment Nearly Hits The Mark

The acquisition of quality education on the part of the learners is ISA's primary concern. To make it possible, the school limits enrollees to only 30 students per class in Elementary and High School levels; 15 in K1 & K2, 10 in Nursery, so that the teachers could effectively facilitate learning. As of April 30, only 3 slots remain to be filled in Gr. I; 3 in Gr. II; 8 in Gr. III; 14 in Gr. IV; 12 in Gr. V; 11 in Gr. VI and 4 in 1st Year.

ISA provides learning experience that could meet the demands and challenges of the future.(NCA)

Feel at Home in ISA's Pre-school Learning Environment

“It may be hard to believe but it is a fact that so many brilliant ideas germinate within the sacred walls of a unique classroom.”

Successful teaching and learning is made possible in a venue conducive to learning. ISA's pre-school classrooms have so many cool features. The Reading Nook, where they read different kinds of English and Chinese books, Creative Art Nook where they can express themselves through painting, Music & Game Corner where they can learn through play, Cooking Nook for food preparation experiences, and Circle Time Area where storytelling & group activities are held. Television, VCD player, and Audio Recorder are provided for instructional purposes. All these make learners feel very much at home. (MAY)

Administrators from five Chi-Fil schools attend Seminar sponsored by ACSP



Go Go! Vismin Chinese Schools... We are the best!

Two Taiwanese speakers, Mr. Peng Jinqiu and Mrs. Chen Guangxi, shared their expertise during the 2-day seminar sponsored by the Association of Chinese Schools in the Philippines, from April 23 to 24. Principals and heads from Lanao Chung Hua High School, Capiz Sun Yat Sen Grade School, Sun Yat Sen High School, Iloilo Central Commercial High School and the Executive Director of ISA, were present in all of the 10 sessions. The sharing evolved around ten major topics: administration, parent-admin-teacher coordination, classroom supervision and evaluation. Certificates were issued to all participants by the Overseas Chinese Commission of Taiwan authority and ACSP. After the seminar, the two Taiwanese speakers, together with the Principal of SYSHS, Mr. Victorio Lo and the Guidance Counselor of ICCHS, Ms. Annie Sy, visited Iloilo Scholastic Academy Campus.(PMC)

More About ISA's 1st Summer Camp

ISA's 1st Summer Camp, which offers 12 courses both for children and adults, had 192 total enrollment in various workshops as of April 30, 2004. This includes the 2nd batch of students in journalism class. This somehow reflects the aggressiveness and all out dedication of ISA administration and faculty.

The success of ISA's ongoing Summer Camp is another proof of its continuing quest for excellence. (AME)



A colorful & creative set-up, conducive for learning

Editorial

Education: A Basic Requirement

Education is required in the performance of our most basic responsibilities. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today, it is a principal instrument in awakening a child's cultural values in helping her to adjust responsively to her environment and preparing her for future professional training.

In these days, you cannot expect a child to succeed in life if she is deprived of the opportunities to be educated.

Thus, formal education is a basic requirement to enable our society to dynamically move ahead.

THE MOST AWAITED DAY



The Guests of Honor during the ribbon cutting.

Guests and participants gathered together for the most awaited day of Iloilo Scholastic Academy, the Inauguration and Blessing of ISA, which was held last May 15. It started with a motorcade at 1 pm.

The main entrance was decorated with beautiful flowers and colorful balloons. At 3 pm, the ribbon was cut by Hon. Raul Gonzalez Sr., Deputy Speaker; Atty. Edgar Gil, representing Mayor Jerry A. Treñas, and Mr. Elmer A. Carbon, Chief of Secondary Education Division, DepEd Region VI.

Fr. Manny Uy, SJ. officiated the blessing of the ISA Campus. Coins and candies were sprinkled for goodluck and prosperity.

Presidents and representatives from various civic and family associations, the acting Principal of Sun Yat Sen, Mr. Victorio Lo and Board members of the said school, the guidance counselor of Bacolod Tay Tung High School, Mrs. Rebecca Co were present during the inauguration. Panay News had ISA featured in its special reports.

A cultural show was prepared for the occasion. In the middle of the program, Hon. Raul M. Gonzalez Sr. inducted The Board of Trustees Officers of ISA.

After the activities, foods and beverages were served at the newly furnished school canteen. (LEA)



The DepEd official Mr. E. Carbon delivering his inspirational message.

Culminating Activity: A Success

A school, built out of love, faith and dedication, is now ready to be filled with enthusiastic children. Behind its facade, there is a spectrum of surprises that will amaze Ilonggos.

ISA held its Summer Workshop culminating activity last May 15. It started with an invocation and followed by the words of welcome from Mr. Vicente Tiu, President of ISA and Mr. Emilio Diez, Vice-chairman of the ISA Board of Trustees.

The pupils showcased their talents: starting with the Kinder Variety Show, verse choir: "I love the Philippines", then followed by a classical ballet: "Roses from the South", Fan dance, Gymnastic Hula Hoop, Poetry Reading, and finally highlighted by two short plays entitled "Learning Mandarin is Fun", a mini musical play entitled "Jaimee's Friends".

Two special persons, namely: Engr. Oscar Co and Architect Raymond Barcarlos, were given Plaque of Appreciation for their dedication and time in the supervision of the construction of ISA campus.

The program ends with the closing remarks given by Mr. Peter M. Chan, ISA Executive Director. The program was hosted by Jed Patrick Go and Maria Christina Ashley Ang Ki, themselves participants of Summer Workshop. (AME)



Witnessing the young actors & actresses of ISA.



Kinder II pupils performing Chinese Fan dance.

Enrollment in Progress

As a newly established school in Iloilo, ISA aims to contribute to the continuous growth in the quality of education in our city. By May 18, enrollees filled up the quotas of 30 slots in Grades 1,2 and First year high school.

The status of enrollees as of May 20: only 3 slots remain to be filled in Nursery PM class; 4 in K1 AM, 5 in K1 PM; 1 in K2 AM; 7 in K2 PM; Gr. I closed with 2 in the waiting list; Gr. II closed; 6 slots to be filled in Gr. III; 15 in Gr. IV; 8 in both Gr. V & VI; 1st year closed with 1 in the waiting list.

The high return in ISA's enrollment speaks much of the parents' trust on its ability to deliver the kind of education they believe their children need. It also reflects the positive response of our community to the mission of ISA that says "ISA is committed to prepare the youth to meet the challenges of the future". (NCA)

ISA passes DOH inspection

A school with a healthy environment is a precondition to effective teaching and conducive learning. ISA is proud to say that it has a "safe and healthy surrounding" according to Mrs. Sally Catalina Umahag, DOH Inspector, who visited the school site last May 4 for a special sanitary inspection.

The parents and the community need not worry about the environmental condition of the ISA campus because the certificate issued by DOH representative serves as an answer to any doubt that has kept on floating in the minds of some skeptics. Until now? (ISCL)

Teacher Attends Seminar in Manila

Ms. Josephine Buaron, a math teacher attended a seminar-workshop in Manila from April 26-29, that was sponsored by Metrobank Foundation Inc. and Phi Lambda Theta, an association of women educators.

The seminar-workshop consists of three meetings: The Graduates' Forum; The Lecture of Becoming a Teacher; and The Excellence in Teaching Program Forum.

Ms. Buaron concluded that the seminar-workshop was very inspiring and challenging that lighted the fire of enthusiasm in each of the participants to make a difference wherever he/she will be. (MJB)

EDITORIAL

The 106th Independence Day

RP celebrates her 106th Independence Day on June 12, 2004. However, I am afraid that this special day in the country's history will be commemorated not by joyful songs but mournful words of the Filipino people due to the oil price increase, added years in high school and election *dagdag-bawas*. These are indicators suggesting that our country is not yet free from the bondage of poverty, illiteracy and political instability. What will make us free? Ultimately, Quality Education.

Exec-Dir attends DepEd training on Assessment For Learning

ISA Executive Director Peter Chan attended a seminar on **Assessment for Learning: Practice, Tools and Alternative Approaches** conducted by the Secondary Education Division of DepEd Region 6 on May 17-21 at Punta Villa, Iloilo City.

Besides reiterating the irreplaceable role of paper-and-pencil tests, every resource person emphasized and discussed the alternative assessment tools. A hands-on workshop followed every plenary session.

The alternative evaluation tools, such as rubrics and portfolio, are not new to ISA faculty. ISA Evaluation Program integrates and makes indispensable supplementary various alternative tools to the rigid daily quizzes, long tests and periodical exams.

To ensure that high quality academic standard be always maintained, our school adopts the grading scheme designed by DepEd for the public school systems. Transmutation table is discarded, and passing percentage is set at 75. The degree of difficulty of test items follows the simple formula of 7:2:1, i.e., 70% easy, 20% average and 10% difficult. (PMC)

✂

For FREE subscription of SCHOLARS, please fill up, cut and return this slip to your child's adviser. Thank you.

Parent's name: _____

Name of Child: _____

Grade/ Year: _____

Parent's Sign.: _____

ISA smashes
squadron

To promote a healthy environment safe from dengue and other contagious diseases for ISA community, the administration requested the Danish American Co. to have a fogging of the whole campus. The fogging was done on the 13th of June, 5 to 6 am a day before the official opening of school year 2004-2005. (DYC)

SCHOLASTIC LITERACY PLACE: ITS CLASSIC FEATURES

ISA provides a balanced, scientifically research based reading comprehension and language arts program to maximize the learner's potentials. Its classic and unique features coincide with the present thrust of DepEd, which is moving full swing towards the integrated curriculum. Children will be exposed to interesting and meaningful activities, making them a lifelong reader. (ISL)

WORDS FROM EXPERTS

Two lecture – workshops were held at ISA to upgrade teachers' awareness on the different learning styles of the learners.

Last May 28, Mrs. Sally Labanda, consultant of Scholastic International, shared her ideas on the nine intelligences and how teachers would be able to develop these among learners. She also gave the teachers tips and hands-on activities on how to use the Building Language and Literacy (BLL) and Literacy Place effectively and efficiently.



Another talk was conducted last June 5 by Mrs. Gigi de la Cruz, a former Math instructor of Ateneo de Manila and now Consultant- Trainer of McGraw Hill. She shared her experiences and effective styles in teaching math. She also oriented teachers on the different techniques for informal evaluation, checking of attendance and designing of instructional materials found in McGraw Hill Everyday Mathematics.

Both experts stressed the importance of interactive and integrative learning. Four teachers from Osamis and the administrator of Santa Isabel Learning Center also joined the ISA faculty. (MJB)

Parents' Orientation

ISA believes that parents' involvement on their children's education is very important in the realization of the vision and mission of the academe. Thus, ISA conducted its 1st Parents' Orientation Program last June 6, 2004.



Parents listening attentively to the Executive Director.

Mr. Peter Chan, ISA Executive Director, emphasized to the parents their crucial role in their children's successes in school as well as to ISA's development. He also oriented them of the school's policies including the grading system.

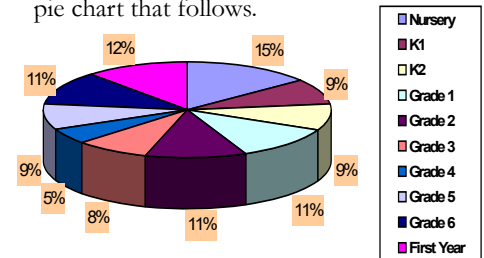
After the orientation, parents proceeded to the respective classrooms of their children. The teacher-advisers welcome them warmly and distributed their children's school supplies.

The ISA Family was very proud and happy to see approximately 185 parents came over to show their support for their children and commitment to the school. (RMJ)

ENROLLMENT: 25% More than expected

Iloilo Scholastic Academy, a newly established formal educational institution duly recognized by DepEd, is about to open this June 14. Nobody would expect that the number of enrollment would zoom up to 260 (as of June 11).

The percentage of enrollees grouped according to grade level is shown in the pie chart that follows.



The positive response of parents greatly encourages the ISA Board of Trustees and Faculty to work harder in providing these students the quality education ISA has been aiming for. (NA)

EdItOrIaL

ISA... Higher, Faster, Stronger

ISA had just started its journey towards the apex of quality education. ISAers have been working hand-in-hand to make a difference. Not to be left behind, parents show their strong support and commitment to the school in its mission to help provide their children the kind of education that deviates from conventional setting. They are convinced that the name ISA is a trademark synonymous to dedication and excellence. ISA guarantees that their children are in good hands because of the highly qualified and committed teachers who offer wonderful teaching-learning experience. ISA is not a school in its traditional sense, ISA is more of a home to the ISAers who feel the joy of learning. They enjoy using the state of the art facilities and colorful children's books supplied by world-renowned publishers.

In spite of challenges that come along our way, we stand still that we are capable of providing our children the best education. That, ISA will never cease to aim for...**Higher, Faster, Stronger...**

C. C. C.

The Lord God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to till and keep it (Genesis 2:15), so man has the inherent responsibility to maintain the beauty and harmony of things in our world.

CCC stands for "Campus Cleanliness Campaign". ISA, an environment-friendly school, is actively implementing the waste segregation practice with trashcans appropriately labeled 'biodegradable' and 'non-biodegradable' in each room. The combined efforts of teachers and students ensure the cleanliness of classroom, walls, corridors and grounds. The green plants made the campus remain clean and safe at all times.

This simple practice is a proof that cleanliness is an integral factor of ISA's well-crafted educational system. -ISL



The Flag ceremony led by the Grade V-Shakespeare Students

ISA's Baptism of Fire

June 14, 2004 marks the beginning of the school year 2004-2005. ISAers in complete uniform were very excited to start the day. Everyone stood straight while singing the National Anthem and the ISA School Hymn. The teachers and staff were introduced to the students and parents. Mr. Peter M. Chan, the executive director, talked about rules and regulations that ISAers must observe. After the assembly, Students proceeded to their respective classrooms and met their advisers with a smile. At last they found a home away from home. RMJ

A nature's haven situated at Guimbal, Iloilo, Garin Farm is a good place to commune with nature. A typical farm showcasing variety of exciting activities such as caromata rides, horseback riding, fishing and butterfly gazing. Starting from the entrance, the pathway is covered with plants providing perfect shades to visitors strolling leisurely. Along the way one can see lots of animals, plants, and gardens. There is even one vegetable garden wherein plants are arranged according to

nature's trip

the lyrics of the song "Bahay Kubo". It has a 60-foot tower where one can see the aerial view of the whole farm. Last July 9, the preschool pupils were the first batch to visit the place. There, the little ones were overwhelmed by practically everything they saw in the farm. It is unusual for these active kids to stay at one place and patiently wait for some fish to get hooked, obviously, most kids enjoyed their first fishing experiences. Aside from horseback-, goat- and caromata-riding, to the delight of parents and guardians, each class contributed a number. Naturally, there were games and prizes prepared by the preschool teachers for the kids.

We believe children would learn faster and better if we let them see things in real. Afterall, education should not be limited within the confine of the four walls. -PSE



The Faculty in the blooming garden

Words from the ISAers

Some students shared their beginning experiences in Iloilo Scholastic Academy:

"I saw unfamiliar faces which made me feel uneasy. We spent time talking to each other during leisure time and we started to eat together during lunch break. Now that we are more acquainted, my uneasiness diminished." -Jasper

"I hated day one. First of all, I was not psyched in going to a new school. I missed my old friends. Secondly, it was a hot day and the aircon wasn't working. We were all sweating out all day! I felt so bad and I thought that the next 200 days would be suffering...but I was wrong. Every other day turns better and better." -Michiko

"On the first day, I was so quiet because I didn't know yet my other classmates. As time goes by, I started to be noisy because I have made friends with them." - Xyre

"My first experience in ISA was very different. I am far from my family. The night before, I prepared my things. I woke up very early and ate my breakfast. I just walked from my apartment going to school." -Justin

"On the first day of school everybody, including me, had first impression with people whom we didn't know yet. As days went by, we got to know each other better. First impression and relationship with other schoolmates have changed." -Fritzie



The Kinder Pupils enjoy catching fish

Sayaw Paraiso

a musical extravaganza

ISAers were invited by the organizer of Sayaw Paraiso to watch their spectacular performance on June 29. The show was staged at CAP Auditorium. The performers were the student-members of the Cultural Club of Saint Paul's University-Iloilo. Sayaw Paraiso is a dance drama centered on the richness and beauty of the Philippine waters and depicted how things turned sour due to human stupidity and callousness. The Grade IV to First Year ISAers went full force to witness this nature-loving and action-packed presentation. This is one way to develop children's social awareness and environment consciousness that would help them realize that afterall, Mother Earth is the only home we've got and ought to love and protect at all costs. -RMJ

100 Good Deeds CAMPAIGN

“Good things you have done will never be wither, your kind act takes root.”

ISA appreciates students who are beautiful inside and out, that is the reason behind the “good-deed card campaign”. Every time an ISAer who shows concern to the school, her teachers, fellow ISAers and to his studies will be given a “good deed card”. Last August 9, 2004, ISA recognizes Jan Jemi Gerwayne Tiu, Ma. Christina Ashley Angki and Vincent Hart Labaclado. The three Grade Four Confucius students were given recognition for receiving a hundred good-deed cards. They had their pictures taken together with their proud parents, advisers and the executive director. These students will also be given certificates to show that the ISA community is very proud to have good students like them.

Small thing, big thing....it doesn't matter as long as it is good... it will be honored. So, ISAers... have you done something good today? (MRL)



Ma. Christina Ashley Angki, Jan Jemi Gerwayne Tiu and Vincent Hart Labaclado of Grade 4 Confucius have done 100 Good deeds as of August 9, 2004.

Parents Enrichment program

The first parents enrichment program was very successful in terms of attendance and repercussions. The resource speaker, Sister Fidelis, talked about the topic “A Love That Cripples, A Love That Heals”. According to her, a child's personality is greatly influenced by factors such as expectations of parents that may help develop or may have an adverse effect on the child's personality. She enriches the knowledge of parents on how to be more responsible in bringing up the kids to have a well-developed ego. It brings awareness not only to the parents, but also to teachers who are all present during the talk. After which, the parents went to the classrooms and discussed their concerns with the respective advisers of their children. It was a good start for the ISA parents to get involved in their children's learning activities. It is a sign that everybody believes that to achieve quality education one needs to involve both school and home. (RMJ)

Editorial

A smile costs nothing but creates much

We experience tremendous joy every time we see and hear the voices and sight of children playing on ISA's school grounds. All the hard work and tiredness are nothing vis-à-vis of that significant sight.

We have just finished the first grading period, time flies that we hardly noticed ISA has been fully operating for five months now! And the voices and sight of children studying and playing on ISA's grounds have remained the powerful impetus that keeps us moving on even more confidently...

ISA Exec-Dir attends 20th World Congress on Reading

Mr. Peter Chan was one of the 1300 schools administrators, educators, scholars from 45 countries participated in the 4-day World Congress on Reading hosted by the Reading Association of the Philippines, and affiliate of the prestigious International Reading Association. IRA holds this kind of international gathering once every two years in different cities of the world. The last time our country hosting such congress was in 1980. The 21st WCR will be held in Budapest, Hungary.

The congress boasted a total of 106 seminar sessions, 56 research reports, 16 symposia and 46 workshops involving nearly 300 speakers, scholars and researchers from countries such as, the ASEAN nations, China (including Taiwan, Hongkong), Iran, Israel, Japan, Mongolia, Fiji, Egypt, Namibia, USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, UK, France, Spain, Hungary, Estonia, Czech Republic. The topics are organized into fifteen categories, such as: classroom strategy, early literacy, second-language learning, reading to learn, etc.

After the congress, ISA board of Trustees invited two American speakers, Drs. Bud and Donna Ogle, to Iloilo to talk on “Reading, Writing and Critical Thinking”. More than 150 administrators, teachers from more than 20 public and private schools in Panay Island attended. Dr. Donna Ogle is the past president of the International Reading Association. (PMC)



Participants actively participate during the workshop.

Mental Math and Reflexes

Solving math problems mentally... for everyone? “Impossible!” almost everybody cried in unison. But Dr. Merle S. Alferrez, the founder of MSA Learning Center, proved them wrong during the seminar on “Mental Math” held at ISA last August 1. It was a half-day exposure on the simple but interesting techniques in doing complicated addition, subtraction, multiplication and division operations swiftly and accurately. Over 20 school administrators, Math and non-Math teachers from many parts of Panay participated in the said seminar.

“Find the sum of consecutive numbers from 1 to 100.” If you were one of them, chances are, you can solve it in less than 30 seconds. (MJNB)

Chinese Embassy, Federation donate books to ISA

The books donated by the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of China arrived July 30 and August 2, respectively. The Federation sent 18 boxes of Chinese language textbooks and reference books on Chinese history, culture and geography. The Chinese Embassy sent 60 sets of ‘Chinese Language for Preschoolers’, 10 copies of Chinese Map, 16 copies of ‘Xinhua Chinese Dictionary’, a set of ‘Chinese Culture and Art Series’ (total of 10 volumes), among others.

The ISA Board not only lost no time writing the donors letters expressing its sincere appreciation for their generosity, it also requested the school administration to work on these reading materials to benefit both the faculty and the students. (PMC)

Developing Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking

“a man is a child only for a short span of time, soon after, he learns to crawl, walk, talk, and eventually, and hopefully, read. As his reading aptitude progresses, he instinctively searches for the truth. He absorbs what is conceived as good, just and beautiful. As he reads, he awakens his imagination, goes back into the past, and with equal eagerness zooms forward into the future.”

Last August 1, the past President of the International Reading Association, Dr. Donna Ogle and Bud Ogle came to ISA. Teachers from no less than 20 schools came to ISA campus and learned many reading, writing and critical thinking strategies from Dr. Donna Ogle. The teachers learned different techniques and some practical and feasible approaches put forth in Dr. Ogle's lectures that would surely enhance their teaching competencies and in turn would help them nurture more young readers. (AMNE)

OCTOBER 1, a day to remember, a day to reckon with

This year's October 1 marks the first anniversary of ISA since its conception. To the intrepid initiators, on this day, they surely can't ponder on the series of events that transform sublime dreams into grand reality without a deep sense of exhilaration and pride. From abstract planning to the actual implementation, from the serene atmosphere of ground breaking rites to the heart-throbbing construction... from virtually nothing until the raising of enough funds to cover the construction and other costs... each struggling step forward remarkably imprints the unwavering love of these prescient initiators and generous donors. Notwithstanding the sagging national economy and the skyrocketing prices of hardware commodities, let alone the dreadful

discouragement and threatening pressure coming from every corner, these forebearers of the ISA dream had not a bit been daunted, their steadfast stance gave them the staunch will to shatter all obstacles that come their way. Money was scarce, and the lack of it soon proved to be the single major hindrance to the otherwise full-scale school operations, yet even this had finally been obliterated. In a span of four months, a laudable school campus stands proudly right at the very heart of a metropolis. In mid April, ISA was ready to welcome the first batch of more than a hundred curious learners brought here by their nonetheless skeptic parents.

Enthusiasm is contagious. Department of Education officials in Region 6, Mr. Elmer Carbon,

Dr. Elsa Consebit, Mrs. Estrella Mago and Mr. Edwin Espino, successively visited and inspected ISA construction site on different occasions and invariably pledged their unconditional support. The Deputy Speaker of the House of the Representatives Raul Gonzalez Sr.; the official envoy of Mayor Treñas, Atty. Edgar Gil; the Chief of the Secondary Education Division of DepEd, Mr. Elmer Carbon and almost all of the Chinese-Filipino civic organizations and invited school administrators came to grace the Inauguration Ceremony last May 15.

In the heart and mind of every ISAer, October 1 is particularly significant because of the birth of his Alma Mater, Iloilo Scholastic Academy; it is a glorious day to remember, a day to reckon with.

75% Passing Grade a springboard to excellence

ISA has courageously done away with fancy 'transmutation table'. Thus, effectively erasing all traces of 'grade inflation', a lingering phenomenon in the country's educational system.

The use of transmutation table is, in reality, a drive to pump up artificially and sinfully the grades of the learners and dilutes the meaning of achievement. It hampers an important means by which parents and schools uphold standards and demand accountability. It chips away at the notion that we succeed through hard work.

ISA abhors all sorts of unfounded self-satisfaction. Accordingly, the passing grade is set at 75%, i.e., out of 100 points an ISAer should get 75 points to be considered barely passing. Parents might think that the standard set is rather quite high, and it is true that many children don't like to strive harder to meet the challenges, but life is not one grand entertainment. True to the ISA philosophy: 'I am, I can', we believe every child has the potential to excel, and we set forth the necessary conditions for that. (PSAE)

Six ISAers garnered 15 DepEd Golden Pen Awards

Six elementary pupils, namely: Eunice Marie Serilo, Clarissa Joyce Tiu, Sunshine Elizabeth Do, Ma. Rita Niña Chua, Jan Janel Geyenne Tiu and Norm Vincent Jalipa, joined the DepED Regional Journalism Cluster Training last August 27-29 held at the DepEd Division of Iloilo.



Emerging journalists take a pose with their proud parents.

During the said training, the six pupils brought honor to their school by winning individually a total of fifteen Golden Pen Awards: Most Outstanding Writer, Most Promising Editorial Writer, Most Promising Sports Writer and Most Outstanding Photojournalist.

The six young writers, together with nine others, are having their regular journalism training every Saturday under Ms. Hazel Villa.

ISA Card Day

September 4, 2004 was the 1st card day of ISA. On that day, most parents came to ISA very early, eager and excited to know the academic standing of their children.

Aside from the report cards, teachers prepared a more detailed and comprehensive anecdotal records, in lieu of the usual narrative report, to enable parents to understand better the attitudes and behaviors of their children in the school.

Expectedly, there are different reactions from the parents upon receiving the report cards. However, teachers gladly explained everything to the parents, whenever they needed to be clarified of something. (AME)

What is Grade Inflation?

Grade inflation occurs when grade given to a child is considerably higher than what she really deserves. If grades have been inflated, then a child is not learning as much as her report card would lead her to believe. Grade inflation is a sign of flagging academic expectations, a symptom of a system that has come to believe that many students simply cannot or will not meet demanding goals.

Inspirational

LOVE....

Any difficulty one faces is just one little hurdle, which, if he has the courage to jump over it, will probably lead him to success. You may have heard of 'whole language' approach in teaching kids to read. Now, time has come when we need to use this tool to help kids develop a love for learning, develop good study habits and possess a sense of being a successful learner.

Every joy and happiness ISAers have remain in our hearts as we see our school clearly becoming an indispensable part of the building block that support learners to move onward...for this, I salute our school, my beloved ISA. (SEP)

Preschool Sportsfest and Field Demo

ISA Preschool Sportsfest and Field Demo was held last August 27. ISA indeed provides a promising future to the ISAers not only in academics but also in other extra curricular activities that help unlock children's hidden talents.



I want my mom to be the winner.

Harnessing the bonding between parents and child was the main theme of this undertaking. Parents excitingly took part in the games was the highlight of the half-day activities. Parents actively joined in the Parlor Games such as: ISAers Went to Town, Water Relay, Pabitin, Tricycle Race, Hitting the Pot and Big Mouth Says, among others. (MAN)



A Glimpse of pre-school field demo.



Neophyte Betsy during the Filipino Declaration Contest

Speak Out!

Talent is a God-given gift. Everyone possesses unique combinations of talents and abilities, which, if shared with others will enable us to attain virtually every goal humanity sets for itself.



Trixie won the grand prizes Eng. Declaration and Oration

ISAers had shown their profound ability in declamation, oration and vocal solo. The Filipino declamation and vocal solo contests were held at the Gaisano City on September 4. English declamation, oration, and extemporaneous speech were held at Robinsons Place on September 11. Expectators were amazed by the participants' outstanding performances. These were the first presentation of ISA in public since its opening. Surely, there will be more to come. (ISL)

ISA joined storytelling Trixie Ledesma won first place

ISA sent Christine Shane 'Trixie' Ledesma, a grade 5 Shakespeare pupil, to represent the school in the inter-school storytelling contest (elementary category) sponsored by the West Visayas State University held at the WVSU campus on September 21, 2004. Trixie won the First Place .

10 private & public schools joined in the said contest.

Preparations for the upcoming ISA Foundation DAY

The month of September is coming to a close. The festive atmosphere at ISA is slowly climbing to its peak. The ISA Day celebration on October 1 will showcase ISA students' talents in verse choir, Chinese choral singing and Chinese vocal solo. With the cooperation of the entire ISA family, the celebration would surely be a spectacular one. (JC)

Vocal Soloists Rych, Janina won public praise

Rych Laurice Costa and Janina Isabel Tan, who are joining the vocal solo contest (Chinese songs) on October 1 together with their back-up dancers, had shown their singing and dancing prowess, in advance, during the 98th birthday banquet held in honor of Mr. Tan Tiak Wan last September 22. Mr. Tan Tiak Wan is the father of the ISA Board chairman, Mr. Alfonso Tan.

In response to the invitation of the organizer of the said banquet, ISA sent the 2 soloists to add cultural and artistic tincture to the festive ambience . Rych sang the song entitled "My Motherland" with Angelie Ong, a first year student, took charge of the choreographing and training of the dancers: Ma. Rita Niña Chua, Helinda Marie Muleta, Shireen Shahmardani, Leahni Peña. Janina, on the other hand, chose the song "Today is Your Birthday, China". Her dancers, Thea Elyza Uy, Marie Haydee Que, Norm Vincent Jalipa and Karl Francis Chan, were trained by the following teachers: Ms. Sherryl Perasol, May Ann Farillon and Mr. Ivy Liwa.

Their performance captured the attention of the guests and won the applause of the audience. The kids were doubly happy upon receiving *angpao* from the Tan family.



Rych sings her first Chinese Song in public: "My Motherland" .

ISA opening salvo

Iloilo Scholastic Academy kicks off the Moon Festival Day, Confucius Day, International Literacy Day and ISA Day celebration with a motorcade. The participants of the parade include the board members, parents, faculty, staff and students. They assembled at the Gaisano City parking ground at 1 p.m. and started to move along the major thoroughfare in the city an hour later. All the cars were decorated with creative streamers and colorful balloons. Clifford, the Scholastic Big Red Dog, easily became one of the main sensations of the said event. (PSE)



Speaking Before Grade IV - 1st Year Students On The Virtue Of Sharing

Mrs. Rosalie Treñas visits ISA Campus

The International Literacy Day last September 30 was a memorable day for the ISAers. The day started with the arrival of Mrs. Rosalie Treñas, the First Lady of Iloilo City. Members of the ISA Board, the Executive Director, faculty and students arrived very early to welcomed Mrs. Treñas. After delivering her inspiring message before the Grade 4 to First Year students she went to the Kinder II room for the storytelling. She enthralled the children with one of the adventures of Clifford. After the storytelling, the children went around her for their picture taking with Clifford. A memento worth keeping! (SEP)



Mrs. Rosalie Treñas And Pre - School Kids Take A Pose With Clifford

ISA is now PRISAA member

ISA is now officially a part of the PRISAA family. ISA's application for membership was approved last September. However, according to the PRISAA Charter, any new member needs a one-year "freezing" period before it is allowed to join in any PRISAA competition. (PMC)

Teamwork & Cooperation

"Unity is essential to any organization. It is one of the preconditions for any institution to attain its objectives and goals".

Active cooperation from every member is vital to team success. Team member cannot sit back and be a bystander while others actively render their services; teamwork facilitates cohesiveness and helps achieve common ends. Effective team is not just collections of individuals; rather, it forms a force that is greater than the sum of its parts. Thus team members must work together closely and make every effort to serve common cause.



"Mabuhay Ang Pilipinas" Grade 5 Students Showcasing Their Talents

People nurtured with the spirit of cooperation and teamwork have a strong sense of discipline and will to win through cooperative ventures. They learn to share, to empathize, and get along with others better. Cooperation and teamwork are essential in today's fast-changing and dynamic world. Cooperation makes everyone feel he is part of the whole endeavor, whether it be successful or a failure. While a team helps a member recognizes that his worth as a person is independent of winning or losing in any test. (AJJ)

Battle of the Brains

One of the important events we had during our International Literacy Day Celebration was the Quiz Bee, which covers various subject areas like Spelling, English, Science, Math and Civics. All grade levels were involved.

This activity helps train ISAers to be prepared to withstand greater challenges they are going to face on their route to success... (MABF)



We've Got It Right!



Janina Won 2nd Place in the Chinese Vocal Solo contest.

ISA Day Musical Contests

The intra-campus Chinese vocal solo and choral singing contests were staged during the anniversary banquet in the evening of October 1, the ISA Day. Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas and other city government officials graced the occasion and shared the jubilation with the ISA community.

Many parents were delighted to see their children trying to impress the audience with their newly learned Chinese songs. Unwittingly, these children were singing famous Chinese songs well loved by the Chinese themselves, such as 'My Motherland', 'Where is the Spring', among others.

The choral singing contests featured also some adorned Filipino folk songs.

Mayor Treñas was the guest speaker and did the honor to induct the ISAPA officers during the induction ceremony that same evening.

Look back... move on...

Big events in ISA are not only venues used to demonstrate the clout and effectiveness of our community; they are also occasions designed to expose the otherwise hidden deficiency in our institution, so that, armed with an incisive weapon of open-mindedness, we may gradually yet steadily discover, overcome and lessen our weaknesses; and work further on and broaden the scope of our strength.

While recognizing the positive impact of the three-day festivity it brought onto the ISA community, the school administration has always maintained its sobriety in its evaluation of the entire event. Soon after its conclusion, the ISA Board and Administration, with the active participation of the Parents Association officers, sent out letters soliciting criticisms and suggestions, and was able to gather substantial feedback from parents. Their responses, specially complains, are securely kept in the personal file of the Executive Director for easy reference. (PMC)

Campus Book Fair, etc.

Is reading boring? Not for us ISAers!

Last September 30, the ISA Student Council sponsored a book fair inside the campus. It was really a great moment when you could see dozens of books which you can hardly find in the bookstores. Actually, ISAers were looking forward to the book fair. Many of them bought books even when the ISA-SC officers were starting to display the books very early in the morning. The ISA book fair was not only about selling of books. While the selling was going on, there were presentations, stage plays, and quiz bees to help develop students' awareness of literature and art. And those were not all...If you buy a book, you could have a chance to take picture with Clifford, the Scholastic's big red dog, at a discounted price! Of course, I was one of the ISAers who bought many books for myself. Scholastic books are really great! They could be for adults and for kids like me. The ISA Book fair was an eye opener for many who had just discovered the immense wealth contained in books. Even for this reason alone, I should say the book fair was a great success. So c'mon dear, **Drop Everything And Read!** (ES)



ISA Student Council Sponsors Scholastic Book Fair

Puppet Show

Despite the hectic schedule, some teachers, led by Mr. Ivy Santiago Liwa, still managed to present a fantastic puppet show entitled "The Adarna Bird", last September 30, 2004, during the first International Literacy Day celebration held in ISA campus. This show is about the King of Albania who got ill and his three sons adventured to Mount Tabor to search for the magical Adarna bird that could heal the King.

The story imparted among ISAers the virtue of generosity, humility, and honesty. Thus, ISAers did not only have fun watching the show but learned some valuable moral lessons as well. (OBJ)



Mayor Jerry Treñas inducts ISA - Parents Association Officers

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas inducted the officers of the Iloilo Scholastic Academy Parents Association into office last October 1.

In her message, the ISAPA president, Mrs. Emma Chiu, emphasized the commitment of the association to maintain and further develop the strong bonding between the school and the parents. She encouraged parents to get more involved in the school affairs. Parents should not hesitate in sharing their ideas and suggestion, airing out their complains and criticism, as all these are healthy manifestations of their concerns for the continued growth and development of ISA.

The following are the officers of the ISAPA: **President - Emma Chiu; Vice-President - Anna Farin; Secretary - Leah Calanza; Assistant Secretary - Catherine Lim; Treasurer - Mary Ann Muleta; Assistant Treasurer - Ma. Cheryl Flores; Auditor - Wilda Usi; Assistant Auditor - Elizabeth Batilo; PRO - Angela Patrimonio; Assistant PRO - Lily Uy; Business Manager - Anna Liza Barcelona; Assistant Bus. Mgr. - Phoebe Fahy.**



The "Heroes" Behind The Scene

Moon Festival Celebration

As a part of three day celebration of ISA, the school celebrated the Moon Festival on September 29, 2004. In the morning, students from different class levels showed their talents. The nursery pupils presented a Chinese poem. Some of the selected students showcased a short skit in Chinese and a ballet number performed by the chosen students from Grade 6 and First Year concluded the short program.

The most exciting part was the dice game of the children. Others were hesitant at first to join but as they went through playing, they felt the excitement of the game. There were prizes given to motivate the kids. Everyone got the chance to play and feel the essence of the Moon Festival, which was totally a new experience for most of them.



The Eight Lucky Finalists During The Mid- Autumn Festival Dice Game

The Moon Festival did not end up without giving the parents and teachers the opportunity to play the game too. In the evening, parents, ISA Board members and teachers had their chance to go through the exciting experience. Of course, each one brought home many prizes won from the dice game. But what is most significant was that parents had shown their support not only for their children's academics but, equally important, to their extra-curricular activities as well. (RMJ)

ISA Student Council donates wall clocks

The ISA Student Council, headed by its President, Michiko Francine de la Cruz, presented to the Executive Director three big wall clocks last September. The three wall clocks are now being used in the Executive Director's office, in the canteen, and along the corridor adjacent to the first year classroom.

QUIZ BEE

Last November 8, four ISAers joined the Department of Education Division of Iloilo Quiz Bee. They are: Eunice Serilo (Gr. 6) for Spelling; Sunshine Do (Gr. 6) for Science; Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu (Gr. 6) for Math and Norm Vincent Jalipa (Gr.5) joined the Makabayan contest. The said contest started from 7:30 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m. All contests were held at the Social Hall of the Division of Iloilo, DepEd.

Though the participants did not bring home the bacon, still they gained precious experiences through the exposure. They had the chance to meet with students from various schools in the city. (RMJ)

Parents' Enrichment

Program part II

November 20 marked another important day for all ISAers. It was our Card Day. Before the distribution of the report cards, our school invited Sister Mary Fidelis Estrada of Assumption Iloilo to talk about a very important topic about understanding the children of New Generation before the very receptive ISA parents.

Parents and teachers were present during the Enrichment Program. They were able to get additional information on how to deal and understand children, specially the so-called hyperactive ones. After the discussion, there was an open forum allotted whereby some parents raised question for Sister Mary to clarify.

The purpose of having these regular parents enrichment sessions is for parents to gain more systematic theoretical background and insights on the correct way of rearing children for them to become responsible citizens. (PSE)

ISAers fared well in 2nd quarter Evaluation

The report cards have shown significant progress in the academic grades of most ISAers during the second grading period. The overall evaluation reveals that almost 95% of the entire student body have improved their grades in spite of the wide coverage during the periodical exams. Exams included all topics taken up during the first quarter. (MAN)



Editorial

Christmas is sharing... as evident by the powerful lines lived and believed by the ISA Family: "Christ has no hands but your hands to do his work today. Christ has now no feet but your feet to lead men in His way."

ISA Student Council recently has successfully touched the hearts of members of the ISA community. Its noble drive to raise funds to help our brothers and sisters in Eastern Luzon was enthusiastically heeded by our charitable parents, teachers, board members and students. In three days, the ISA-SC was able to raise P13682.50 in cash, which was immediately remitted to the calamity area.

Christmas is well defined by the ISAers in deeds – the Yuletide season is not just all about giving and receiving. It is a time to give thanks to God, that He offered His only son to save us, in the same way, we offer some part of us to our less fortunate sisters and brothers and praying someday they need not again live in wanting but, like us, shall enjoy the bounty our Lord has given to this world. (MAN)

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a HAPPY
NEW YEAR



ISA Camping: A memorable adventure

Camping is often referred to as a great outdoor adventure. While the activities are going on, one can meet new friends; learns to be resourceful, self-reliance, and above all gains wholesome experiences. A camper can absorb the beauty of nature, the merriment of the sea, the freedom of the sky, the freshness of the wind, and the glory of sunset, scenes simply not present within the confines of a classroom.

The first ISA Camping 2004 held at Anjauan Leisure Camp will be long-remembered. Students from Grades IV to 1st Year camped away from the usual conveniences of home for three days and two nights. It formally opened with banner raising and group cheers and yells followed by various exciting games. Finally, the Yellow team emerged as the champion followed by the Red, Blue and Green. (ISL)

COLLEGE LIFE: a sharing

Everyone is obliged to speak in English and Chinese... 75% passing mark... rigid evaluation system... are all these necessary and relevant? Having these in mind, the school administration invited three college students currently studying at Ateneo de Manila University and the University of Asia and the Pacific



Atenean Norvin sharing his experiences

to talk about: "Why choose good school?" and "Why academic excellence is always emphasized by some earnest administration?" Norvin Ralph Jalipa from Ateneo de Manila talked about the practical benefits one can derive from being admitted to the 'best' schools. Loris Peña from UAAP, on the other hand, explained the necessity of academic pressures in elementary and high school and their benefits *vis a vis* her college experiences. And her elder sister Lehlani Peña also from UAAP talked about "Why do we need to speak in English and Chinese inside the Campus?" Each one imparted valuable thoughts and shared practical instances in support of the power of innovative learning system that they believe is very much present in ISA. Thus in their words, 'you are the beneficiaries of this viable system; and make the most out of it.' The sharing was held at the ISA Library on October 27, 2004. Grade 5 to First Year students were present during their sharing.

'After-Class' Review

Since the opening of the school year, ISA has been applying a strategy that could help our students cope up with their lessons, and at the same time lessen the burden of our parents. We dubbed it "after-class review". According to this scheme, students are given enough time to do all their assignments in different subjects right after the last period in the afternoon under the supervision of the class advisers. Specially when students cannot understand certain topic, this after-class review time could be of great help. This is also advantageous to the parents because they don't have to spend time helping and guiding their children in the doing of their assignments, instead, they review the lessons the children had on that day to prepare for the quizzes the next day. (M)

Editorial The Year of Hope!

Year 2005 is the Year of the Rooster. It is said that with the usher in of the golden rooster, calamities and chaos inevitably come with it. It's a disturbing prophecy yet on the other hand not totally surprising if we try to recall the unhappy experiences at the near end of year 2004. Philippines, and our neighboring Asian countries as well, experienced quite a few of nature's wrath which stunned the world due to the tremendous destruction they had caused.

Contrary to the popular belief however, mankind has the will power to diffuse the unwelcome spell of the rooster. Our countrymen through hard work and dedication can still make this year a year of hope as we welcome every new day with vigor and faith.

The "Modern-Day Bayanihan"

Filipinos are known for Bayanihan. It is only in this country that you can see an entire house carried on the untiring shoulders of helpful folks. Recently, part of eastern Luzon was devastated by flood due to typhoons, thousands perished and many more were left homeless. Upon knowing of their plight, ISA community lost no time in revealing their altruistic instinct to help the needy. The ISA Student Council immediately spearheaded a three-day long 'P25.00 Fund Raising Campaign' for the flood victims. Students, faculty and parents worked hand in hand and were able to come up with the amount of P13,682.50 at the end of the campaign and sent the entire sum to the affected areas through the effort of the World News Publication.

The ISA family was very glad to show that the real Bayahinian spirit is very much alive in their heart. (PSE)

Christmas Party at ISA

December 17, 2004 was the most awaited and exciting day for the kids. The school celebrated the first Christmas Party, which was held in the respective classrooms under the supervision of the advisers of different grade levels.

Though a lot of food were shared, many gifts were given and received, and games and prizes that made the children enjoy the party, still...we did not lose sight of the true essence of this occasion: that it is all about sharing of what we have and loving one another... (OBJ)



Grade 2 pupils are all set for another exciting game

ISAers' Christmas 2004 Gift Offering

For many of us, the Yuletide season is always remembered for the prevalence of sumptuous feasts, gifts, novelty and colorful decorations. How the season of Christmas enlivens the childlike spirit in us; joyful and anticipating of unexpected things and delightful surprises, need no further elaboration. But before ISAers bid goodbye to '04, they have once again done a simple but meaningful thing, not for themselves, but for others.

As one of its major yearend projects, the Student Council called for every ISAer to give donations for the street children of our city. This includes canned goods, noodles, sugar, rice, old clothes, books, toys and other things that are still useful.



ISA-SC officers with Mrs. Rosalie Treñas at the Social Development Center, DSWD

Last December 28, the officers of the ISA Student Council went to the DSWD office to turnover the donated goods to the Chairperson of the Task Force Street Children of Iloilo City, Mrs. Rosalie Treñas.

This is another concrete example of practicing the ideal of doing good deeds the school is instilling in the heart and soul of every ISAer, hoping that this brings warmth to the hearts of our less fortunate brethren. In our own little way, the smile that we can see in the faces of these street children may somehow make the cold season warm. (VNI)

A Day for ISA Moulders

We consider teacher as the epitome of virtues, for she patiently shapes the character of the youth. Like a piece of clay, young ingenuous children are molded to become knowledgeable and cultured individuals.

Thus teachers should always be the model of worthiness and integrity.

December 3, 2004 marks a special day for the ISA teachers. The Teachers Day celebration was highlighted by skit, song and dance numbers prepared by each grade level. Many students offered flowers, gifts and cards to their mentors. The people behind this remarkable program were the officers of the Student Council and the Parents' Association.

This once a year celebration underscores the sacred duty of teachers as partners and active participants in the on-going Divine Acts of creation, redemption and the sanctification of Man. (ISL)

ISA Joins 3rd FCAAF Table Tennis Tournament

"Go, ISA, go!!!". 13 ISA table tennis enthusiasts joined the 3rd Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation Table Tennis Tournament. And so were their high-spirited schoolmate-supporters who were also present at Gaisano City last December 4 and 5. Students from three other Chinese schools in the city, namely, ICCHS, SYSHS and SMCS participated in the said friendly competition.

The results of the tournament were as follows: Justin Betsy Aguirre and Grace Rebollos won the championship and the 1st Runner-Up, respectively in the high school girls division.; Gian Francis Trimañez won 1st Runner-Up in Elementary boys division; Helinda Marie Muleta, Krishmae Princess Tan and Christine Shane Ledesma bagged the top three places in girls division.

ISAers went home wearing their big smiles because they brought home 6 trophies out of 12. Certainly this success, albeit not really a grand one, did not come so easily. Aside from the hard work and perseverance of the players, the support of the ISA director, Mr. Peter Chan, ISA Board Sports Coordinator, Mr. Oscar Co, and the painstaking coaching of Teacher Dyna Nacabuan, were important factors that turn their hopes into reality. (DN)

Junior Scholars Writers garnered Awards

"A drop of ink makes a million think." quoted from the opening remarks of DepEd Regional Director Victoriano Tirol, during the Regional Schools Press Conference held in Negros occidental National High School, Bacolod City last Dec. 16-18, with the theme "Redirection of Values for Nation-building Through Campus Journalism"



JS writers with Mr. Elmer Carbon and Mr. Rodgen Jabor in Bacolod

1,200 participants from different schools in Region VI joined the competition. Each category has more than 100 contestants vying for the top 3 places.

ISA's Jan Jernel Geyenne Tiu won 2nd place in Copy Reading and Headlining in Filipino. This qualifies him to join the teams of winners from Region 6 for the National Schools Press Conference to be held in Surigao in the third week of February.

The other ISAers who made it to the top ten were: Eunice Serilo, 4th placer in English Feature Writing; Sunshine Elizabeth Do who won 4th place in Editorial Cartooning and Norm Vincent Jalipa, 7th placer in English Sports Writing.

The writers were trained by Ms. Hazel Villa.

Editorial

Let Love Reign

Like all good things in life, love is a meaningful word that is not created in an instant but built over time. It is not a good part of life but the most important part. It was said that the best use of life is love, the best expression of love is time and the best time to love is now. Thus, it should be our amulet that enlightens us with wisdom, give us courage and grace necessary for us to carry on.

Another year had opened the door of promises, hope, challenges and sacrifices. Let love reign in every human heart so that we can obtain the guidance we need everyday. Those days that passed, may they be failures or success, let them become our strength to move us further on and live another year with profound determination and faith. Loving what we do, giving what we can and aiming at what we dream of are the value of loving our precious time. Then let love last forever!

ISAers join Metrobank Math Challenge

For the first time, ISA sent a total of 18 students to participate in the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP) – Metrobank Math Challenge 2005 held at Iloilo Central Elementary School last January 21, 2005. Participants were given a 50-item test to last for an hour. Contestants, in each grade/year level, who got the highest and second highest score were declared winners.

Three ISAers namely, Ma. Rita Niña Chua, Sunshine Elizabeth Do and Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu were qualified for the team finals to be held on February 25, 2005. Furthermore, Jan Jarnel got second place (Grade 6 level) in the said competition. ISA is also one of the top eight performing schools in Math VI. (MJB)

SPORTSFEST 2005

January 29, 2005 was another fun-filled day for the ISA family. Parents, students and teachers came together to enjoy a day of games and sports activities at the Iloilo Sports Complex. The Sportsfest started with a parade of the four teams around the oval track of the ISC followed by aerobics led by the chairperson of the affair, Ms. Dyna Nacabuan. The day was spent with games played simultaneously by the HS freshmen, graders, the preschoolers. In the afternoon, everybody went home tired but invigorated and fit. (VNV)

Gong Xi 恭喜發財 Fa Cai



A display of grace & amazing beauty - ISAers parade along Iloilo thoroughfare -



Colorful Chinese decors spruced up the downtown area of Iloilo City during the Chinese New Year celebration sponsored by our City government in cooperation with the Filipino-Chinese organizations and schools. The Festivities was held at the *de facto* Chinatown of Iloilo City -- Iznart Street.

Traffic became heavy in the afternoon of February 8 due to people gathered on the street to witness the cultural presentation and the street dancing of the participants from five schools joining in the said event. Performers were in their attractive traditional Chinese costumes, elegance and unique.

The celebration was formally opened by a ribbon cutting by the Hon. Mayor Jerry P. Treñas, who was flanked by invited guests who came all the way from other parts of the country to witness and join in this grand event. The Ilonggo's famous performer, writer and popular singer, Mr. Jose Mari Chan, also graced the affair and entertained the crowd with his heartwarming voice and songs.

There were 50 selected students of Iloilo Scholastic Academy who showcased their talents and skills in singing and dancing. ISA's presentation entitled "Lets Celebrate" projected the festive and jubilant atmosphere typical of a Chinese New Year. The four-minute action-packed performance captured the full attention of spectators that made ISAers glad and proud. The event will not be complete without the performance of the traditional dragon and lion dance that would bring luck and hope to the city. (RMJ)



Ian and Justin during the Sportsfest torch-lighting ceremony

Entrance Exam for SY 2005-06

The early childhood educational foundation greatly affects a child's future achievements. For this reason alone, parents are looking for schools that will help develop their children's mental, physical, social and psychological potentials to the fullest.

ISA, consistent with her mission of providing quality education to the youth, and gradually upgrading her academic standards, gives Scholastic Entrance Tests to students who wish to transfer to ISA starting next school year. Since January 15 this year, 25 students ranging from Grade 1 to Second Year had been admitted.

K2, elementary and high school students from more than 10 schools so far came to ISA every Saturday to take the SET. It is expected that the entrance exam will end by mid April. Presently, only a couple of slots remain to be filled in Grades 1, 2 and 3. (PSE)

Phoenix Sponsors Seminar

Effective teachers view learning to teach as a lifelong process, hence strongly motivated to continue growth as an individual and as a professional." (John Dewey)

Three ISA teachers namely, Mr. Ivy Santiago Liwa, Ms. May Ann Farillon and Ms. Anna Marie Esperida together with Mr. Peter M. Chan, the Executive Director, attended a seminar entitled: "Engaging and Transforming Teaching Strategies for Student Development". The said seminar was sponsored by Phoenix Publishing House Inc. held at the University of San Jose Recoletos, Cebu City last January 22-23, 2005.



Sir Peter, Ma'am May Ann, Anna Marie and Sir Ivy pose during their 2-day seminar in Cebu.

This teaching-enhancement training was attended by educators from various schools in Visayas and Mindanao. Unique and modern strategies of teaching English and Science as well as workshop for school administrators were introduced.

On the second day, participants toured the different landmarks of Cebu City which include the Magellan's Cross and Taoist Temple.

Today's rapidly changing world, coupled with information explosion, impels educators to possess a sense of undying quest for professional and personal growth to enable them to cope up with the ever changing trends in teaching profession.. (ISL)



Rod Kevin Aclaro proudly posed with his mentors for being the 1st runner up (boys category) in FCAA Badminton Tournament.

Editorial

March ON, ISAers!

March. As a noun it means the third month of the year. As a verb it means to move in a rhythmic pace. For our graduates it means a time of rejoicing because they are ready to face another phase of their life. A time to reap the awards that they have been working hard for six years. A time to give thanks to their parents and mentors for all the sacrifices they have done.

This year, members of the graduating classes of Grade Six and Pre-school will go up the stage to receive their diplomas on March 20. They will stand proud being the first graduates of ISA. Showing to everybody that they have done their best in academics, cultural and sports activities. To the graduating classes, strive hard! Move On! Aim High! Congratulations!



Reminiscence: Ground Breaking
January 22, 2004

ISAers' First Graduation and Recognition Day

As ISAers continue to climb the ladder of education, graduation is not the end but the commencement of new stage for the quest of knowledge. Graduation means looking forward to a more challenging and exciting future..

The Recognition and Graduation Day is the most awaited moments of parents, pupils and teachers. This is a remarkable day when the efforts of dedicated and committed ISAers are recognized and honored.

ISA's 1st Recognition and Graduation Day was held on March 20, 2005. It was also a time to reflect on the yearlong hard work, sacrifices, successes and, in a sense, failures of the ISA community. (AME)

APSA Evaluation assessment and revelation

In order to find out how close is ISA in practice to the 'right track' in reference to the quality of education it has been striving to attain, ISA Executive Director decided to avail of the services of an independent assessment body, the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment Corporation (APSA), to conduct an objective assessment test, to gauge the levels of knowledge of the ISAers from Kinder II to First year involving three subjects, i.e. , English, Math, and Science.

The test was held in the morning of February 24, 2005. It took an hour to finish the comprehensive test in K2; and about three hours for the elementary and 1st year students to finish the tests on the three subject areas. The results were sent to ISA two weeks later. The following are the summary of the test results:

K2 comprehensive test (English, Math and Science merged into one):

Description	No. of Students
Above standard	16 (70 %)
Meet standard	6 (26 %)
Progressing towards std.	1 (4 %)
Do not meet standard	0 (0 %)

Elementary Math (Grs. 1 to 6)

Above standard	31 (23 %)
Meet standard	57 (43 %)
Progressing towards std.	39 (30 %)
Do not meet standard	5 (4 %)

First Year Math

Above standard	4 (16 %)
Meet standard	14 (56 %)
Progressing towards std.	6 (24 %)
Do not meet standard	1 (4 %)

Elementary English (Grs. 1 to 6)

Above standard	45 (34 %)
Meet Standard	47 (36 %)
Progressing towards std.	37 (28 %)
Do not meet standard	3 (2 %)

First Year English

Above standard	2 (8 %)
Meet standard	11 (44 %)
Progressing towards std.	10 (40 %)
Do not meet standard	2 (8 %)

Elementary Science (Grs. 1 to 6)

Above standard	12 (9 %)
Meet standard	63 (48 %)
Progressing towards std.	45 (34 %)
Do not meet standard	12 (9 %)

First Year Science

Above standard	0 (0 %)
Meet standard	6 (24 %)
Progressing towards std.	17 (68 %)
Do not meet standard	2 (8 %)

The results greatly help the school and teachers identify areas of strengths and those that need further reinforcement. In general, the figures reveal that ISAers are relatively strong in English and Math; and need improvement in Science. Taken by level, the Preschoolers were the most prepared for the next academic level; followed by the Grades 1 to 4. Comparably, the incoming grade 3 class is excellent in English; and the incoming grade 6 is the best class when it comes to Mathematics. (OBJ)



Reminiscence: ISA Camping '04, Nov. 28-30

ISA Summer camp 2005

The warm and windy ambiance signals the coming of summer vacation. Students could not only enjoy swimming in beaches, spend more time strolling in malls, and visiting other exciting places but more so they may opt to enroll in one or more of the workshops ISA is offering this summer. ISA will launch its 2nd Summer Camp on April 11, 2005. Workshops such as Ballet, Practical Chinese Conversation, Creative, Basic, and Expository Writing, Journalism, Cartooning, Scholastic Reading & Comprehension and Voice Lesson are the hottest stuff preferred by children. These exhilarating and worthwhile undertakings will boost and hone one's adeptness in various fields.

Aside from the activities listed above, ISA is offering *ISAMath* to qualified ISAers from Grade 1 to Second Year. Members of the newly formed school sports teams, such as table tennis, badminton, swimming and track and field will also kickoff their intensive training courses this summer. (ISL)

Isaers join Poster-making contest

Joining a poster-making competition is not an easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort as well as talent.

Last February 20, our school has chosen Sunshine and me to join in "The Villa Regatta Poster Making Contest" held at Villa Regatta Beach Resort, Iloilo City. The theme was "Sailing through Progress, Peace and Unity". There were 2 categories: high school and elementary. Many schools sent their participants. The contest started at about 9 a.m. Everyone was tasked to do his poster alone with no time limit. As a neophyte, I was a little bit nervous. It was very challenging and I tried my very best to make my work beautiful and pleasant through creative thinking and imagination. It took me nearly 4 hours to finish my poster. Our finished works were displayed at Robinson's Place Iloilo for about a week for public viewing. Then the most awaited moment came: the proclamation of winners. Fortunately, I won the second place. The awarding was held last March 3 at Amigo Terrace Hotel. The effort and time I spent preparing was worth its while: I earned much experience and gained new friends.

Maria Fairie Tay (Grade 6)