

Editorial

The First Five Years

School Year 2008-2009 marks the fifth year of ISA. Given the solid foundation laid down in the past four years, we are confident that we can accomplish with flying colors the tasks assigned to us by the ISA Board of Trustees and the School Administration.

During the Recognition Ceremony of the Elementary Department on 18 March, in the presence of more than two hundred parents and more than a hundred ISAers with honors, ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, in no uncertain terms made the following forecast: that in the APSA evaluation tests administered at the end of the forthcoming school year, 95% of the ISA elementary learners *should* either attain the rating of highly proficient or proficient in Math; 92% in English and 75% in Science.

The above figures are significant, for they concretely manifest the three educational principles ISA has been upholding since its birth. First, quality education should be accessible to everybody and not only to a few 'deserving'; second, education should be dynamic and not dogmatic; third, educators should be conscious innovators rather than unconscious hostages of a given school of thought. A school not founded on the above three principles would never dare make such a forecast.

The Chinese curriculum is one area that would be subject to profound overhauling and long-lasting reform in the coming year. Rote memorization will be in direct clash with the proposed learning process that would become a common feature in all Chinese Language and Culture classes. Fun is the operating word that would characterize every aspect of the Chinese Language and Culture learning methodology.

ISA, a staunch advocate of continuous research and development, should do justice to the names of its giant predecessors, in the great tradition of Plato, Confucius, Montessori, Dewey... and above all, Jesus Christ, by blazing glaring trails upon the conclusion of its first five impressive years.

ISA Montessori Offers Greater Opportunities

ISA Montessori is a new learning experience which is an integration of the ISA pre-school curriculum and the Montessori Method of learning. The concept will be fully implemented in the preschool department starting School Year 2008-2009. Learners from Pre-nursery, Nursery, Kinder 1 and 2 will receive the kind of education that emphasizes on the hands-on experiences, this being one of the central tenets of ISA Montessori philosophy.

ISA preschool has embraced the Montessori pedagogy partly because of its profound respect of humanity, and partly because of necessity. *NGC*



Beijing 2008



Our Best Wishes to Beijing Olympic Games 2008: 1 World, 1 Dream

ISA Learners could Exceed Forecasted Figure of 430

Taking into account the 21 high school graduates plus the 40 learners who were projected to transfer out, ISA administrator had forecasted a net increase of about 25 enrollees next SY in the budget submitted to the Board in February. However, by 21 April, school record shows that 452 had either registered or paid non-refundable reservation fee of Php1000. This figure does not include the waitlisted. This is 10% more than last school year's learner population; and 80% more than that of SY 2004-05, ISA's first year. There is still a month to go before opening, enrollees could possibly exceed 460.

Since ISA limits number of learners per class, more than 20 children below age 7 had been declined admission even as early as mid April. By 21 April, slots in most levels had all been taken; the Registrar had to stop accepting reservation in the following levels: Pre-Nursery, Nursery, K1, K2, Grades 1, 4, 5, 6, 1st and 2nd Years. Qualified applicants thereafter were placed under wait list.

In spite of the advice from the Registrar that passing entrance test is no longer a gateway to ISA, at least for now, many children are still taking the entrance test. ISA can be sure of a full house in the coming school year, something that the administration would consider a very good problem.

Social Activist Teresita Ang See was ISA Commencement Speaker

Renowned Tsinoy social activist Ms. Teresita Ang See arrived in Iloilo City on 16 March upon the invitation of ISA Board. Ms. See was the guest speaker during ISA's first high school commencement exercises. She was welcomed by the Board Vice-Chairman Mr. Venido Peña at the Iloilo Airport. Also present at the airport were Board and school officials Elpidio Barcarlos, Enrique Te, Eduardo Ong, Peter M. Chan, Debbie Chan.

ISA President Mr. Vicente Tiu presided over the welcome luncheon. After the commencement ceremony, ISA Board Chairman Alfonso Tan hosted a dinner in honor of Ms. See at his residence. Among those who graced the occasion were ISA Board officers, Sun Yat Sen High School officials and friends of Mr. Tan.

APSA Reveals Elem. ISAers Proficient in Math, English

The Asian Psychological Services and Assessment test results show that among the 197 elementary ISAers who took the tests, 181 were rated highly proficient/proficient in Math, 175 in English and 142 in Science. They represent 92%, 89% and 72% of the total elementary examinees, respectively. 98% of the 42 Kinder-2 ISAers had a rating of highly proficient. High school ISAers, in average, still remain on the level of 60%.

Rec Lawn Gives Way to Mozart Grs. 5, 6 Installed LCD Projectors

It is a known fact that space or the lack of it is the bottleneck of ISA's development: no space for more rooms to accommodate children who were denied access to ISA education; no space to house sports facilities prerequisite to adequately develop the kinesthetic intelligence in every learner... This time, an addition of one section (Mozart) in Grade 3 necessitates the scrapping of the only recreation lawn. Since the addition of one section in Grade 1 two years ago, we have seen rooms and labs being partitioned. Computer Lab shrank to 2/3 of its original size. Dance Studio gave way to a classroom. Our Executive Director commented: the day is near for my office to turn into a classroom.

Next year, the Multimedia Classroom Instruction Plus (MCI⁺) will further cover both Grades 5 and 6. Like the ones installed in four high school classrooms, Grades 5, 6 classrooms will have LCDs and sound systems too. Every facilitator handling these levels should possess a laptop. Recently, 14 brand new units had been turned over to the facilitators. Of the nearly 40 facilitators, 88% are equipped with laptops. Given another year, every ISA facilitator could own a unit.

ISAthlete of the Year Grace Rebollos Won Gold in Regional Table Tennis Meet

Grace Rebollos, a member of Iloilo Table Tennis High School Girls Team, bagged the gold in the Western Visayas Regional Athletic Association Team event. The competition was held in San Jose, Antique last 15-16 March 2008.

The Iloilo Team is composed of Grace, another girl from CPU and two from Dumangas. They had won competitions in Iloilo and were chosen to compete in the regional meet. Iloilo Team is qualified to join the *Palarong Pambansa* in Palawan.

Commencement and Recognition Day

The pioneer high school class, together with the fourth batch of grade six learners, were conferred graduates last 16 March at the CAP Auditorium. With the theme "Initiate..Strive..Achieve..the ISA Dream", the ceremony was graced by the presence of Ms. Teresita Ang See as the guest speaker, and the ISA Board officers who awarded the medals and certificates to the ISA achievers.

The valedictory addresses were delivered by Fritzie Gayle Diez and Lisa Chew for the high school English and Chinese classes, respectively; while Emma Guanco and Michelle Naces spoke their words of thanks and encouragement for the Elementary English and Chinese classes, respectively. Recognition program for all high school learners who have made it to the honor list followed thereafter.

My Experience in China

Do you like traveling? I love to travel. It gives us an opportunity to learn about different cultures. So, when I was given the opportunity to go to China for a study tour, I was so happy. I had the chance to go abroad without parents.

There are 560 students that joined the tour. 60 students including 9 ISAers, are staying in Xiamen University while the rest are in Jimei and Huaqiao University. Xiamen City is very clean and beautiful. Every Saturday, we go out for a field trip.

Having this experience gave me the chance to meet new friends; and helped me improve my knowledge in Chinese. It also helped me become more independent. I enjoyed my experience in China. I am looking forward to going back next year. (Lara Hudak's email from Xiamen, dated 6 May 2008)



9 ISAers Joined China Study Tour

This summer break nine first year high school ISAers joined the eight-week China study tour organized by the Manila-based Philippine Chinese Education Research Center. ISA has been encouraging first and second year high school learners to join in this annual event since its establishment four year ago. More than 30 ISAers have so far visited China and learned Chinese language and culture through this arrangement.

Aside from the regular Chinese language classes, they could engage in wide range of cultural activities usually scheduled every afternoon, such as Chinese martial arts, calligraphy, folk dancing, sports and Chinese paper cut, among others. During weekends the organizers would arrange for their tour of major historical spots and scenery in Xiamen City and nearby municipalities. Major field trips would bring the kids to Wuyi Mountain and as far north as the world renowned Huangshan (Yellow Mountain). The study tour usually starts in the first week of April and ends in the fourth week of May.



The Chinese believe calligraphy is not simply a mode of writing; it is a philosophy, a way of life. Learning it is by no means easy, while mastering it could prove to be a lifetime endeavor. A glimpse of some original masterpieces in the land of its origin and a few moment of personally working on the unwieldy brush itself is worth the trip. Aside from calligraphy, the children learn martial arts, dancing and other art forms alternately.

The Scholars' 50th Issue

The monthly newsletter of ISA, *The Scholars*, was conceived in the month when ISA starts its operation, April 2004. Since then, it has persistently followed every step of ISA in its journey throughout the years, faithfully inscribing relevant events that had unfolded within and outside the campus, bearing witness to every episode that had brought ISA a name in the academe. Without skipping a month, without missing an issue; *The Scholars* has become an institution in itself. With its uniquely rich and reliable information, it is a force that had commanded respect.

But no matter how *The Scholars* would evolve in the future, the pace of its development depends entirely on the marching cadence of ISA. As in its maiden issue four years ago, the 50th issue today follows the same cardinal principle – of recording only the facts – that has guided all articles that found their way on its limited space. Credibility is what written at the bottom line; and this is never compromised.

Full Scholarship Grant Recipients Liza, Justine will Study in China

Upon the recommendation of ISA administration and through the sponsorship of the Manila-based Philippine Chinese Education Research Center, ISA high school pioneer graduates Liza Chew and Justine Betsy Aguirre will pursue a four-year college degree courses in Chinese Language and Education at Chongqing Normal University starting September 2008. The university will grant them full scholarship throughout their 4-year stay.

After their graduation in 2012, both will serve as Chinese Language facilitators in our campus. ISA will encourage more outstanding high school graduates in the years to come to study in prestigious Chinese universities and be part of the fast-expanding ISA Faculty after graduation.

Upgrading Mentoring Skills

Department of Education Region VI, in cooperation with the Private Education Assistance Committee (Fund for Assistance to Private Education) conducted an In-Service Training (INSET) which was purposely carried out for third year teachers all over the region last April 14-16 at Punta Villa Resort, Villa Iloilo. ISA facilitators: Mr. Rodgen Jabor (Social Studies head facilitator), Ms. Gay Belvis (Filipino), Ms. Luwela Chiefe (Chemistry) and Ms. Michelle Peñaflor (Math), attended the said three-day seminar that aimed to help teachers develop a more organized and interactive class.

The activities focused on the learning packages (LP) based on the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC), which emphasized the use of the 3 I's: Introduction, Interaction and Integration. The 3 I's were discussed as essential elements in a lesson plan. Apart from these, very useful topics such as: "The Art of Questioning," "Differentiated Learning," and "Learning with Technology" were talked about by the speakers.

This training was able to tackle the characteristics of today's learners and made use of the different learner-centered activities that can be used for effective mentoring.

ISA Enrollees Increased by 10.6%

Record in the Registrar's Office shows that as of 30 May, enrollees have reached an all time high of 447, a net increase of 43 learners from last school year's figure. 17 more than the forecasted figure of 430. In recent years where many private schools are having hard time curtailing the downward trend of their enrollment, the 10.6% increase is by any standard impressive.

Preschool yields the biggest increase, from 97 last year to this year's 118, a 22% hike. Even discounting the 10 learners enrolled in the newly opened pre-nursery class, preschool still hits the 11% mark, comparatively higher than the school's average. Had it not for the strict adherence to mentor-learner-ratio-limitations (mlrl) policy, the acceptance of nearly forty 4-to-6-year-old children who were actually denied admission, preschool learners could easily reach 31% of the total number of ISAers.

Elementary department, though in a lesser degree, experiences the same dilemma. More than ten successful transferee-examinees were rejected due to the mlrl.

Clearly, ISA's infrastructure fails to cope up with the increasing demand to access to the educational services it is offering. The disparity has to be addressed sooner lest it hampers the fulfillment of ISA's mission.

423 Enrollees in Summer Workshops & Review

ISA's 5th summer workshop opened last April 8 and ended May 9. Total enrollment in various subjects and activities has reached a record high of 370. 114 learners enrolled in various levels of Math Reinforcement classes which has the biggest number of learners among the subject groups. Followed by the preschool classes, Chinese Language classes, ISAMath classes and Reading Comprehension classes, with 65, 58, 51 and 48 enrollees, respectively. Jazz & Keyboard has 17; Science, 5; Civics, 11; and, Filipino, 1.

18 ISA incoming 4th year learners and 27 incoming graduating students from other schools enrolled in MSA College Entrance Test Review. Another 7 high school undergrads enrolled in MSA English and Math advanced tutorial classes. MSA instructors Ms. Theresa Gales, Mr. Cyril Subingsubing and Mr. Harold Iturralde handled the English, Math and Science review classes, respectively.

Exec-Dir, Math Head Attend Tagbilaran MTG Convention

ISA Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan and Math Head Facilitator Ms. Julie Herrera attended the 2008 National Convention of the Math Teachers Guild of the Philippines (MTG) held on 16-18 May at the Holy Name University in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. The convention's theme was 'Improving Access to International Math Competitions'. Prominent UP professor Josefina Fonacier was the keynote speaker. Other math professors and scholars like Mr. Glen Ong, Mr. Ridwan Saputra of Indonesia and Mr. Jonathan Glorial of WVSU-Iloilo spoke on "Math Competition and Math Education", "The Role of Challenges in Math Learning", and "Predictors of Math Skills among MTG Pupils in Iloilo", respectively.

Children are not human beings;

they are human becoming. - **Victoriano Tirol**, DepED Region 6 Director

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www.isa.edu.ph

The Monthly Newsletter of ISA

菲律賓怡朗新華學院通訊月刊

ISA Board Member Mr. Barcarlos Welcomes Six Chinese Volunteers

Upon request of the ISA Board of Trustees, Mr. Elpidio Barcarlos flew to Manila to attend a conference called by the Federation of the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the morning of 5 June. Federation officials reiterated the rules and policies governing the rights and duties of the Chinese volunteer-teachers who will work as classroom Chinese Language teachers for one year in the different regions of the Philippines. At 1:30 P.M. of the same day, Mr. Barcarlos together with other school heads drove to NAIA to welcome more than 200 Chinese volunteers who left Xiamen City, China.

This school year, ISA requested for six Chinese volunteers to handle Chinese Language lessons ranging from pre-school to high school. Among them are Mr. Zheng Changqiao and Ms. Lin Bing who had taught at ISA the previous school year. The other four are Ms. Fang Pingping, Ms. Huang Rongrong, Ms. Zhao Guojing and Ms. Tang Zifang. Except for Ms. Tang, who is a graduate of Quanzhou Early-Childhood Normal College, the rest are graduates of Jimei University.



Chinese volunteers discussed their lessons and strategy with the Executive Director at the residence of ISA Board Chairman, Mr. Alfonso Tan, on 9 June, a day before the school opening. ISA administration was pleased to know that all the 6 volunteers brought laptops with them. These computers have become indispensable tools in the ISA multimedia classrooms. In the photo (R-L): Ms. Tang Zifang, Zhao Guojing, Lin Bing, Huang Rongrong and Mr. Peter M. Chan.

The Art of Oral Interpretation

ISA believes in empowering her facilitators with knowledge and skills related to their fields. Thus, last May 21 and 22 Ms. Beulah Gerada, English head facilitator, attended a national seminar-workshop on "The Art of Oral Interpretation" at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

The seminar, organized by Arczone Inc., covered topics on oration, declamation, reader's theatre, and speech choir with speakers from the Philippine Normal University who are experts in teaching oral interpretation and also seasoned trainers. Attendees were taught the basics of each oral interpretation, given tips on how to train learners, and had a hands-on experience in actual performance and training of the different categories.

The event is part of a professional development program whose goal is to reach out to both private and public teachers in order to help them give quality education to the Filipino learners. -BG

Editorial

isa.edu: A Holistic Approach

Academic Year 2008-09 has finally kicked off on 10 June. Although summer has ended, fun and excitement continue. ISA education is dynamic, each year she has more to offer to her learners. This summer, faculty and staff made thorough preparations for another challenging school year. Through the faculty development program, facilitators attended seminars and workshops to update themselves with the latest trends and innovations related to their specialization for the improvement of their teaching strategies with the aim of making education more fun and suitable to the needs of today's learners.

Educating the young does not only mean feeding them with information from textbooks, internet websites and other media. Education has in its core the nurturing of learners with proper values. With the collaborative effort of the facilitators, the school has come up with specific rules for the learners to follow with the objective of enhancing learners' values and positive attitude. Another commendable improvement I observed is the strict implementation of the waste segregation policy. This aims to train learners to be more responsible in dealing with their environment.

Education in ISA is indeed holistic. It does not only concern with the intellect of the learners but more so with their social well being.

Classroom Management & Disciplinary Strategies

To set up the minds for another significant school year, ISA facilitators attended a Faculty Development Program with APSA consultant Mr. Rolando Remitar as the speaker.

His lecture covered the topics on Positive Learning Environment through Discipline, Crucial Discipline Components, Skills in Maintaining Discipline in the Classroom, Academic Rules and Procedures, and many other topics which are beneficial to all facilitators and learners in particular, and to the school community in general.

The said seminar paved the way to the finalization of the brewing efforts to revise the set of rules in our ISA Code of Conduct. The policies and regulations are believed to help the learning institution in reaching her goals through discipline. - FL



In its fifth year of service, ISA embarks on another phase of its journey. The battle cry 'Moral and Academic Excellence through Discipline' cannot hide the deep sense of urgency on the part of the Administration. Mr. Remitar's incisive exposition and pragmatic approach to campus and classroom discipline were timely, and immediately caught the attention of the administration and faculty. Many insightful ideas introduced by Mr. Remitar during his one-day talk were integrated in ISA's value system to form the theoretical basis of a deluge of campus activities in the coming school years.

Bonding for a Cause



ISA's faculty and staff had an outing last 6 June at Guisi Beach Resort in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. Subject head facilitators tasked to plan the whole event divided the facilitators into three teams: the Red, Yellow and Blue and had prepared many competitive team games. Games like cheer dance competition, tug-of-war in the water, shortest line, longest line and amazing race needed the cooperation and coordination of all team members. This has been part of ISA's tradition which usually takes place a week before the opening of the new school year to give the chance to the faculty and staff not only to have fun and relaxation but more so to help develop camaraderie and teamwork. To culminate the activity, some of the facilitators went on boating. CR

Parents Orientation

An Indispensable Linkage Between Home and School

Recognizing fully the crucial role played by the family in the moral, intellectual and physical development of the children, ISA administration has been actively maintaining dynamic working relationship with the parents. Communication line between home and ISA is open all the times. Though both sides are no strangers to frictions, but having the wellbeing of the children always in their hearts, nothing could stop them from finding the best solution to any disagreement.

ISA conducted a five-day parent's orientation for the grade one to fourth year parents on May 20-26. The orientation was principally conducted by ISA Executive Director with the assistance of the classroom advisers and subject facilitators. The purpose of the said orientation was primarily to inform and further enlighten the parents on different existing as well as new school policies, rules and regulations that would affect them and their children's learning process. It was also an occasion for the parents to acquaint with the new facilitators of their children. QBD



ISAer Grace Rebollos, a member of the Region 6 Table Tennis Team, helped add a silver medal to the region's coffers. Grace is the first ISAathlete to compete in the Palarong Pambansa (National Games). The games were held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan on 21-24 April.

Fairy tales are more than true, not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten. – G. K. Chesterton

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Editorial

Health is Wealth

Nutrition, according to *Encarta 2008*, is the process of absorbing nutrients from food and processing them in the body in order to keep healthy or to grow. It is a common yet important word that we often neglect.

July is the national Nutrition Month. The theme this year is “Sa Wastong Nutrisyon ni Mommy, Siguradong Healthy si Baby”. As ISA participates in the said event, ISAers are reminded once again that “health is wealth”. It maybe a cliché, so to speak, but true enough because a child cannot just go to school, for instance, without a healthy body. And indeed, the theme is appropriate for the parents play a very vital role in shaping the kids into holistic individual by giving them the nutrients they need in their everyday lives.

Therefore, when preparing meals parents should consider healthy foods to keep their kids active everyday.

ISAers Performed Chinese Dance @ Ilo Cua-Chua Family Ass'n 59th Year

Last 5 July, upon the invitation of Mr. Chua Yan-an, the President of the Jiyang Ke-Cai(Cua-Chua) Family Association Iloilo Chapter, ten ISA high school girls presented a Chinese dance drama ‘The Wooden Sandals and the Green Leaves’ at Iloilo Grand Hotel on the occasion of the association’s 59th founding anniversary. The dance drama uniquely and humorously depicted the cheerful spirit of a group of little girls playing under the rain. The ISA girls’ graceful execution was greeted with appreciative applause from the guests.



3rd Year Learners Undergo Career Test

The 3rd year learners have undergone a Career Aptitude Test last 2 July. The test was administered by the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment (APSA), headed by Mrs. Mimi Lopez, APSA coordinator in Iloilo.

This examination intends to help evaluate learners’ skills and knowledge in the major subjects such as English, Math and Science. The test assesses learners’ potential in the college courses they intend to pursue. It also reveals learners’ preferred pattern of learning using different modes in terms of processing strategies, regulation strategies, learning orientations and mental modes of knowledge.

VANGUARDS On Duty

ISA makes sure that ISAers maintain discipline and physical safety at all times. Thus, the existence of the Vanguards on daily duty during recess and lunch break. Grade 6 up to the 4th year high school learners take charge of one day in a week to serve as Vanguards of the day. Their mission is to serve and their duties are to assist the school administration and *Paglilingkod*-Facilitators in implementing school rules and policies, provide service for the learners, help maintain safety and cleanliness of the campus, and serve as models for others to emulate.

The Vanguard movement is also meant to instill the values of responsibility and discipline into the impressionable minds of the learners. This too is an opportunity to practice leadership skills especially for the class-elected leaders and assistant leaders. A measure of a sense of authority will help our learners be assertive and accountable to others.

As their chant goes “always ready to serve”, the school has high hopes for the development of trustworthy, reliable and conscientious ISAers. BGG

Values Formation Program An Integral Component of ISA- Ed

Although a non-sectarian school, ISA firmly believes that the integration of values is vital to the holistic growth of its learners. The school aims not only to enrich the knowledge and to enhance skills of the children but also to impart to them the right values in life. Knowledge and skills may not be put to good use if one is not properly guided.

Every month the school holds a series of values formation fora. Learners of each grade/year level are scheduled to meet with an invited speaker who would talk about the virtue of the month. For the month of June, the virtues of courtesy and politeness were discussed; while in July discussions focus on the virtues of cleanliness and spirituality. The values formation fora have significant implication in molding the minds of the children. It helps them develop a positive attitude and a wholesome outlook in life.

Values Formation in Action Freshmen attended Recollection

In line with the value formation program, the guidance office has arranged for a recollection for the first Year learners at Holy Rosary Retreat and Meditation Center, Arevalo last 11 July.

The recollection focused on the topic “Discovering, I am a Gift”. The first part was devoted to self-reflection and was facilitated by the speaker, Sister Fidelis. The whole process went on smoothly along the thought: Unless we change radically, we will not change everything around us. The second part was the sharing of the learners about what they can be thankful for as individuals. In the afternoon the recollection was made even more meaningful when the parents arrived. They were also given time to let the learners know how proud they are as parents.

The recollection ended with the 3 ISA mentors expressing their gratitude to the parents and learners who have helped them grow professionally and spiritually.



Close Encounter. Trixie Ledesma, an ISACHIEVERS candidate expresses her views regarding an issue raised by a learner during the Q & A portion of the grand rally on 17 July. Above photo shows a Junior learner, Gian Trimañez, asking for clarification concerning a certain project in the program of actions of the candidates. On 18 July, the voters gave their collective mandate to the following ISAers: President – Sunshine Elizabeth Do; Vice-President – Karl Francis Chan; Secretary – Helinda Marie Muleta; Assistant Secretary – Rita Niña Chua; Treasurer – Hannah Stephanie Co; Assistant Treasurer – Kevin Friedrich Chan; Auditor – Norm Vincent Jalipa; Assistant Auditor – Nesan John Muleta; PIO – Trixie Christine Shane Ledesma.

‘Serve the Community’ The Main Thrust of SC Campaign

To be a great leader, one must first have the sincerity to serve. The ISA Student Council is an avenue for learners to develop their leadership skills, commitment, and their sense of responsibility.

ISA holds student council election annually. Interested Grade 5 to 4th Year learners may file their certificate of candidacy with the ISA COMELEC which is tasked to review their credentials to ensure they are qualified to run for certain positions. The Grand Rally was scheduled on 17 July and election took place the following day.

A Fun-filled Nutrition Day

The theme of the 34th nationwide Nutrition Month celebration was “Sa Wastong Nutrisyon Ni Mommy, Siguradong Healthy Si Baby.” As part of its participation, ISA held a nutrition event in the morning of 12 July. Its objective was to educate the learners in making healthful food choices.

Facilitators marked the importance of nutrition by organizing entertaining and educational activities. A poster-making contest was held prior to the big day. Drs. Eva Ong, Suzette Labrador and Lulu Salinas conducted the medical examination while Drs. Amy Gallos and Alma Sy led the dental examination. On the day of the event, 3rd year learners gave lessons about where foods come from and how food relates to health and well-being. The 4th year learners entertained the lower graders with their fun puppet show. Aside from games, there were videos which showed incredible footage of human internal organs. The young learners enjoyed specially the musical videos. Freebies like toothpaste and chocolate drink were given out. HAD



Fortune favors the prepared mind. --- Louis Pasteur.

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ISA Board and Admin Congratulate Opening of 2008 Beijing Olympiad

Dubbed 'the last of the grand Olympics', the opening ceremony of the 29th Olympiad held in Beijing was by any standard the grandest, awesome and most unforgettable extravaganza in the history of sports. In the words of Jacques Rogge, president of International Olympic Committee: '.... the 16 glorious days which we will cherish forever. These were truly exceptional games.'

On 8 August, as a gesture of unity with the world community in wishing the complete success of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the ISA Board of Trustees and the Administration posted a whole-page greeting in the Philippine-based daily the *World News*. The message is printed on the Chinese version of the current issue.

3rd Year ISAer Trixie Champion in ABS-CBN Newscasting Match



ISA both Elementary and Secondary contestants in the 6th ABS-CBN newscasting English category, Lawrence Frankie Locsin and Trixie Christine Shane Ledesma, were among the top fifteen who were qualified to compete in the final round last 23 August 2008 held at SM City. The reputed TV company has drawn together hundreds of participants from the private and public schools far and wide to have their foretaste of how and what it is like to deliver the news right in front of the camera. Our finalists also went through workshops and trainings at the Centennial Resort and Convention Center a week before the decisive round to equip them further with the skills in news casting. In the final round, Trixie won the highest honor in the Secondary English category.

All Secondary Graduating ISAers Took UP College Admission Test

ISA policy mandates all 4th year ISAers to take the college entrance tests given by UP and Ateneo. The graduating class took the UPCAT at UP in the Visayas last August 2 and 3. UP and AdeMU being the only two Philippine universities included in the list of top 500 universities worldwide, the passing rates could somehow speak of the ongoing trend of ISA's academic standard. Our Executive Director hopes for a higher passing rate this year compared to last year's 20%. As ISA continues to search for better learning strategy and procedure, it aims to reach a 50% passing rate in another 5 years.

Editorial

English vs. Filipino

Does the world have a superior language?

We could say that there is no single superior or inferior language. Even though the medium of instruction at ISA is predominantly English, but still the school has other way in helping learners appreciate the importance and value of our national language. It us true the school has been strictly implementing the "No Speaking of Dialect Policy", but it aims to develop the communicative skills of the learners in both English and Mandarin. This policy helps to prepare ALL ISAers to be competent in their communication skills. Learners are also motivated to speak in correct intonation and correct grammar. Obviously, the policy serves a particular purpose.

As a patriotic Filipino school, ISA is not blind to the urgent issues confronting the Filipino nation. It grabs every opportunity to help its learners understand the major national events happening around us in proper perspective. Learn to appreciate once own culture and language is one of the tasks we have to assume. This month the school is celebrating Buwan ng Wika with the theme, "Wika Mo, Wikang Filipino: Mahalaga!" In this activity, our very own culture and tradition are depicted in various presentations.

Given the peculiar historical and social background of our country, the school *has to* produce well-rounded individuals who could manage to converse well not only in Filipino, but in English and Mandarin as well.

84 ISAERS PASSED MTG MATH QUALIFYING TEST

The Mathematics Trainers Guild, Philippines (MTG) is a non-stock, non-profit organization of mathematics teacher in the country, committed to promote excellence in math education and training. To achieve these goals, it has been training mathematically gifted children for international competitions. One of its major programs is the Math Challenge for Filipino Kid Training Program (MCFKTP). Its task is to recruit participants to compete in various prestigious international math competitions such as the China Primary/Junior School Math Olympiad and the American Region Mathematics League.

To grab the opportunities and provide excellent mathematics education and quality training, 112 ISAers from Grade 3 to 4th year took the qualifying exam of the 2008-09 MTG MCFKTP at West Visayas State University last 26 July. Among those who took the test, 84 passed. The figure comprises 75% of the total ISA examinees. Though this figure is an all time high, the school is aiming for a higher percentage of qualified examinees next year.

ISAers Celebrate Grandparents Day



Upon the invitation of the SM City Iloilo Management, more than 70 ISAers offered song and dance numbers to the grandparents on 31 August at SM City Iloilo. Grandparents were surprised and delighted to receive gifts and flowers from their grandchildren during the finale. The program started at 5 p.m. and end at about 5:45 p.m. SM prepared snacks for the grandparents.

FRIENDLY VISITS



A representative of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Mr. Ong Hengtiong (fourth from left), together with the team leaders of the Chinese volunteer teachers in ISA, Mr. Wei Guoqin and Mr. Yu Feng (second and third from left, respectively) visited our campus last 13 July. They came all the way from Manila to assess the living and working conditions of the Chinese volunteers specially after the onset of Typhoon Frank. Aside from observing classes of the volunteer teachers, the visitors also were accorded an audience to air their legitimate concerns on behalf of the volunteer teachers with the ISA Board members and the Executive Director.



Philippine Cultural High School Alumni Association Board members visited ISA campus on 19 July. They were warmly welcome by our Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan. Mr. Chan introduced briefly the development of ISA in the past four years. The visitors were particularly interested in the way ISA designs its Chinese curriculum. Mr. Antonio O (standing first from right), the former overhead head of the PCHS-Calooan Campus expressed his concern of the dire state of the present Philippine Chinese education. Mr. Lu Shuiya (seated first from right), the immediate past president of the PCHSAA donated to ISA two copies of his book "This Was My Life", a pictorial novel depicting the life of a first generation Chinese Filipino set in the early 20th Century. Another book he donated is a collection of his drawing sketch. Also in the photo are: Mrs. Li Cishan (seated first from left), she is the former head of PCHS-Annex and wife of Mr. Lu; and Mrs. Benita Chu Ty (seated third from left), an alumna of PCHS and widow of the late Mr. Ty Eng Liong, an outstanding Chinese Filipino Educator.

ISA Holds Scholastic Book Fair 5

To welcome this year's International Literacy Month, ISA has worked with the Scholastic International to hold a week long book fair in the campus. Scholastic has been holding book fairs in ISA every year since 2004. From its opening on 25th August until the 29th, the fair had continuously attracted quite a number of learners; many would even spend their entire recess time to browse the colorful books on display. With the help of their parents, lower graders and preschoolers had added to their personal collection lots of award winning story books published by Scholastic. The organizer donated to ISA books worth nearly P10,000 at the end of the book fair.



I think it is the duty of the comedian to find out where the line is drawn and cross it deliberately. --- **George Carlin**

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The Monthly Newsletter of ISA
菲律賓怡朗新華學院通訊月刊

Editorial

THE PRIME FACTORS

ISA exists not primarily for the purpose of producing intellectual giants; its mission is to help the young ones to become productive individuals who live their way through life with a purpose.

ISA makes sure that the parents are not left out in the learning process of their children. Parents are key factors in the ISA's educational system. ISA acknowledges the role of parents as one who exert most powerful influences on the early lives of their children. When parents are involved in their children's learning process, children become better readers and writers until such time that the learners would view their learning process not only as a necessity but as an opportunity to unleash their potentials. ISA's policy of transparency assures the constant involvement of parents.

Also, ISA acknowledges that without its mentors, the school would not be as what it is today. Trainings and seminars are being offered to the facilitators to update them with the current trends of teaching. There is always room for professional growth that encourages every facilitator to share the best of what they have and of what they know.

Parents, learners and facilitators, these three factors combined with a school system that aims only to provide what is best, work closely together to attain our objectives.

Grandparents' Day 2008



ISA celebrated Grandparent's Day on 31 August 2008 5 p.m. at SM City. Grandparents and parents of the learners, ISAers and facilitators gathered together to see the performances prepared by selected learners. Four high school girls sang "Yesterday Once More" while a violin quartet played "Yesterday". The grandparents were delighted to see the three dance numbers "Happy Girls", "The Vanguarders" and "Dancing under the Rain" prepared by the grade five to fourth year learners. Not to be left out, ISA Springale Ensemble played classic musical pieces popular in the 1950s to 1970s. The program ended with Trixie Ledesma reciting a poem dedicated to the grandparents, simultaneous with the giving of gifts to the grandparents. The program ended at 5: 45p.m. *D.S.*



Grade 4 Stacey Ravago rendered a song number "365 Wishes" with her five classmates as back-up dancers.

NICKELODEON IN TOWN ISAers Joined NTOYS Games



Last 4 September 2008, ISA elementary learners joined the Nickelodeon NTOYS Games at Westbridge School.

There were 14 challenging NTOYS team Games. Every game was designated for an appropriate grade level. As agreed, at least 2 teams will compete in a particular game, one from Westbridge and another from ISA. Nearly a hundred ISAers took part in the games.

Every game had its winners and losers but what mattered most was that ISAers and facilitators enjoyed the Nickelodeon games very much. Everyone was aiming to win not so much for the prizes but for satisfying the curiosity of how it feels to be in the trademarked Nickelodeon detention room showered with slime.

The teams composed of ISA learners won nine out of fourteen games.

Dr. Divinagracia Talked On Medical Profession

Choosing the right tertiary course directly affects a person's future. Therefore, a high school learner must be well guided in choosing the course that fits with one's own aptitude and interest as well as to the needs and the demands of the society.



Last 9 September 2008, the 3rd and 4th year learners attended an orientation on career selection conducted by Dr. Evelyn Divinagracia, a practicing pediatrician and a faculty of West Visayas State University College of Medicine. It was one of the monthly career talks focusing on major professions, such as medicine, law, and engineering. It aims to widen the view of the learners respecting the possible careers open to them, as well as to give insights on important issues concerning each career. Aside from discussing issues related to the medical profession, Dr. Divinagracia also gave advices as to how one chooses a suitable profession. After her presentation, an open forum followed to address concerns raised by the learners.



After her presentation, an open forum followed to address concerns raised by the learners.

ISA MOONFEST '08

The school playground was filled with thrilled voices of children who looked forward to bag prizes from the dice playing. Moon Festival is indeed one of the most joyous yearly festivities in ISA. During this time in China, people reap the products of their year's labor. Chinese families would sit together to admire the moon, which is round and brightest, symbolizing reunion. They eat moon cakes with gladness because of their bounteous harvest.

Here in ISA, we get together as a family, united for a common goal, and mutually sharing our happiness as we reap the output of our hard work. Rightly, the Moon Festival is one of the best times to rekindle the memories as one family. *F. L.*

ISAers Joined Shell Chess Fest

ISA chess class learners took part in the Shell Chess Tournament last 30 August 2008 at SM City. 316 competed in the Kiddies division. Out of seven rounds, First year ISAer Elijah Ong won four rounds and one draw. Grade 4 learners Danniele Anne Tay, Kloie Gil and Keann Avery Cheng won four rounds, three rounds and one round, respectively. Ira Ong, a grade three learner, won three rounds.

184 players joined in the Junior division. Out of seven rounds, fourth year learner Paul Tresico won four; his classmates Eunice Serilo and Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu won three rounds each.



4th year Clarissa Tiu (R) during the tournament

BUWAN NG WIKA '08

"We celebrate Buwan ng Wika to remind the people of the importance of our national language." That was what the committee chairman of the celebration, Mr. Michael Tamallana, said in his opening remarks.

ISA celebrated Buwan ng Wika 2008 with this year's theme "Wika mo, Wikang Filipino, Wika ng Mundo, Mahalaga!" last 29 August 2008 at ISA campus.

The celebration started with the parade that reminisced the different periods when *Fililino* started, flourished and developed into a truly national language. It started with "Panahon bago dumating ang mga Kastila" and ended with the "Panahong Makabago". After which, the contests in talumpati, deklamasyon, isahan at dalawang awit and the announcement of winners followed.



Few are those who see with their own eyes
and feel with their own heart. --- **Albert Einstein**

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ISA'S CLASSICISM

*Convergence of Contemporary and Tradition
(A celebration of Life)*

By *Glenda T. Chiva*
Panay News Writer

A fusion of two cultures and the convergence of classic and modern beats, Iloilo Scholastic Academy shaped a world of beauty and life in a one time celebration.

The West Visayas Cultural Center was filled with pure talents and ecstatic as ISA celebrated its 5th Founding Anniversary on October 11, 2008. Performances from the hearts complemented the quest of every human spirit present to unleash the secrets of music and life.

The concert 'Classicism: The Convergence of Contemporary and Tradition' showcased the culture and art of the present time linking to the affluent legacy of the past.

The live band charmed everyone with their powerful voices harmonizing with the musical instruments. Western classical and popular songs in Chinese versions gained a spot in ears of the listeners while dance presentations and dance dramas were surely hits.

Little children were so adorable as they conquered the stage and left a mark on the ISA history.

ISA learners featured the rich and colorful costumes and dances of China. Facilitators and parents were not left behind to show off their talents.

A dance drama told the story of ISA as it struggles to stand out and provides a better education to the children.

The Consul General of China in Cebu, Hon. He Shijing, could not help but be amazed of the oneness in spirits the performances showed. It was not only a show of beauty and music but of strength, hope and life.

In its five years of existence, ISA has become an academic institution that produces well-rounded learners who are culturally-attuned, with a deep spring of artistry and who live with awareness in the present but at the same time with a deep connection to the past of both the Filipino and Chinese culture and history.

The celebration was a tribute to the fortitude, sense of direction, unwavering vision and undying support of everyone helping the institution to attain its vision and mission. (Panay News, 20 October 2008, page C3)

10 Vied for Aussie Math Award

Seven out of ten ISAers who joined in the Australian Math Westpac Awards Competition held on 31 July garnered Credit Awards. They are Kevinn Friedrich Chan, Emma Rose Guanco, Jan Jemi Gerwayne Tiu, Karl Francis Chan, James Eduard Chiu, Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu and Sunshine Elizabeth Do.

The awarding ceremony was held in Iloilo Grand Hotel last 10 October.

The Australia Westpac Awards is a world-wide competition. ISA started to join the competition last year and sent one 3rd year delegate, Jan Geyenne Tiu. He garnered credit Award.

Chinese Consul General in Cebu Joins ISA 5th Founding Celebration

The Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Cebu, Hon. He Shijing, and party graced ISA's 5th Founding Anniversary celebration last 10-11 October.



ISA Community welcomes Consul General He Shijing

Hon. He and his party arrived Iloilo Airport at 9 am on 10 October. The ISA Board led by its president Mr. Vicente Tiu, along with the presidents and representatives of other civic organizations, went to the airport to welcome the Chinese guests. Thereafter, they visited ISA campus. A courtesy call on the Mayor's Office was next in line. At 2:30 p.m., the guests visited Sun Yat Sen High School. They spent half an hour in SYSHS then went to the provincial capitol for a courtesy call on Governor Niel Tupas. At 4:30 p.m., the consul general held a conference with the Chinese volunteer teachers of SYSHS and ISA at the Roadhouse. In the evening, a welcome banquet in honor of Consul General He was held in Summer House. Representatives of the Filipino-Chinese community and important government officials of the province and city of Iloilo graced the affair.



From upper-left clockwise: Governor Niel Tupas, Consul General He Shijing, City Administrator Francisco Te representing Mayor Jerry Treñas, and ISA President Vicente Tiu deliver inspirational messages during the welcome banquet on 10 October.

The culmination of the consul general's visit was the ISA's 5th Founding Anniversary Concert 'Classicism' at West Visayas State University Cultural Center. As guest of honor, the consul general gave a speech before the show began.

This has been the consul general's second visit to Iloilo and as Gov. Tupas said in his speech at the banquet, Consul General He Shijing and his party are welcome to visit Iloilo again and again anytime. BG

Grade 6 Recollection

The school has arranged a recollection as part of its values formation program for the grade 6. The grade 6 learners spent a day at Holy Rosary Retreat Center, Calumpang, last 24 September, a relieving break from their academic routine.

This time the focus was on the topic "I Can! (Looking forward to becoming a teenager)". The first part was a talk given by the speaker, Sister Fidelis. As quoted from her speech, "Positive thoughts and positive energies would result to positive outcome". The second part was a sharing of the kids about their uniqueness as an individual. The last part was the highlight with almost all the parents of the six graders present. The parents were given the time to read the letters written by their children earlier during one of the activities arranged by the speaker.

CLASSICISM in action

ISA's "Classicism: The Convergence of Contemporary and Tradition" was shown at WVSU on 11 October.



It features live band and cool dance moves arrayed with colorful Filipino and Chinese costumes and cultures, blended with western elegance and flair.



The presentations themselves showcase the versatility of the members of the ISA Community in singing, dancing, playing of musical instruments and dramatics.



These coalesce with expertise of the different directors in musicality, stage design, lighting and effects and choreography to bring to light ISA's grandeur after 5 years of thriving for virtue and excellence.



On top of everything else, ISA remains steadfast in upholding her advocacy of trustworthiness, integrity, diligence and honesty. These tenets were best exemplified through the dance drama which gives the audience a retrospective glance of ISA's beginnings and her blossoming into a respectable learning institution.

Few are those who see with their own eyes
and feel with their own heart. --- **Albert Einstein**

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Editorial

5th Foundation Day & Beyond

The celebration has finally come into its full circle.

In the past five years, ISA has time and again proven its worth in terms of providing education that aims to nurture every learner to become morally upright, intellectually competent and physically strong individual. To remember the day ISA was conceived, the school presented a concert at the West Visayas State University Cultural Center last 11 October. The production displayed the artistic talents of the learners, faculty and the parents -- another milestone that reminds us of ISA's mission in harnessing the potentials of every member of its community.

The visit of China's consul general in Cebu, Hon. He Shijing a day before the show and his presence during the presentation of Classicism heightened the foundation day fever. The consul's presence has motivated the performers to show nothing less than their best and true enough the production was one such great show.

Now that the celebration was over, the festive mood has mellowed down, it is but proper to look back at the "real stories" behind the festivities. The spectacle was after all not confined in the night of 11 October. The stories started way back to the months before the grand day -- the attempt of the learners to perfect each dance step without jeopardizing his academic duties; parents giving their all out support, be it financial or emotional; and the struggles of the facilitators to budget their time and energy to meet the demands of their work, supervision of the learners, and practices that often extended late into the night.

Just as the real stories in any great play are not seen onstage but are found in the tension and chaos behind the scene, ISAers would look back onto the 5th Foundation Day Celebration and would remember not just the onstage presentation, not even the heat and bustles at the backstage, but the months of preparations that culminated into that one great night---where all their energy and creativity were all poured out.

Kudos to everyone!

4 Nat'l Chi Dailies, 2 Regional Dailies Full Reportage of 5th ISA Day

Four Philippine national Chinese Dailies, namely the Commercial News (商報), World News (世界日報), United Daily News (聯合日報) and Philippine Chinese Daily (菲律賓華報) and two regional dailies, Panay News and the vernacular Hublas have made a comprehensive reporting on the two-day 5th founding anniversary celebration of ISA. The editorial board of The Scholars would like to acknowledge the generosity of the said dailies for permitting us to reprint in this issue the article written by the news correspondent Ms. Glenda T. Chiva who was sent by Panay News to cover the show Classicism. Likewise, the four-installment reportage in Chinese language published simultaneously in the four national dailies is also reprinted in the Chinese version of this issue.

St. John's Sophies Visit ISA

Last 18 September, ISA welcomed more than 90 Second Year students and teachers of St. John Institute from Bacolod City led by their vice-principal. The visit was part of their Iloilo-Guimaras Discovery Tour. They arrived in ISA at 2 pm. They were welcomed by the ISA Ensembles and entertained by two dance numbers. In response, the visitors showed two dance numbers and rendered two songs. The program ended at around 3 pm. The visiting students toured the campus and left at 3:30 pm. This was the second batch of St. John's sophomores that visited ISA. The first batch visited ISA last year. AP



7th Fil-Chi Amateur Athletic Federation TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION HELD

The Filipino Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation (Iloilo Chapter) held its 7th table tennis annual meet on 26-27 September at SM City Iloilo. ISA hosted this year's competition for the three participating schools, namely Ateneo de Iloilo, Sun Yet Sen High School and Iloilo Scholastic Academy. President of the Federation, Mr. Francis Sio, delivered a message during the opening ceremony of the 2-day games. FCAAF Sports Committee Chairman, Mr. Stephen Yap, the tournament director Ms. Lyn Chua and sports officials of the three schools were present during the opening rites.

There were 65 players participated this year. Double events in the elementary were added. This year, ISA topped the medal tally again. Except for the second place (high school boy) which was won by a SYSHS student, ISAers swept all the top three places in both elementary and high school boys and girls categories.

The games ended at 5 pm on 27 September. Below are the winners in the different categories: Elementary Boy Singles: 1st Joseph Joshua Te, 2nd Mark Yu, 3rd AN Han ; Elementary Girl Singles: 1st Pauline Chiu, 2nd Nicole Lim, 3rd Anne Melissa Co. Elementary Boy Doubles: 1st Joseph Joshua Te/Kevinn Friedrich Chan, 2nd Jherod Miguel Tilos/Roisie Tubar, 3rd Luke Kenneth Gurra/Mark Yu. Elementary Girl Doubles: 1st Anne Melissa Co/Marion Nicole Lim, 2nd Camille Frances Billones/Pauline Zachie Chiu. High School Boy Singles: 1st Christian Dinero, 2nd Jakieh Custodio (SYS), 3rd Gian Trimañez, JC Alba (Ateneo). High School Girl Singles: 1st Helinda Muleta, 2nd Nikke Aguirre, 3rd Krishnae Tan, Irish Orleans (Ateneo).

Lawrence Second Place in Panay News Oration Contest



Grade 6 Lawrence Frankie Locsin was second place in the inter-school oration contest (elementary category) in the 2nd Panay News Public Speaking Contest held in Robinsons Place Iloilo last 27 September. Another grade 6 ISAer, Kevinn Friedrich Chan, was fourth place in the Extemporaneous Speech competition held on the same day.

1st ISA Photo Showcase

ISA Social Studies Department launched the 1st ISA Photo Showcase with the theme "Philippines Flora and Fauna". The photo exhibit featured the outputs of the 2nd year learners as a requirement in Social Studies class under Mr. Rodgen M. Jabor.

The learners were taught the concept of photography and how to take good pictures. They were given tips on how to create pictures with good composition. Ms. Ma. Theresa G. Salazar, President of the Photo Artist League of Iloilo and Major Erna Foerster, Chairperson of PALI were the invited guests and judges.

"Dangag in Focus" of Linnie Faith Basilio won first place. The second place went to the entry "The Visayan Wary Pig" of Jean Claire Agudo. While Choi Byeung Hee's "Deer in Synch" was adjudged third place. Also included in the top five was the work of Franklin Ajayi with the title "The Hornbill", adjudged fourth place and the "Stunning Makahiya" of Ana Margarita Astilla won fifth place.

The photo shoot was done last 15 August at the Mari-it Conservation Park, Brgy. Jayubo, Lambunao during the educational tour of the said class. The park is a sanctuary of Panay endemic species supported by an international organization and was able to gain national attention when it was featured in Magandang Gabi Bayan.

The activity is part of the unique learning experience in ISA that aims to develop the artistic skills of the learners and their love for nature. It also helps viewers to be more socially aware.



Top 5 in 1st ISA Photo Showcase. From left: Linnie Faith Basilio, Jean Claire Agudo, Choi Byeung Hee, Franklin Ajayi, 2nd Year adviser and social studies head facilitator Rodgen Jabor, and Ana Margarita Astilla. Behind them are their works.

You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word:

It is victory! Victory at all costs! --- **Winston Churchill**

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19th NEDA Regional Stat Quiz



ISA team won 3rd place in the 19th NEDA Regional Statistical Quiz held in RDC Hall, National Economic Development Agency Region VI

Building, Fort San Pedro, Iloilo City last 23 October 2008. Iloilo National High School --- Special Science Class and Antique National High School were first and second, respectively.

The said competition was one of the major events in NEDA's National Statistics Month celebration with the theme "Demand-Driven Statistics: Key to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development". The competition was participated by twenty-two schools in Region VI. It comprised of elimination and final rounds. The 10 teams that earned the highest scores in the elimination joined in the final round.

ISA team was represented by senior learners, Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu, Sunshine Elizabeth Do, and Hester Joyce Co. *JTH*

Nursery Kids at Shakey's

Shakey's invited ISA Nursery learners to join their "SHAKEY'S Pizza Learning Camp" last 24 October 2008 at SM City Iloilo. They offered a package which includes: snacks, loot bags, discussion on "How to Make Pizza", and games.

The Nursery kids were very excited when they learned that they will be making their own pizza. The program started with a prayer led by Josemari Antonio Ang, followed by opening remarks by a Shakey's personnel and then a little warm up and games to get the wiggles out. After that, they had their lecture about how to keep one's body clean and some basic things to do before making pizza. Part two of the program was the Pizza-Making Activity. First, the kids washed their hands then the lecture on "How to Make Pizza" followed. After the lecture the kids started to design their own pizza. They were very careful as they put the sauce, cheese and toppings on their pizza. When they were done making their pizza, they washed their hands again while waiting for their pizza to cook. Few minutes later, the pizza together with spaghetti were served. The kids were amazed to see their own-made pizza and delightfully took a bite of it. The program ended with picture taking with Captain Shakey's and each learner received loot bag as token. The kids left the place with a smile pasted on their face. The Learning Camp was indeed one of the memorable experiences of the nursery learners. *DH*



JS Trip to Cebu & Bohol

It was a hubbub. The Juniors and the Seniors were all thrilled as they waited impatiently for the flight going to Cebu in the morning of 26 October. The Iloilo International Airport then, was jam-packed with ISAers, accompanied by their advisers along with other facilitators.

Day 1: A hospitable smile approached the travelers. They were the tourist guides who showed us the bustling city of Cebu. The first stop was in Alegre Guitars, where the finest guitars are made. The Lapu-Lapu Shrine was the next destination. It was the exact spot where the learners reminisce how our very first Filipino heroes fought against the Spanish invaders. In the afternoon, we paid homage to Santo Niño Shrine and had a stop over at Magellan's Cross. Peaceful and uplifting views met us in Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary. Day one finally ended at the pious place of Taoist Temple.



chinks that time, since they have to get up at 4 a.m. and ready themselves for the six o'clock boat trip to Bohol. A hearty breakfast met the trippers in Dumaluan Beach Resort. We had a countryside tour in the Bee Farm, where we were shown how bees magnify in number and produce one of the finest gifts of nature: Honey! We were set to drop by the site of the historical Blood Compact. Eerie ambience came into view as the excursionists rove in one of the oldest churches in the country, the Baclayon Church and museum. It was followed by a rolling tour on the spots of bolo making and nipa weaving. Tarsier watching was so remarkable since the very small primate was so meek and timid. The most exhilarating part of the trip was sightseeing in Chocolate Hills, one of Philippines' prides.



Day 3: Our group left for Cebu to visit the International Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Gothong Manufacturing Plant. The trip would never be complete, of course, without shopping. The last stop was Ayala Shopping Center. The ISAers finally had a chance to buy gifts and souvenir items before going back home. After the mall run, the exhausted travelers carried on to the port of Cebu for the departure to Iloilo. *FL*

Victorious Encounters

The 29th National Super Quiz Bee (Division Level) held last 24 October 2008 at DepED Social and Cultural Hall was once again a success due to the participation of more than 40 private and public schools in Iloilo City. In this event, ISA was able to wave its banner high in Science category in both elementary and high school. Representing ISA in the elementary Science and Health Quiz was a



grade 6 learner Lawrence Frankie Locsin. He won third place. The excitement continues till the next day in the high school category. Junior ISAer Karl Francis Chan won third place in



Secondary Science and Health Quiz. *MAF*

Sportmanship the Theme of Sports Fest '08

ISA Sports Fest '08 last 24 October held at Iloilo Sports Complex served as a breather for the learners and facilitators alike as it gave them the chance to break free from their academic responsibilities.

Held a day after the learners' second quarter examination, the said event was greeted with so much energy and enthusiasm. The elementary and secondary learners were divided into 4 teams: Yellow, Red, Green and Blue, each with their assigned leaders.

A day before the event, the excitement started to heighten as team leaders gathered their team mates to discuss and practice some strategies on how to bag the awards. A great deal of time and effort was also spent in preparation for one of the major events, the Cheers and Yells Contest.

Sports Fest '08 was opened formally by ISA executive director, Mr. Peter Chan. The lighting of the torch was done by two secondary learners, John Christian Dinero and Helinda Marie Muleta. Cheers and yells contest came first and followed by the parlor games which were participated with learners from Grades 1 to 3. At exactly 9 am, all the major sports events started ranging from track and field, relay, ball games, table tennis and chess. The four teams tried to out match each other in order to get a good over-all standing. The final tally showed Red Team was the over-all champion, followed by the Blue, Yellow and Green Teams, in that order.

Sports Fest ensures that the school does not only develop the academic prowess of its learners but also promotes sports as a major factor essential to their holistic development as it promotes the values of sportsmanship. *ACF*



Imagination is better than knowledge. Knowledge is limited.
Imagination encircles the world. --- **Thomas Edison**

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Competition Results ≠ School Standard

November is when lots of interschool competitions took place. Prominent among them is the IloPRISAA. Though only private schools in Iloilo City are involved, in a way, it bespeaks of the level the cream of the *elite* schools in our city have reached, particularly in academics. (Mark the word 'cream'). ISA Education, with its *populist* stance, has never been in perfect harmony with the principles underlying the interschool competition, being inherently *elitist* in orientation. Nonetheless, ISA never snubbed any such invitation, if possible; and as in convention, congratulated the winners. In IloPRISAA alone, ISA athletes garnered 29 sports awards, and two each in literary and academic events this year. If this means anything, it only says that our best learners can somehow compete with the best students of any private school in the city. That's all.

And, we should not attempt to go beyond this rather clumsy inference; otherwise, we are likely to arrive at an absurd conclusion. *Since our high school math team won second place in IloPRISAA, could one say that ISAers, collectively, are now the second best in math in Iloilo?* Definitely NO. We are far from it yet.

At ISA, we try to put things in their proper perspective. How then ISA perceives interschool competition? To answer this, let me quote our Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan: 'Medals won in interschool contests are mere icing on top of the cake, which is the arduous, day-to-day learning process in the campus. Focus on the cake, not on the icing.'

SPRINGALE CAROLS IN SM CITY

Last 3 December 2008, ISA Springale render Christmas carols inside the SM mall upon the invitation of SM City Iloilo. The group is composed of fifteen female high school and one grade 5 learners. Music was performed live by Eunice Marie Serillo on keyboard, Jemimah Anne Juantong on violin and Tricia Cordero on percussions.

Christmas spirit filled the place as the group started singing the well-loved Christmas tunes. A few Disney songs were also included in the repertoire performed by Rita Niña Chua and Camille Ilastron. The group performed twice; first at 5 pm and the other at 7 pm. ISA parents were also there to show their support.

Despite the short preparation and the busy schedule, the efforts of the learners were worth it as mall-goers showed their appreciation with their warm smiles and applause. Most of all, the experience was worth remembering for in their own simple ways ISAers helped spread the spirit of Christmas through their songs. **DMC**



43rd IloPRISAA Academic Bout ISA Math Teams Step Closer to Gold

ISA High School math team composed of Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu, James Eduard Chiu, and Karl Francis Chan won silver medal in the IloPRISAA math contest held in Iloilo Doctor's College on 19 November 2008. In the elementary math category Joseph Joshua Te, Kevin Friedrich Chan, and Selina Belle Trimañez won third place. These are the first two IloPRISAA academic awards ISAers have garnered since the school joined the competitions sponsored by the said association in SY 2006-2007.

Though participating and winning in the interschool competition have never been the main thrust of ISA Education, we have actively been sending learners to join in such competitive events. Since we believe they do serve certain purposes, albeit limited. As what one colleague rightly observed: 'After joining the interschool competitions, our learners become more confident, can remain focus even under most stressful circumstances.' A head facilitator admits: 'I learned new things after every such contest. And what's significance about all these is we purposely turn them into new classroom learning experiences.'

It is noteworthy that increasing number of ISAers shone in the interschool academic competitions through the years, particularly in Science, Math, and English. **RJ**

JS RELEASES SY08-09 1st ISSUE

The Junior Scholars, ISAers' Official Publication, released its first issue for the school year 2008-2009 last 14 November.

This year, *Junior Scholars* includes Tourism page where Mari-it Wildlife Conservation Park in Lambunao was featured by the sophomore learners together with Mr. Rodgen Jabor, Social Science Head Facilitator.

The Filipino Section added komiks, maikling kwento, sanaysay and tula to help ISAers improve their writing skill in Filipino, and to give importance to our Filipino language.

ISAers were informed more with trivia, riddles, and math puzzles under the Entertainment column.

These certain changes in the publication encouraged ISAers to read every detail in *The Junior Scholars* and to inspire more learners to try nurture their literary talents and develop their writing skill. **LB**

ISAers Won in Oration, Declamation

ISA second year learner Earvin Salcedo won 2nd Place in English Oration and fourth year learner Shireen Shahmardani won 3rd Place in English Declamation in the 43rd PRISAA Literary-Musical Competitions last 25-26 November 2008 at Iloilo Doctor's College Gymnasium. Over 20 students from various private schools in Iloilo competed for the top three places with the theme: 'Filipino Youth Accepting the Challenge for Change'. Earvin and Shireen proudly dedicate their victory to their alma matter, the Iloilo Scholastic Academy. **BBG**

ISA BAGS 29 Medals in PRISAA Sports

ISAers took home a total of 33 medals in the 43rd Iloilo Private Schools Athletics Association (IloPRISAA) Sports, Academic and Literary-Musical meet last 18-28 November.

In Sports, ISAers won 6 gold, 11 silver, and 12 bronze medals. Moreover, ISA Elementary Track and Field Girls team was the overall champion, while the secondary chess girls team grabbed the 1st runner up title.

IloPRISAA held its opening ceremony at Central Philippine University last 18 November, with the theme "Filipino Youth: Accepting the Challenge for Change". Below are the sports events won by the ISA athletes.

GOLD: Javelin and Discus throw elementary girls (Aiofe Fahy), High Jump and Triple Jump elementary girls (Shayne Angelie Trinidad), Table Tennis elementary boys (Kevin Friedrich Chan, Joseph Joshua Te, Jherod Miquel Tilos, and Marc Yu), Table Tennis elementary girls (Marion Nicole Lim, Pauline Zachie Chiu, Camille Frances Billones, and Anne Melissa Co).

SILVER: Discus elementary boys (Robert Hudak), High Jump and Triple Jump elementary girls (Michelle Breindy Uy), Shot Put Elementary girls (Aiofe Fahy), Long Jump elementary girls (Shayne Angelie Trinidad), 1500m Run elementary girls (Stacey Sophie Ravago), Triple Jump secondary girls (Emma Rose Guanco), Table Tennis secondary boys (Edward Calaguas, Christian Dinero, Vincent Labaclado, and Gian Trimañez), Table Tennis secondary girls (Justine Nikki Aguirre, Helinda Muleta, Krishnae Princess Tan, and Kathleen Yu), Badminton secondary girl doubles (Krisha Wee and Mary Chua), Chess secondary girls Team (Clarissa Joyce Tiu and Maria Fairie Tay)

BRONZE: Javelin and Shot Put elementary girls (Alyssa Rivero), Long Jump elementary girls (Michelle Breindy Uy), 4x100 m Relay and 4x400 m Relay elementary girls (Michelle Breindy Uy, Stacey Ravago, Shane Trinidad and Marivie Cordero), High Jump secondary girls (Emma Rose Guanco), Badminton secondary girls (Hannah Stephanie Co), Chess secondary boys Board 1 (Paul Arthur Edward Tresico), Chess elementary girls Board 1 (Anne Danielle Tay) **VO**

A master can tell you what he expects of you.

A teacher awakens your own expectations. -- **Patricia Neal**

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The Monthly Newsletter of ISA
華僑宜怡朗新華學院通訊月刊

Words from the Editor

A Toast for the New Year

The end of 2008 was filled with positivity. Learners were able to contribute in the community through their gift giving activity. It was a timely present as they waited for the advent of Christ. They didn't just let themselves enjoy in their Christmas party but created an outlet on which to share their good blessings.

As time goes by, ISA facilitators are continually motivated to enrich their learners' minds and characters. They continue to uphold their role as mentors. At the same time, they try to maintain a balance in their work by engaging in fun activities inside the school.

New Year may be a new beginning. But even before we celebrate it, we already had so much to thank for. Let us make a toast to the learners and the facilitators for their efforts in trying to achieve their ideals. Let us make a toast to welcome the New Year and the new opportunities it brings.

Here's to ISA, may the year 2009 be more productive than ever.

Honoring the Mentors

18 December 2008 was a special day for ISA Mentors as the Student Council and the Parents' Association prepared a special program to honor the work and contribution of the ISA facilitators. Flowers and various gifts from the kids filled the faculty room. The event enabled the learners to show their appreciation by showcasing dance numbers, singing, reciting poems and reading their personal messages to the facilitators who made a difference to their lives. It was a heartwarming experience as it brought tears of joy to some facilitators who were deeply touched by the learners' acts of gratitude.

A lot of games were also prepared for the mentors' enjoyment. Ms. Luwela Chiefe and Mr. Al John Cajaban were voted as Mentors of the Year by the learners in the elementary and high school levels respectively. Meanwhile, Ms. Beulah Gerada won the Facilitators' Choice Award having garnered the respect of her colleagues in the profession. The program ended memorably as the facilitators were given red balloons on which to write their hopes and wishes. Thereafter, they watched these balloons fly in the air towards the sky. A lunch with the officers of the Parents' Association and the student council took place in Emilion and surprisingly, additional gifts were lined up to be won. **HAD**



PRESCHOOLERS ON THE GO!

The Preschool Department held its Sports Fest last 28 November 2008 at the DepEd Iloilo Division Social Hall. The place was packed with excited learners and parents. Learners of each level showcased their talent in dancing inspired by the 80's. Aside from this, there was also a search for Little Mr. and Ms. Sports Fest '08. Nine learners, 5 girls and 4 boys, vied for the title.

Miquee Angelica Moises won as Little Ms. Sports Fest 2008. She also won the Best in Production and Best in Sports Attire awards. Tim Abraham So won as Little Mr. Sports Fest '08, Best in Production, Best in Talent, Best in Sports Attire and Best in Interview awards.

Games followed after the show. **MAY**



Pumped Up for the Christmas Party

The last day of the 3rd quarter exam week was filled with excitement as it also marked the Christmas celebration in all levels. On 17 December, learners got their rooms filled with gifts and foods after taking the tests. The kids were so pumped up to take part in the games and enjoy the remaining day they have with their classmates in ISA for the year 2008. There were exchanges of Christmas greetings. Varieties of foods lined up on the tables of each room which are more than enough for the learners, parents, and facilitators. Kids couldn't wait to give their gifts to their special pals. They were also delighted to open the presents in store for them. It was indeed a day for everyone to be merry after surpassing the hectic school days. And most of all, a day for the ISAers to celebrate Christmas as a joyous commemoration of peace, love and generosity with the people they encounter everyday in school. **HAD**

Springale Carols In The Night

On 20 December, ISA Springale had its house to house caroling. The group was composed of 19 learners. Music was performed live by Fiona Youn on keyboard, Jemimah Anne Juantong on violin, Tricia Cordero and Elijah Earl Ong on percussions and selected Grade 4 and 5 learners on recorder.

The group performed a selection of Christmas carols both in English and Filipino. The caroling started at 6:00 o'clock in the evening and ended at around 9:00 P.M. The carolers visited two houses at Puerto Real and one house at Ledesco Village. **DMC**

ISA Represents Iloilo in MTAP Regional



Grade 6 Kevinn Friedrich Chan got a perfect score (50/50) in the MetroBank-Department of Education-Math Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP) Math Challenge (Division level) on 8

January at Iloilo City High School. Kevinn will represent the Province and City of Iloilo in the Region 6 MTAP Math Challenge in February. This is the first time an ISAer will compete in the MTAP Regional level since ISA joined this contest four years ago. With Kevinn is his math facilitator and trainer, Ms. Michelle Peñaflor.

ISAers Geared Up for the Gift Giving

On 18 December, the Student Council together with the ISAers from grade V to 4th year geared up for the annual Gift Giving activity. This is one of the best ways for the kids to remember Christmas as a season of joy, giving, and sharing. The learners served as good hosts and hostesses as they welcomed their guests warmly. The chosen beneficiaries of this activity are the sixty families from Barangay Luna, Lapaz, Iloilo. All the learners in ISA gave donations of clothes, toys, books, bags and food items. A program was held where both parties were able to share their natural abilities in the field of music and dance. Excitement was further heightened as the residents of the said barangay enthusiastically participated in the games. Snacks were also provided afterwards. The event was truly a great opportunity for the learners to share their blessings and to provide glee to the less fortunate.

Stars of the Night

At 5 pm of 18 December, ISA facilitators and staff got together for the Christmas Party in which they were later joined by the Board of Trustees. Everybody looked forward to the program which included the games, production number of group representatives, dinner, exchange of gifts, and the giving out of door prizes.

Much anticipated was the "Stars of the Night" segment which was a new concept for this year's party. Representatives of each group ramped as models clad in their sports attire and most fashionable outfit. Members of the BOT served as judges for the contest. Filipino facilitator Gay Belvis outshone the other ladies as she was hailed the Female Star of the Night. Meanwhile, Science facilitator Vicris Oliva awed the audience and bagged the Male Star of the Night.

Dinner followed and everybody got ready to give their gifts to their secret pals. Lots of great door prizes were given afterwards. It was a fun moment for all as they bid adieu to the year 2008.



Mr. Yu Feng, head of the ISA Chinese volunteer facilitators, represents Jimei University in congratulating ISA on its 5th founding anniversary. On ISA's behalf, ISA President Mr. Vicente Tiu received the DVDs and Chinese handicraft given by the said University on 18 December 2008.

We ourselves must walk the path,

teachers merely show the way. --- **Nancy Wilson Ross**

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Grade 3 Learners' Field Trip

Grade 3 ISAers explored the beauty and splendor of some places outside Iloilo City through an educational trip last 15 January 2009 as part of their enrichment activity in Civics and Culture class. This one-day tour of the learners provides various and exciting learning experiences outside the four walls of the classroom. Their first stop was the Yamato International School in Lambunao, located on a hilly ground overlooking a wide expanse of fertile valley. After which, they visited the ruined of the Januiay church. They toured its vicinity with the help of two energetic priests assigned at the adjacent parish. The third stop was Cabatuan Plaza. They strolled along an avenue lined with statues of great Filipino heroes like Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio. Statue of MacArthur and Tomas Confesor were also in display. They pay a courtesy call on the Office of the Municipal Mayor of the said town. Then, they also enjoyed reading books in Tomas Confesor Public Library which is next to the town plaza and played at the children's park.

At around 1:30 pm, they went to the old Santa Barbara Church and toured the Centennial Museum. They enjoyed seeing many displays in the museum portraying the history of the town and the contribution of their local hero named Gen. Martin Delgado. Their last stop was Coca-Cola Bottler's Company in Ungka, Pavia. It was indeed an exciting experience that helped deepen their understanding about the lessons they learned in class.

K1 & K2 Learners Explored SEAFDEC Fish World

16 January was a very exciting day for ISA K1 and K2 kids because they had their field trip at the SEAFDEC Fish World in Tigbuan. The learners were so amazed to see different kinds of sea creatures in real life. Some of the creatures came from other countries and some are just found in the different parts of the Philippines. There were sea horses, giant lobsters and crabs, sea turtles, sea shells of different kinds, preserved fishes and a lot more. The trip ended with a film showing which explains how sea creatures and other animals evolved on earth and how they are preserved.

The children were so happy of what they have learned on that day.



Editorial

GREAT LEAP FORWARD

GUESS how ISAers fare in inter-school competition this year. Although the administration has been careful not to blow this issue up, but obviously we could see how far ISAers have reached: the medal count speaks strongly of the gradual yet steady increase in the competitive capability of the ISAers throughout the past five years.

ISA has nurtured the learners to grow and develop; to aim high and soar loftily. She equips our learners with virtues and knowledge to face any challenge they may encounter in the future. Our learners strived hard to bring honor to our school, our math wizards, specially, prove they are no inferior to the best students of any school.

This is what Iloilo Scholastic Academy wants her learners to be: to unendingly quest for excellence. Yesterday, they dreamed and searched... today they perform and soar... tomorrow they will excel and serve...

ISA Learners Shine @ MTAP Math Feud

For three consecutive years, all grade levels of ISA passed the elimination round of the MetroBank-MTAP-DepED Math challenge. This year the competition was held at Iloilo City National High School last 8 January 2009.

Six sets of 50-item tests were given to the six grade levels of the 33 public and private elementary schools in Iloilo City, and only the top 14 schools will proceed to the final rounds on February 12-13, 2009. The students who got a score of 35-39 were announced 3rd honors, 40-44 2nd honors and 45-50 first honors.

The following are the ISAers who received special awards: Kevinn Friedrich Chan (Grade 6) who got perfect score was first honor. Second honors were Lawrence Frankie Locsin (Grade 6), Joseph Joshua Te (grade 6). Third honors were Alvin Lyndon Sy (grade 2), Jian Kyle Tiampong (Grade 3), Luke Kenneth Gurea (Grade 3), Selina Belle Trimañez (Grade 5).

Secondary MTAP 2009

MetroBank - MTAP - Department of Education 2009 Math Challenge held its Secondary Level elimination rounds last 9 January 2009 at Iloilo City National High School. Thirty-three private and public schools in Iloilo Division tried to outmatch each other to be included in the top 10 to join in the final rounds in February. ISA's first to fourth year teams all made it to the top 10.

Some qualifiers were included in the honor list. Jan Jemi Gerwayne Tiu (Second Year) was third honor, Jan Jarnel Geyenne Tiu (Fourth Year), Karl Francis Chan (Third Year), James Eduard Chiu (Third Year) were second honor. Andy Kim (Third Year) was first honor and at the same time ranked third place in the overall ranking in the Third Year level.

These learners will receive their certificate of merit during the awarding ceremony on 13 February 2009, the same day when final rounds will be held.



Chinese New Year Celebration in Cebu. Upon the invitation of the Chinese Consul General He Shijing, ISA Board member Elpidio Barcarlos and Executive Director Peter M. Chan flew to Cebu to attend the Spring Festival Celebration hosted by the Chinese Consulate Office at the Cebu Convention Center last 21 January 2009. Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Treñas was invited as special guest of Hon. He. In the photo (R-L), Mr. Elpidio Barcarlos, Mrs. Lily Ho, Madam He, Mayor Treñas, Hon. He Shijing, Mr. Peter M. Chan and Mr. Charles Ho.

ISA joins Chinese New Year Celebration

The Year of the Earth Ox was welcomed with much fun fare and colorful cultural presentations by the five Chinese-Filipino schools in the city last 29 January.

Congressman Raul Gonzalez Jr. of the lone district of Iloilo labeled the celebration as the 'biggest Chinese New Year Celebration outside Metro Manila'.

The New Year celebration was set off with a foot parade from the Provincial Capitol to the Freedom Grandstand where the main event took place. The foot parade was participated by students and faculty of the five private schools in the city, namely, Iloilo Central Commercial HS, Sun Yat Sen HS, Collegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Ateneo de Iloilo - Santa Maria Catholic School, and Iloilo Scholastic Academy. It was a colorful array of differently colored *cheongsam*, the typical Chinese costume and of the rich cultural heritage of China.



ISA DANCERS, few moments before the start of the parade

The main event showcased China as a country with a rich pool of tradition and culture. The different schools performed cultural presentations depicting China's dances, beliefs, traditions, and there was also a special performance of the *Wushu* by the Philippine National Team.

To finally welcome the Year of the Earth Ox, an almost 10-minute fireworks display, sponsored by SM, held the people around the Iloilo Freedom Grandstand in awe. The fireworks display heightened the festive mood of the onlookers and in a way, symbolized a colorful and hopeful year ahead.

The Chinese New Year Celebration 2009 paved the way to forging a stronger bond between Iloilo's Filipino and Chinese communities.

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended with diligence. --- **Abigail Adams**

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THE SCHOLARS 60 Issues A Tribute to ISA's Dashing Beginning

The 60th issue of The Scholars has finally been released. And it truly is a great relief to those who have been closely involved in the publication of the monthly newsletter. Sixty months ago, ISA Administration had to make an uneasy choice: to start a school organ simultaneous with its operation in April 2004 and henceforth at a monthly interval; or, never to have one at all.

In retrospect, we know a right choice was made.

The decision was arrived at not without much reluctance. Mainly of two considerations: does ISA possess the manpower, resource and persistency enough to ensure the consistent release of the organ. And, will ISA have sufficient events and activities in the future to fill in the monthly blank sheet. Thanks to the foresight of the initiators, the initial apprehension was proven unfounded.

It is often said that the collective issues contain the unfolding of the unique beginning and the dramatic development, at least the first five years, of ISA. To a certain extent, the observation is valid. The paper has, indeed, honestly recorded and reported the various campus events. More so, a conscientious reader could discern from the seemingly incoherent monthly reportage the general educational thought and trails the school has passed through, and even the future trend ISA is heading to.

Next month, a new page of ISA is about to unfold, so is with The Scholars. Doubtless, the spectacle continues.

ISA SEIZED Another DAY

The 3rd Regional Science and Math Challenge last 30 January 2009 held at Western Visayas College of Science and Technology, Iloilo City gave another chance for ISA to join and test her capacity for excellence *vis-a-vis* the best minds of the leading schools in the region. There were ninety-four private and public elementary schools from all over region 6 participated in the said challenge. Ninety-four Grade VI pupils who are competent both in science and math battled for the trophy. The contest was divided into three main categories: easy, average and difficult. In every category, questions involving science and math were given. A contestant must have correctly answered at least 50% of the total items asked in each category to qualify to the next round. Nine contenders managed to reach the difficult category. The competition ended with Lawrence Frankie Locsin made ISA and his coaches, May Ann Farillon and Michelle Peñaflor, very proud as he earned the highest honor and triumphantly wore the Champion medal. Indeed, ISA did seize another difficult day!



EVERYBODY'S GLORY. On 8 March, Officers of the Alumni Association of Iloilo Central Commercial High School – NCR Chapter graced the Awarding Ceremony of the Outstanding Principal of the Chinese-Filipino Schools and Model Chinese Language Teachers, an annual nation-wide search sponsored by the Cebu Anonymous Philanthropist (Don Henry Sy Gaisano) Foundation, where three of ICCHS alumni were the awardees (there were 15 awardees: 2 principals and 13 teachers). The awardees are: ISA Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan, the recipient of this school year's Outstanding Chinese-Filipino School Principal Award; Ms. Annie Sy and Mrs. Yang Qiulin, recipients of the Model Chinese Language Teacher Awards and currently teaching at ICCHS and Tai Tung High School in Bacolod, respectively. That evening, upon the invitation of the President of the ICCHSAA-NCR, Mrs. Anita Sy Ong, and the directors of the said association, Mr. Chan, his wife Mrs. Debbie Chan and ISA director Mr. Elpidio Barcarlos joined the celebration held at Emerald Restaurant.

ISA HITS BULL'S EYE APSA Math Exceeds Proficiency Target

Results of the tests administered by the Asian Psychological Services Assessment show that the 95% proficiency target rate set by ISA administration in the elementary math this school year was exceeded by 2 percentage points. The 97% figure is 5 percentage points higher than last year's. Of the 197 elementary learners who took the APSA tests last school year, 92% were rated either highly proficient or proficient in math. This school year, 7 out of 220 elementary examinees did not reach the proficiency level, representing 3% of the total elementary learners.

On the other hand, the high school APSA math test results, which had never been as impressive as that of the elementary, show an encouraging improvement in terms of number of learners reaching proficiency standard. 77% of the examinees were rated either highly proficient or proficient; for the first time in five years to exceed the 70% mark, though still quite a distance from the *tolerable* 85% level.

Proficiency levels in English and Science remain the same relative to last year's performance. In English, 89% of the elementary learners hit the proficiency mark (target was 92%), in high school the figure is 90%. 73% in the elementary made it in Science (target was 75%), while high school has 57%.

Admittedly, it is not easy to have all ISAers reached the standard proficiency level in all 3 subjects. But ISA's track records convincingly tell us that if this is a dream, then it is not an impossible dream.

National Career Assessment Exam (NCAE) ISA Among Top Performing Schools

The school ranking of this school year's NCAE, administered last 27 August 2008, was released in February by the DepED, Division of Iloilo. ISA's 2nd batch of graduating learners ranks 6th in the General Scholastic Aptitude (Reading Comprehension, Verbal Ability, Math and Science) out of 57 public and private high schools in Iloilo City. Philippine Science High School ranks 1st in this year's GSP, followed by U.P. High School, Westbridge, SPED-ISEC and Ateneo de Iloilo.

The ranking of SY 2007-2008 NCAE has also been simultaneously revealed. ISA's 1st batch of graduating learners ranks 3rd in the General Scholastic Aptitude, behind Philippine Science High School and U.P. High School. It is noteworthy that among the top ten performing schools, ISA has been the youngest and the only school in operation for less than a decade.

Unlike interschool contests where only the 'best' students of the contending schools participate, NCAE enjoins all high school graduating students to take the test. NCAE results can gauge more accurately the academic achievements of a given graduating batch. It is therefore proper for administrators to give greater credence to it.

Vicente Tiu Graces Outstanding Principal Awarding ISA Exec.-Dir. Delivers Emotional Response Message

ISA President Mr. Vicente Tiu and board members Mr. Elpidio Barcarlos, Mr. Enrique Te and Mr. Earlwayne Tan flew to Manila on 8 March to witness the awarding of the outstanding Chinese-Filipino school principals and model Chinese teachers held at the Federation Auditorium. This annual search for outstanding Chinese-Filipino school educators is sponsored by the Cebu Anonymous Philanthropist (Don Henry Sy Gaisano) Foundation. With them were ISA Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan, recipient of this year's outstanding principal award, his wife Ma'am Debbie and relatives.

Upon arrival in Manila, the ISA board members went to Liong Tek Go Family Association Hall to witness the awarding of a plaque and cash by the association President, Mr. Joaquin Soliman, to Mr. Chan.

The Cebu Anonymous Outstanding Chinese-Filipino School Principals and Teachers awarding ceremony started at 3 pm. The two outstanding principal awardees, Mr. Peter M. Chan and Mr. Su Zhineng, the thirteen model teacher awardees and the nine-member board of judges were all seated in front. The occasion was attended by more than 400 school administrators, teachers, leaders of Chinese-Filipino civic organizations, relatives and friends of the awardees.

In his response message, Mr. Chan expressed his profound gratitude to all the people who have untiringly contributed to the promotion of Chinese-Filipino education in the country, to the organizers who recognize the invaluable efforts of the Chinese-Filipino educators.

