

If you are humble, nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. - **Mother Teresa**

- the 85<sup>th</sup> issue -  
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The Monthly Newsletter of ISA  
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## FCCCII Sponsors Chi-Fil Educators Forum ISA Exec-DIR Attends, Shares Experiences

ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, attended the National Chinese-Filipino Educators Forum sponsored by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. held at the Federation Conference Hall in Manila on 22 January. Board chairmen and principals from nearly a hundred Chinese-Filipino schools nationwide convened to discuss two main agenda: Chinese textbooks, and the shortage of local-born Chinese Language teachers. FCCCII President Dr. Alfonso Uyongco opened the one-day forum with insightful remarks. He was present during the entire proceedings, which started at 9 am and ended at 5 pm.

The forum commenced with the FCCCII director Mr. Li Wensheng, who is also chairman of the committee on Education, delivering a report on the current state of the Chinese Language textbooks in the Philippines. The issue was further elaborated during the open forum by some school heads. Upon the urging of Mr. Li, ISA Executive Director Mr. Chan mentioned the reasons why ISA has to rely mainly on its own materials, supplemented with the available textbooks published in the Philippines, China Mainland and Taiwan.

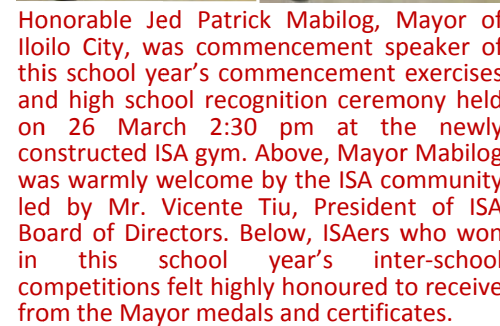
Mrs. Yang Meimei of the Chinese Education Research Center, on her part, dealt thoroughly on the issue of 'blood-production' project. In contrast to the 'blood-infusion' (hiring volunteers from China to teach Chinese in the Philippines) prevalent in the current Philippine Chinese education system. She urged all concerns to help provide impetus to the project by encouraging more high school graduates to pursue Chinese Language courses in China for four years and to teach Chinese in the Philippines.

In the afternoon, the atmosphere turned sober when the discussion touched on the perennial shortage of Chinese-Filipinos who are competent and willing to make 'personal sacrifices' by engaging in teaching profession for life. Mr. Chan suggested, parallel to the 'fund to retain Chinese-Filipino students', a fund to 'retain Chinese language teachers' may be raised at the auspices of the Federation, in lieu of the current 'medical assistance' which teachers could 'enjoy' only when they get sick or hospitalized, too morbid nobody would pray to enjoy, he asserted. Mr. Ye Fangfeng, adviser of the Federations' committee on education, commented that the two matters should be treated separately, whether or not a fund finally is raised to that effect, the prevailing 'medical assistance' should remain intact.

No resolution has been passed.

## Scholars Opens a New Chapter

Even with all the dramatic events chronicled in the 7<sup>th</sup> volume of the Scholars, we can't help but have to end it, albeit with a dashing period, for us to start a new page and move on. A new chapter has begun, indeed. This time, however, it is in cadence with the beginning of a significant chapter of ISA herself. Let's watch out for more significant events to unfold this year, one of which, presumably, is the impending inauguration of the new school building...



Honorable Jed Patrick Mabilog, Mayor of Iloilo City, was commencement speaker of this school year's commencement exercises and high school recognition ceremony held on 26 March 2:30 pm at the newly constructed ISA gym. Above, Mayor Mabilog was warmly welcome by the ISA community led by Mr. Vicente Tiu, President of ISA Board of Directors. Below, ISAers who won in this school year's inter-school competitions felt highly honoured to receive from the Mayor medals and certificates.

## Mayor Mabilog Accepted Board Invitation Was ISA 7<sup>th</sup> Commencement Speaker

The 7<sup>th</sup> Elementary and 4<sup>th</sup> High School Commencement Exercises and the High School Recognition Ceremony were held on 26 March, 2 pm at the ISA Gym of the new ISA campus. The short but solemn proceeding was graced by the presence of the Mayor of Iloilo City, Honorable Jed Patrick Mabilog. ISA President, Mr. Vicente Tiu, in his invitation letter, requested Mayor Mabilog to be the commencement speaker.

That was the first visit of the mayor to the new ISA campus. He was warmly received by the ISA directors, administration, facilitators, ISAers and their parents.

In his speech, Mayor Mabilog highly commended the achievements of the ISAers in the National Achievement Tests and the National Career Assessment Examinations, as proof of ISA's consistent stress on academic excellence, and its will to always aim for the best. He congratulated the directors and the ISA community for building an edifice even after a short span of seven years.

Mayor Mabilog also awarded the medals and certificates to those ISAers who won in the various inter-school competitions in the current school year.



ISA Preschool Head Ms. Debbie Chan  
 Model Phil. Chinese Teacher Awardee

The Cebu Philanthropist Don Henry Gaisano Foundation, in its annual search for model Philippine Chinese school teachers, has chosen Ms. Debbie Chan, ISA Preschool Head, as one of the 13 model Chinese teachers this school year. The awarding ceremony was held in the afternoon of 12 March 2011 at the Auditorium of the Federation of Filipino Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Manila.

To show their commendation, ISA directors hosted a dinner to honor the achievements of Ms. Chan at the Grand Tower on 10 March. The dinner was presided by Mr. Vicente Tiu. Officers of the ISA board, ISA Parent Associations officers, ISA Administration and department heads attended the dinner.

## ISAers Celebrate 7<sup>th</sup> Mentor's Day

ISAers celebrated Mentor's Day 4 December 2010 with the help of Learner Council Officers and Parent's Association. Mentor's Day is a regular activity at ISA since it started in 2004.

This is one way of appreciating and giving honor to the facilitator's dedication and hard work. The program started with the opening remarks of Mrs. Maria Cheryl F. Baylen, president of Parents Association.

The learners from kinder up to high school showcased their talents and gave flowers, balloons and other gifts to their facilitators to show their gratitude and love.

After the program, the ISA Faculty and Staff had a lunch at JD Emilion Hotel hosted by the ISA Learner Council and ISA Parents Association.

What culture is to a block of marble,  
education is to a human soul. - Joseph Addison

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A memento with the President. Krisha, Lara, Kathleen and Linnie (from left) of the 4<sup>th</sup> batch high school graduating class pose with ISA President, Mr. Vicente Tiu, and director, Mr. Earlwayne Tan, upon the conclusion of the commencement exercises held at the ISA Gym on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the new school building last 26 March. On behalf of the graduating batch, Krisha Wee delivered a vivacious farewell speech both in Mandarin and English.

### Batch 2011 Impressive Feat All Garnered 90+ in NCAE

All of the twenty-two Batch 2010-11 high school graduating ISAers, who took the government-administered National Career Assessment Examinations (NCAE) on 29 September 2010, scored higher than 90% (in English, Science and Math combined), earning a batch average of 97.1%, ISA's highest record ever. The individual results released by the Department of Education in March shows both Krisha Wee and Gabriel Antoine Avena garnered a score of 99+. Four scored 99%. They are Nel Yee Baraquia, Megan Bretagne Uy, Earvin John Salcedo and Jan Jemi Gerwayne Tiu. And seven scored 98%. These 13 ISAers constitute 48% of the examinees. The rest, four scored 97%, one 96%, one 95%, two 93%, and one 91%. The average of 97.1% is a small fraction short of 98%, which the Department of Education categorizes as 'Very High'. No wonder upon learning of their impressive performance, ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, cited the achievements of these learners during the flag ceremony assembly.

### Krisha is OSCI Outstanding Student

The Outstanding Students Circle of Iloilo (OSCI), whose aim is to discover Iloilo's best students based on their performances in academics and co-curricular activities, holds an annual search for 10 outstanding high school and elementary students in Iloilo. Krisha Wee was chosen as one of this year's ten outstanding students in Iloilo.

"The first elimination process is a written exam which lasts for two and a half hours and covers subjects like English, Math, Science and General Information," Krisha Wee said. This examination determines the fifteen students who get top scores and they will proceed to the final elimination process, the interview.

This year's determining event is different from the previous. Instead of having an extemporaneous-speaking type of interview, the judges decided to have like having a conversation.

"The result of the top ten outstanding students was posted on the website of OSCI, two weeks after the interview." added Krisha.

### Editorial

### A New Beginning Calls for a Clear-headed Perspective

Size does matter. Take for instance China and Singapore. Notwithstanding the quantitative figures and qualitative analyses claiming the superiority of the Singaporean model over its Chinese counterpart, empirical data invariably show it is China who calls the shots. Reason: China's sheer size.

Big, however, is not necessarily a manifestation of strength, neither is smallness a sign of weakness. The incessant dialectical transformation from small to big, and vice versa, as observed throughout natural and human history, distinctly reveals that they are two sides of the same coin. Ancient Chinese philosopher Wang Shouren succinctly defined this relation: anything ceases to advance must go the other way.

Knowing the psychology of change and progress, it is understandable for the members of the ISA community, who have moved from a campus with a size of 2300 m<sup>2</sup> to its present location five times bigger, could prophesize anything but certainty. Contrast breeds pressure, progress brings challenges.

Either big or small has its inherent advantages and downsides. The agility of a yacht is obviously not present in an oil tanker, which financial return due to the latter's economy of scale is unmatched.

It is *not* the size that matters, after all, it is in how the resources are being used, big or small.

Given the present relatively richer physical resources at our disposal, we face the challenge of maximizing the utilization of the current favorable conditions to benefit the learners, and the other stakeholders as well. It is by no means a simple task. With the better objective setup, progress does not necessarily follow. In fact, in many instances, we need to learn to cope with the new conditions, we need to learn further.

At this historical moment, ISA community should view things in their proper perspective. Trials abound along the way, no doubt. We cannot sit in complacency on our seven year laurel neither should we be haunted by the shadow of our past setbacks. Start anew, probably is the best approach we should take, in the name of education.

### Senior Jemi Tiu 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Regional Physics Contest



The 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Physics competition sponsored by the Math and Physics Society of the University of San Agustin was held on 26 January this year. Twenty four contenders from 12 high schools, among which are ISA, Iloilo Central Commercial HS, U.P., Philippine Science HS, CPU, Bacolod Tay Tung HS, joined in the said contest. The elimination round was held in the morning. Jemi Tiu, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, was one of the ten who made it to the final. Final round in the afternoon was a close fight throughout. It was when only one learner each from U.P. and PhiSci answered correctly an item that the first two places were decided. Third place was contested between Jemi and a PhiSci learner. Jemi finally claimed the honor during the clincher round.



The De La Salle University campus in Manila. ISA is the Extension Test Center of DLSU college entrance test in Panay and Guimaras this year. The DLSU college entrance test is scheduled on 24 September 2011.

### ISA is DLSU Extension Test Center

Iloilo Scholastic Academy and the De La Salle University forged an agreement for ISA to serve as one of the extension test centers of DLSU college entrance test to be held on 24 September 2011. ISA test venue will probe convenient to many Visayan high school graduating learners who plan to go to this prestigious university next year, especially those from the provinces and municipalities in Panay and Guimaras.

The negotiation between ISA and DLSU started April this year when ISA received an email from Mr. Aduane Joseph Alcantara, the Undergraduate Admission coordinator of the DLSU Admission Office, requesting ISA to help facilitate the application for entrance test and to serve as the test venue.

The matter was immediately brought to the attention of the Board of Directors, whose members unanimously signified their full support.

### Seniors, Juniors Attend Talk on Chastity

Chastity is the over-all theme of the talk entitled "Romance without Regrets" that the 4<sup>th</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year learners attended last 25 February at Colegio de San Jose Auditorium.

The said talk is just one of the series of talks Jason Evert, a multi-awarded speaker and author on chastity in the United States and founder of Pure Love Club, an international group of teens and young adults who promote the virtue of chastity, is conducting in Asia to talk to the youth, parents, and professional educators.



With Mr. Evert after his talk. The learners enjoyed the fun and exciting topics given to them by Mr. Evert most especially the never failing topic about love to teenage audience. They went home educated by the words given to them by the speaker in love, how to avoid temptations, and to be the best person they can become.



The annual camping at Anhawan Beach Resort on 17-19 February with the theme "Youth: You are the Hope". Grades 4 to 4<sup>th</sup> year ISAers joined the said activity. Camping organizers prepared various activities such as cheering competition, tent set-up, team building, cooking contest, indoor and outdoor games, spoof time contest, and the yearly Mr. & Ms. ISA Camping 2011.

A master can tell you what he expects of you.

A teacher, though, awakens your own expectation. - **Patricia Neal**

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## ISA Library goes ONLINE

Starting this month, ISA campus comes within the Britannica Learning Zone, where each member of the ISA community enjoys 24/7 access to all the resources Britannica Learning Zone has to offer, not only in school, but virtually bringing the whole library to his or her home. These include the unabridged contents of the Britannica Encyclopedia plus video animation, complete line of dictionary, world atlas, comparable facts and figures of countries around the world, tens of thousands of e-book titles under the Reference Desk; years in review, Britannica timeline, Britannica classics under Time Travel, among many other big titles, such as Explore Britannica, Learning Materials, and a lot more. The Workspace made learners' research work more user-friendly. Of the various new measures introduced this year, this is the one most beneficial to the academic endeavor of the learners.

The advent of rapid technological advancement calls for a reorientation of the whole spectrum of thinking in the academe. Admittedly, education lags far behind *vis a vis* applied science in many respect. There is the factor of financial resources, presumably, but conventional mindset is nonetheless to blame. The infusion of hi-tech innovation is utterly an unexplored realm, which can be full of excitement, challenges, and enjoyment. This is a domain no educator, particularly leaders in the academe, can afford to overlook. In consonance with the needs of the learners and mentors, it is expected of ISA to introduce further modernism in the years to come.

## Editorial I-SA Stands for I-nnovations

School year 2011-12 has kicked off on 13 June. A day that welcomes every ISAer was packed with new things. ISA has finally moved to its new campus, quite far from the urban center where noise and traffic are quite bothering. All smile as everyone sees the new building. But what awaits inside the huge campus? When we say ISA, the brand name is equated to innovation. Changes are made to make the learning processes and procedures up to date.

First, from the traditional course outlines that are distributed to the learners on the first day, the school has shifted to giving concept maps and checklists for clearer view of the flow of the lessons and learners will be able to keep track of the academic tasks missed and ought to perform.

Second, with the introduction of online library, learners will be more properly guided in using the web for research through the access code. With only a click, ISAers can have unlimited sources of information.

Third and unique feature of the school is the cyber grading system, another innovation which allows parents to monitor the performance of the child at home through accessing to the internet where scores can be seen. This gives facilitators too, an efficient and error free computation of learners' performance. Thanks to technology, almost everything is within our reach.

And finally, paper less office and trash less classrooms have become a policy. Facilitators' guides, exams for checking and other relevant information are transmitted through e-mails. On the other hand, learners are trained to manage their trash since there is no trash can inside the classroom. With this, we were able to put into action what we learn from school on how to conserve our resources and show love to Mother Nature.

ISA is turning 8 this year. Indeed, time flies. The school has been opened to new ideas in the name of quality education while remaining committed to its mission and vision.

## 14 ISAers Join Xiamen Summer Camp



Cruising the Jiuqu (Nine-curve) River that winds its way through the picturesque Wuyi Mountain National Park in northern Fujian, China. Fourteen ISAers joined the summer study camp held at Xiamen City in April to May this year. They belonged to the 7<sup>th</sup> batch of ISA learners who took part in the 8-week long study and tour package jointly organized by the Tan Yan Kee Foundation and Philippine Chinese Education Research Center. Since its operation in 2004, ISA has been active in sending learners, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years specially, to this annual event which helps polish their Mandarin.



Clockwise from upper left: Registration at dawn; ISA parents on the go; ever active ISAers in front of the new school building declaring 'I Finished ISA Fun Run'.

## ISA-LC SPEARHEADS 1<sup>ST</sup> FUN RUN

After getting the target 120 positive votes, ISA Learners Council proposed a plan to the executive director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, to hold a Fun Run on 20 March, and was immediately approved. According to an officer of the ISA-LC it started with an idea of celebrating Family Day starting off with the fun run. The campaign started in the social networking facebook and through asking fellow ISAers in school if they are going to participate. Permits were processed, flyers, invitations and solicitations were sent out to raise fund for the activity. Grades 4 to Fourth year learners were encouraged to join.

Around 5 am in the morning of 20 March, runners composed of learners, parents and guests began to gather in front of ISA new Campus at San Rafael, Mandurriao. The route covers the area from San Rafael to Boardwalk and Diversion road. The first one hundred runners to reach the finish line were given ISA T-shirt emblazoned with "I finished ISA Fun Run", while the top three received additional cash prizes. There were kiosks, photo booth and game booths, like bingos, to add fun. For ISA-LC officers who spearheaded the event, it was a major breakthrough. They received commendations for organizing such a major off-campus event solely on their own. RJ

## Offices Go Paperless

Easy access to advanced technology makes it probable to turn all offices paperless. Internet network help the school cut down on the one costliest overhead item — paper. Besides, facilitators and staff can transmit and keep all the records electronically with ease at no extra cost.

ISA campus offices are now literally paperless. Tedious facilitators guides, course outlines and all other relevant materials are checked through soft copies instead of bulky print outs. They are transmitted through e-mails.

The goal doesn't mainly focus on attaining a paperless workplace but also to take advantage of the technologies that truly help the school cut overhead cost, reduce trash and conserve spaces in order to maintain a conducive working environment for facilitators at all times. In all likeliness, this new measure is another ISA's response to the call to help save Mother Earth, even in its own little humble way. GD



**A TRIP TO HISTORY.** Grade2 learners' field trip on February 18 brought them to six places. The first was Science Centrum, followed by a visit of the ancestral house of the prolific Filipino writers in Hiligaynon, Magdalena Jalandoni. The house stands as a historical landmark near Jaro Cathedral. They then visited Cabatuan, a town thriving with history, and to the Parish Church and the golf course of Sta. Barbara, first ever in the Philippines. It was a trip that cultivates the ISAers' love of one's own cultural and artistic heritage.



**Lipat Bahay.** Though not to be likened to the exodus to the promised land, the moving out to the new ISA campus brought much excitement in the heart of every ISAer.



You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself. - Galileo Galilei

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Officers and members of Spectrum with adviser, Mr. Rodgen Jabor (center), taken in front of ISA Campus.

### Spectrum ISA Campus Photo Guild

Spectrum, ISA Photographers' Guild, with its motto "Capturing Stories of Life", is finally born. Three years ago photography was introduced as an informal aspect of Social Studies program, to eventually become one of the major courses offered in summer. It attracted increasing number of learners every year to finally culminate into a campus guild. Spectrum aims to provide a venue for children to learn photography.

The guild has its own set of officers led by Elijah Erl Ong as president, inducted on 25 May, with Mr. Rodgen Jabor, Social Studies Head Facilitator, as founding adviser. On that day, a photo exhibit was held showing the works of its members. The shots vary from close up of flora and fauna, night photography to photojournalism. One of the important tasks of the members is to document ISA's event, a good opportunity for them to further enhance their skill while recording history. They are also encouraged to participate in local and international photo competitions as a way of measuring how far they have gone in photography. This is just one of the highlights of the guild. More programs and activities are lining up. The guild is open to any ISAer who must be a photography enthusiast and has the willingness and determination to present different stories in digital images. Spectrum has also gone online through its fan page in facebook, allowing members to showcase their work and share their views to anyone worldwide. R.J.

### ISA Campus Broadcasting Launched

Finally on 21 June, the dream of having a campus broadcasting, which idea had been coined even before the transfer to the new campus, and technically made possible by utilizing the school's paging system, has come true. It was conceived primarily to provide practical and economical avenue for the learners to practice their communication skill. The broadcasting comes in two time slots, during the recess in the morning and afternoon, and anchored by two learners in each session. In the first two weeks only one learner was assigned in each session.

The first ten school days witnessed the twenty Fourth Year learners preparing their scripts individually, and be able to make their voices heard on air. They broadcasted news items (international, national, local, and school news), feature story, anecdotes, and even classical music. Eventually, each ISAer would be able to participate in the live broadcasting. This, too, aims to improve and perk up the proper intonation of the learners in speaking English. It is gathered that Chinese language broadcasting will be added starting October.

### Boldly Facing All Challenges

True to its adherence to the mission of sharpening the knowledge and skills of the learners, ISA has been regularly giving evaluation, first to condition the minds of the learners to always be prepared, second, for the mentors to gather valuable feedbacks on the degree of mastery of the lessons. Though reactions vary, it becomes a turnaround in every ISAer's perspective to practice and be prepared before going to the sanctuary, and at times, the battlefield.

Quizzes are not easy, most of the time they are tough. But as times go by, they keep doing better, and later on, most learners feel confident to face the next challenges.

Often in a learner's life, this question meets him face to face: What is the difference between school and life? Life in school and the real-life have resemblance. Though in school, learners get to meet many tests, they also acquire the necessary values to help them survive in the competitive world. People often say "It's a jungle out there" and the way to make someone withstand challenges is to prepare him to be tough ready to face the inevitable. Well, in school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson. School is life. No one can set them apart since they are not antithesis to each other. What matters now is how one puts up with the challenges.

### Parents Take Up Photography

Not to be outdone by their photo-enthusiast children, seven ISA parents requested the adviser of Spectrum, Mr. Rodgen Jabor, to handle basic photography course for six Saturday mornings. With the consent of the administration, classes started on 23 July. Each 4-hour session is equally divided into two parts: theory and practice. So far, no one missed the first two sessions. We look forward to seeing their photo output in the near future.



Parent-Learners would often explore places of interest looking for subjects to hone their skills in photography. We encourage more ISA parents to join their rank.

### DepED Officials Inspect New Campus

Mrs. Estrella Mago, supervisor from the Department of Education Regional Office, and Mrs. Melody Lacuesta, Supervisor from the Division of Iloilo City, visited ISA new campus on 27 May. They were warmly received by the ISA Executive Director. The DepEd officials inspected the facilities in the classrooms, laboratories, library and the gym of the newly constructed school building. While suggesting how to further improve the academic standard, the officials commended the effort of the administration for having gone this far given a short span of seven years. The visit also served as an ocular inspection necessary for the issuance of the transfer permit. The permit to transfer was signed by Dr. Mildred Garay, DepED Region 6 Director, two days after the visit.

### e-ID to Boost Campus' Safety

In April, ISA-BOD and Administration unanimously approved the implementation of electronic ID system (e-ID), which aims to add assurance to the safety of the ISAers. Equipped with radio message sending devise, parents receive text messages informing them of their children's daily entrance to, and exit from, the school premises. A parent or guardian fetching her child should tap her e-IDs on the devise for identification, and only when her picture and the child's picture appear on the screen that the guard would release the child to the e-ID bearer.

The system supports text messaging of school announcement to the parents individually or collectively, thereby making communication between school and home easier, faster, and economical.

The adoption of e-ID system is another definitive step taken by the school to let science and technology serve education. Survey shows a great majority of the parents are supportive of the e-ID system.



**BEST in UNIFORM.** One of the special awards during the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Youth Congress organized by the Private School Administrators Association of the Philippines (PRISAAP) was the Best in School Uniform. Featuring the uniquely attractive ISA uniform, Emma Guanaco and Hans Chavez easily stood out and were accorded with the honor, out of more than 40 contenders. Some participants commented even before the contest started, for you to win in this category is a foregone conclusion.

### Yearend Inventory of Event in pics



Future pillars of the society. The Batch 2011 graduates held a dinner at Krua Thai right after the commencement exercises on 26 March. With them were the ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, their mentors, parents and invited guests. It was a simple gathering where no one was spared to deliver an impromptu, and mostly sentimental, message.



We should not teach children the sciences  
but give them a taste for them.. - Jean Jacques Rousseau

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A daily snug scene @ lunchtime. Grades 1 and 2 children take their lunch between 10:55 and 11:35 at the canteen. The ever-watchful parents and guardians seem absent in the photos. Not quite. They are all standing in alert behind the cordon, ready to breach the line at a slightest hint. Since the opening in June, all elementary learners take their lunch by themselves, and all did well in front of the disbelieving eyes (yes, at the first few days) of their parents.

### Summer Recital

Summer vacation gives a lot of opportunities for kids to try new skills and discover new talents. Every year, ISA offers summer workshops in keyboard, guitar and drums, aside from the academic courses. The workshop started on 11 April and had its culminating activity in the morning of 25 May at the ISA gym. A selection of well loved piano pieces, Filipino folk songs and contemporary songs entertained the audience as 22 recitalists showcased their skills in playing piano, guitar, and drums. There were also performances from selected ISAers who are taking up violin lessons at the St. Matthew's Tutorial Hub. Some learners were invited to render song numbers like Francis Noel Chua who led the invocation; Ma. Allyssa Bea Duya and Jacob Lorenz Yu who awed the audience with their song numbers.

As an act of gratitude to their parents, the recitalists offered red roses to their parents while Aaron Babayen serenades them with the song "Just the way you are". The show concluded with the giving of certificates to the recitalists by Mr. Peter Chan, ISA executive director and a finale song by the recitalists entitled "We are the world".

Indeed, it was a fun way to spend summer vacation. D.C.



### ISAers Shine @ PRISAAP Congress

ISA was as one of the schools which has the most number of participants in the Regional Youth Congress of the Private Secondary School Administrators Association of the Philippines held last July 21-23 at the University of San Agustin.

Listed below are the events that ISAers were able to win during the 3-day gathering:

Kevinn Friedrich Chan was elected PIO (Panay) of PRISAAP Council for SY 2012-13.

Nicole Lao was 2nd runner-up in the Filipino Declaration, and Unna Fernandez won 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in Live to Dance.

The Search for Mr. and Ms. PRISAAP 2011 was indisputably the highlight of the whole event. After a series of contests in different categories, Emma Rose Guanco and Hans Christian Romulo Chavez both won Second Runner Up. Emma was also adjudged best in school uniform; and Hans won in three individual categories, best in production number, best in school uniform, and best in formal attire.



### Sino Language Seminar Held at ISA 65 Chi-Fil School Mentors Attended

A team composed of 3 college professors headed by Mr. Wu Lei, an official from the Jiangsu Province Overseas Chinese Office, arrived in Iloilo City on 9 August to conduct a 2-day seminar covering subjects such as child psychology, Chinese language classroom instruction, and handicraft.

The seminar was held at the ISA gym on 10-11 August. Sixty-five teachers from ISA, ICCHS, and SYSHS attended. A brief opening ceremony preceded the seminar.

The assistant dean of Nanjing Normal University College of Education, Dr. Fu Hong, talked about the "Development of Child's Psychology and Education". He presented the theoretical bases of case studies, which helped shed lights on the questions that arise out of the varied behavior of children of different ages.

The team left for Cebu City on 12 August to hold similar talks.



Grand Rally held a day prior to the election of Learners Council. Candidates presented the party platform before the Grade 4 to 4<sup>th</sup> Year learners. An open forum and cultural numbers prepared by the candidates followed thereafter.

### ISA-Learners Council Election Held Dennis Ventilacion Voted President

For the past years, the student leader organization, ISA Student Council, had initiated talent spurs, run for a cause programs, donate-a-book missions, waste management schemes, gift-giving projects, and many more. The name ISA Student Council is now officially changed into ISA Learners Council as announced by the Executive Director, Mr. Peter Chan, during the opening of the school year.

In spite of carrying a new banner with a new name, the Learners Council has never lost its advocacy of making the voices of the ISA learners be heard. With its new President, Dennis Ventilacion, the council is geared up to take new heights.

Here is the result of the Learners Council Election last 15 July: President – Dennis Ventilacion; Vice President – Kevinn Friedrich Chan; Secretary - Hans Christian Romulo Chavez; Asst. Secretary – Michelle Louise Anne Naces; Treasurer – Karl Denzel Lao; Asst. Treasurer – Jessica Valderrama; Auditor – Mary Christine Valderrama; Asst. Auditor – Unna Isabelle Fernandez; P.I.O. – Erina Mae Fahy; Sports Coordinator – Jherod Tilos; Class Representatives: Norvan Jalipa (1<sup>st</sup> Year); Alyssa Faith Rivero (2<sup>nd</sup> Year); Bianca Jade Lacson (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) and Janezza Javier (4<sup>th</sup> Year).

### UP DPSM Held Forum at ISA Gym

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year ISAers attended a forum conducted by a team of faculty members from the Division of Physical Sciences and Math, College of Arts and Sciences, U.P. in the Visayas on 16 June. They were composed of four members headed by Prof. Vicente Balinas. The talk focused on the three programs of the Division: BS Applied Mathematics, BS Science, and BS Statistics. After the power point presentation of the different degree programs, some learners asked questions regarding the career they suit to take in college. It was the best venue for the learners to be informed of the system of the premier university in the country.



Ms. He Ying and Mr. Sun Huageng from Jiangsu, China dealt with the classroom teaching methodology and Chinese arts and handicraft, respectively, at the seminar.

There is no compromise possible in distinguishing between right and wrong. There is no alternative to the truth. - **Jaime Cardinal Sin**

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The Monthly Newsletter of ISA  
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## ISA a Model Sino Language School Says PROC Overseas Chinese Office

(This is a translated article first published in Chinese on page 27 of the World News, 9 August 2011)

A news article published on the Chinese Education Web ([www.hwjyw.com](http://www.hwjyw.com)) on 31 August listed the names of the 46 schools offering Chinese language curriculum from 14 countries: the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Australia, Argentina, Germany, the Netherland, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Canada, and USA, to be conferred with the title "Chinese Education Model School" by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of China. ISA is among the 3 schools in the Philippines to be conferred with the title. Representatives of these schools will receive the plaques in Xi'an City, China on 30 October 2011.

The first batch of 55 schools from 21 countries worldwide were awarded with the same title in 2009. Four schools in the Philippines, namely, Philippine Cultural College, Chiang Kai Shek College, Sacred Heart School in Cebu, and Tay Tung High School in Bacolod, were named. From what we have gathered, the selection process went through three tedious stages: verification, authentication, and evaluation of the documents submitted to the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs, PROC.

ISA was founded by a group of civic-minded Chinese-Filipino Ilonggos in 2004. Ever since, ISA has been consistent in channeling its limited resources to foster a dynamic and sound academic program. It managed to make its presence felt by winning more than 300 awards from various inter-school competitions to date. ISA has also been a consistent top performing school based on the results in the NAT, NCAE, and APSA evaluation tests. The fact that its achievements are recognized internationally is not only a badge of honor to the ISA community, the glory belongs to the Ilonggo community as well.

### Parents' Orientation 2011

A school year's onset will never be complete without the assembly of parents. Though ISA has been doing this annually, this year's parents orientation is considered something of great importance considering the fact that ISA now has a new home, with new awaiting challenges.

Facilitators, geared up with the necessary tools in facing another demanding and rewarding school year, introduced their subjects requirements and expectations. To make the classroom learning experience well-monitored and the feed backing more efficient, facilitators prepared checklists. Vital issues were also raised such as e-ID system, online library access, and cyber grading system. FL



编者语

### Editorial A Few Words About the Award

The recognition of ISA as 'Model School' by the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs is another distinguishing milestone in the course of its commitment to temper the will of the children under its care to face every challenge that may come their way. The citation is taken as both an affirmation of ISA's dedication to its mission and a statement to spur greater effort on our part to realize ISA's vision. It is a symbol of our solemn pledge to closely participate in the nation-building through excellent education.

### A TOAST TO GOOD HEALTH



"He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything."

Last 9 July, ISA celebrated Nutrition Day 2011 for the elementary and high school department. Free medical and dental check-ups were conducted. ISA invited three physicians, Dr. Suzette Labrador, Dr. Eva Ong, and Dr. Ma. Theresa Crisanta Lim-Anayan, and three dentists, Dr. Alma Sy, Dr. Lilybeth Andaya, and Dr. Ma. Amy Gallos. The high school learners prepared puppet shows and video clips related to healthy living in order to entertain the viewers of the half-day event.

Several activities were conducted during the said event. Immunization of flu vaccines for the learners and the facilitators was administered at a minimal cost by Dr. Evelyn Divinagracia. Likewise, there was an assessment of the nutritional status of the learners through their Body Mass Index (BMI) by the team of Dr. Suzette Labrador. In addition, an evaluation of the antioxidant level was conducted through the use of a Biophotonic Scanner which was operated by E-Creations Book Station.

The celebration of the Nutrition Day, which was the first activity of ISA for this school year, was not only participated by the ISAers, parents and facilitators also took part for the success for this event. ST

### ISA celebrates Buwan ng Wika

ISA celebrates a week long Buwan ng Wika, with the theme "*Wikang Filipino: Ilaw at Lakas Tungo sa Tuwid na Landas*", last August 22-26.

The celebration started with the poster making contest on a Monday and was participated by the selected learners from all levels. Declamation and character impersonation contests were held in the following days.

This celebration reminds the ISA community, especially the learners, of the importance of Filipino language. It is a reminder that knowing a language does not only stop merely by knowing it, but by using it properly for the improvement of our future. MCB



Grade 6 Jim Gerard Villaruel took the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) Level 3; while Grade 4 Jon Christi Andrea Perez took the Level 2 in the morning of 3 September, they were among the 260 ISAers who took part in the evaluation. The test will enable ISA administration to gauge the Chinese proficiency level attained by each learner from Grade 2 to 4<sup>th</sup> Year. The test results will be used as basis for adjustment and improvement of the ISA's Chinese classroom learning. In cooperation with the Philippine Chinese Education Research Center, ISA is designated as one of the two testing centers in the Visayas, the other is Ateneo de Cebu. The lower photo shows the ISA test venue.

### ISA is HSK Test Center 260 ISAers Take the Test

HSK stands for Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì, the transliterated equivalent of 汉语水平考试, or Chinese Proficiency Test. HSK is China's only standardized test of Chinese language proficiency for non-native speakers.

The HSK test approximates the English TOEFL, and an HSK certificate is valid without any limitation in China. The test aims to be a certificate of language proficiency for higher educational and professional purposes. By 2005, over 120 countries had participated as regular host sites and the tests had been taken around 100 million times. The general count for outside China is stated as being around 1.9 million.

This year, ISA was designated as one of several hundred test centers worldwide. Aside from the 281 registered examinees from ISA (260 actually took the test) ranging from level 1 to 5, 30 ICCHS high school learners took the levels 2 and 3.

### ISA Joins Int'l Story-Telling Day Mayor Mabilog Graces the Affair

Twenty-five Grade 3 ISAers were in SM City last 19 July between 10 am to 12 noon to participate in the celebration of the International Story-Telling Day. The other group of elementary learners came from Bolilao Elementary School in Mandurriao. The superintendent of the DepED Iloilo Division, Dr. Erlinda Gencaya, delivered her opening remarks, and Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog together with a manager of SM enlivened the children with their stories.

ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, and several ISA parents were present in the celebration.



We're here to put a dent in the universe. - **Steve Jobs**

*Editorial*

'When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer'. If we are to choose something that can make us who we are in the future, it is literacy that can make us or break us. Literacy plays a vital role most especially in a modern society where we live right now that survival of fittest is very evident. It can always bring us to success if only we use it properly.

True to its objectives, ISA continues to mold learners to become better individuals, most especially when it comes to literacy, by the continued support given to them, providing them venues to hone their innate strengths and making it a point that literacy day is every day.

Classroom, as a venue, offers them instructions with the help of technology and the leeway to speak up their minds.

Moreover, venues that give them opportunity to showcase what they have learned inside the classroom are also offered. ISA provides venues like *Buwan ng Wika* and *Literary Voices of the Youth*, where learners compete in various events that can enhance their public speaking ability.

More to that, ISA was able to hold HSK Chinese Language Evaluation Test given by the Chinese government to measure what they learned in Chinese class.

Amidst the challenges for years, ISA is standing still and never deviates from its policy by maintaining academic excellence and providing competitive graduates. Graduates who are able to face the challenges in their chosen path due to the literacy skills they have learned from their alma mater.

**Seeking the Right Path to Success**

In line with the ISA values formation program, a one day recollection-seminar for the Third Year learners was held last 2 September 2011 at Holy Rosary Reflection Center hosted by Sister Fidelis. The said recollection-seminar focuses on the topic "Choosing my Success Path". During the said recollection the learners were divided in small groups and they were given task to do and share their views with each other.

The learners were also given a chance to ask their parents about certain topics concerning the latter's student life as teenagers. The recollection ended with the heart-to-heart sharing with their parents and by conveying their appreciation and imparting words of wisdom to the learners.



A group of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year learners share their life experiences and apprehension as learners to their parents and facilitators. On their part, the parents assured the learners that they are always behind them in every step they will take in their attempt to fulfill their dreams in life. The openness of the conversation has been a typical scenario in all recollections arranged by the school every year.

**ISAers Rock**



It was an action-packed weekend for the ISAers as the school had its first ever "Battle of the Bands" and "Dance Festival" last 10 September 2011. Three band from the high school department and four dance groups from grade 6 – 4<sup>th</sup> year, wowed the audience with their extraordinary skills in dancing, singing and playing different musical instruments.

The contestants rehearsed for roughly a month. Dancers need to stay late to polish their dance steps. It was a great challenge for every band member to master their parts since most of them were first timers. Despite the busy schedule and academic pressure to face every day, the groups managed to show an excellent performance.

It was an evening full of excitement. Each performer exuded enthusiasm during the performance that spontaneous cheers and applause would from time to time spring out from the bleacher.

After an hour and a half of the battle of talents, the judges finally have chosen the winners. The Junior Hooligans, a newly found 3<sup>rd</sup> year band group and the "Anonymous" dancers from 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 4<sup>th</sup> year, were respectively declared champion of the 1<sup>st</sup> ISA Battle of the Bands and Dance Festival.

The other bands were given the special awards. The "Moment of Silence" from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year was awarded the best band to perform a Filipino song; the "Copyright" from 4<sup>th</sup> year won "Best in Photo Shoot", and the "Junior Hooligans" was awarded the best band to perform an English and Chinese songs. In the dance category, the "Moves Like Swagger" from 2<sup>nd</sup> year won the "Best in Discipline" and the "Anonymous" won the "Best in Choreography" and "Best in Photo Shoot".

This production was made possible with the help and support of the parents, ISA facilitators and staff, ISA learner council and parents association, and the Spectrum headed by Mr. Rodgen Jabor.

Indeed, the production was a great success, and another memorable event that breaks fresh ground worthy of further fostering. DMC

**ISAer reaps International award**

ISA senior Dennis Ventilacion Jr. won 3<sup>rd</sup> honors in the 2011 China Junior High School Match Olympiad held in Beijing Jingshan School last August.

The 39-member Philippine team underwent a 2-part individual contest. The 1<sup>st</sup> part was a three open-ended problems to be solved in 90 minutes, and 10 short-answer problems to finish in an hour in the 2<sup>nd</sup> part.

The Philippine team won 6 2<sup>nd</sup> honors and 70 3<sup>rd</sup> honors.

Close to 1000 from several countries and territories joined the competitions.



The De la Salle University ISA Extension Test Center was the test venue for 211 seniors aspiring to enter this prestigious tertiary learning institution last 24 September 2011. Half of the examinees took the test in the morning, and the other half were scheduled in the afternoon session. Because of the thorough preparation of the ISA guidance office, no single unpleasant occurrence was reported during the entire proceeding, prompting the test administrators from DLSU to give positive appraisals on the support given to them by ISA.

The whole purpose of education is  
to turn mirrors into windows. - Sydney J. Harris

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## Editorial

### Casting a Vote of Confidence on ISA Chinese Language Education

The current issue devotes its whole page to deal on the three events affecting the Chinese Language education of ISA, all took place in the months of September and October. First is the results and a concise analysis of the HSK Chinese proficiency test of the ISAers; second, a report on Second World Chinese Education Conference held in Xi'an where ISA Executive Director was one of the 600 delegates; and third, the conferment of the "Chinese Education Model School" upon ISA by the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs of the Chinese State Council. Take for instance the HSK test results, it is viewed as a gauge of the Chinese proficiency levels of the ISAers from Grade 2 to 4<sup>th</sup> Year. The results will likely influence the course of the ISA Chinese instructions in the future.

The HSK results are especially relevant if one is to take into account the adoption of the precept 'make *zi* (Chinese characters) the foundation; reading the center of learning around which listening, speaking and writing revolve' which is formed after years of conscientious observation of the phenomenon in the field, and which has gradually gained ground and consciously put into practice by the ISA administration. Notably, this belief runs counter to the prevailing view of 'listening and speaking take the lead, followed by reading and writing' in Philippine academe.

Admittedly, the current state of Chinese Language learning in ISA, both in structure and contents, is anything but complete and comprehensive. After years of hard work, one thing is certain if ISA's Chinese Language learning is to reach the other end of the tunnel: a great deal of study and contemplation have to be made, time and efforts have to be invested.

But after all these years, our unrelenting effort had withstood the test of time. We can confidently say, success is nonetheless within our reach.



ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, and the principal of Tiong Se Academy, Mrs. Margarita Gutierrez (1<sup>st</sup> from right), posed with the director of the Cultural Bureau of the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs, Mr. Lei Zhen'gang (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at the 'Chinese Education Model School' conferment ceremony.

### ISA Received Award with 3 Ed Institutions and 4 Notable Philanthropists & Educators

The conferment on 46 schools of the title 'Chinese Education Model Schools' and the awarding of plaques to 1751 outstanding Chinese language educators, and 189 famous social personalities took place right after the opening ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Chinese Education Conference in Xi'an last 30 October. Mr. Peter M. Chan represented ISA to receive the plaque. Among the 9 Filipino individuals cited, 4 were present to receive the awards, they were Dr. Lucio Tan, Mr. Benito Gaisano, Mr. Emilio Gan, and Mr. Shen Wen. Mrs. Margarita Gutierrez, and Mr. Wu Songbin, respectively represented Tiong Se Academy, and Zamboanga Chung Hwa High School.

### ISA Executive Director Represents Board at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Chinese Edu Conference

ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, flew to Xi'an City, China on 29 October to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Chinese Education Conference organized by the PROC's Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs. With him were the four notable Chinese-Filipinos who were to receive awards for their exemplary contributions to Chinese education outside China. They are Dr. Lucio Tan, Mr. Benito Gaisano, Mr. Emilio Gan, and Mr. Shen Wen.

The 4-day conference formally opened in the morning of 30 October at the Grand Theatre, Sofitel-People's Hotel. Madam Li Haifeng, the director of the Office, delivered an opening speech. Nearly 600 delegates from 37 countries attended the opening ceremony.

The participants adopted thematic reports, group discussions, the general assembly and other forms of communication on the status of the overseas Chinese education, characteristics, problems and how to seize opportunities to promote the great development of Chinese education issues such as extensive and in-depth discussion.



The delegates visited the famous Qin Shihuang Mausoleum where one of the world's wonders, the terra-cotta warriors, were excavated (see above picture). They also visited Huaqing Hot Springs Palace built way back during the Tang Dynasty, and other famous historical spots in Xi'an City.

### Xi'an Trip Tibbits

### Plane to Xi'an Stops-over in Xiamen Lucio Tan Treats Filipino Awardees

On 29 October, the plane boarded by the Filipino awardees to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Chinese Education Conference had a stopover in Xiamen City. Famous Chinese-Filipino philanthropist Dr. Lucio Tan, one of the awardees, and his wife invited the Filipino group to a lunch at the exclusive business club on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Xiamen Commercial Bank Centre owned by Dr. Tan. While partaking of the exquisite *Minnan* delicacies, the hosts managed to make the guests felt at home by engaging them in a lively conversation on wide range of issues, particularly on Philippine Chinese language education. It was said that at the top of this 30-storey edifice, Dr. Tan once said: "From here, I keep watch of the financial and commercial hub of Xiamen, in full grasp of the business opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Indeed, only magnates the like of Lucio Tan are privileged to utter such audacious words.



ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, with Dr. Lucio Tan. Mr. Chan had the occasion to give Dr. Tan an overview of the 7-year-old ISA, which is one of the 3 Chinese-Filipino schools to be conferred with the title "Chinese Education Model School".

### HSK Chinese Proficiency Test 2/3 ISA Examinees Above 60%

The results of the HSK, or Chinese Proficiency Test, administered to 249 Grade 2 to 4<sup>th</sup> Year ISAers last September 3 to 4 were released online in October. Each learner took one assigned level, except for the selected five 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year ISAers who took both levels 4 and 5.

According to the rule, an examinee who reaches the passing rate of 60% is considered *proficient in the given level*.

The following is the summary of results:

HSK Level 1 (Listening and Reading, 200 points). **Out of 58 Grade 2 ISAers, 42 were proficient, representing 72.4% of the examinees.** Seven got 90% or above: Timothy Tiu, 195; Anna Mikaela Arlegui, 190; Johanna Alliyah Robles, Nolan Alonsabe, 185; Suh Woong Kang, Nyco Emmanuelle Elardo, Bianca Emmarie Uy, 180.

HSK Level 2 (Listening and Reading, 200 points). **Out of 73 Grade 3 and 4 ISAers, 62 were proficient, representing 85% of the examinees.** Five Grade 4 ISAers got 90% or above: Jennifer Chankingwai, 189; Erika Denise Te, 187; Jon Christi Perez, Shayla Iyasa Sy, 184; Chenoa Bethany Ongyaco, 182.

HSK Level 3 (Listening, Reading, and Writing, 300 points). **Out of 73 Grade 5 and 6 ISAers, 20 were proficient, representing 23% of the examinees.** Four Grade 5 learners got 75% or above: Alvin Lyndon Sy, 255; Shana Tiffany Tan, 241; John Caleb Barlin, 229; Dorothy Kirsten Tiu, 225. Two Grade 6 learners rated 75% or above: Quennie Ajayi, 237; Jason Chankingwai, 236.

HSK Level 3 (Listening, Reading, and Writing, 300 points). **Out of 33 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Year (section B) learners, 29 were proficient, representing 87.8% of the examinees.** Four in 1<sup>st</sup> Year got 75% or above: Marion Nicole Lim, 259; Camille Frances Billones, 240; Nicole Casey Lao, 236; Patricia Tiu, 228. Grade 5 learners. Ten in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year got the rating 75% or above: Marbie Arojado, Dionysius Valeen Chiu, 280; Roy Jordan Ahhi, 254; Joshua Ty, 250; Jemimah Juantong, 245; Selina Trimañez, 241; Alyssa Faith Rivero, 237; Bryan Yee, 236; Paul Buñi, Corinne Casio, 225. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year (B): Joseph Harrison Tiu, 247; Jason Ty, 239; Mark Yu, 225. 4<sup>th</sup> Year (B): Mary Elizabeth Chua, 259; Kim Colleen Chan, 258.

HSK Level 4 (Listening, Reading, and Writing, 300 points). **Out of 12 4<sup>th</sup> Year (section A) learners, 9 were proficient, representing 75% of the examinees.** Three 3<sup>rd</sup> Year (A) learners got a score higher than 200: Irene Grace Tiu, 241; Bena Lagunda, Kevinn Friedrich Chan, 223. Two 4<sup>th</sup> Year (A) learners got higher than 200: Michelle Naces, 208, Abigail Juantong, 205.

HSK Level 5 (Listening, Reading, and Writing, 300 points). **Out of 5 selected learners, 2 were proficient:** Irene Grace Tiu and Emma Rose Guanco, 4<sup>th</sup> Year.

The results of the HSK tests have greatly cleared up many speculations on the curriculum and strategy adopted by ISA. To a great extent, they affirm the scheme being implemented in all academic levels as fundamentally feasible and effective. Furthermore, the results show that the listening skill of the learners is not inferior to that of their reading comprehension, a significant inference quite contrary to our initial presumption. Would that mean the gulf between *reading* and *listening and speaking* is not that hard to hurdle? This matter is crucial to ISA Chinese curriculum.

The critical factor is not the class size, but rather the nature of the teaching as it affects learning. - **C. B. Neblette**

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The Convention of the Association of the Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools held on October 25-26 was co-hosted by ISA. 106 delegates from 11 member-schools attended the said convention. Photo taken after the opening ceremony.

## Visayas Chi-Fil Schools Convened 106 Reps from 11 Schools Attended

Held from October 25-26, the 2011 Philippine Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools Convention was officially opened in the morning of 25 October at the ISA gymnasium. The said convention was jointly hosted by the Philippine Chinese Education Research Center, the Association of the Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools and ISA.

One hundred six school administrators, department heads, and faculty from eleven Visayan Chinese-Filipino schools were present during the two-day convention. These schools are Iloilo Central Commercial High School, Iloilo Sun Yat Sen High School, Iloilo Scholastic Academy, Cebu Eastern College, Ateneo de Cebu – Sacred Heart School, Cebu Bethany Christian School, Cebu Cherish School, Cebu Tongxin School, Bacolod Tay Tung High School, Bacolod St. John High School, Dumaguete Holy Cross High school. The president and the vice-president of the Philippine Chinese Education Research Center (PCERC), Mr. Emilio Gan and Mr. Huang Duanming, came all the way from Manila. A representative from the Cultural Department of the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs, Ms. Wang Qin, and two professors from the Chinese Cultural College of Guangzhuo Jinan University, Dr. Zong Shihai and Dr. Ma Xinqin were also present during the opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony started at 8 am. The president of the Association of the Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools, Mr. Peter M. Chan, delivered his opening message. He first expressed his appreciation of the full support given by the ISA Board of Directors. He said: "A glimpse at the path we traversed in the past two years, gives me a mixed feeling. But what is important is that we persist in raising high the banner of Chinese education and continue to move forward notwithstanding the innumerable difficulties."

On his part, the president of the PCERC, Mr. Emilio Gan, highly commended the achievements made by the association since its inception eight years ago. He regarded the citation of the Ateneo de Cebu, Bacolod Tai Tung High School and Iloilo Scholastic Academy as Model Chinese Education Schools by the Office of the Overseas Chinese of PROC as 'very significant'. He also urged for a closer working relations among the Visayan Chinese Filipino schools.

The brief and solemn opening ceremony was ended with a group picture-taking. A forum on 'Chinese Ancient Concept of Harmony between Heaven and Man' conducted by Professor Ma Xinqin, a faculty from Guangzhou Jinan University, immediately followed.



ISA President Mr. Vicente Tiu (left) hosted a banquet welcoming all the participants to the 2011 Philippine Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools Convention.

## ISA President Hosts Welcome Banquet In Honor of Visayan Chi - Fil Educators

In the evening of 24 October, ISA President, Mr. Vicente Tiu, hosted a banquet welcoming all the participants to the 2011 Philippine Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools Convention at the ISA gymnasium. ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, gave a welcome remark on behalf of Mr. Vicente Tiu. In his speech, the vice president of the PCERC, Mr. Huang Duanming, reiterates his organization's unconditional support to all the projects and activities of the Visayan association. The learners of ISA, ICCHS, and SYSHS were invited to perform cultural numbers during the banquet.



Mr. Huang Duanming

Six months prior to the convention, Mr. Vicente Tiu has pledged to donate one hundred thousand pesos to the Visayas Chinese Schools Association upon knowing that the association is hard up with funds. The PCERC also has given the same amount to the association to help defray the expenses related to the holding of the convention. These financial assistance were crucial in the fulfillment of every task assigned to the organizers, and in the success of the 2011 convention.



One of the ISA Bands, Chromatix, performed at the welcome banquet. Other learners from ISA, ICCHS and SYSHS also presented cultural numbers.

## Combinative Chinese Theory Put to Test Mandurriao NHS Faculty Learn Chinese

Accepting the invitation of ISA Executive Director, principal of the Mandurriao National high School Dr. Azucena Falales, together with her 25 faculty members came to ISA on 26 October to attend a Chinese demo lesson taught based on the 'combinative Chinese' theory developed by Professor Lü Bisong, a famous Chinese language scholar. The 1-hour demo lesson was one of the major activities set forth in the itinerary of the convention.

These 0-level Chinese learners were introduced to Chinese characters having the most basic strokes: 一, 二, 三, 十, 八, 人. The process was keenly observed by the curious participants of the convention on how the learners learn the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing using this novel theory.

Prior to the demo lesson, Ms. Hao Haiting of PCERC introduced to the participants some basic concepts of the 'combinative Chinese' theory.



Ms. Wang Juan, a disciple of Prof. Lü Bisong, patiently guiding the learners to read aloud and write down the basic strokes and characters she has just introduced.

## ISAers Seize 24 Medals at PRISAA

The 46<sup>th</sup> Private Schools Athletic Association Meet was held from 16 to 25 of November. ISA learners won 8 gold, 11 silver, and 5 bronze medals in various cultural, musical and sports events.

As expected, both elementary boys and girls table tennis teams won the championship titles. The fifth consecutive titles won by both teams.

The championship title of the High school badminton girl singles was successfully defended by ISA fourth year learner Mary Elizabeth Chua after rounds of fierce battles.

In the field event, the elementary boys Kent Rouie Alve and Joseph Angelo Pabalinas won first place in High Jump and Shot Put, respectively.

Grade 5 Noel Francis Chua grabbed the highest title in Vocal Solo, musical category.

The 11 silver medals came from the following events (Elementary): Jea Silver Bulls Amper and Kamila Gay Lao in Badminton doubles; Kent Alve in Long Jump; Joseph Pabalinas in Shot Put; Ma. Alea Casorla in High Jump; Hannah Labrador in Triple Jump; Steffi Lao in 1500M Run; Anna Dominique Trimanez in Shot Put and Discus Throw; and Team 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up in Chess. (High School): Christian Cabangbang in 100M Dash and 200M Dash. (See more in this article)

Below are the bronze medalists: High School Girl Table Tennis Team; High School Badminton Doubles, Nesan Muleta and Roy Ahhi; Elem Track and Field Team; Caleb Barlin in elementary Freestyle; Nesan Muleta and Unna Fernandez in Dance Sports (Standard).

In the Integrated meet on 10-16 December, Mary Chua brought home 1 gold in the Badminton Mixed, 1 silver in girl singles, and 1 silver in the team event. Grade 6 Ruisse Tubar also brought home 1 silver in the Table Tennis individual event.

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. - **H. G. Wells**

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Mayor Mabilog and Assistant Director Brown posed with the officers of the ISA Board of Directors after the unveiling ceremony. The Mayor and the Assistant Director giving their messages.

### Mayor Mabilog, Dir. Brown Witness Unveiling of Model School Plaque

On 2 December 2012, 4:30 pm, the unveiling ceremony of the 'Chinese Education Model School' plaque awarded by the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs of the PR China to ISA was held at the entrance lobby of the school building. Hon. Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog, Asst. Regional Director Corazon Brown of DepED, presidents and heads of various civic organizations, Chinese-Filipino schools and guests joined the ISA community to witness the ceremony.

ISA executive director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, welcomed the guests on behalf of the ISA president, Mr. Vicente Tiu. This was followed by the testimonials: first from the president of the ISA Learners Council, Dennis Ventilacion. Representing the facilitators, Mr. Rodgen Jabor recounted his eight-year educational career at ISA. Mrs. Cheryl Baylen, president of ISA Parents Association, spoke on behalf of the parents; Eunice Serilo, now a third year mass com student at UP-Visayas, talked about her ISA school days where she recalled her struggle to meet the daily challenges. The last to give her testimony was the executive secretary of ISA Board of Directors, Mrs. Vina Jalipa. She expressed her gratitude to the ISA parents, and the many friends who had believed in the ideals ISA has stood for.

In their messages, Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog and Dr. Corazon Brown highly commended ISA administration and faculty for attaining such a great feat in a short span of 8 years. Dr. Brown observed that her skepticism of finding a young school to attain such a remarkable achievement was appeased after hearing the testimonials. She said, with ISA's impressive track record, DepED could be spared of the trouble to supervise another private school.

A cocktail reception was held at the gym after the ceremony. ISAers performed cultural numbers to entertain the guests. The affair ended at 5:30 pm.

### 50% Graduating ISAers Passed U.P. and Ateneo Entrance Tests

"We want to achieve 50% passing rate in U.P. and Ateneo college entrance tests in the next couple of years. And try our best to attain 75% passing rate before ISA turns 15." Upon hearing these words, which has almost become a refrain, from no less than the executive director, I could not help but wonder on the probability of attaining this seemingly unrealistic goal. It is a known fact that aside from limiting the number of learners to a maximum of 30 per class, ISA does not have any restricting policy on who can study here. Unless a child is found convincingly 'unfit' for the intended academic level, anyone may be accepted to study at ISA. As of now, the gap between the 'top' learners and the 'slow' ones is still considerably wide, a strategy to improve the learning ability of the latter to narrow down the gap is still to be set out. The '75% passing rate' is simply beyond my comprehension. Well, even Mr. Chan is fast to admit, "It is not a small challenge."

However, this year's 20 high school graduating ISAers seem determined to prove that nothing is impossible in this world. Among them 10 were able to pass the U.P. college admission test (UPCAT) or Ateneo college entrance test (ACET). Among them, 5 passed both tests; 'Predating' the realization of 50% target. Faced with the impressive turnout these ISAers managed to demonstrate in the entrance test, even Mr. Chan could not hide his 'disbelief'.

The following are the ISAers who passed the ACET: Kim Colleen Chan, Amie Noelle Cuenca, Emma Rose Guanco, Abigail Jeanne Juantong, Michelle Louise Anne Naces, Elijah Erl Ong, Eun Ho Justin Park, and Dennis Ventilacion.

The 7 ISAers who passed UPCAT are: Anna Mikaela Arlegui, Kim Colleen Chan, Amie Noelle Cuenca, Emma Rose Guanco, Michelle Louise Anne Naces, Elijah Erl Ong, and Mary Christine Valderrama.

Furthermore, of the eleven who took the De La Salle University entrance test, seven made it. They are: Emma, Michelle, Abigail, Elijah, Eun Ho, Dennis, and Christine.

Four took, and all are accepted, by the University of Asia and Pacific. They are: Janezza Lois Javier, Amie, Spenser Go, and Elijah. UAP offers Elijah full scholarship.

That makes 12 the total number of ISAers who passed the four entrance tests, constituting 60% of the graduating learners.

The 'unexpected' high passing rate this year produces quite a repercussion in the campus. It has greatly encouraged the undergrads to study harder, aim high and, when their time comes, be counted.



### ISA Ensembles & Choir Carolling @ SM City Chinese Reading Program Launched Prelude to Its Institution in SY2012-13

The whole 4<sup>th</sup> quarter saw the full launching of the Chinese reading program in the entire secondary level. The program progressed smoothly as planned in a month of implementation. Various objectives set forth in the program were substantially met. The confidence of the administration to institutionalize the Chinese reading program starting school year 2012-2013 from grade 5 to 4<sup>th</sup> year is considerably boosted up.

Reading is central to the entire ISA Chinese education system. It serves as the hinge that binds the other aspects of Chinese learning, both written and verbal. It is the motivating force upon which progress of the listening, speaking and writing skills can get underway. ISA administration firmly believes that only when reading skill reaches an acceptable level that a learner may reasonably expect his oral and written literacy become functional. Having this as premise, any grave failure in the reading program would, therefore, significantly cripple the initiative of the whole Chinese learning in our campus. This underscores how crucial reading is in the consciousness of ISA administration and Chinese language educators. It is easy to understand why ISA administration has placed the Chinese reading program at the center of its current-stage educational scheme.

This year's Chinese reading initiative will conclude at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. It lays down the foundation for its year-long implementation starting next school year. The present initiative has dual functions: to test the water; and to gain more insights.

### 2nd Year NAT-08 Results Reveal ISA Remains Top-Rating School

In 2008, when the Department of Education started to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year learners of the private schools in its administration of the National Achievement Test (NAT), which is composed of English, Math, Science, Sibika, and Filipino, ISA has been consistently a top-rating school. Among the nearly 60 public and private high schools, ISA ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively in the first three years.

Discounting the two schools which have only 4 and 8 examinees respectively, ISA is next only to Philippine Science High School, U.P. High School, SPED, Assumption-Iloilo in general average in the 2008 NAT.

Furthermore, the 3-year NAT records show that ISA is strong in Math, Science and English *vis a vis* other high schools in Iloilo City. Its ranks range from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in these three learning areas. The NAT results indicate that ISA has to find ways in order to improve its standing in Filipino and Sibika.



It is not what is poured into a student (learner) that count but what is planted. - Linda Conway

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

## Welcome Hon. Zhang Weiguo and Party to ISA



### Iloilo Scholastic Academy Welcomes Chinese Consul General Zhang & Party

Chinese consul general in Cebu Hon. Zhang Weiguo and party visited ISA campus on 23 February, 2:30 pm. The guests were warmly received by the vice-chairman of the ISA Board of Directors Mr. Elpidio Barcarlos, director Mrs. Elizabeth Do, executive director Mr. Peter M. Chan, and ISA faculty and learners. Also with the consul general were the president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Felipe Uyongco, vice-president of FCCCI, Mr. Robert Po and vice-principal of ICCHS, Mr. Warren Uy. Hon. Zhang has been the second Chinese consul general to visit ISA campus after his predecessor, Hon. He Shijing.

ISA Springale Ensembles played the standard Chinese 'Welcome March' upon the arrival of the guests to make them feel 'at home'. After the group picture taking, Mr. Chan guided the guests to visit the preschool classrooms, science laboratories, computer lab, dormitory, and the gymnasium. Mr. Barcarlos presented the consul general a compilation of the newsletters 'Scholars' up to the latest issue, and told the guest that the newsletters practically contained the major events throughout the eight years since ISA was established. The consul general promised to go over the issues to know more about the school.

### APSA Recognized ISA's 4 Grades Placed Top 3 among 90 Schools

ISA received from Asia Psychological Services and Assessment a plaque and 3 certificates citing four academic grades for placing in the top three among the country's ninety schools participated in the APSA evaluation in the school year 2010-2011. The four grade levels were: G2, 3<sup>rd</sup>; G3, 2<sup>nd</sup>; G3, 1<sup>st</sup>; G5, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It is noted that in the APSA evaluation on the 3 subjects: English, Math, and Science, out of 240 examinees from grades 1 to 6, 96% were rated either highly proficient or proficient. The elementary ISAers' overall standing in Math coincides perfectly with the facts cited in the plaque and certificates. The achievement strongly suggests that the Math program in the elementary is feasible.

## 8<sup>th</sup> APSA Evaluation Administered K2 Up Took Part in the Evaluation

Transparency is next to nothing when it comes to measuring learners' academic standing. Parents welcome regular feedbacks from school. In like manner, administrators rely on the exam results to detect early on significant deviations from the roadmap. But for the information to be truly valuable, it must first be accurate and objective, free of any self-serving rhetoric.

Objectivity is what compels ISA to commission Asia Psychological Services and Assessment (APSA) to administer evaluation on the proficiency levels of ISAers from K2 up at the end of each school year. This year, APSA evaluation was given to K2 learners on 23 February, and to the elementary and high school ISAers the next day. Results will in by middle of March.

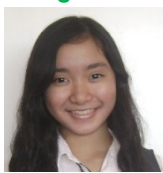
### SY 2010-11 NCAE Results Show 80% Juniors Above Standard

National Career Assessment Exam (NCAE) was made mandatory to all 4th Year graduating learners since 2007. Its purpose was to guide the seniors in choosing what courses to pursue in college. Since Bro. Armin Luistro was appointed secretary of Department of Education, he has initiated quite a few significant adjustments in the department. One of which was to lower the administration of the NCAE by one level. Giving credit to the secretary, the change was a move towards positive direction. The fact that the results of the exam are usually released near the end of school year, it leaves the seniors fewer than four months to decide which course to take. Besides, by the time of release, almost all the major universities were done giving entrance exam, missing the whole point of the NCAE.

The result of the NCAE administered on 28 September 2011 was released at the end of January. Individual report cards were handed over to the 3rd Year examinees. Of the 30 ISAers who took the exam, four got an average of 99+% in English, Math and Science combined; six received 99% rating; four attained 98%; seven were in the range of 90-97%; four within 78-89%; and four were between 67-74%.

According to the standard set out in the guideline, 14% of ISA's 3rd Year examinees were considered excellent; 33% were very good; another 33% were above average; and 20% were average. The result was found consistent with the batch's school standing.

### ISAer Jia Fem Bolinas Champion in Lung Care Foundation Orator Contest



The final round of the first English oratorical contest organized by the Lung Care Foundation and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians, with the theme, , was held on 24 November at SM City Iloilo. Twelve contestants, each representing a school in Iloilo city, qualifying as finalists during the elimination round on 17 September vied for the top 3 places.

ISA 4<sup>th</sup> Year learner, Jia Fem Bolinas, with her nearly perfect diction, and exuding utmost confidence, beat the eleven other excellent orators to emerge champion in the final round.

## 2011 Australian Math Competition Paul Buñi Receives Prudence Award



Paul

The results of the Australian Math Competition (AMC) held on 21 September 2011 at West Visayas State University (WVSU) were released in December last year. Among the 69 Grade 3 to 4<sup>th</sup> Year ISA learners who joined the competition, 54 were rated proficient. Of whom 14 received awards: 1 Prudence Award, 3 Distinction Awards, and 11 Credit Awards. Second year ISAer Paul Buñi was the only participant to receive the Prudence Award, the highest award in the high school category this year in our region. Paul delivered his response on behalf of all the awardees during the awarding ceremony held on 20 January 2012 at WVSU Cultural Center.

ISAers who received Distinction Awards were as follows: Grade 3 John Wallace Chan; Grade 5 Alvin Lyndon Sy; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Kevinn Friedrich Chan.

Those who received Credit Awards were: Grade 4 Jeremiah Juantong, and Kamila Gaye Lao; Grade 5 Bernie Joseph Juyan; Grade 6 Reine Amabel Jaruda, and Luke Kenneth Gurra; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Dionysius Valeen Chiu; 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Bena Dorothy Lagunda, and Eller Son; and 4<sup>th</sup> Year Emma Rose Guanco.

### DepED, FAPE Officials Visit ISA Verify Secondary Subsidy Recipients

Officials from Department of Education – Central Office, Ms. Evangeline C. Calinisan, and Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), Ms. Bernadeth M. Jose, came to ISA on 8 February to verify the authenticity of the registered high school GASTPE recipients. Since 2006, ISA has been accredited by FAPE, and its high school learners eligible to receive tuition fee subsidy from the government every year until graduating from high school. Though the subsidized amount constitutes only around 12% of the total tuition and miscellaneous fees, the message is quite clear. Drawing private schools within the sphere of its fiscal support program, reflects the government's unmistakable intention of hastening the integration of public and private education around its orbit; a turnabout from its *de facto* non-interference stance on private education. Since SY 2010-2011, faculty members in the FAPE accredited private schools started to receive financial assistance from the government through GASTPE. ISA would be glad to see more of such government gesture to follow in the near future.



ISA Tibetan dancers on their march. ISA community joined the Chinese-Filipino community in the Chinese New Year celebration on 27 January. These dancers, who were among the learners of five schools offering Chinese language courses in Iloilo City, showcased Chinese culture through their graceful dances.



The more you know, the more you know  
you don't know. - Aristotle

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The Monthly Newsletter of ISA  
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## Editorial **A Year Worth Remembering**

Apart from the more visible physical transformation following its transfer to the present campus, ISA, in its eighth year, has undergone profound transition, from its shaky formative years to the present relatively stable and constructive stage, where its unique attributes has become distinctly evident. Indeed, we are at the verge of embarking on another journey, or better still, ISA community is facing numerous challenges posed by the society at large. As the Chinese saying goes, it is difficult to start an enterprise, but even more difficult to keep it going. Besides, the essence of education does not permit us to remain mere guardians of status quo, our mission calls for us to be the avant-garde who constantly open up new frontiers.

“With surging thoughts and emotions” is to say the least of our sentiments. ISA is fortunate, because in the past eight long years, exciting events, like flowing rivulet, have incessantly been coming its way. Gone were the days where we wondered when thrill would mellow down and life turns prosaic. We found out that many issues and problems worth pondering have kept on cropping up, and finally are convinced that banality has no place in this campus.

This year, we witnessed quite a few resounding events that have left indelible marks in the campus, significant events such as the conferment on ISA the ‘Model Chinese Education School’ title, the successful hosting of the Visayas Chinese-Filipino Schools Convention in October 2011, and of being designated by the De La Salle University as its college entrance extension test center, as well as one of the test center of the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test. Not to mention the 50% passing rate in the UP and Ateneo college entrance tests. SY 2011-12 also witnessed the breakthrough in Science: 92% of the elementary ISAers were rated highly proficient or proficient. Each one of the events mentioned may easily be seen as a milestone in the ISA’s journey towards excellence.

Well said. But are there bottlenecks in the seemingly robust state of ISA education? Many are quick to point out that Chinese Language instruction and Physical Education have lagged behind other aspects of learning. Admittedly, in spite of ISA’s achievements, there remain quite a few issues need to be addressed. The lackluster in Chinese instruction and physical Education are just two prominent examples. Issue concerning how to maintain quality instruction is one strategic problem we need to face and resolve. Luckily, the past 8 years have given us enough confident, that these issues, no matter how formidable they may seem, can all be adequately resolved, in due time.



Batch 79 Alumni of Iloilo Central Commercial High School drove by ISA campus after having class reunion at Damires Hills Janiway on 26 February. They were warmly received by ISA Executive Director, who happens to be their batch mate.

## **SY 2011-2012 APSA Evaluation Shows 92-96% of Elem ISAers are Proficient**

The results of the evaluation test on English, Math and Science administered by the Asian Psychological and Assessment Services last 23, 24 February was released early this month. K2 and elementary learners fared impressively in all subject areas. For three consecutive years, all K2 learners, 45 of them this year, are rated highly proficient. The evaluation further shows that more than 90% of the elementary learners have strong foundation in English, Math, and Science. Maintaining their 95-97% high proficiency rate in Math in the past two years, 96% of the elementary learners are rated either highly proficient or proficient in Math this year. In English, the rate increased from last year’s 92% to 97% this year. Most notable of all is the 92% highly proficient and proficient rate in Science, a three-percentage-point increase from last year’s 89%. The result in Science is particularly remarkable if we take into account the 70% proficiency rate eight years ago. The gradual increase of 22 percentage points encompassing eight years is indeed laudable.

On the other hand, the proficiency rate of High School learners in Math and Science remain in the range of 65% to 85%. They rated relatively good in English where 92% are either highly proficient or proficient. Except for those learners who perform really well in their respective classes, still very few in the high school managed to impress us in APSA Math and Science.

## **MTAP Team & Individual Challenge ISAMath Contestants Won Awards**

The annual Math Challenge (MTAP) jointly organized by DepED, Metrobank, and Math Teachers Association of the Philippines has captured its deserved attention in the ISA campus. This is reflected in the enthusiastic response of an increasing number of parents and learners on the call of the school to take part in the ISAMath program, ISA’s center for math enthusiasts.

ISA was among the 40 schools in the city to compete in the elimination round last 20 January. And for six consecutive years has managed to have its competing teams in all levels be among the 10 to 12 finalist-schools to join the division team finals.

In the team final last 18 February, ISA’s 3<sup>rd</sup> year team won second place, while both Grades 3 and 5 teams won third place in their respective levels. The six ISAers who composed the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Grades 3 and 5 teams, respectively, are Kevinn Friedrich Chan, Joseph Joshua Te; Alvin Lyndon Sy, Kathleen Therese Tilos; Joelian Marie Dolendo, and Audrey Marie Jamboy.

In the individual (level) competitions on 20 January, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Kevinn Chan won 1<sup>st</sup> honor. Two won 2<sup>nd</sup> honor: 2<sup>nd</sup> year Deonisius Chiu, Grade 5 Alvin Sy. And, four won third honor: Grade 6 Reine Jaruda, Grade 3 Joelian Dolendo, Grade 2 Neriah Ahhi, and Grade 1 Ashley Sy.

This year’s results, though are not comparably the most impressive, but the fact that quite a number of ISA individual awardees are relatively evenly distributed among different academic levels is a special feature worth looking into.



Kinder-2 learners visited a Taoist temple located at Brgy. Tanza on 3 February as part of their civics lesson. (above) For most of the children, that was their first time to visit such a worship place. Expectedly, they were curious of, and were fascinated by, the unfamiliar huge images of Taoist gods and goddesses at the altar. After that, they went to South East Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in the town of Oton. The live sea animals as well as the large collection of specimen displayed on the shelves had aroused the curiosity of the children. They were specially thrilled to touch real sea shells at the interactive area. (below)



On 3 February, Kinder 1 (10) children went to Central Philippine University butterfly garden to have a close encounter with the colorful butterflies of various species. Their second stop was Shakey’s at SM City. There, they experienced the making of their own pizza. By following the step-by-step instruction, they eagerly put cheese, sausages, and other ingredients on the dough. For the first time, the children enjoyed the pizza they helped prepared.

## **G5 Noel Francis Chua Champion in PRISAA Region 6 Vocal Solo**

Grade 5 ISAer, Noel Francis Chua, was the PRISAA Regional Champion in Vocal Solo (elementary category) held in Bacolod City on 14 March. In the division level contest held in November 2011, Noel won first place, thereby qualifying him to represent Iloilo city to compete with the first placers of the different cities and towns in the province of Iloilo in February 2012. And again, his exceptional voice quality and projection, must have so impressed the panel of judges for him to receive once more the highest score, thus according him the honor to represent the province and city of Iloilo to compete in the regional grand final. Noel was accompanied by his mentor, Ms. Diane Cartajena, and his parents to Bacolod for the Regional competition.

What is specially noteworthy is that though the competition coincided with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter exams, Noel did not ask for any favor, instead he took the exams as scheduled, and what’s more, he finished them all with flying colors.