

Dream big and dare to fail. - Norman Vaughan

Dinagyang Band Showdown 2015 2 ISA Bands Won 2nd, 3rd Places

Two campus bands from ISA, the Nine Diamonds and the 16th Avenue, joined the Dinagyang 2015 interschool band showdown held at SM City Iloilo on 26 January. The first-ever public appearance of the ISAers' campus bands was greeted with such a heart-warming cheer and encouraging eagerness from the audience. Finally, these ISA music enthusiasts did not disappoint the spectators for the Nine Diamonds was declared first runner-up, and the 16th Avenue second runner-up. The Nine Diamonds won first place in the ISA Rockfest 2014, an invitational inter-school battle of the bands, held at ISA gym in November 2014.



ISA Bands in action: captivating the senses. The lower photo shows the five singers of the ISA band (from left): Francis Noel Chua, Aaron Babayen-on, Samantha Hoberg, Toni Harriette Chavez, and Joshua David Terania.

Nicole Lao, Joelian Dolendo Chosen OSCI Outstanding HS, Elem. Students

The Outstanding Students Circle of Iloilo (OSCI) giving recognition to the 10 outstanding high school students and 10 outstanding elementary pupils it has chosen held its awarding ceremony at Hua Siong College of Iloilo on 13 March this year.



4th Year ISAer Nicole Casey Lao and Grade 6 ISAer Joelian Dolendo were among the 20 OSCI outstanding students and pupils.

Joelian Dolendo with class adviser Ms. Presvir Juliano



Nicole Casey Lao (1st from right) With the other awardees



ABS-CBN Quiz-High Year 1 champion Pauline Tiu, with the perpetual trophy beside her, proudly displays her certificate. Right photos show the organizer orienting the finalists of the contest procedures, and Pauline with her parents and coach Mr. Rodgen Jabor.

Congratulations to G9 Pauline Tiu Champion, ABS-CBN Quiz-High Year 1

First ever in Iloilo, the ABS-CBN-sponsored inter-school competitions on academic knowledge and knack in essay writing, dubbed as ABS-CBN Quiz High Year 1, ended its search of the top three placers on 8 March 2015. The final round of the contest was held in Gaisano Capital. Grade 9 ISAer Pauline Sharry Tiu won the championship title after several rounds of quizzes and essay writing.

It was gathered that this competition is an effort of the ABS-CBN network to promote the importance of education to young people. "We are actually looking forward to involve more schools in the future. Our finalists may undergo an essay competition in the finals," Said one Quiz-High Executive Producer, "furthermore, each finalist will be featured on the ABS-CBN TV network."

The Year 1 runners-up are Yul Villanueva of La Paz National High School and Ace Norbert Euvre of SPED-ISEC. Other sponsoring partners of ABS-CBN are DepED, STI Iloilo, WVSU Integrated Laboratory School, Reyes Law Firm, and Gaisano Capital.

Nicole Receives 10th PRISAAP-DepED Educator's Outstanding Student Award

Fourth Year ISAer Nicole Casey Lao is a recipient of 10th Private School Administrators Association of the Philippines-DepED (PRISAAP-DepED) Educator's Award in the search for outstanding students of the year.

The awarding ceremony was held in Sarabia Hotel on 14 March 2015.



Above, Nicole Casey Lao during the awarding ceremony. Below, Nicole with the awardees from other schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FESTIVAL PROVINCIAL & REGIONAL RESULTS

The Provincial Round of Private Secondary School Administrators Association of the Philippines (PRISAAP) English Language Festival 2015 was held in Passi City National High school on 15 January 2015. The annual competition features the English language writing and oral skills of private high schools and grade schools in the province and city of Iloilo. The panel of judges pronounces the following ISAers: Donna Kim in Elementary Essay Writing, Elijah Patrick Pelaez in Elementary Feature Writing, Pauline Sharry Tiu in High School Poetry Writing, Nicole Casey Lao in High School Oration, and Shana Tifanny Tan in High School Oral Interpretation as First Place winners, and will represent Iloilo in the Regional Round.

The Regional Round, held on 2 February 2015 in Iloilo Grand Hotel, concludes with Donna Kim, and Nicole Casey Lao as First Place winners in their respective category. Hoping to have finally a National ELF Competition, the girls are geared up to compete for higher grounds.



Gr 8 and G9 Math Teams Won 2nd Place in MTAP Math Challenge Team Finals

The 2015 Metrobank-MTAP-DepED Math Challenge Team Finals was probably the highlights for both the ISA Grades 8 and 9 math teams this school year. There were 10 qualified private and public schools competing for the title for each year level. According to the Grade 9 trainer, Mr. Eddie Castronuevo, this year's questions were said to be relatively challenging to all the participants though there were some questions that only ISA's team, where Jian Tiampong and John Kim are members, were able to get the correct answers. However, the Philippine Science High School math team gave the correct answer to the last question in the difficult round, which has a weight of 5 points, to make it 2 points ahead of ISA. Huasiang College of Iloilo was third place.



The same stiff competition between Phil. Sci and ISA has been witnessed at the Grade 8 contest venue. Composed of Alvin Lyndon Sy and Janna Marie Go (center), ISA Grade 8 math team was second place, few points behind the strong Philippine Science math team.

If knowledge is the heritage of mankind,
it is only the courageous who inherit it. - *Dr. Jose Rizal*

- the 137th issue -
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The Monthly Newsletter of ISA
菲律宾怡朗新华学院通讯月刊

Batch 2014-15 ISAers Top NAT 1st Among Ilo Private Schools

School year 2014-15 ends with us witnessing the ISA high school graduating class collectively upholding the school tradition of academic excellence by ranking first in average score in the National Achievement Test (NAT) among the forty-two private high schools in Iloilo City. The NAT was administered nationwide by the Department of Education in March this year.

Taken by individual subject, this batch of ISA graduates attained the highest ratings among the Iloilo City private high schools in English, Science, and Math; and third both in Filipino and Social Studies. Regrettably, comparison with the previous batches' ratings was not presently possible due to the unavailability of data.

Furthermore, ISA ranks fifth if the sixteen public high schools in the city are included. However should only the aggregate averages of the three subjects, namely English, Science, and Math be considered, ISA ranks second, next only to Philippine Science High School, a known elite public school heavily subsidized by the government. Consequently, UP High School, SPED and West Visayas State University Laboratory High School would have ranked third to fifth, respectively.



Kudos and Godspeed to ISA High School Graduates. The high school graduates took selfie of their last few moments as high school learners upon the conclusion of the graduation rites held on 22 March. True to the ISAers' tradition, a large percentage of this year's high school graduates did well in the entrance tests and were eligible to enroll in many of the country's prestigious universities. ISA sent off thirty high school learners to different colleges, and quite notably many among them signify to study in Ateneo de Manila University, U.P. Visayas, and De la Salle University.



The Preschool graduation and recognition ceremonies were held in the afternoon of 21 March 2015. Hundreds of parents and guardians attended the ceremonies where 50 K2 learners received their diplomas and nearly a hundred of preschool learners received their medals and certificates of merits.



ISA President Mr. Venido Peña awards a medal to an ISAer. ISA held its 12th Elementary Recognition ceremony on 22 March 2015. More than 150 ISAers from Grades 1 to 5 received medals and certificates in recognition of their achievements in academics as well as in the various inter-school competitions.

Marion Lim Valedictorian and First Honors in Chinese Class

School year 2014-15 ended with 37 high school learners receiving academic recognitions. Additionally, 38 learners in high school Chinese class received academic awards. At the top of the honor list are the Grade 10 Marion Nicole Lim, valedictorian; Nicole Casey Lao, salutatorian; and Jason Sobrevega, honorable mention. The top three in the Chinese graduating class honor list are Marion Nicole Lim, first honors; Dustin Alben Wong, second honors; and Kevin Lance Gaw Te, third honors. The high school commencement exercises and recognition ceremonies were held in the afternoon of 22 March 2015 at the ISA gym. ISA Directors headed by its president, Mr. Venido Peña, were also present.

G6 Audrey Jamboy 1st Honors Renz Ang 1st in Chinese Class

Seven receive academic recognitions out of the twenty-five learners in the elementary graduating class in school year 2014-15. The three Most Outstanding ISAers in the order of their ranks are: Audrey Marie Jamboy, Joelian Marie Dolendo, and Renz Ghester Ang. Donna Jiwon Kim is Outstanding ISAer. Those in the Director's List are Jason Santino Advincula, John Wallace Chan, and Jaren Matthew Ong.

Renz Ghester Ang is first honors in the Chinese graduating class. Audrey Marie Jamboy and Joelian Dolendo are second and third honors, respectively. A total of 12 learners are in the Chinese class honor list.

20 ISAers Showcased Cultural Talents @ Kang Ha Uy Family Association Induction



Twenty elementary and high school ISAers presented Chinese song and dance numbers during the Kang Ha Uy Family Association induction of officers ceremony on 15 March. Their impressive performances earned them praises from the host and the guests.

K-12 Curriculum Affects ISAers' Rating Contents Mismatch Causes Concerns

The results of the Standard-Based Assessment administered by the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment (APSA) last February 2015 show that the apparent effect of the use of Singapore-published English, Math, and Science textbooks vis-à-vis the full implementation of K-12 curriculum was the 'mismatch' of some of the topics in a given grade level. Though this did not come as a surprise to the administration, since notwithstanding of the minor adjustments, the intention was for the classroom instructions adhere basically to the Singapore curriculum, which is normally not identical with the DepED curriculum, particularly in the sequence of the subject matters. However, the mismatch (of the sequence) are somehow reconciled in Grade 6. The breakdown of the Grade 6 English results partly corroborate this observation: out of the 50 Grade 6 learners, still 17 or 34% were Highly Proficient, only 7 or 14% were Moving Towards Standard, with no Not Met Standard. In math, 16 or 32% were Highly Proficient, 13 or 26% were Moving Towards Standard, and in science, 11 or 22% were Highly Proficient, and 10 or 20% were Moving Towards Standards, and 1 or 2% Not Met Standard. Though in general ISAers experienced a decrease in proficiency level in all three subjects, mainly still due to difference in the contents found in the two curriculum.

However, the results in biology, which has undergone a structural adjustment starting this school year, gives us quite different picture. Out of the 42 takers, only 5 did not reach proficient level; while 10 rated Highly Proficient, 27 rated Proficient, with a total of 37 or 88% on or above proficiency level. This is the result that the school has been aiming for in high school science.



MTG Training. Six Grade 1 to 3 ISAers qualified for an intensive math training held in Crown Regency Resort and Convention Center in Boracay from March 22 to 25. They are Jacques Simon Timtiman, Shana Camille Timpong, Julia Alessandra Ang, Joachim Santino Timtiman, Cosette Sasha Patrimonio, and Issa Belle Klarisse Chan. Shana and Julia both received Singapore and Asian School Math Olympic 2015 bronze medals, and together with Jacques, they are eligible to join the Philippine team in international competitions this year.

To improve is to change;

to be perfect is to change often. - *Winston Churchill*

- the 138th issue -

www.isa.edu.ph

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Twenty secondary ISAers joined the 2015 Xiamen Chinese Language and Culture Summer Camp, a Chinese Language learning project jointly organized by the Chen Yankui Foundation and the Philippine Chinese Education Research Center. Upper photo shows some of the ISAers taking the placement examination. After the two months study tour, the campers received their certificates of accomplishment. Lower photo shows ISAers proudly display the red booklets that contain proof of their Chinese Language study and their 2-month memorable stay in Xiamen City.



ISAers Meet former Chinese Volunteer Facilitators in Xiamen. ISAers took picture with Ms. Lin Bing (4th from left) and Mr. Chen Daquan (5th from left) who visited them in their dormitory. Ms. Lin Bing taught grade 1 at ISA in SY 2007-2009 while Mr. Chen Daquan taught Grade 4 for a year in SY 2009-2010.



Best Practices Shared. ISA Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan gave a talk on practices considered vital in the learning process during a forum with the Chinese volunteer teachers at Century Park Hotel on 3 June. Save for a brief introduction of ISA, his talk revolves solely on the subject on reading as a crucial aspect in learning and mastering a second language.

Musical Instrument Instructions Integrated in Classroom Lessons

The announcement of the integration of four musical instruments plus voice lesson into the music subject starting SY 2015-16 made during the parent orientation was a pleasant surprise for most parents. Parents attending the orientation held a week before the opening of the new school year saw this development as an opportunity to broaden the recreational perspective of their children, and welcomed the program with open arms.

“How much the music instrument program would cost me in a year?” The apprehension of some parents in spite of the attractiveness the program is perfectly understandable in light of the level of tuition and miscellaneous fees currently prevailing. The soundness of the program however has seemingly convinced the parents to give it a try. Moreover, realizing that benefits could possibly far outweigh cost somehow helps allay their initial worries.

In fact, to lessen the financial burden that comes with the program, the school subsidizes 20% of the cost by waiving the entire revenue the school is entitled to. In this regard, the crucial role of the ISA Board of Directors has been put into test. The approval of the waiver proposed by the ISA administration once again manifest the unwavering trust of the ISA-BOD on the administrative leadership and its adherence to providing quality education to the ISAers.



Parents orientation held days before the opening of new school year is a forum where school policies and key learning concerns are meticulously discussed by the administration and facilitators. Parents also use this forum to express their concerns and put forward suggestions to help the school improve its operations.

School Year 2015-16 Opening Program

ISA welcomed the learners on 8 June. An opening program was held at ISA gym to celebrate the beginning of the school year 2015-16. Learners and facilitators engaged in activities and games that made everyone feel the warmth of ISA community. This same day, ABS-CBN personnel awarded the trophy to Pauline Sharry Tiu who was the champion of the ABS-CBN Quiz High Year 1.

To close the ceremony learners and facilitators wrote their expectations and hopes for the new school year on red balloons. The balloons were released while everyone sang “At the Beginning,” signifying their big dreams and a positive attitude for a wonderful journey ahead.



Grade 10 learners making their solemn pledge to adhere to the ISA ideals and principles at the opening ceremony.



ISA President Mr. Venido Peña and Board Directors Mrs. Vina Jalipa, Mrs. Gemma Tiu, Mr. Eduardo Ong, Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan, Preschool Head Mrs. Debbie Chan discussed with Architect John Carlo Tiampong the final design plan of the proposed elementary school building.

The Future is Now

Not many are bestowed with the fate of fundamentally shaping the future of ISA. To the privileged few, however, such honor is more than mere responsibility it is a calling.

The full implementation of K-12 curriculum in SY2016-17 leaves the school board no leeway but to act on the overdue school building project, and to act fast against all odds. Every decision maker in the school board knows any delay in the construction could have dire repercussion on the school operations.

On 19 May, tasked to discuss and finally approve the school building design proposed by Architect John Carlo Tiampong, ISA Board of Directors President Mr. Venido Peña led a team of directors composed of Mrs. Vina Jalipa, Mrs. Gemma Tiu, Mr. Eduardo Ong, Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan, and Preschool Head Mrs. Debbie Chan. With some minor modifications, mostly technical, the design was approved, to the relief of everybody present. But this is just the beginning.

Application for loan to fund the said project and its eventual approval, invitation for bidding, the bidding, and awarding of project followed shortly. All these prerequisites went on relatively smoothly in the succeeding months. Actual construction is expected to start in October this year.

Another milestone is laid down.

5 plus 1 China Volunteer Mentors Will Handle ISA Chinese Subjects

Five volunteer mentors from China assigned to handle elementary and high school Chinese language classes arrived Manila on 29 May. They are Chen Feng (G3 Special; handled G2 special last school year), Zhang Qingxin (G3), Zhang Dejun (G4), Ding Zhaoli (G6), and Zhang Wenbo (G8 and 4th Year). Nearly 400 volunteers were assigned to different Chinese-Filipino school all over the country this school year. They all underwent a week-long seminar organized by the Philippine Chinese Education Research Center.

Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan went to Manila to help process their documents on 3 June, and flew back to Iloilo City with the volunteers on the same day.

Administrative assistant, Mr. Li Shuyuan, came to ISA in June under the program sponsored by the Jinjiang General Association. Mr. Li assists the Executive Director in the implementation of the Chinese curriculum in ISA.