

The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is the knowledge of our own ignorance. - **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

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

ISAthletes Whiz w/ Flying Colors Bag 23 Awards in IloPRISAA Sports

The results of this year's Iloilo Private Schools Athletic Association Sports Meet showed that ISA is even closer to fulfilling her goal of nurturing learners not only to excel intellectually but also adept in sports.

All throughout the games since its opening on 16 November, many were able to prove that they are at par with athletes from other schools in various sports events as evidently shown in the results:

In table tennis, the elementary girls team, Pearl Zerrha Chiu, Anne Melissa Co, Marion Nicole Lim, Kathleen Therese Tilos captured the championship title for five consecutive years. The elementary boys team, Edward Gallego, Terzon Capalaran, Ken Motomitsu, Roisse Tubar placed second.



High school girls team, Pauline Zachie Chiu, Bianca Jade Lacson, Kathleen Yu, Jessica Marie Valderrama placed third.



while the boys team, Kevin Friedrich Chan, Rhuvyn Mytch Tan, Joseph Joshua Te, Jherod Miguel Tilos, Marc Yu placed second.

In the Elementary badminton, playing doubles Jea Silver Bulls Amper and Kamila Gay Lao won 3rd place. High school girls, Krisha Wee and Mary Chua won 1st place in girls doubles; John Matthew Tan and Mary Elizabeth Chua bagged 3rd place in mixed doubles; and Franklin Ajayi and John Matthew Tan got 3rd place in boys doubles.



The lone swimmer John Caleb Barlin won 3rd in 50 m breaststroke and 2nd in 400 m freestyle in the swimming event while Ann Danielle Tay bagged 2nd place in chess in the elementary category.

In elementary track and field, Marivie Corder won 1st place in triple jump and 3rd place in high jump; Alea Therese Casorla got 3rd place in triple jump and 2nd place in high jump; while Mary Jubeth Batilo won 3rd place in javelin throw.



Furthermore, for high school track and field, Stacey Sophie Ravago won 2nd place in 1,500 m run; Nel Yee Baraquia bagged 3rd place both in 1,500 m run and 800 m run; Emma Rose Guanaco got 3rd place in long jump;

Christian Angelo Cabangbang won 2nd place in 200 m dash; Julius Jardenil got 3rd place in javelin throw;



and the gold medals in 4x100 m relay were brought home by Nel Yee Baraquia, Emma Rose Guanaco, Lara Hudak, and Aofie Marie Fahy.

The Spirit of Christmas

Christmas is the most awaited season in a year. It makes everyone excited, but, what is the real essence of Christmas?

Business-minded people who are after for profits, employees who demand bonuses, the homeless and orphans who look forward to seasonal charity, and the religious who count their collections after celebrating masses, could give varied answers.

In other words, people celebrate Christmas for a host of reasons other than that which gave birth to Christmas. The word Christmas, originated as a contraction of "Christ's mass", compounded from Old English derivatives of the Greek *christos* and the Latin *missa*. Christmas literally means "Christ Mass."

How unfortunate that people are missing the opportunities that come with Christmas. It is the time of year when Heaven literally draws nearer to the Earth. It is the season when the Spirit of Christmas truly blankets the atmosphere and compels people to think about matters beyond the mundane. Even the normally stone-hearted would be heard talking about spiritual ideals.

The Spirit of Christmas is so tangible during Yuletide season that it impacts on the affairs of men. It is the time when people are giving and forgiving, when they think more good thoughts, and do more noble deeds. It is a time when prayers are more easily answered.

Let love dwell in every human's heart by extending our good heart to our fellowmen. For sharing and forgiving means so much to most of us.

Holy Cross HS Admin, Faculty Visit ISA

Twenty Administrators and faculty members from Holy Cross High School in Dumaguete City visited ISA on 5 November. The educators led by their principal, Ms. Rosario Limquiaco, and Sr. Celine Chen, arrived at 8 am. They were warmly welcome by our Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan. Based on the email communication between Sr. Chen and Mr. Chan, ISA administration has prepared a classroom observation schedule for the visitors on subjects such as English, Chinese Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Right after presenting a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Chan, the Holy Cross teachers and department heads were ushered to their respective chosen classrooms. The observation time was short by 2 hours because the visitors need to catch the 2 pm 'row-row' trip back to Negros.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chan has a cordial exchange of views and experiences on the school policies with Ms. Limquiaco and Sr. Chen. At 11 am, he arranged a 1-hour forum with the visitors at Jollibee-General Luna.



Science and Chinese Language teachers from the Holy Cross High School observing the second year biology class (left) and the Chinese Language class.

Chi-Fil Schools Math Teams Monopolized Top 3 Places

The BED Library of Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, the venue of the Iloilo PRISAA 2010 high school math contest on 22 November, was turned into an arena of math wizzes from the three Chinese-Filipino schools, namely, Iloilo Central Commercial High School, Sun Yat Sen High School, and Iloilo Scholastic Academy, competing to seize the laurels.

ISA Math team, composed of Jan Jemi Gerwayne Tiu, Krisha Wee, and Elijah Erl Ong, placed third after the three rounds (easy, average, difficult). ICCHS and SYSHS won first and second places, respectively.

With the other schools hopelessly trailing far behind near the end game, the specter of the myth that 'Chinese are particularly good in math' seemingly had returned to haunt the contest venue. When asked of his comment on the PRISAA math results, 'It could have been just a coincidence for the 3 Chinese-Filipino schools to win all the top 3 places.' said ISA Executive Director. Well, Myth or not, better leave it to the mythbusters Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage to find out.

Mid-Autumn Fest is in Our Midst

Learners rolled dice ^{again} and tried their lucks last 24 September 2010 in celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival, a popular harvest festival celebrated by the Chinese dating back over 3,000 years.

It is also celebrated in the Philippines among the ethnic Chinese and is commonly referred to as the Mooncake festival.

Though there were no mooncakes, learners from all levels enjoyed the half-day school activity eating their consumable prizes.

Learners didn't just go home winning certain prizes, they also brought with them lessons on how to take turns and being a sport.

Facilitators and staff also have their turn to roll the dice in the afternoon on the same day. Thanks to the ISA board officers and parents for donating prizes ranging from ballpens and towels to emergency lights and cell phones.

Dinner served at the cafeteria concluded the festive event. - PGJ



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Junors-Seniors Field Trip, 23-26 October 2010 (first of four articles)

Cebu-Bohol Educational Trip

Thirty-seven ISA juniors and seniors with four facilitators, and six parents started their Cebu-Bohol educational tour with the AirPhil 6:15 am flight that brought them to the island of Mactan.

Their first stop was the home of Alegre Guitar, a renowned export-quality guitar maker in Mactan City. After which, they visited the job-generating sunrise establishments through rolling tour in MEPZA, such as the international film, fashion schools, and high-end hotels. On the other hand, the booming city of Cebu has many novelties to offer. They experienced crossing the first subway with high tech safety components made by the Japanese government. Certainly, the tour would never be complete without immersing in the local landmarks such as the Taoist Temple, Magellan's Cross, Cebu Cathedral, and the Basilica of Santo Nino. The sites provide the feel of the Spaniards and other neighboring Asian countries' influence on the Filipino culture.

The second day stopover was the enchanting Bohol, although they need to wake up very early to catch the first trip. It took them two hours of sea travel to reach "Bohol Republic" as described by their tour guide. So much interesting facts were narrated on the way, but what stroke them most was to learn that a city ordinance mandates all tricycles, the main means of transportation, to place religious scriptures in a conspicuous place. That speaks much of the local religious fervor. In a span of 2 days, they were able to take a glance of some of the oldest churches in the country, such as the Baclayon Church which was made from coral stones and egg white, and the Dauis Church which has an interior well adjacent to the altar, the source of its holy water. For those who wanted to take home the water from the well, there are bottled ones for sale. As they get farther from the city, they were nearer to the natural wonders of Bohol. As they were going up to Carmen, the seat of Chocolate Hills, they passed by the tarsier sanctuary to actually see the smallest primate and have the flying lemurs. It was also amazing to discover along the way the Bilar man-made forest which is a government funded project that added attraction to Bohol aside from the white sand beach and clear water of Panglao Island where they had their first night stay and the Bohol Bee Farm that is known for its organic products. Although the Chololate Hills that they got to see was not brown in color, it was still a fulfillment of a childhood dream seeing the rolling hills close up rather than in picture.

The Loboc River was also quite an experience, aside from the authentic native buffet lunch, the ride in the floating restaurant was indeed a whole new thing for the children. While enjoying the view of the plants blossoming at the river side and the green water, they were serenaded by a group of singers on board. The vessel would stop on certain points where they can have a souvenir photo with the Loboc children singing folk songs and dancing tinikling. Seeing *prony*, the 14 year old python which is irregular in length and size and has been taken care of and considered a family member, was another big bonus for them. The owner celebrates *prony's* birthday every year by giving a simple party.

The final day was spent in Cebu. They passed by the Gothong Manufacturing Company, maker of Bambi Oil and margarine. They witnessed how products were made and packed for distribution. Before flying back to Iloilo they had a side trip to Ayala Shopping Center to buy some souvenirs and tasted the Cebu's best seafood served in SUTUKIL (Sugba Tula Kilaw) restaurant located in Mactan for lunch.

Surely, the learners have plenty of things to write and share with the experiences they had during the trip. The activity was part of the requirements of the third year and fourth year learners which gave them the chance to express what they have learned from different subjects such as English, Filipino, Social Studies and Photography as they were required to come up with a travel log. This project is organized every two years. (RJ)



Hurrah at the tarmac. The ever energetic ISAers are all set for their exciting Cebu-Bohol trip. ISA organizes an educational tour for the seniors and juniors once every two years.



A trip within a trip. Enjoying lunch served with authentic native delicacies on a floating restaurant while cruising the Loboc River is certainly an experience worth remembering.



A heroic shot. Nothing could be more appropriate than a picture taken with the country's first national hero. The Lapu-lapu Shrine is where Magellan was killed.



A cultural fusion. ISAers of different ethnic and cultural background stroll around one of the landmarks of Chinese influence, the revered Cebu Taoist Temple.



Rule number 1: No swimming. Though inviting the clear blue water of the Panglao white sand beach is, rule is rule. Instead, the children strode into the alluring beach for an artistic pose.



Sharing experiences. The trip is an integration of Social Studies, English and Filipino lessons. Documentation is crucial in every activity undertaken. Photo shows juniors Elijah and Christine discussing a photo shot.

ISA Supports S.O.S. Light a House

The first institution visited by the ISAers in this school year's outreach program was the S.O.S. Children's Village at the town of Zarraga, Iloilo. S.O.S. aims to provide a loving home for every child. Wanting to help fulfill that goal, Iloilo Scholastic Academy adopted a house for the village's Light a House Celebration. ISA was able to raise an amount of Php. 1,907.20. The opening took place last 4 December 2010. On that day a mass was held to have blessings on the houses. It was followed by the simultaneous lighting of the houses and fireworks. Some ISA learners and facilitators had dinner together with the SOS family and sponsors in one of the village houses. The night ended with a cultural show showcasing the talents of the SOS Children.



top: ISA turns over to S.O.S. the two houses, inside contain money donated by the kind-hearted ISA learners and facilitators. bottom: 3 senior ISAers, Nel Yee, Franklin and Victor, with a girl resident of S.O.S. during the Light a House celebration at S.O.S. Village.