

No one can arrive from being talented alone. God gives talent, work transforms talent into genius. - **Anna Pavlova**

- the 84th issue -
www.isa.edu.ph

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

Editorial

Meet Life's Challenges Head On

Nostalgic speeches, white and black togas, medals, awards, and ribbons... March is coming and so is graduation.

Graduation is multifaceted. For pre-school learners, it is a step-up exercise. For elementary learners, it's a gateway to exciting high school life. For college students, it's the end of their four years endeavor for a degree. On the other hand, it is a step towards an unsure horizon of the real, challenging and competitive world.

Parents of the graduates experience different kinds of joy. Graduation symbolizes another year of a child development. It can be a great pride for parents whose children graduate with honors and awards. Or it could be an emotional celebration for parents who consider their graduating children to be their hope for a better life.

Learning does not stop with graduation. Learning life's lessons will never cease for a person who is willing to learn, and unlearn. To unlearn is to change one's wrong viewpoint, based on the new learning acquired. This is how an individual learns for a lifetime.

I remember the time when I graduated with my undergraduate course. I was, elated, but at the same time scared. Scared but determined and prepared to meet life's challenges head on. Graduation leads to more steps ahead, and must be taken seriously, carefully and faithfully.

GRADE 1 LEARNERS' FIELD TRIP

The day, 8 January, is worth remembering for our grade 1 learners as they had their educational trip with their advisers and guardians in historical and beautiful places in the city and province of Iloilo. The learners visited first the Plaza Libertad to see the statue of our national hero. From Libertad Plaza, they continued to Museo Iloilo where they took a glimpse of Ilonggos rich cultural and historical heritage. After these, they were toured around the gothic structure of the famous Molo Church. After which, they went directly to Racso's in Guimbal, where they enjoyed seeing the different exotic animals. Their excitement and curiosity sparked when they entered in the animal cave museum wherein some learners screamed because of the dark and the figures of rare and wild animals found inside the cave. After lunch, the learners also visited the Municipality of Guimbal which is acclaimed as the cleanest and greenest town in the province because of its beautiful landscape and garbage-free surroundings. The whole day activity was indeed unforgettable for the learners because it deepens and widens their understanding and imagination of the related topics after they have world beyond the text.



Above: The façade of the first ISA campus along Luna St., La Paz District, Iloilo City. It witnessed the conception and the dramatic progress of ISA in the past seven thrill-filled years. Below: the new school building sitting on a 1000 m² lot, one-twelfth of the total land area of the new ISA Campus in Mandurriao District of Iloilo City, is an imposing five-story massive structure, a far cry from the old two-story concrete-steel frame-hardiflex building. The completion of this project marks the conclusion of the exploratory phase, and the ushering in of the full-swing developmental phase, of Iloilo Scholastic Academy.

18 March 2011: A Pivotal Point

In a typically quiet and orderly manner, learners of each class, after all learners of a particular class were done with the last test in the 4th quarter exam, cooperatively carried chairs and tables on single file from the classroom to the waiting trucks lining along the busy Luna street. And occasionally, volunteer parents would help the workers pass the furniture to the vehicle. That was a nostalgic scene people would have witnessed had they been there in that most historic moment in ISA's seven years of existence.

It was the start of the planned 2-day complete transfer of furniture and facilities from the old Luna campus to the new Mandurriao school site. That moment would most certainly go down as the first major pivotal point in the remarkable history of ISA.

Led by the advisers, ISAers and many parents as well, rushed to the new site to help arrange the furniture in the respective classrooms. That day coincided with the lifting of the no-tour prohibition. It was also an opportune time for them to go around and feel the campus' unique ambiance. That day, quite a few members of the ISA Board of Directors too were there to inspect and witness the ongoing event, needless to say, congratulatory greetings could be heard from every corner. "What a big school (building) we've got." commented an elementary boy to his friend. Indeed, ISA means BIG.

Ateneo Junior Summer Seminar

This summer will be a great one for Emma Rose Guanco, a 3rd Year ISAer. She is one of the 70 'best minds' of selected high school nationwide to join the exhilarating and fun-filled Ateneo Junior Summer Seminar (AJSS) at Ateneo de Manila University this April.

The AJSS selection process was a tough one. "I could clearly remember that moment. There was so much pressure. The furious rubbing of erasers and pencils were audible." Emma said when asked how she feels of the exam.

Initially, top five juniors of every chosen schools in the Philippines have to submit their credentials and take a test very similar to, or even tougher than, the Ateneo entrance test, since, aside from a seat in the seminar is at stake, those selected are eventually assured of a slot at Ateneo after graduating from high school.

"It is a really good opportunity to expose oneself with intelligent and smart people, each having his field of expertise. It would be like studying in Ateneo for 6 weeks." Emma added. Aside from short courses in Math, English, Psychology, Physics, and Philosophy, the seminar will highlight events like Sports Fest, Field Trips, Alumni Night, and IT Camp.

To be able to join the rewarding seminar is not easy. According to Emma, she never expected to get in the seminar because the test given was very hard. For instance, they were made to answer 30 abstract math questions in five minutes. The results came out last February and she didn't bother to check because she thought she wouldn't make it.

Emma looks forward to this upcoming event and has great expectations about the seminar. She is sure that she'll be learning a lot, at the same time, enjoy her summer vacation with smart young minds as well.

Regional PRISAAP Eng Festival

Three ISAers made it to the 5th Regional PRISAAP English Festival last 4 February 2011 held at Bacolod Pavilion Hotel. After winning first place in the Division and Provincial levels, Camille Billones represented the Province of Iloilo in Essay Writing competition, Zeth Rodario Bebit in Feature Writing Competition and Colyn Faith Beatingo in Declamation. Billones bagged the second place for Essay Writing and Beatingo won third place.

All 6 provinces in region 6 sent their representatives to participate in various writing and public speaking competitions.

First place winners in every event are slated to join the national competition to be held in Davao City.

