

YOUNG OBSERVER

THE OFFICIAL DE LA SALLE ZOBEL GRADE SCHOOL PUBLICATION
Academic Year 2016-2017 Second Term Issue

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

PHOTO BY: MRS. EUNICE V. TAGANAHAN
Model: NIKELA ALIANDRA S. MARISTELA, 1H

Ako ay Lasalyano, Tunay na Kristiyano, Tapat na Pilipino

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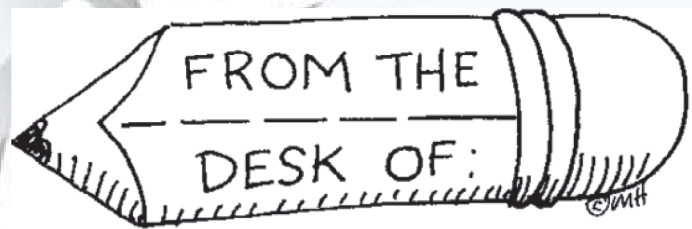
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Young Observer wishes to thank Ms Rizza Joy Piccio and Ms Salyn Paga for their assistance during our photo shoot for the cover page of this issue.



the editor in chief

My Christmas Wish List

I am extremely excited! Who couldn't be? Christmas is coming in just a few days! As early as the first day of the -ber months, I have been seeing some houses shining from afar with their Christmas lights turned on at night, some have even put up their Christmas trees and most of all, some children have begun writing down their Christmas wish lists.

I have been reflecting though, that for the past nine years, Christmas seemed to be "all about me," "all about what gifts I want" and "all about what latest gadget there is for me to have." My Christmas wish lists were all centered on material gifts and stuff which brought enjoyment but lasting only for few weeks. Later on, these material gifts are left forgotten in one corner of the room.

Realizing all these, my heart pounds more excitedly for Christmas this year! If it can only speak, it would shout out to my brain: "Finally, the heart can get to make a sensible Christmas wish list!"

For Christmas 2016, let me share with you what I got on my list. For some, they may consider it boring, but I tell you, this is to my heart's delight! First, I wish for the well-being of my peers. We started as strangers in school, we became friends and I would desire for us to treat each other as true brothers come graduation day from DLSZ and off to the real world. Second, I wish all my loved ones, here and abroad, good health. Health is wealth. You can have all the best things in the world, but what sense to have them if you have a suffering body that can't even bear to get up from a hospital bed. Third, I wish for love to reign and peace among all religions. We may differ in our beliefs but we all have one God to worship. It is then strange why religion causes division amongst us. Lastly, I wish for more charity works. I have started at a young age doing them and I would want to continue doing more. As long as there are children to feed, to clothe, and to show compassion to, I would want to grow old sharing food, giving away my used but still good clothes and to show love that can bring wonderful smiles on their faces.

All these, I should say, are the real essentials of Christmas. They bring about not just momentary happiness, but lasting joy. And they all boil down to one thing-LOVE. And that, I believe, is the true meaning of our celebration of Christ's birth.

So this Christmas, no more gadgets, no more new toys, new clothes and new material stuff for me. After all, as my favorite Beatles' song reminds me: "All you need is love... love... love... Love is all you need."

Andric B. Vitangcol

S.R.C.C.

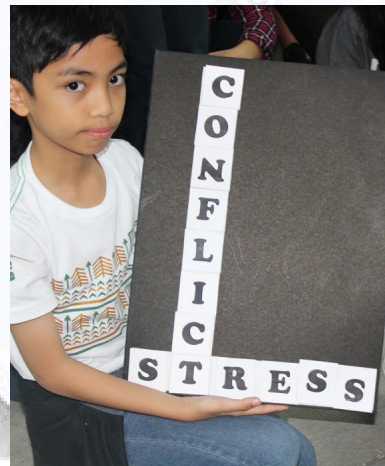
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last September, the GS SRCC together with some representatives from the academics attended the **37th Annual National Graders' Convention** sponsored by the Children's Museum and Library Incorporated commonly known as CMLI. The convention was held in Baguio City. Unfortunately, I had to be away during WizUp which also happened on that same week (September 14-15), but it was all worth it. I learned so much from the convention—from the characteristics of a good leader to becoming an inspiration to others. We were quite sad when the event ended because we really bonded as schoolmates.

Upon our return from the CMLI convention, our Student Judiciary Board or SJB led the **Class and Club Officers' Leadership Training** last September 20, 2016. The theme was "Leading and Inspiring Servant Leaders for God and Others". The attendance of the class and club officers was almost perfect. The speakers were the Art Unit Coordinator Ms. Mariko Camacho, Social Studies teacher Ms. Julie Agudo, and our Lasallian Animator Br. Martin Sellner FSC.

Next was the leadership training of all the SRCC: High School, Grade School, and BraFeNHS. We call this training **LLEAD 2**. The theme of the leadership training was "Trueborn: Embodying the Lasallian Tradition". It focused on the characteristics of a Lasallian leader and how to manage conflict and stress in the council and in the community where we interact and work with others.

Then came October, and guess what we had? Teacher's Day! Yes, last October 5 we celebrated Teacher's Day. We gave them treats such as a simple "pa-pandesa" with coffee and filling in the morning of October 4. Then, we made them relax and enjoy by providing them with different activities such dancing (Zumba), videoke singing, movie watching with free



snacks, hosting a running event etc. in the afternoon. On October 5, **World Teachers' Day**, a sumptuous lunch was served for the teachers. We had a special program where my schoolmates and I danced, sang, and played instruments for our dear teachers. A stand-up comedian was also present who entertained our dear teachers, making them laugh out loud. We were really glad that the teachers had a great time then.

Lastly, but definitely not the least event that we sponsored was the FAIR! Our council prepared different projects for this year's **Vision-Mission Week**. We admit that we had our ups-and-downs during the event, but with the support of the DLSZ community and God's help, we were able to overcome them. Overall though, I can say that the VM Week was ultra-fun and it's worth the experience as a servant leader.

Tricia Ocho and Chelsea Gomez bag awards in Math contest



Ma. Tricia Jasmin M. Ocho of 4F and Chelsea Lianne T. Gomez of 6H were two of the students selected by the Mathematics Trainers' Guild of the Philippines (MTGP) to compete in the 2016 National Parallel Challenge for Future Mathematicians held at St. Stephen High School, Manila last October 29-30.

Tricia Ocho of 4F brought home two awards. She received a bronze medal in the Middle Primary Division (Individual Category). In the Team Puzzle Category (Middle Primary Division), she finished Second Runner-Up.

In the same competition, Chelsea Lianne T. Gomez of 6H bagged a silver medal in the Upper Primary Division (Individual Category).

"I want to join in more competitions in the future," shared Chelsea after being asked of her plans after this achievement.

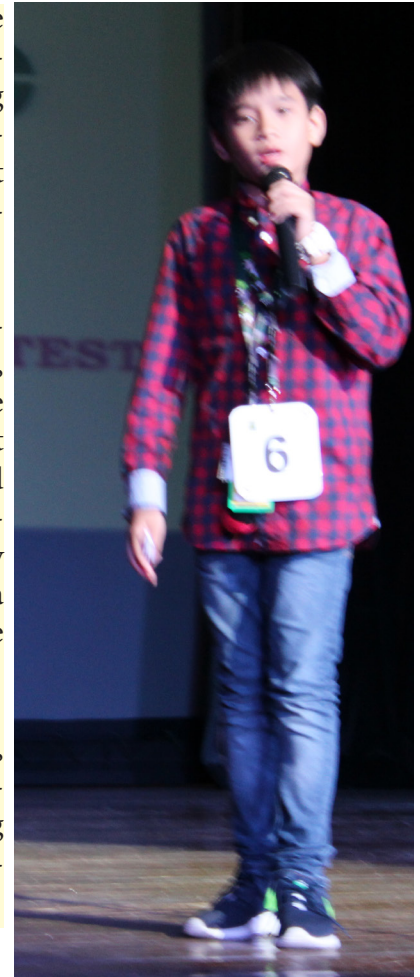
Dominic Ramos wows crowd in WiZup extempo speech competition

By: Jose Miguel V. Trinidad, 4F

Dominic Leo B. Ramos of 5I made his section and Team Iwerks proud after besting eight speakers and being declared champion of the Grade 5 Extemporaneous Speech Contest held at DLSZ's Sylvia P. Lina Theater last September 16 during the WiZup Week.

Ramos discussed his ideas of ambition in an interesting way. First, he made his listeners understand the meaning of ambition by saying that it is the same as goal. Then, he explained why it is important to have an ambition. Lastly, he presented an analogy between a man without ambition and a crumpled paper that is "thrown on the floor and forgotten."

On several occasions during his talk, Ramos received overwhelming applause from the audience comprising of students, teachers, and administrators.



The competition was judged by former DLSZ Grade School Principal Ms Ruby Ramos, High School Student Formation Officer Ms Carol Ramos, and DLSZ Strategic and Planning Officer Ms Magi Rasos.

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Dominic Leo B. Ramos (5I) is proudly joined by his adviser, Mrs. Theresa Fababeir (4th from L) when he received his medal and certificate.

Joey Del Rosario and Jana Endozo, named Most Outstanding Swimmers in Guam swim meet

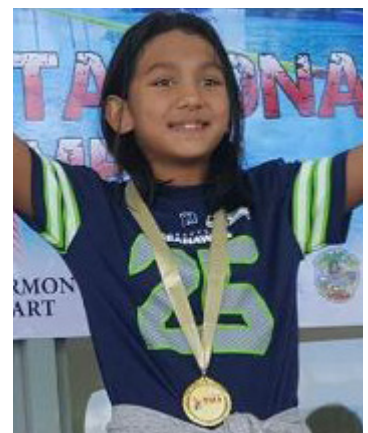
By: Ethan Kyle S. Lopez, 6A

Joey Del Rosario of 4I and Jana Kim Frauline Endozo of 4E both brought pride to the country and the La-sallian community after winning in the Guam Youth Athletics Invitational Swimming Competition held at the Leo Palace Resort, Guam last October 26-31.

Del Rosario was named the Most Outstanding Swimmer of the 10-year-old Boys' Division. He brought home a total of eleven medals- 8 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze.

Likewise, Endozo was named the Most Outstanding Swimmer of the 10-year-old Girls' Division, and she brought home 12 gold medals from all of her events.

Certificates of Recognition were also given to Ms. Marian Evangelista, DLSZ Swimming Club moderator and swimming coach, and DLSZ parent Mrs. Angela Lagos Del Rosario for the students' outstanding performance in the meet. These certificates were awarded by the legislature and people of Guam signed by the honorary speaker, Sen. Judith Won Pat Ed. D.



L-R: DLSZ Chess Team coach Jodi Fonda, Joaquin De Guzman, Bjorn Escalona, Jethro Aquino, Jefferson Villarin, and Hyoungbin Koh

DLSZ Chess Team bags 26 Medals in ISSA 2016 Tournament

By: Audric Vitangcol, 6A

Inter-Scholastic Sports Association (ISSA) Chess Competition held at Brent International School last October 15, 2016.

The Middle School Team, consisting of Jethro Aquino, Joaquin De Guzman, Bjorn Escalona, Hyoungbin Koh and Jefferson Villarin, was declared Champion in the Middle School Division.

Team A of the High School delegates brought home the Championship title while Team B finished in Third Place.

Lynux Ansay, Davenson Co, Khalil Kis-ing, Hans Reyes and Glesit Tatoy are the members of Team A while Team B has Dhon Agbayani, Joachim Figueroa, Giancarlo Francisco, Adolf Gaiser and Paolo Villa.

Dominic Ramos wows crowd ...

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In Grade 6 Extemporeaneous Speech Contest, Bjorn Isaac C. Escalona brought home the championship title.

The Grade School Language Department, headed by Ms Emilanie E. Hadjirul, sponsored the activity. It was hosted by Grade 6 English Language teacher Ms Elaine Love Vidal.



PHOYOS BY: KYLA BUAN

SAMU'T SARING TUNOG 2016: a showcase of DLSZ's finest young musicians and singers

By: Mrs Wilma Duco-Renolayan

De La Salle Zobel's Music Unit, under the headship of Mrs Gladena Real, put together all its music groups in a concert dubbed *Samu't Saring Tunog 2016*. Seven shows were held at DLSZ's very own Sylvia P. Lina Theater on November 17, 21, and 22 while the eighth and final performance was held at St. James the Great Church inside Ayala Alabang Village on November 23.

The **Rondalla** group, under the tutelage of Mr Philip **Dagang**, serenaded the audiences with a melange of timeless OPM hits from the Eraserheads, Side-A, Noel Cabangon, and Alamid. Both the young and old, captivated by this performance of Rondalla, caught themselves singing as the group played beautiful love songs like Side-A's "Forevermore." DLSZ Rondalla performed two more pieces—"Prelude Etnika", composed by Philippine National Artist for Music, Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasilag and "Palladio", composed by Karl Jenkins.

The serenade continued with Ms Ruby Cosico's **Musikawayan** as they performed a modern *Kundiman* jingle, "Ikaw Lang ang Aking Mahal", popularized by VST and Co. which was believed to be "the pioneer and icon of what is known as the Manila Sound in the 70's." Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan

Kita" was another piece performed by this group whose peculiar instruments—angklung, bumbong, marimba, and tipangklung—amazed the spectators. The arrangements of the two contemporary Kundiman songs were scored by Ret. Col. Gilbert Ramos who graced the finale concert at St. James the Great Church.

Crowd's favourite, the **DLSZ High School Chorale** with their conductor and moderator Ms **Martiness Panaligan** surprised the audience with their special rendition of Lea Salonga's "Kanta Pilipinas". It was a pleasant surprise to watch them dance and hear them rap, leaving the audience awed. Seeing Ms P. passionately groove to the beat was an added attraction. The group rendered another "live and lilting" performance—"William Tell Overture" arranged by Julie Eschliman. In one of the shows, they reminded their audience that Christmas is just around the corner through their interpretation of Mozart's "Fa-la-la". At St. James, they sang Claudio Macchi's "Laudate Dominum" and Francisco Feliciano's "Silence My Soul" which are a perfect fit for the ambiance of the magnificent church.



PHOTO BY: KYLA BUAN

Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika, composed by Dodjie Simon and arranged by Jan Neland Cabaguas, was a perfect song to end the concert as it capped the heart of *Samu't Saring Tunog*—that harmony can still be achieved albeit our differences.

In every show, **Ms Ardel Aldea's Jammers** brought the house down with their intense performance of Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Dark Necessities". Surely, they left their young crowd wired with their adrenalized interpretation of the song. At St. James, they did Adele's "Right as Rain" and Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine's "Lost Stars".

Ms Marce Flores's all-male group **Key of Z** won the hearts of many with their interesting "a cappella" version of The Beatles' "Yesterday" written and composed by Paul McCartney and arranged by Mac Huff. With a potential bass, rich melodies and harmonies, the members achieve a complete live voice band sound—with just their eight voices.

The **Grade 4 Beginning Violin** composed of Grades 4 and 5 students showcased their mastery of Shinichi Suzuki's famous "Allegro" and "Perpetual Motion". The audience was treated to a fast groove, rhythmic, and strong beat of the Grade School Strings rendition of "Blue Ridge Boogie" arranged for the string orchestra by Bruce Chase. This group was conducted by **Mrs. Ruby Natividad**.

The tandem of **Ms Racquel Belostrino** and **Mr Daryl**

Galicia did well with **Bars and Bells**, the young group of selected Grades 3, 5 and 6 students creating music using bells and xylophones. Indeed, the audiences appreciated their cute version of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off". **Jylaina Vera D. Roque** sang the pop hit.

The **DLSZ Symphonic Band**, under the baton of **Ms Nena Chavez**, relived the heat in *Saigon* and displayed their lung power with their impressive rendition of "Miss Saigon" medley arranged by Warren Barker. Giving vocals for "The Last Night of the World" were Ms Marce Flores and Mr Daryl Galicia while Ms Ardel Aldea performed a duet of "I Still Believe" with Ms Marce Flores. The band did an equally impressive performance of creations by John Williams; spotlighted in this medley were themes from famous movies like *Star Wars*, *Olympic Spirit*, *E.T.*, *Cantina Band*, *Imperial March*, and *Jaws*.

Mr John Heubert Vitor and **Mr Leopoldo "Pol" Sumera Jr's DLSZ High School Strings Ensemble** displayed splendid skills with their interpretation of themes from *Game of Thrones* Continued on page 8



PHOTOS BY: KYLA BUAN

SAMU'T SARING TUNOG 2016

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conducted by Mr Sumera. Also, their rendition of “Pokemon Theme” magnetized the Grades 3 and 4, compelling them to sing at the top of their voice while the ensemble was playing the said number. Antonio Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” was also performed by this group, with soloists **Joaquin De Guzman, Chelsea Lianne Gomez, Leila Neyens, Ramona Rajagopalan, Mariana Urera and Cjae Galang**. Also, with **Mr Linwell Lalic** as conductor, the group did “OPM Impressions” featuring OPM hits like “Pare Ko”, “Kisapmata”, and “Kapayapaan” uniquely played in jazz, swing, and reggae.

The **DLSZ Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by Ms Nena Chavez, led the crowd to a trip down south through their rendition of “Mindanao Sketches” by Antonino Buenaventura. Their performance left the audiences visualizing the “colourful vintas in Mindanao shores” and feeling the bravery and valor of the Moros in that land. The orchestra displayed their honed talents through “L’Italiana in Algeri Overture”, conducted by Mr Pol Sumera Jr.

The concert paved way for **BraFeNHS Strings and Chorale’s** debut performance. They did “If We Hold on Together”, composed by James Horner, Barry Mann, and Will Jennings. **Mr John Heubert Vitor** conducted the group.

But what truly moved the crowd in all shows was the

finale performance that united all the music groups to render their version of Richard Reynoso’s “Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika”, composed by Dodjie Simon and arranged by Jan Neland Cabaguas. It was a perfect song to end the shows as it capped the heart of *Samu’t Saring Tunog*—that harmony can still be achieved albeit our differences.

Everyone in the Music Unit including **Mr Paul William Cipriano**, Gr. 1 MAPEH teacher, who supervised the Grade School performers and ushered the guests during the gala shows shared something for the success of the concert.

Directed by **Mr Pol Sumera Jr.**, *Samu’t Saring Tunog 2016* was undoubtedly acclaimed as a success by the Lasallian community.

Ms Angenith Roche, Grade School Christian Living coordinator, watched the performance at St. James. “Ang ganda! Ang galing ng performances. I cried after the finale number,” commented Ms Roche.

“I liked Jammers a lot kasi they’re like rock stars”, remarked seven-year-old Kyrus Axel Renolayan who watched all the shows.

“I have watched countless DLSZ concerts for many years, and I can say that this one is the best”, shared Mrs. Luisa Delfin, Batch 2017 parent.

Choraling Caroling



The DLSZ Chorale, with their conductor and moderator Ms Maritess Panaligan, presented a special Christmas treat through a mini concert dubbed “Choraling Caroling” held at the lobby of the Sylvia P. Lina Theater on the first day of the Christmas month.

While every student was busy preparing for the Culminating Unit Assessment (CUA), the Chorale members were excitedly preparing for their Christmas concert, a seemingly time-honored tradition that the group preserves through the years.

This year, their repertoire was inspired by the theme of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol”. It included Christmas songs like “A Christmas Carol” (from “Scrooge”) composed by Leslie Bricusse and arranged by Ryan Cayabyab; “A Wish on Christmas Night” by Pinky Valdes and Jose Mari Chan; “Glad Noel” by Jane Foster and Mark Wilson; “In Bethlehem” by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse; “Wonderful Peace” by Gustaf Nordqvist which the Chorale performed with the DLSZ String Quartet; “Mozart’s Fa-La-La” arranged by Philip Kern; “Munting Sanggol” by Ryan Cayabyab; and “Variations on Jingle Bells” by John Pierpont and arranged by Mark Hayes. The BRafeNHS Music Ensemble gave a rendition of “Tunay na Pasko” by Augusto Espino.

The Grade School Vocal Ensemble did “A Wish on Christmas Night” with Jose Luis Chan as the soloist. Spotted in the event was the singer and composer of the said Christmas hit—Jose Mari Chan.

Jeremiah Feria was the narrator while Camilo de Guzman essayed Scrooge’s role. Some members of the Grade School Vocal Ensemble carried out some of the mini dialogues.

EWTN’s Dynamic Deacon inspires DLSZ to seek God in a Wired World

By: Mrs Wilma Duco-Renolayan



World renowned evangelist and book author, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers of Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) inspired parents and students who attended his inspirational talks held at De La Salle Zobel School’s very own Sylvia P. Lina Theater last November 18.

Dubbed “God in the Wired World”, the morning session was attended by parents, administrators, teachers, and other Lasallian partners. San Beda College-Alabang, Marymount Academy School, Manresa School, Sacred Heart School, Ville St. John Academy, Don Carlo Cavina School, Fr. Simpliciano Academy, Inc., Our Lady of Abandoned School, Southridge PAREF School, De La Salle Lipa, De La Salle University Integrated School, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas sent their respective delegates to the said talk.

The dynamic speaker reminded parents to inculcate among their children a strong conviction in their moral values as believers of the Christian faith, so the young minds can be prepared to face every temptation that they would encounter in the “wired world.” Deacon Harold reiterated the paramount responsibility of parents to make their children grounded in the Word of God.

In the afternoon, Deacon Harold’s talk was attended by selected classes in high school. Dubbed “Young People at the Forefront of the New Evangelization”, the discussion inspired the young crowd

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SRCC Holds Leadership Training for Club and Class Officers

By: Vitto Lorenzo B. Bisuña, 3H

CPA Lobby-September 20, 2016 The Grade School Student Representative Coordinating Council (SRCC) sponsored an activity called Class and Club Officers' Leadership Training. About a hundred grade school officers from Grades 3 to 6 attended the said training. The resource speakers were the GS-SRCC officers. They discussed what a true Lasallian leader is. They emphasized that a Lasallian leader should be a servant leader.

"I learned that as a class officer, I should change for the better, so that my classmates will behave," Paolo Betia, class officer of 3I, shared.



PHOTO CREDIT: Ms. Julie Agudo

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Kaia Mikayla Y. Diola, 4A

Last November 23, I went to Poblacion Elementary School (formerly Itaas Elementary School) with my brother Yaj, my schoolmates Sophie and Dominic, Ms. Julie Agudo, and other teachers from DLSZ.

When we arrived in the school, we were all nervous because there were about 50 public school students who welcomed us, but I felt happy when we all gave school supplies and food to the students who came. The books and school supplies were donated by the parents of Grade 4 students.

I realized that we should be very thankful because we can study in a school like DLSZ, without struggling; children like me whose parents work in La Salle can enjoy a scholarship; and our family can afford to buy books and other school related stuff. Although we are young I believe that we should also help, in our special way, those who have a hard time to study because they have no books or they are lacking in school materials. After all, we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

DLSZ Honors its Dedicated Teachers on World Teachers' Day

By: Paolo Jose Mari M. Betia, 3H



Photos by: Ethan Kyle S. Lopez, 6A



The Grade School and High School SRCC led DLSZ's celebration of World Teachers' Day last October by giving its dedicated teachers special treats.

On October 3, free coffee and "pandesals" complete with cheese spread were delivered to the faculty rooms for teachers' breakfast. The following day, teachers were treated to free massage, manicure and pedicure, too.

"The massage is relaxing," Grade 4 TELE teacher Ms Deana Cabanatan shared.

"This day is very special because we get to relax and remove our stress," Math teacher Mr Charlie Amarela explained.

On the third day of the celebration, the GS and HS SRCC prepared a yummy lunch-eon treat and a special program to honor the hardworking teachers. On the same day, the teachers enjoyed other activities like Zumba, videoke, movies, running activity, etc.

DLSZ's celebration of World Teachers' Day this year showed how special the teachers are in this community.

CMLI 37th Annual National Graders' Convention

By: Bianca Ysabel S. Roxas, 6E

“Ignite the Flame, and Keep It Ablaze.”

“What does that exactly mean?” I asked myself, as I read the theme of Children’s Museum Library Inc. (CMLI) 37th Annual National Graders’ Convention written in the brochure that I received. What I didn’t know at that time was that these words weren’t just any ordinary theme. Behind everything, they were special.

From the start, I was excited to witness this new experience. I was enthusiastic to be able to learn new things, to meet new friends. I was honored to be one of the lucky students to be picked. Simply put, I was happy, the fact that I was going to represent DLSZ.

I practiced for weeks, determined to bring home the bacon. With the help of my teachers, I became more confident and ready.



As I stepped onto the bus, I looked back, and saw my mom smiling at me. That was enough to give me determination; enough to give me courage; enough to ignite the flame inside of me.

Inside the bus, you could already feel the journey starting. Even though the delegates had just been together for hours, we could feel the bond among us. The atmosphere was welcoming, lively, and had much more in store for us.

Exhausted from the long trip, we arrived at Teacher's
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EWTN’s Dynamic Deacon...
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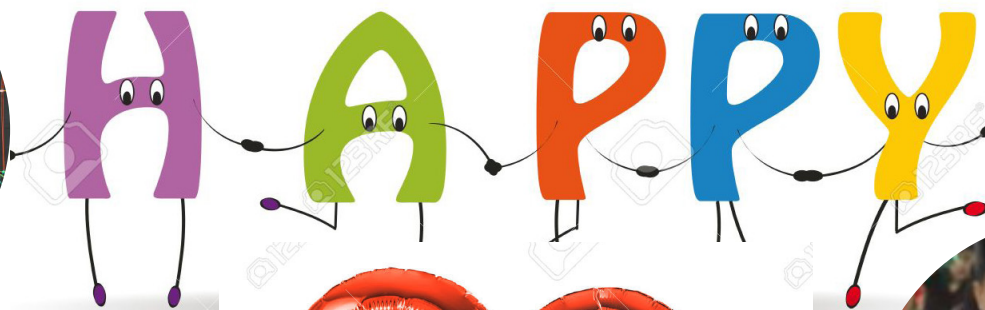


to aspire intimacy with God and be proud of their faith, sharing it while they still possess the vigor.

In both lectures, the dynamic speaker hooked his audiences with creative illustrations and the relevant real-life stories he shared with them. Both the young and the old admire his passion for Jesus and the Word.

Known around the world as the “Dynamic Deacon”, Deacon Harold has travelled to different countries, sharing his expertise in “marriage and family life, discerning the will of God, the sacraments, the Church’s vocational choices and how they are lived out, male spirituality, pro-life issues, evangelization, prayer, and many others. Deacon Harold holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Theological Studies Degree from the University of Dallas.”

The Lasallian Formation and Mission Department (LFMD) under the leadership of Ms. Evangeline De Peralta and the Campus Ministry Office (CMO) headed by Mrs. Maria Carina Infante were able to invite Deacon Harold through the help of Mr. Emmanuel Rentoy of Character Education Partnership Philippines.



Despite the rains towards the end of the Vision-Mission Week, the celebration was a success.

Themed “**Trueborn: Embodying the Lasallian Tradition**”, this year’s VM Week was quite unique because it highlighted the kindness and Christ-likeness in Lasallians through the #isejesusinyou campaign wherein everyone was encouraged to post on social media photos of any Lasallian partners that embody the admirable-traits of Jesus.

A huge TV screen was put up in front of the Center for Performing Arts Building. The screen flashes the the activities lined up for the week as well as the photos submitted for the #isejesusinyou campaign.



DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

WINNING Part 2

By: Bjorn Isaac C. Escalona, 6G

"And what better time could there be to start helping others than Christmas - the season of joy, gift-giving and helping one another."



The **DLSZ Chess Team** has been very blessed to have a **back-to-back championship** awards for both the Philippine Athletic Youth Association (PAYA) and the Inter-Scholastic Sports Association (ISSA) this year. This is something that we should really celebrate for, so my coach and I together with my teammates, decided to have an outreach activity where we could celebrate by sharing our blessings with others. We thought of the children who love to play and learn more about Chess in **Sun For All Children (SFAC)** in Manila, an organization for street children. We prepared some food, activities, medals for the winners and the Most Valuable Players (MVP), and wrist watches as early Christmas gifts for the children. To sum it all up, it was a very fun and memorable experience. It went a little something like this...

November 27, Sunday, I woke up very tired because of the school fair. The fair was very fun but tiring because the catchers wouldn't stop catching us and it was really hard to go around the campus without getting wet since it was raining. But I ignored my weariness since I was very excited to meet the children of SFAC. On the way there, I felt a little nervous since I have yet to discover their personalities. Would it be easy to teach them chess? I had yet to discover.

After a few minutes of traveling, we finally reached

the Center for Lasallian Formation (CLF) where the outreach was held. I was surprised to see that there were young girls aged 8 and 9 able to play Chess with boys aged 13-15. It made me happy to know that they were interested in playing Chess. My equally excited but sleepy teammates Adolf Gaiser, Hans Reyes, Glesit Tatoy, Giancarlo Francisco, Davenson Co, Khalil Kis-ing, Cedrik John Malabanan joined this outreach, and of course our coach, Jodi Fronza. Ms. Faith Dimakiling from the Social Action Office assisted us.

The program started with a prayer led by Adolf, and then Coach Jodi oriented us on what we were going to do and what we were going to teach them. After that, we watched the performance our guests prepared for us. I was happy that aside from being Chess players they were also great dancers.

Then it was time for us to teach them. Some of them were a bit shy but most of them were very active. I was assigned to teach a young girl named Grace. She's a quick learner and a very good listener. It was a great experience, knowing that she listened to, and even memorized the things I taught her. I taught her the pieces, the board, and the movement of each piece. She made some mistakes at first but

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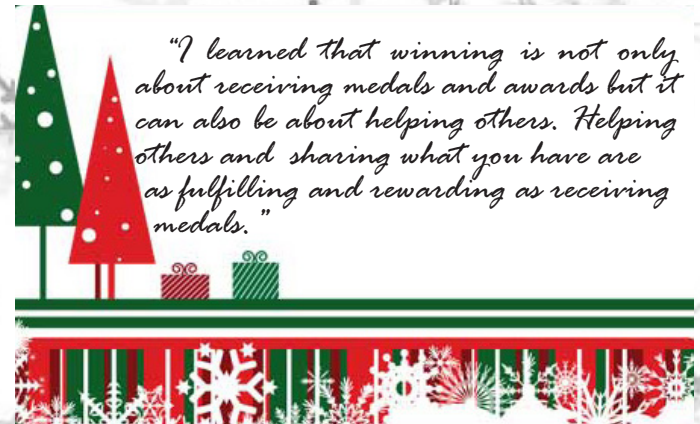


in the end, she got it all correct. There were some boys good already at playing Chess, but we taught them strategies to help them become better players. All of them were interested and attentive, so they learned fast.

After a few hours of teaching, we started the competition to test their skills. All of them were very serious and focused while playing the games. After the competition was the awarding. We gave medals to the MVP's or Fast Learners. One of them was the young girl I taught. I was very happy even though I wasn't the one receiving the medal. I felt honored that I was able to help her achieve something. We also awarded the winners of the competition. They looked very proud and happy. The people who didn't get an award were cheering for the winners, and even though they did not win, they were still happy for their friends. Little did they know that we have something special for all of them.

We didn't let the rest of them go home empty handed. We gave out wrist watches as early Christmas gifts for them. They were very thankful and very delighted to receive the watches. After the gift-giving, we distributed food for everyone. We ate and talked to each other. But sadly, the day was about to end. We bid farewell to the children of SEAC. I hope the next time we meet they will be better and advanced Chess players.

In the end, I felt overwhelming joy in my heart knowing that I made other people very happy. I can never forget the smiles the children had on their faces. It felt



"I learned that winning is not only about receiving medals and awards but it can also be about helping others. Helping others and sharing what you have are as fulfilling and rewarding as receiving medals."

good helping others to learn something they want to know more about. It felt like winning. I learned that winning is not only about receiving medals and awards but it can also be by helping others. Helping others and sharing what you have are as fulfilling and as rewarding as receiving medals. It may not be in a form of a competition, but achieving something, like helping someone get closer to her dreams, is like standing on the podium with the first prize trophy. I know that every kid like me can be a winning kid in so many ways.

And what better time could there be to start helping others than Christmas-the season of joy, gift-giving and helping one another. Let's not just think of material presents; it could be spending time with them, sharing what we know, or teaching them new skills. Let's make this Christmas a memorable one by helping others. Why not start helping now and be a WINNING KID too!

CMLI 37th Annual National Graders' Convention

Continued from page 12

Camp for the 37th Annual National Graders' Con., but the breathtaking views of Baguio made us feel refreshed.

Even though the rain was raging, we managed to settle in, just in time for the Hip-Hop Dancing Competition.

Mia Carcido (6G), Julia Laylo (6F), Drew Velasco (6F), Steven Toledo (6G), Ianna Gutierrez (6G), and Maxine Ilagan (6F) were the DLSZ representatives. From their gestures, you could evidently see the passion to win.

Between competitions, CMLI gave us the opportunity to mingle and gain friends. We were grouped into various teams, which to everyone's delight, were based on the worldwide sensation *Pokémon Go!* To name a few, the teams were Jigglypuff, Bulbasaur, Dragonite, Squirtle, Weedle, and who could forget Pikachu! They made learning so exciting and fun for us. We even met Kuya Drew, who graduated from our school!

We had the first out of many Commission Discussions, or 'The Heart of the Convention' where we learned beyond the contents of the books. We learned the value of teamwork, cooperation, and many more.

That same day, just when we thought we were done, more eliminations took place.

Julia Laylo (6F), our contestant for "Mini Me", portrayed the famous twitter sensation, Yaya Dub. You could proudly say that she looked like a carbon copy of Maine Mendoza! She truly wowed the judges with her humorous performance.

Mia Carcido (6F) and I competed in Extemporaneous Speech Contest. Mia joined the English category while I proved my speaking prowess in the same contest, but in the Filipino category. Mia confidently persuaded the judges, as she shared her thoughts on the topic, "Why is it important for children to strive for excellence?" I had the same task as Mia did, but this time I made it relatable and connected to both the convention's theme and our very own Vision-Mission. I also competed in the Essay Writing Contest, while Mia represented the school in News Writing.



Sidney Lampayan (6A) sang her way to the top and she was able to make it to the Solo Singing Finals! She performed "The Show", a lively song that everyone can relate to. She had the audience singing and dancing to the song.

There was also the Pop Quiz Hot Shots, which I and Mia Carcido participated in. Believe it or not, not all the questions were about academics! One question was 'What do you give to an Eevee to evolve her into a Vaporeon?' and for the Potterheads, 'Behind who's head did Voldemort appear in The Sorcerer's Stone?'

Phoebe Carbonell (5F) looked cute and charismatic as she represented our school in Storytelling (English category). Anyone who listened to her astounding story would definitely give her a standing ovation. Fortunately, her talent led her to becoming one of the finalists too!

In that convention, we were inspired by resource speakers who not only opened up our minds, but our hearts too. They shared with us the true meaning of leadership and how to be a great leader by being an inspiration to others.



Slumber Party

One time, we went to school in our pajamas.



We went to the LRC for a slumber party. The party host was Ms Jenny Dela Rosa. She prepared fun activities for us! She even asked us to share our favorite bedtime stories. Hmm...I have a lot!



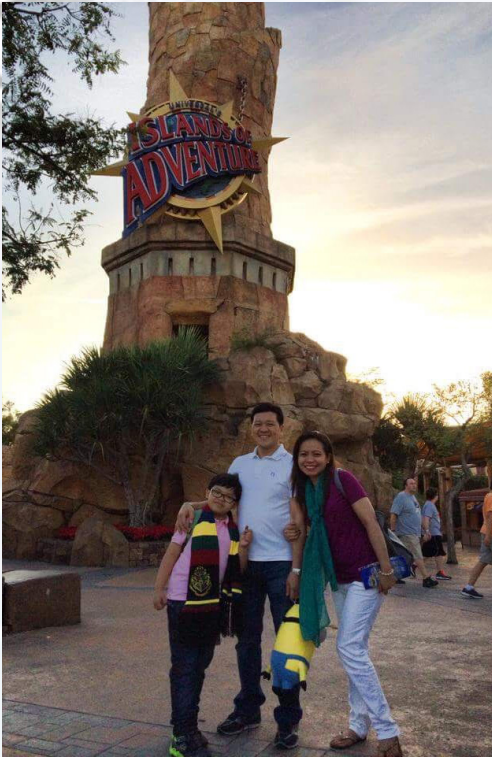
We put colorful circles on our party hats.



We listened to bedtime stories.

We played too.

We enjoyed our snacks after.



The Best Christmas Ever!

By: Audric Vitangcol, 6A

This is what could be the best Christmas for me - spending it with my Mom and Dad in two of the best places in the world! My best and most memorable Christmas ever was in 2013 when my family spent it in U.S.A, specifically in two different states - Orlando, Florida and New York. Let me bring you with me as I travel back in time and reminisce my unforgettable Christmas experience!

Traveling to Florida was our first destination. Getting there, we had to stop by Narita, Japan and Atlanta, Georgia. It was quite a long trip but it was definitely fun because we got to eat the best sushi in Japan and learned about mixed cultures in Atlanta.

When our plane finally landed in Florida, I remember it was night time but the surroundings were bright and the atmosphere was festive, filled with the joyful lights and sounds of Christmas. Their modern airport has so much graffiti art, restaurants and shopping places feeding my hungry eyes.

Getting a taxi was swift. It brought us to our hotel where we stayed for about a week. The hotel room was like an apartment which is a little bigger. There was a small living room with a television, a mini kitchen and dining table with a stove, oven, a microwave, and so on. There was, of course, the usual things in a hotel room, a bathroom (with a bathtub!) and a bedroom. Our hotel was near a Walmart branch where we bought stuff to cook and eat, like my ever favorite bacon! Also, there were washing machines at the upper floors which required four quarters to wash your clothes and the same amount to dry them. I remember one time when I even tricked the machine into thinking that 1 peso was a quarter! That was a little silly.

We were treated by my uncle (Tito Joey) and my aunt (Tita Lorena), both American citizens to Universal Studios Florida. They showed us all of the very fun roller-coaster rides, games, and shops. They even helped us in winning loads of prizes! My favorite ride was the **Men In Black: Alien Attack** where we were placed in a cart with pseudo-guns to be used to kill all the attacking aliens! I was a noob there and got very few points but my uncle and aunt were absolute pros, so they grabbed a whole lot of points that brought them to be listed top of the leaderboard! There was also this one ride called **Despicable Me: Minion Mayhem**, where we saw the laboratory of one of the movie's main characters-Gru. In there, there was a made-up commotion and malfunction in the minions' machines, so the lab turned into absolute mayhem! At the end of that ride, we were able to take pictures with the minions too! I also liked the Christmas Parade. Colors of all sorts were all over. This place was all fun!

When we were able to rest after that day full of rides, we tried another theme park called **Islands of Adventure**. There, we got a good visit at the **Harry Potter World** and enjoyed its 4D ride on "broomsticks" that made me feel like I was part of the movie. That was a really awesome experience! Aside from that, the park was also full of other stuff to watch, play, and ride that consumed and filled our day, once more, with so much enjoyment.



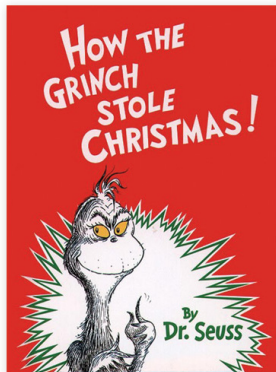
We also went to **Legoland Florida**. I saw absolute professional builds of famous landmarks like the **Statue of Liberty**, **Washington Tower**, **The White House** and even life-size **Star Wars** characters—all made out of Lego bricks! Some of these even had Christmas decors on them. For example, The White House had lots of gifts and even a mechanical moving parade. Some builds of ships can even float and move on water. The Washington Tower had a Santa Claus entertainingly climbing up and down the Tower. There were also cool games, like the **Lego Chima Racing Challenge** where you let a Lego Chima vehicle go far on the track and the **Lego Racing Game** where two players have to repeatedly keep pressing their respective play buttons until the first car reaches the finish line. I played against a random kid and I won! This was a really fun place too!

After that memorable week in Orlando, we went to New York. Our Manhattan hotel room was not as big as the one we stayed in at Florida. But the coolest thing about it is that there was a Japanese restaurant right beside our hotel. So we went there almost every morning and I ate my favorite tempura every time. The greatest wish during the trip was for me to experience snow... and God was so gracious to allow snow to fall on New Year's day. It was not as much, but I definitely was able to catch some snowflakes. I was so happy!

In New York too, we were able to take a cruise and see the Statue of Liberty. Although it was moderately raining that day, the Statue was still an awesome sight to see. We also went to the famous **Central Park** and **Central Train Station**. These places are so wonderful. We were also able to see **Times Square** and its many huge screens of advertisements of different stuff. I loved my experience at **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum** where we saw lots of pictures of famous people like **President Obama**, **Michael Jackson**, **Justin Bieber** and a lot more. Then, at very late night on New Year's Eve, everyone—tourists and New Yorkers alike—gathered at **Times Square** to see the **2014 New Year's Ball** drop. I was too short back then to see it actually fall because tall people were blocking my sight, but still, being personally out there was absolutely majestic and amazing! We all counted down to zero and honked our New Year's horns, wore New Year's hats, kissed each other and welcomed 2014 full of joy!

But with all those unforgettable experiences I had that Christmas, I believe that the most important thing of all was experiencing them with my family. The extraordinary happiness that I felt was all because I was in there together with them. Those excitement and fun would not mean anything without my parents with me. My best Christmas ever in the two greatest cities on Earth was actually made all the more meaningful because of the presence of the two greatest persons in my life—my Dad and Mom.

REVIEWS



“How the Grinch Stole Christmas” is about a creature who is annoyed by the Whos that celebrate Christmas. He is particularly annoyed at their singing, the noise and the feasts as well. The Grinch hates it when they open gifts. Since he is irritated, he plans to steal Christmas! But, how? Would the Grinch truly steal Christmas?

My favourite character is the Grinch because he realizes a lot of things in the end.

This story teaches us to accept others even if they are so different from us. The Grinch learns that lesson by learning to appreciate the Whos who celebrate Christmas. *By: Paolo Jose Mari M. Betia, 3L*



“Christmas on the Farm” is about animals who are wishing to see how Christmas is like inside a house. All of them, especially Denry the donkey, think that most Christmases happen indoors.

My favourite character is Denry the donkey because with his bravaery he is able to lead the other animals to Happydale Farm. This farm shows the story of the birth of Jesus.

By: Vitto Lorenzo B. Bisuña, 3H

My Most Memorable Christmas Gift

Alli Faye A. Malantic, 4C

Christmas carols, colorful decors, parties, vacation. It's Christmas time! I remember being able to stay home for Christmas in 2012. It was probably one of the most memorable Christmases I've ever had.

It was Christmas Eve, and I couldn't wait to open presents. I tried to do other things, but nothing could distract me from the thought of opening presents. Finally, it was late at night and you know what that means...PRESENTS!

We all gathered in the living room as we picked the presents that had our names on them. After opening the ones under the Christmas tree, my mom told



me to look in the stockings. As I dug in one stocking, I felt something like a note. I got it and read the message from one of Santa's elves. It said to look inside the play house. So, I went to the play house and opened its door. And there it was! The present had wheels, breaks, and everything. I got my first bike!

I do not always try to find a good Christmas just like that, I have to be the good one. And we all should.

The Mush-Mush Who Deserves a Gift

A short story by Hannah Thea P. Resurreccion, 4E



Once upon a time, there was a little community in the woods. It was called Mushville. The little people living in it were grumpy, cranky, and complaining all day long, but there was one little Mush-Mush who was not like them. Her name was Diara. Unlike the other Mush-Mushes, she was thoughtful, kind, caring, helpful, friendly, even though she did not have any friends.

It was nearly Christmas, and it was snowy for the whole month. The Mush-Mushes were very happy too. Diara was supposed to give her neighbors special presents, but they did not want to accept her gifts. How mean of them!

Now, Santa Mush was going around the village. He always wished someone was good, at least one. And he knew there was one! So, Santa went on his way and prepared a gift for this good heart—Diara.

In the village, everyone was busy preparing Christmas trees, lanterns, and carols. They started cleaning their houses too. But not Diara. She was sad because although the little people were excited for Christmas, they did not understand the real meaning of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, Santa Mush sneaked in only one house—Diara’s house.

Santa woke up the parents of Diara. They were surprised to see Santa Mush bringing a gift for their daughter.

“My daughter has always waited for you and your present, Santa Mush”, said Diara’s mother.

Santa grinned and hurriedly went to Diara’s room to see the lone kind heart at Mushville. Upon seeing that she was sound asleep, Santa left his special present at the family’s Christmas tree.

“Finally! You gave a Mush-mush a gift,” said one of the reindeers.

On Christmas Day, every Mush-mush was very excited to see if Santa left some gifts for them. But no one received a single gift, except for Diara whom Santa favored because of her kindness.

When Diara saw her gift from Santa Mush, she was reminded to be kind, even if no one is.



By: Patricia Alexandra M. Dela Cruz, 5E

Christmas break is coming too soon! Sometimes, we get bored at home and the boredom seems stressful. Here are some ways and ideas on how to survive Christmas boredom:

1. **Decorate your house.** Look around your house. Does it look like it’s out of season? It’s time to get your creativity out and start decorating your house!

2. **Make some treats.** Your family will probably have a Christmas party and you might want to help in the prep for the party. Making some treats would be helpful. Sometimes, you will be needing supervision from an adult. Ask permission from your parents first.

3. **Clean out your closet.** Sort out your clothes. Which ones do you still use? Which ones are just sleeping in your closet? If you have clothes that you don’t wear anymore, give them away. Bless someone or two with your pre-loved clothes, shoes, belts, bags etc. Don’t be a dog in a manger. Share.



Santa, the Toy Giver

By Sophia Leonore P. Mortel, 5A

Santa, a saint that visits at
 Christmas night
 He leaves toys to bring
 great delight
 He gives toys to good girls
 and boys
 But naughty kids will have
 no joy



Christmas Is Coming

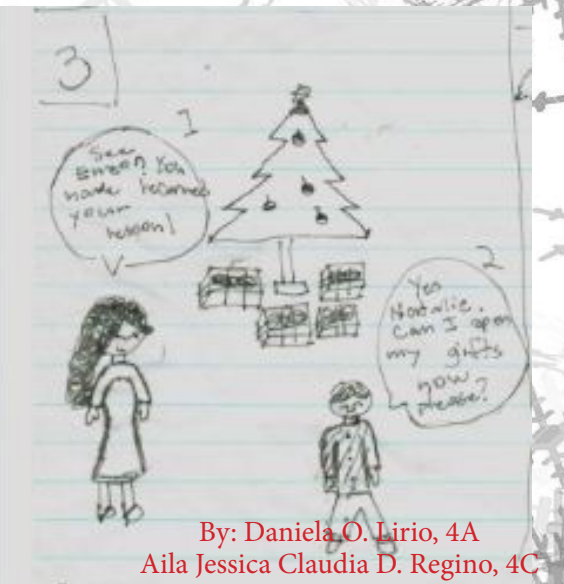
Randee Marie Beatrice G. Nonato, 4G

Christmas is coming soon
 We start hearing Christmas tunes

We look for something to give
 And decorate the place we live

It's getting cold, bring out the sweater
 Freezing, because of the weather

Santa is going on his sleigh with his reindeer
 Hope we all have a happy new year



By: Daniela O. Lirio, 4A
 Aila Jessica Claudia D. Regino, 4C

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

I have a red nose
 as you can see
 I am Santa's reindeer
 Do you know me?



P O E M S



Grade 1-D

Amanda Reign B. Ramos 1D

Flying like a pretty bee
Teachers and classmates are happy
We have fun games that we play
And we don't forget to pray

Teachers are all loving
We are always giving
We study properly
We are the friendly Grade 1-D

Spending Time

Ethan Winfred D.C. Paler, 4H

Spending your time wisely
To something worthy
It's great spending time with friends
Time like this should never end
It's great to spend time with the family
Spending time, fun you will see

Christmas Day

Rose Anne Margarett C. Cardines, 5I

Today is Christmas, today's the day
Carols and songs will start to play
See wonderful smiles on every face
Every nation, every race

This is the day where the famous tree
Will be built by you and me
Blinking lights, and Christmas balls,
Christmas, a holiday for one and all

At the Countryside

By: Wanda Arguzon Marquez, 4G

At the countryside
There's much to do
We can play on the grass
Drink lemonade in a glass

Go horseback riding
Wind blowing your hair
See animals and crops
Here and there, everywhere

You can go to the lake
Take a boat
Fish
And make a tasty dish

You can also listen
To a good ol' country tune
Maybe you can go
To a hoe-down soon

Oh at the countryside
The fun never ends...

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Micahbelle B. Syjuco, 5B

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	L
J	W	H	X	G	Y	P	Z	A	O
O	J	E	D	O	R	E	H	R	V
Y	S	E	X	L	Y	S	H	Y	E
E	A	K	S	D	Z	O	T	R	Q
C	V	I	W	U	D	J	P	A	S
A	I	N	L	O	S	O	N	D	R
E	O	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	T
P	R	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D
M	Y	R	R	H	S	T	F	I	G

BETHLEHEM MARY JOSEPH HEROD 3 KINGS MANGER STAR SAVIOR

SHEPHERD GIFTS GOLD MYRRH PEACE JOY LOVE SON

hugot

#pamaskonghugot

Jhana Gabrielle T. Salvador, 6D

Sana parang Christmas
na lang tayo... "merry"

Ang mga paasa, parang Christmas gift
lang, sa labas maganda, pero sa loob
panget.

Bakit pa ako kakanta ng "JOY to the
World" kung wala na tayo.

Di ba yung puso mo parang snow... "cold."

**Mabuti pa si Santa, hinihintay
mo, eh ako iniwan mo lang.**

Ang pagmamahal ko sayo ay
isang malaking Christmas tree,
pero yung pagmamahal mo sa
akin kasing laki lang ng dwende.

ON THE FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY

By: Andre H Paris, 4H



Parties. Gifts. Happiness. Santa Claus. Family and friends. Christmas tree. It's the happiest time of the year. Christmas!

Christmas is God's greatest gift to us. We celebrate Christmas because God sent down His only Son, Jesus, on this special day—to save us from all our sins. Jesus is truly amazing!

I believe we should realize that Christmas is not all about the parties and the material gifts. Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus—God's greatest gift to mankind given on the first Christmas day.