

YOUNG OBSERVER

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Transforming the Youth
through Service

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Service Begets Service

by Vitto Lorenzo B. Bisuña

Service. What purpose does it serve? Why do people do it? How does it help transform the youth? How can the youth be moved into action or service?

Service is very important. It inspires and touches the hearts of many, passing on its effects to others. It ultimately teaches them how to serve and help others, improving the quality of life of people, especially the marginalized, sick, injured, lost, and abused.

What are examples of those who serve? Teachers teach students important lessons and values that help them in life, shaping them to become better and also strengthens the incentive to serve. Parents. They've been there ever since we're born, and loved us ever since, and all those times they've been hard on us were only because they wanted us to improve and become better. The love they've given us gave us importance, uplifted us, and helped us share that love to others. Community leaders make and organise laws to improve the people's quality of life. The marginalized, as well as others, can also benefit from the activities of leaders when they organise community events made specifically to help them. Those affected can learn from the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to service.

Now, a child can learn from these doings. If they see it and are recipients to service, children pick up lessons such as being considerate, helpful, and loving. The child develops values of choosing to serve as well, and the people who witness the service can also learn, thus promoting a cycle or culture of service.

Therefore, serving and being served can positively affect a child, because learning and implementing good values can turn a child into a considerate and respectful role model for others to follow, thus increasing positivity and effectiveness of service to help those in need.



Photo from Pixabay.com

40th Graders Con Participants Bags Various Awards

by Rafa C. Sarfati and Danica Co

Grade school participants of De La Salle Zobel (DLSZ) in this year's 40th Graders Con came back with awards from various kinds of competitions held at Teacher's Camp, Baguio City last September 25 to 29.

These are the students and their respective awards:

- Julia Bernadette C. Cruz (2026)
-Champion Pop Quiz Hot Shot and 1st Runner-Up in News Writing in English
- Gael Azure M. Ilano (2026)
-Champion Pop Quiz Hot Shot
- Saisha Rea A. Masirag (2026)
-Champion OPM Solo Singing
- Gabriel Xavier Y. Ponce (2026)
-Finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking in Filipino and Mr. Graderscon.

The following students also participated in different categories:

- Zoie Francesca B. Aldave (2027)
- Extemporaneous Speaking in English
- Rhianna Marie S. Gemora –
Essay Writing in Filipino
- Aniela Jenina S. Lesaca (2026) –
Essay Writing in English
- Safia Annika Ysabel J. Pagilagan
(2027) – Storytelling in English

With the theme SPARK: Strengthening Proactive Advocacy on Revitalized Knowledge of Filipino Moral Values Towards a Stronger Nation, the event organized by the Children's Museum and Library Inc. also featured workshops, commission discussions, and seminar-symposium attended by 25 other schools from all over the country.



Photo by SCAO

GS participants for 40th Graders Con come back victorious in the five-day event held last September 25 to 29 at Teachers Camp, Baguio City. The students were assisted by SCAO Head, Ms. Caroline Ramos, and Ms. Jeanrose Barquilla.

My First Outreach Experience with the Performing Group

by Kimi Nantes (6C), contributor

It was on the 21st of August, 2019 when the De La Salle Zobel Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band had an outreach in Haven for Children, an orphanage and a school near Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City.

We performed there and it was a new experience for me, having not experienced my outreach yet. The pieces we played were The Avengers arranged by Robert Longfield, VST medley arranged by Pepe Camahalan, Bohemian Rhapsody arranged by Paul Murtha, the One La Salle Prayer

by Ms. Tes Panaligan, and the pieces for the strings like Beauty and the Beast and Phantom of the Opera. The crowd was so happy. They recognized some of the songs, clapping and singing along to our performance. I personally felt really happy seeing their reactions; never had an audience been so involved. Before we played any pieces, the different sections of the orchestra showed their instruments and did their lecture-demo wherein they played their own part to demonstrate the sound of their instrument.

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Photo from Pixabay.com

EDITORIAL by YO Editors

Last September 2, the Department of Education announced that they will be releasing guidelines to regulate the giving of homework during the weekdays. This was in connection to the proposed No Homework During Weekends bill.

No homework—sounds intriguing right? A lot of students would shout for joy and we agree that homework should not be given during the weekends, BUT homework will still be beneficial for students in the long run.

Having homework on weekends lessens the essence of the weekEND. These days are meant for resting and spending time with family and loved ones; basically, weekends are one's

“day-off”. If you have all day to relax but you still have tasks from school to do, it will defeat the purpose of having weekends. When weekends are free, students will be able to relax, take a breather, and prepare for the next sets of weekdays feeling more recharged. If we have homework on weekends, it will be similar to a working holiday for adults, which is never pleasant, if you ask us.

But homework should not be eliminated entirely. DepEd mentioned that homework should be limited “especially in particular subjects” which we feel should be reviewed further. If we lessen the giving of homework to just “particular” subjects, we are saying that some subjects are

more important than others. A better option would be to limit how much homework a student can have in a day regardless of which subject is giving it.

Why should it not be eradicated?

First of all, it can help those who are struggling in lessons, because it will allow them to practice and hone their skills. Secondly, homework will also be a nice way to review for upcoming exams, so that the students can know what to expect and study for.

In the end, we cannot do away with homework altogether. Like everything else in life, it should be done in moderation.

My First Outreach Experience... from p. 3



Photo by Symphonic Band

When this event was announced we were filled with anticipation. It's been fun preparing for this since the start of the school year, practicing our pieces to master our parts.

The Social Actions Offices (SAO) invited us to perform for them and it was a great honor. Hearing the audience clap, we all knew that the effort we put into honing our skills was worth it. When we were giving out food, I heard them thank us for playing for them. At the end, it was a learning experience for the kids, the orchestra, and me as a person.

Project Happiness: SCO equips students with mental and emotional care know-how

by SPO



Students enjoy the various mental wellness activities during Project Happiness at the CPA Lobby last Oct. 25-29.

Photos by SPO

At the last school week of October, one would be surprised to discover an arts and crafts area, ongoing yoga session, a videoke and dancing booth, and a play area right in the middle of the Center for Performance Arts Lobby. What is going on?!

In partnership with One Hundred Ways and Seriously Addictive Math, the activities are all part of Project Happiness to celebrate School Counseling Week. With the theme “Transforming the Lasallian Youth towards Success in Life”, the event ran

from October 22 to 25 as part of the School Counseling Office's campaign for the SAFE (School Aiming for a Safe Environment) and Mental Wellness Program.

“The general objectives [of Project Happiness] include promoting and heightening compassion for self and others through self-kindness, mindfulness, and connectedness,” said Ms. Erica Lucita Malli, Pre-Kinder and Kinder Guidance Counselor and Overall Head of the project. “So all the activities that we have here, all the booths, teach students how to be more kind to themselves, how to be mindful by relaxing, how to connect by interacting.”

Project Happiness featured five main booths: a dance and

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Service through I.P.o.N Challenge

by Kate Louise A. Leyva

The “I Plan on Not using trash” Challenge or simply I.P.o.N Challenge is all about saving the earth, helping the school, and making less people fall into poverty. So how do you help in this challenge? It is quite simple.

If you're in the canteen, and you're planning on buying a meal with a cup, you can bring your own container instead that's reusable, like your lunch containers. Whenever you use

this option, you will get a 5-peso change.

As you get it, you have your own sign sheet, so that the person who sold you the food will sign it and prove that you bought it using a reusable container and you didn't just get a random 5 peso from deep down your pocket and claim that you're saving the planet.

The 5 peso will be used as donations to the SRCC funds and

the Zero Poverty Program. As you can see, you really can improve our planet in a very small way—using a reusable container and donating 5 pesos. Just at least one action by everyone in batch could trickle down and save the planet WHILE saving hundreds or maybe even thousands from poverty. And that's service right? Follow our school's objective one step at a time.

ANIMO LA SALLE!!

SYLVIA E. PATIÑO

DE LA SALLE SANTIAGO ZOBEL SCHOOL'S EMBODIMENT OF AN EXEMPLAR LASALLIAN TEACHER

by Ms. Elma Dollente and Ms. Nancy Resma

There are countless ways by which a teacher, an outstanding teacher, can be described. For some, a teacher is like a candle that consumes itself to light the way for others. Still, for some, a teacher takes a hand, opens the mind and touches a heart. Whatever description for a teacher there is, all of them seem to describe MS. SYLVIA ESPARAS - PATIÑO, a teacher whose dedication to the Lasallian ministry stands as a beacon of light, an inspiration to many.

Sylvie, as she is fondly called by friends and colleagues, finished her Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Communication Arts at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and earned her Master of Arts in Teaching Reading from the Philippine Normal University. She started working in De La Salle Zobel (DLSZ) school in 1999 as a multi-level teacher in the Grade School Department, and eventually, a Language and Reading teacher in the Lower and Upper Grades. She served as Reading and English Coordinator from 2006 to 2009 and held the same position again in 2014 to 2016.

In all her years as a simple classroom teacher, she has manifested a high sense of professionalism and commendable work in engaging students in authentic learning. Long before the School adopted the Next Generation Blended Learning (NxGBL) program, Ms. Sylvia was already at the helm of developing lessons that show students' understanding of the lessons through guided

projects that effectively used technology integration. She developed learning modules that showed evidence of her expertise in her field. Outside of the classroom, she also served the school as editor of the two (2) PAASCU reports that helped gain certifications for the Grade School Department.

She continued to show leadership and dynamism in instruction as a subject area coordinator and patiently mentored the teachers under her tutelage. What sets her apart as an administrator is that, while she is compassionate to those she works with, she is also able to assert her authority when it comes to decision-making.

She became



the Grade School Principal from 2016 to 2019. Under her leadership, the Grade School Department achieved several milestones; among them, are distinctive awards in academics such as that of the International Robot Olympiad (IRO), Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd and several other Math competitions, here and abroad. It was also during her stint as Principal that the school was able to get international recognition through the Microsoft Showcase School Award, and the Apple Distinguished School award. Through her leadership, the Grade School Department was able to pass Level 3 PAASCU accreditation.

Aside from her outstanding academic leadership, Ms. Sylvia Espapras-Patiño has a soft spot for volunteer work. This is attested by her active

participation in many outreach activities of the DLSZ Social Action Office. Among them are:

1. Resource person/training officer in the DLSP and DLSZ Four-Year One La Salle Yolanda Rehabilitation and Recovery (OLSYRRP) Effort. District-wide seminar-workshop on K-12 Curriculum catering to 45 public school teachers of DepEd North Guiuan District in 2014. School Publication Writeshop for the selected grade school students of Guiuan North District in 2016.
2. Adult leader/kitchen staff for Kamp Tugon (Environmental Camp) last October 27-29, 2011 at Mt. Makiling Camp Site.
3. Consistent volunteer teacher at the New Bilibid Prisons Medium Security Compound, training potential teachers among the inmates. Currently, she is handling 46 inmates as students in English.
4. Trainer for public school teachers among DLSZ partner schools in Muntinlupa in the area of Instruction by teaching Strategies and Methodologies in teaching.
5. Volunteer teacher in the Bamboo School in Sanklaburi, Thailand on April 18-May 11, 2018 with the task of teaching English to both Elementary and High School students and trained English teachers as well. The Bamboo School provides education for Burmese refugee children on the border of Myanmar and Thailand.

Ms. Sylvia believes in the importance of empowering others. As Grade School

Principal, she further supported the OLSYRRP by encouraging and sending volunteer teachers from the grade school department to take part in the complete rehabilitation of Guian, Samar. Those who were sent were more than thankful for the opportunity to be of service to others through the simple gift of sharing their time and expertise to the people of Samar. Fueled by the same ideal, she passed on to the Grade School Council the challenge of continuing the legacy of academic excellence when she stepped down from her position as Grade School Principal at the beginning of the academic year 2019-2020 with the intent of going back as a classroom teacher where she is most happy.

All these she does while raising a family together with her husband, Mr. Dennis Patiño, DLSZ Computer Technology Coordinator and Robotics team coach whose support has enabled Ms. Sylvia to be a mentor, a leader, a volunteer, and a teacher. They say that gems like diamonds take years to develop and are hard to find. Yet, when they are finally discovered, one cannot help but be in awe of their beauty and their rarity; thus, becoming prized possessions. Similarly, a teacher like Ms. Sylvia is a rare gem whose beauty lies in her heart for teaching young minds and for serving others. Her outstanding contribution to the De La Salle Santiago Zobel Community is worth emulating and worth celebrating.

She is truly DLSZ's embodiment of an exemplar Lasallian mentor.

Photo by AdComm

Teachers honored on World Teacher's Day, Oct. 4

by Isabelle Serene Pongos

De La Salle Zobel celebrated World Teacher's Day last October 4 to recognize the importance and purpose of our loving and kind teachers.

This special day is loved by most and many students. A student from 6B, Sarah Jasmine Therese M. Santiaguel said, "(It's) awesome because the teachers can have a break." I guess we do have to all agree, right?

Students did activities such as performing songs, reading

of poems, and showing projects for teachers on teacher's day. Many teachers appreciated these gestures with a simple thank you. As part of the celebration, the teachers also enjoyed the Teacher's Lounge set up by the HS SRCC where the teachers were able to enjoy a free manicure, massage, and snacks.



After students were sent home, the teachers had their own celebration also organized by the Student Council.

Let's Smash!

"Super Smash Brothers" is a fighting game made by Nintendo, a video game company in Japan. The characters featured are from different Nintendo video game series like Super Mario, Kirby, The Legend of Zelda, and even other characters from other franchises like Sega. The series creator is Masahiro Sakurai and there have been five installments

in this series. The first installment released was on the Nintendo 64 console in 1999. In the latest installment, (Super Smash Bros. Ultimate) released on December of 2018 on the Nintendo Switch, there are 70+ fighters who each have their own special moves and attacks.

New DLC (Downloadable

by Francis Alessandro C. Narciso

Content) fighters are constantly being added to the game. What's more is that Sakurai himself said that even more DLC characters would be in development. You can play online with other people and there are still more stuff you can discover in the game yourself. Many people have different techniques to dominate other players; that's why it's a very enjoyable game for people of all ages. This game has easy controls which are, of course, easy to learn.

Smash Bros. has always been a popular game and for some people, it's their favorite game. I personally think that Smash got better with Super Smash Bros. Ultimate released. Since Smash Ultimate's announcement on June 2018, people have been excited to play it.



LITERARY

Lasallian

by Danica Co

A Lasallian is kind.
 A Lasallian stays on the right line.
 A Lasallian is bright.
 A Lasallian leads to light.
 If they can't be the light, they can be the spark.
 It's like shining in the park.
 A Lasallian studies hard.
 It's like playing cards.
 Transforming the Lasallian Youth through
 Faith, Service, and Communion
 To a Lasallian reunion.
 A Lasallian prays
 In all the days.
 A Lasallian is full of love.
 He or she thanks the Lord above.
 If you earn a golden medallion,
 You are truly a Lasallian.

Pili, Lipi at Pino... PILIPINO!

ni Bb. Ariane C. Candelaria, Guro-GS Filipino

Nagmula kay Bathala
 Dunong at kaluluwa
 Pati ang ating wika
 Sa madla'y ipapasa.

Simbolo ng sarili
 Na di maikukubli
 Wikang sinasalita
 Ng malalayang bansa.

Ngunit di ko malirip
 Dito sa aking isip
 Ang nangyayari ngayon
 Sa bagong henerasyon.

Wikang sariling atin
 Mababa ang pagtingin
 Kaya't di maisalin
 Kultura't kwento natin.

Nanalo ang tula ni Bb. Candelaria sa isang Patimpalak ng Pagsulat ng Tula ng LRC noong Buwan ng Wika.

Project Happiness

...from p. 5

videoke booth, a gaming booth, creative arts booth, reading and calming booth, and the cheer and appreciation booth. Each activity focuses on techniques and methods that would help them relax and cope with stress.

Ms. Malli explains that these skills are essential. "All the counselors have noticed that a lot of kids are really having difficulty managing their academics, their social life, their family life, their personal concerns, so we think that other than the services that we already give like interviews, counselling, and guidance classes, we thought that exposing them to these types of activities will help them become more aware and more knowledgeable in terms of learning how to cope with their difficulties as a student."

The SCO would also like to recognize the support of the LFMD, administrators, principals, CSAFs, Lasallian Partners, and the Parent Association for having parent volunteers help run the various booths.

Tayo'y magsama-sama
 Itaguyod sa madla
 Pagmamahal sa kapwa
 Sentro ng ating wika.

MINICRAFT

A GREAT CULTURAL PHENOMENON

by Vitto Lorenzo B. Bisuña

Minecraft, what makes it worth coming back to? After all these years, laying dormant, waiting to get its chance in the spotlight, does it really deserve it? Should its lost popularity come back like a sheep coming back to its shepherd? Let's find out.

A hard thing to go about this is how many things contributed to the revival of Minecraft. It's hard to list and harder to explain, so it's best to talk about the elephants in the minecart (I know that only one mob can stay in a minecart at a time, but saying boat sounds weird).

PAST MEMORIES

If you played Minecraft in the past, what did you feel playing it? What was the feeling of discovery, adventure, and playing with friends? If you ever felt some sort of emotion when playing like happiness, wonder, etc, it might be



Photo from Pixabay.com

nice to revisit the game and have those feelings all over again.

MECHANICS, GAMEPLAY, AND SIMPLICITY

For a game that seems filled to the brim with easy to learn gameplay, there is still a tremendous amount of mechanics to discover and mess around with, especially for new players. However, with more and more updates coming, it gives an incentive for older players to come back and learn the things that Mojang/Microsoft added to the game, while newer players can keep playing, considering that there is still much to explore and try in Minecraft.

Minecraft is enjoyable for many reasons. It could be working together, exploring, building, discovering, and more. Now, these reasons are big contributors to why Minecraft has gathered such a large following, but, surprisingly, there is an even larger contributor. Normally, a game will be easy



Minecraft uses simple gameplay combined with complex possibilities for application, providing endless hours of fun for both new and old players alike.



Photos from Pixabay.com

to get into or be immersed in if mechanics are simple, and Minecraft excels at that. Building, combat, crafting, mining, and almost the entirety of the game is overrun with simplicity, and because of the fact that the game is shrouded in it, it's easy to pick up and keep playing because the formula is very easy to follow.

IMPROVEMENTS, UPDATES, AND POSSIBILITIES

How do you keep somebody invested in a game for a long time? Updates, that's the key. Over 10 years ago, Minecraft was only a test, but after countless versions and updates, it has changed, improved, and accumulated such a large audience that it even beat

TETRIS as the best-selling game. It's no misunderstanding. Due to all that is added, such as improved villages, Pillager raids, new items and enemies from the 1.14 update, Village and Pillage, updates are much more consistent than before so that Mojang(or Microsoft)can still retain its big audience.

MOOD AND TONE

To many Minecraft players, Minecraft feels very... peaceful.

From the expansive lands to explore and the caves to dig, its tone feels calming, mostly due to the sound effects, and music done by C418 with many pieces such as "Wet Hands", "Sweden", and more. It makes the game have a better feel, and really has that player immersion that keeps players coming back to always have that familiar feel--one that no other game has.

Due to all of these factors that make the game so great, it's no surprise that people have come back after all these years. From the relevance of servers such as 2b2t (the oldest anarchy server in Minecraft) and SMPLive(a server where streamers play together) to the fact that Microsoft and Mojang are working extra hard to improve the game to keep players in and allow them to have more fun, Minecraft, after all these years, really deserves its recognition.

How to Give Beyond Things on Christmas

by Christian Ezra Webb



1 Give the gift of friendship. Friends are the people who can help you get through bad days and who can help you with anything. Without friends, people will be sad because they have no friends to talk to.



3 Give love to your pets. If you are lonely and your parents are always at work and you have no siblings, pets come to the rescue and what do they bring with them? Happiness. They can be your playmate (though be warned that dogs and cats have very short lives unless you have a tortoise that can live up to 100 years). Pets protect and love you unconditionally so give a little love back.



4 Share your blessings to the orphans and the less fortunate. Donate your belongings that you don't need and that they can use like old shirts that are still in good condition or shoes and toys you've outgrown.



2 Give the gift of time to family. Family is the most important elements of living. Without Family who would take care of you love you and guide you. So spend as much time as you can with your family so that you can make them and yourself happy.



5 Give time to God. Pray because it is the Lord's birthday, and sometimes, we forget this when we are too busy worrying about gifts and organizing festivities.

Photos from Pixabay.com