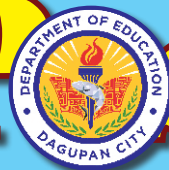


Educators' Post



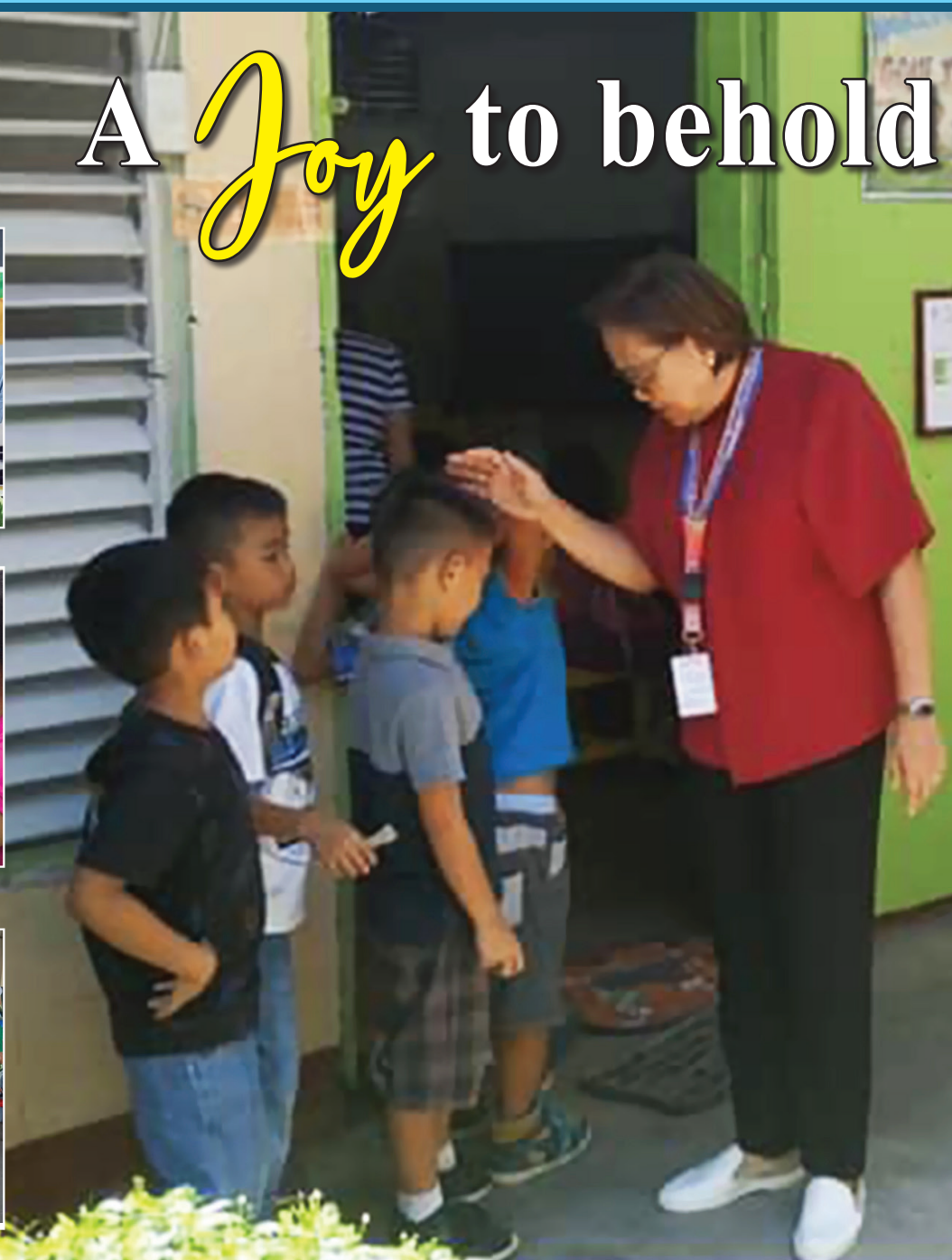
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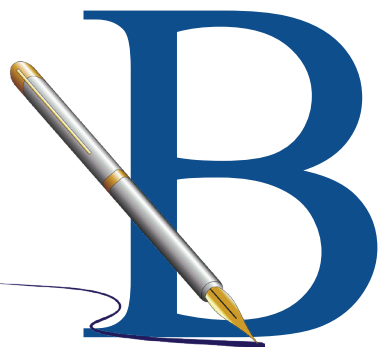
June 2019- May 2020

A Joy to behold

WHAT'S INSIDE



SPARK of Hope



Behind the success of a person are teachers who rejoice and reminisce the days when he/she was still with them inside the classroom.

Many of us, teachers are feeling nostalgic when we see our former students embark their journey towards success in their chosen field. We remember those moments when those successful professionals or businessmen who were once little and innocent, sought for our attention in the class. We remember their every little or big achievement in the class. We remember even the minor or major misdemeanors they had done, and how we disciplined them. Then, we ponder... Yes, we teachers are part of their success. We have that power to make or break the future of a child. And of course, we do not want the latter, for we always want what is best for them

However, the results of the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) 2018 which was announced last December 2019 brought apprehensions to many educators and academicians. Philippines joined the PISA for the very first time and landed at the bottom as it ranked last in reading comprehension and second to the lowest rank in Mathematics and Science.

Many had been theorizing that PISA was biased in administering the test because some countries were given the assessment in their native language. Truly, language barrier can really be a factor for low comprehension, yet, Deped Secretary Leonor M. Briones clarified that PISA gives the assessment based on the medium of instruction used in a certain country. In our case here in the Philippines, we use English as a medium of instruction in teaching Reading, Mathematics and Science.

For some, the results of PISA has become a cause for buck-passing on who to blame. Educators from different levels have again finger-pointing to absolve themselves from the responsibility by claiming to lack of authority due to mass promotion.

In relation to the National Achievement Test (NAT) results, we can say that not all schools perform best. As reported by the Manila Times last January 16, in the last three years, the performance of Grade 6 students in the NAT has been declining. In the 2018 NAT Result, the national average mean percentage score (MPS) in the Grade 6 level fell at 37.44 from 39.95 in 2017. While for Grade 10, the MPS of 44.59 was improved by 0.51 over the score of 44.08 in 2017. However, both grade levels were placed at the "low mastery" descriptive level in accordance with the Deped's NAT descriptive equivalent wherein 35 below means very low mastery; 36 to 65 indicates low mastery; 66 to 85 means average mastery; 86 to 95 is moving towards mastery; and 96 to 100 means mastered.

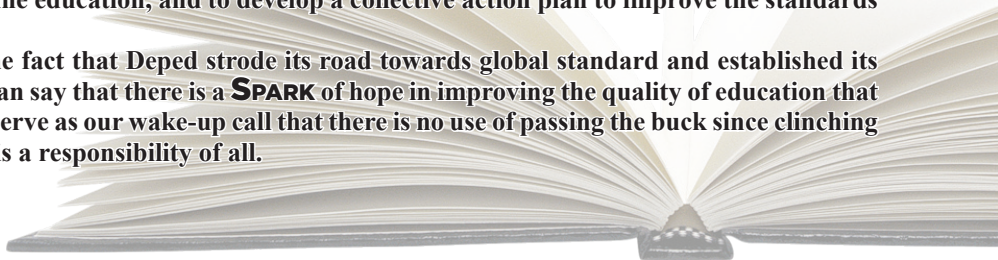
On a bird's eye view with the PISA results corresponding to the NAT Results, we can say that there seems to be a huge dilemma in our system to be immediately addressed. We need to reassess and review what went wrong. Is it because of the new curriculum itself? Is it because of the way we teach? Should we use new strategies and approaches in teaching? Is it because of the lack of support from busy parents? Is it because of the many distractions that hook the students? Many factors should be considered to clinch and hold on to that so-called quality education. There is no need to buck-pass or to pinpoint who is to blame, for each member of the educational system plays a vital role. Instead of blaming others, let's try to reflect as teachers. What can we contribute in achieving students' higher proficiency?

Meanwhile, DepEd revealed interventions they plan to make which include a curriculum review that aims to study the emphasis of the education system on foundational competencies, such as reading and mathematics, especially in the early grades.

According to Secretary Briones, the Department of Education (Deped) joined the PISA in 2018 as part of the Quality Basic Education reform plan and a step towards globalizing the quality of Philippine Basic Education. The PISA results will help DepEd in formulating its policy and in recrafting the planning and programming. She added that the standards of the PISA will serve as a baseline in establishing morals in relation to global standards, and benchmark the effectiveness of reforms moving forward.

Moreover, despite the results, the Philippine Business for Education (PBE) commended Deped for being courageous to participate in the PISA. According to PBE, PISA is an opportunity for all sectors to come together to take a hard look at the quality of Philippine education, and to develop a collective action plan to improve the standards for teaching and learning.

On a lighter and optimistic note, the fact that Deped strode its road towards global standard and established its quality basic education reform plan, we can say that there is a **SPARK** of hope in improving the quality of education that we have in the Philippines. These results serve as our wake-up call that there is no use of passing the buck since clinching that seemingly elusive quality education is a responsibility of all.



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A Joy to behold!

After notching a zero non-conformity and certification in the ISO 9001: 2015, SDO Dagupan City is now enjoying its humbling and glorious title. Looking back at Deped Dagupan City's long and winding journey to ISO certification, indeed the title itself is a joy to behold.

However, alongside the pride of being ISO certified, is the responsibility that everyone must understand. Being certified means being ready to respond to the call of quality education for all.

"Being ISO certified is both a privilege and responsibility, so we must continue to live up to our promise to an excellent and quality service to our customers," said the Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez.

Through quality leadership, unity of stakeholders, and service with a heart and joy, SDO Dagupan City, would continue its voyage towards excellence.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

MARIA CELIA JUNIO-FERNANDEZ EdD, MDM-SEC

Schools Division Superintendent

The opening of classes and all that we need to undertake before that, are spelled out. Our Learning Continuity Plan is anchored on the theme "Bayanihan: We Heal as One". This highlights:

- Implementation of a safe back to school program.
- The first week of the opening of classes is to provide psycho-social activities like counseling to prepare them for the new learning modalities.
- Strict observance of minimum Health standards set by DOH.
- Distance learning as a major component of learning delivery
- School year opens August 24, 2020 and closes on April 30, 2021
- School opening will not necessarily mean traditional Face-to-Face learning in the classroom
- Regional and Division Offices are authorized to decide on the specific learning delivery modalities
- Teachers shall start rendering services on June 1, 2020
- Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela will be from June 1, 2020 to August 29, 2020.

The New Normal

The outbreak of the corona virus pandemic brought an immense challenge for us at the Department of Education.

As we journey to the new normal, access and delivery of instruction for the incoming School Year 2020-2021 will take on a new scheme.

The conversion of the traditional way of teaching face to face to alternative modes of delivery have never entered our minds until COVID 19 made us come face to face with it and caught us off guard.

The uncertainty of finding a vaccine / cure made the challenge tougher. But life moves on and we at DepEd must brace ourselves for the change.

As DepEd Secretary Leonor M. Briones said, during a press conference with media men in May 11, 2020; this is the time for us to train ourselves to face our anxieties and learn to be critical thinkers, creative, collaborative and most of all, courageous.

Thus, the Basic Education-Learning Continuity (BE-LCP) of the Department of Education was created compliant to the IATF standards for the new normal. The BE-LCP is our roadmap to the new order of things.

Surely, the implementation of the BE- LCP won't be easy. It will greatly depend on family and community support. Thus, our higher officials seek the understanding, support and solidarity of our DepEd family and stakeholders, in the true spirit of unity and 'bayanihan'.

The road to be traversed is not without risk and danger... but until we have conquered the threat of COVID 19, our journey to the new world requires our courage and faith in God ...believing that all these shall pass.

At Dagupan City Schools Division we take the challenge. We brace ourselves as one family and we will fight against the COVID 19 invasion and remain steadfast in continuing to provide quality, relevant, and meaningful education to our young Dagupeños.

By God's mercy and grace, we will prevail.

MYRIAD THOUGHTS

LOURDES D. SERVITO, EdD, CESO VI

Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

As I write this column, I have been preparing to leave SDO Dagupan City to be moved to another schools division as per DepEd Memo issued a year ago. Always, it is not easy to leave people we have learned to love and a workplace that has been a second home and cradle of experiences that had taught great lessons in life.

Lessons are many, but I'll just cite a few:

1. Dealing with intrigues positively and accepting criticism in many situations have helped me conquer more of my imperfections and enhanced my courage and determination. Even seemingly negative opinions and comments have their positive connotations. I know I am not perfect, so does the one who criticizes me. Other people's idea or notion about me does not really define my being. I thank my bashers and critics for they help me become a better person.
2. Prayers, persistence and hardwork to achieve goals have worked with me. These might have worked with others, too. Step by step, line upon line, no short cuts for sweet success. I always adhere to the saying: "Do your best and God takes care of the rest."
3. Excellence is a continuous improvement. It is not something that is achieved overnight and without effort. A philosopher of the olden times claimed: "Excellence is not an achievement, it is a habit, it is something that is repeatedly done correctly and accurately."
4. When there is love at workplace and at home, work is never hard, for the love of work is a success. David O. McKay perfectly says it: The privilege to work is a gift; The power to work is a blessing; And the love of work is success.
5. Friendship is built in good and bad times. Sometimes, even if your intention is good, others see it the other way. Even if they speak ill of you upfront or at the back, love them anyway. Give love to the seemingly unlovable people. There is always a soft spot within. Love the friend, not the bad habit. Sooner or later, the bad trait will have its own toll.

The legacies? Not much that I know. SDO Dagupan City is my 7th assignment in the government service. Anywhere I go, I know I had a mission to do. For I sing the song. "I'll go where the Lord wants me to go, and do what the Lord wants me to do." DepEd is my 4th employment after coming from three other government agencies, namely Local Government Unit - Calasiao, Dept of Agriculture (FTRD), and Technical Education & Skills Development Authority (TESDA formerly NMYC or National Management Youth Council— under the Office of the President).

I guess my colleagues would remember me as a lover of libraries and books. I speak sharply to school heads who are not mindful of books, instructional and media resources. I frequently quote: "The heart of every school is the library". So when the school has no library, it goes to show, it is a school without a heart. So together with Chief Venus, we worked out and initiated the putting up of a Division Library Hub, where a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the City Mayor in 2014 for the provision of the Library Hub Building while DepEd Central Office will provide all the books to be contained in the building. When the state-of-the-art building was finished, and inaugurated, we had full hope for a functional library hub for the public and private schools. We followed up at the Central Office for the books to be delivered, just to find out that the new administration had phased out the Library Hub Program. So, the Library Hub building is now converted into an e-library, where we conduct trainings for learners, teachers, personnel and even OSY's.

Being a book lover, I network with (NGO's) organizations that donate books and support the reading program as well as enhance library collections in the public elementary and secondary schools. It was a natural desire fulfilled to have our own Division Office Library, even though we started with a little space for a temporary storage of books and now serving as a mini library.

With our initiative and innovation, Global Net for Books (GNB) as implemented, through our Division Librarian, Jan Vincent Galvez, we continually receive regular supply of books especially from the Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, (BKP), an organization of Filipino-Americans based in Massachusetts, USA, who are reading advocates who help schools in the Third World in their reading programs. Other book donors are the Rotary Club, National Bookstore, US Peace Corps, US Embassy, and the list goes on as we continue to fill our school libraries with good books for children to love reading, and hopefully to transform all libraries into real functional libraries according to standards.

My humble contribution to the training and mentoring program of the Division was the crafting and implementation of the crash course on School Governance Operations and Leadership few years ago when the Rationalization Program was not fully implemented yet and there was scarcity of Principal's Test passers, so there was a proliferation of OIC's in the schools division – OIC department, heads, OIC principals and I myself was also an OIC that time. We ran our own division academy with local resources and the 41 participants could attest that the impact of such undertaking had been greatly felt with added enthusiasm, confidence, willingness, courage and enhanced potentials. History records that all those OIC's before are now holding the positions of full-fledged Head Teacher, Principal I, II, III and IV if not Master Teacher I or MT II or promoted to Division supervisorship or program specialists. More trainings were conducted like the Results-Based Performance Management System (RPMS), where I was the Division Trainer, and more items were opened as the RAT Program ran into full swing. These eventualities happened in a span of five years and finally when all the



Lessons and Legacies

promotions were effected, I ceased to become an OIC, too, as I became a full-fledged ASDS, two years ago. God gave me a bonus last year too, as my CESO VI Rank was granted December 2019.

Campus Journalism as a passion goes with me in whatever position I get at DepEd, from a classroom teacher to Master Teacher to Principal I, II, III and IV and to ASDS, I take part in the campus journalism workshops and press conferences being a former school paper adviser and Journalism trainer. I enjoyed going to the schools speaking to young budding writers in their summer workshops and even during stormy weather at the islands. I also rejoice with the school paper advisers and campus journalists garnering awards and achieving excellence in the field.

Giving importance to both English and Filipino as our official languages, with the former Division Newsletter, "Educators Post", which contains mostly English articles and few articles in Filipino, I motivated Filipino writers - teachers and learners to come up with a separate publication in Filipino. The former EPS in Filipino, Sir William, gladly organized the "Uliran" just before his retirement. "Uliran" now comes out side by side with its English counterpart, Educ Post". Thank you, Sir William.

The role of the Division Media Society (DMS) in support to Project Lorna (Learning Outcomes Raised through Nurturing Achievers), Project RAISE (Responsive Actions and Initiatives towards School Excellence), and the ISO journey can never be outdone. DMS serves as the project's communication channel through the published printed materials and AVP's promoting innovations, and initiatives for the Division and all the schools to be ISO certified. And soon enough, with persistence and hardwork going on day and night, we became the 1st DepEd ISO-certified Division in the Province of Pangasinan. Kudos to our former SDS, Ma'am Lorna and all who lent a helping hand!

Amidst the challenges, extreme and huge, we are blessed with a leader who brings light, hope and joy. True to her name, Ma'am Joy, calm and kind, though frank and firm wants her constituents to be happy and enjoy their work while doing their best shot.

The launching of the Division initiative entitled "Joy of Learning" was inspired by her amiable traits—her sweet side that brings joy to learners and teachers as she expressed her deep concern for the welfare of all. With her brilliance exuding whenever she talks, she inspires and challenges the entire SDO family to do their best.

So the Project Joy of Learning is dedicated to her. She comes and visits schools to read a story to the kids, then ask them comprehension questions, bringing little tokens and light snacks for them. Ma'am Joy and myself enjoy the times we read for children and also to plant fruit trees and vegetables with the teachers and learners. It is showing how we care, sharing our precious time, making children love reading, planting, and learning.

Hopefully, we can all become bringers of joy to all learners, such that they enjoy learning and they are learning much, learning all that they need, to succeed in life.

My dear colleagues & friends, thank you for everything!
Godspeed!

BITS AND PIECES

VENUS MARIA STA. MARIA-ESTONILLO, EdD
Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division

My Learner, My Responsibility (Eskwela Ko, Sagot Ko)



Reading is a tool for learning. Good reading skills are the key to scholastic success. These skills open the door to opportunities in the development of skills in the various learning areas. Consequently, success in reading spells success in mathematics, science and other subject areas.

Success in reading however, is a hard-to-reach goal. This is the reality, judging from the results of national and international assessments conducted.

In 2018, Filipino learners participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). It is conducted every three years, and primarily "measures 15-year olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges".

Filipinos participated for the first time and had the chance to be compared with their global counterparts. Results showed that they ranked last in reading, and second-last in mathematics and science.

The PISA result echoes the low proficiency level performance of our learners in the National Achievement Test for Grades 6, 10, and 12 Mathematics, Science and English.

The dismal results show that we still have a long way to go. We are neither "at par with international standards" nor "globally competitive". We can definitely say that the learners who participated in the assessment are true representatives of what is happening in the education system and classroom teaching and learning in the country.

Consequently, Secretary of Education, Leonor Magtolis Briones, launched "Sulong Edukalidad" last December 2019, addressing the challenge of QUALITY in the entire country. She expressed her happiness to see major developments in terms of ACCESS to basic education but also stressed the need to respond to lingering challenge of basic education in the country: QUALITY, particularly of the student's learning outcomes.

In answer to the Secretary of Education's challenge to shift to QUALITY, and in response to the HAMON: Bawat Bata Bumabasa (3Bs Initiative) all for the intensification of the advocacy for reading and making every learner a reader at his or her grade level, DepEd, Dagupan City Division created its reading program, "Eskwela Ko, Sagot Ko", (My Learner, My Responsibility). This is the umbrella program of the division, where all the other reading programs in the schools are linked.

Eskwela Ko Sagot Ko takes off from the DepEd Central Office's "Project DEAR-Drop Everything and Read". Learners are expected to drop everything and read for 30 minutes at different schedule each day except Friday which is intended for performance tasks.

Learners are divided into two groups, those who can read and those who can't. Those who can read, usually belonging to instructional and independent reading levels are given reading tasks such as shared reading, reviewing the story, using the big book or making the big book. This group can be left on their own or with a class leader assigned to help ensure that the tasks are done.

The teacher then focuses on the learners with reading difficulties and conducts appropriate reading lessons or strategies to improve their reading performance. The aim is to develop learners who can read and comprehend in their grade levels.

Monitoring and evaluation of reading programs and projects are done by Education Program Supervisors and Public School District Supervisors. This leads to the giving of technical assistance and ensuring that proper interventions are in place.

Pre Assessment, Mid-Year and Post Assessment are conducted within the school year to validate submitted reports, monitor and analyze the reading progress of learners, and recommend interventions as needed.

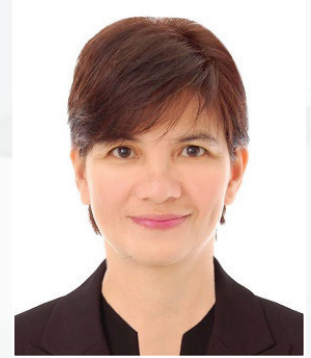
Eskwela Ko, Sagot Ko is designed to neutralize the inadequacies and deficiencies in learners' reading skills in all schools in Dagupan City. The program's ultimate goal is to empower learners to become independent readers and learners.

To my fellow reading teachers, I say: the teacher's responsibility is to make learners read, and to teach reading, is to lead your learners to a greater understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a decent human being in the context of a changing world.

LIBRAN SURGE

MARIA LINDA R. VENTENILLA
Chief, School Governance and Operations Division

ISOSA: An Evolving ADM on an Evolving Need



Being an In School Off School Approach (ISOSA) learner in a public high school in Manila when Department of Education (DepEd) was still Ministry of Education, Culture, & Sports (MECS), has always been very memorable and worth looking back.

Cayetano Arellano High School offered this Alternative Delivery Mode (ADM) because of a growing number of learner population and shortage of classrooms that was in the late 70s and early 80s. One week we're in school for teacher discussions and instructions for the succeeding off school week. We were given Self-Learning Kits (SLKs) which we do from home or from other learning spots apart from our classroom. They gave us off school challenging activities related to our lessons per subject like visiting/observing educational sites, interviewing people of various professions/levels in the society, performing experiments, meeting with groupmates in preparation for various types of presentations, etc. The SLKs were like talking teachers guiding & giving instructions, providing key answers and opportunities to check self-progress through the imbedded formative assessment. Cheating wasn't a problem because ratings would definitely be checked/validated during the face-to-face session with the teachers. ISOSA was piloted on the secondary schools.

On my 12th year as a public secondary school teacher, Modified In School Off School Approach (MISOSA) was developed by the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE) and piloted in 14 schools in 2005. MISOSA aimed to: solve congestion in schools with big enrolment; address the need of children for adequate learning materials; mobilize and strengthen community support; and improve students' performance. MISOSA is implemented in large classes (with more than 50 students) in Grades 4, 5 and 6 to address the perennial problem of congestion resulting from lack of classrooms, shortage of teachers, overpopulation, and other factors. Congested classes are subdivided into an In-School Group with classroom and subject teachers, and an Off-School Group with a para- or volunteer teacher. The MISOSA was catered to elementary schools.

Today, with the advent of various disasters, risks, greater challenges, the In School Off School Approach whether modified, stratified, and/or intensified has to be utilized in an evolving need... the need to conform and keep at pace in the Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, & Ambiguous (VUCA) world. This time with an interplay of basic and advance means. ISOSA would therefore continuously evolve as an ADM on a continuously evolving need.

CARPE DIEM

AGNES B. ROYULADA, EdD
EPS-English



*Much ado
about reading*

For several decades now, quality education has been a rallying cry of our national leadership. Our country has been investing and allocating substantial amount of resources to attain this quality that, even in the annual budget, DepEd has the largest piece. When the PISA results were released, expectedly our DepEd official were not too happy. In about seventy-seven nations participants worldwide, the Philippines hit rock bottom.

PISA is now telling us upfront that quality education in the Philippines remains farfetched and elusive. Being a program for international student assessment, PISA measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges.

Recent National Achievement Test results were seemingly similar with that of PISA. What then is somewhat disquieting and bothersome?

Perhaps because PISA is an international assessment of learners' aptitude. The tests gave a world eye view of Filipinos lackadaisical academic performance. It reveals how poorly our students fared in key learning areas that almost all nations in the world considered indispensable and significant.

What happened? The answer, some would say, is blowing in the wind. But, it maybe that the answer is in the heart of men. In the heart of the system. In the heart of those men in the system who create and perpetuate something that defeats and defies the spirit of quality our education is supposed to achieve.

Now, consider the following scenarios:

Scene I

The English teacher gave a failing mark to a learner who cannot read or cannot even identify/sound the alphabet. The same grade school learner however obtained a passing grade in other subject areas. Consequently, the learner was promoted to the next grade level. Despite the effort expended by the language teacher to encourage such learner to undergo reading remediation and acquire linguistic literacy, the same proved futile. This was so because the learner realizes that he/she can easily get away with reading lessons as soon as his/her grades in other learning areas turned on.

It, however, taxes the mind no end how the other teachers computed the grade of this non-reader for the other learning areas where linguistic literacy is a primary basis. Of course, the foundation of all learning skills is reading. How could a learner master the competencies in other learning areas when he/she cannot even identify the alphabet?

Scene II

Some school heads contend that if a high school learner possesses a modicum of language literacy, such learner could be considered for promotion to the next level. Anyway, the next designated teacher would take care of the competencies which the learner did not previously acquire or master.

This is a clear case of irresponsibly passing the bucket until the learner ends up busted in his track.

Scene III

A number of mentors take compassion by heart to the extent of giving away charitable grades. So long as learners are physically present in classrooms, the same would be enough basis for the passing grades regardless of whether or not these learners could read and write.

With this in mind, the teacher has to closely examine his/her true calling of educating the youth and making them acquire competences. The cruelty of compassion is creating false hopes. Learners go to school to gain knowledge and acquire skills and not to be pampered and spoiled. Of course, mercy is important but as long as teachers dutifully enhance and hone the learners' potentials, they give compassion its moral compass.

These situations that permeate in our educational system somehow taint our PISA performance. While most teachers and school heads honestly work hard to improve the quality of our education, there are adverse factors effectively hindering their efforts.

In these times of evolving global community, some educators must calibrate their mindset and teach reading skill conscientiously since the truth is, the quality of life of the learners depends on the effective acquisition of this skill.

VOICE WITHIN

MICHELLE M. FELSTEAD, EdD
Editor-in-Chief



*Revitalizing
the Role of
Educators*

The idea of teachers being the source of knowledge no longer suits the kind of education system we have today. Majority of the pupils and students belong to the Generation Z -- a generation of learners who have grown up in a technologically advanced and globalized world.

Today, technology continuously play a key role in educating today's and future generations. Since students can now gain access to information and new knowledge with a few ticks and clicks on their computers and cellphones, future generations might no longer see the relevance of the roles of teachers and in attending physical classrooms. It may sound sad and frightening, but it is not impossible to happen. That is why teaching today is one of the most challenging professions.

Being a Grade 7 teacher of language and communication, I find my students to be hyperactive, talkative, and have the shortest attention span. Gone are the days when all the learners are sitting while attentively listening, sitting while patiently writing, and standing while carefully reciting past lessons or answering questions to whatever the teacher would want to hear. We cannot help but compare even the attitude of today's learners to those of past generations. That is why, some of us may find their situation inside the classroom frustrating.

However, if we are going to carefully analyze their behavior, those characteristics are the traits of this new generation. We cannot force them to become like the past generations, that is why we need to accept these changes and redefine our role as educators of the twenty-first century learners.

As their teacher, we must carefully draft a plan that could turn those seemingly negative traits into positive ones. Let us try to reflect why do these kids keep on talking and walking around? Sometimes, we tend to forget that their generation is far different from the past generation of learners that we had, or even in our own generation. We can use those seemingly negative traits and turn them into their strengths. If learners love to walk and talk, why not let them collaborate? If learners have the shortest attention span, why not change the teaching strategies and shift into interactive ones where we involve all their senses in completing some tasks. This may mean that teachers will not do all the talking and lecturing and move towards the role of facilitating. We must adopt new strategies and practices to meet the needs of these learners. According to Robert Bush, professor and co-director of Stanford University, "The necessity for a redefinition of the role of the teacher is upon us and may well shape the content and procedures of teacher education for decades to come."

Let us expect that in the coming decades, massive changes are still yet to come. That is why we must prepare ourselves to embrace those changes and be flexible and resilient enough to face the challenging and demanding world of teaching. If we continue to hold on to our passion, we can revitalize our own roles as educators in order to meet the needs of our learners. The world needs passionate, dedicated, patient and good teachers who continuously seek for growth and excellence to be of help in developing good citizens and in building the nation.

ESP teachers, dep't heads undergo training on moral recovery

• Jonathan J. Salazar

DAGUPAN CITY – In a determined bid to endow timely professional development, the Edukasyon Sa Pagpapakatao (ESP) teachers in the Dagupan City Schools Division attended a three-day seminar-workshop on moral recovery at the Tres Juanitos Resort in Binmaley last August 28 to 30, 2019.

The activity targeted the holistic development of ESP teachers especially in their moral and spiritual aspects as they are considered catalysts of change and molders of the youth.

Education Program Supervisor Liberty G. Roxas, who ably organized the event and delivered the opening remarks during the opening program, disclosed that on hand to effectively orient the participants about the subjects during the three-day period were selected competent speakers.

Handling the sessions on the first day were Bernardita P. Azurin and Michael Angelo C. Gatchalian.

Azurin tackled the topic about 'Change Destination: Starting Up a New Life' which touched on the spiritual riches and wonderful life in store for the teachers by following God; even as Gatchalian talked about 'Change Direction: Repentance' as he gave the participants a fresh view of repentance and the impact it can make in one's life.

Bishop Arnold S. Magtibay spoke on 'Forgiveness' and made

the subject more interesting when he mentioned his personal and real-life experiences and read related Bible verses.

Meanwhile, Jason D. Gadon shared his knowledge on 'Change Lifestyle: Discipleship' – in the process encouraging the teachers to have a lifestyle check and be determined to align their way of life to God's purpose and plan.

On the final day, Pastora Anatalia Escurido Dinco shared her insights on 'Change Relationship: Lordship' – interpreting Lordship as bringing back order in our relationship with God and emphasizing that holy living cannot be forced upon a person but it is something done with obedience, while Phoebe Faith M. Batac effectively discussed the essential areas of obedience and pointed out the difference it can make in a person's life, especially as a teacher.

"All the sessions and topics were designed to target the moral, spiritual and values formation of the ESP teachers who are admittedly playing a very crucial role in educating and forming the youth," Roxas pointed out.

During the closing program, Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, delivered an inspiring message and challenged the teachers to observe and implement what they learned from the seminar-workshop.



Education Program Supervisor Dr. Agnes B. Royulada lectures on differentiated and individualized instruction during the English teachers' workshop, held at Binmaley, Pangasinan, last Sept. 26-28. Photo by Michelle M. Felstead.

English teachers join training on Pedagogical Retooling

• Melmar A. Ferrer and Jeneffer D. Chung

To update knowledge and upgrade skill with new strategies and technologies in teaching, Junior high school English teachers attended the three-day Division training in Pedagogical Retooling in English at Tres Juanitos Resort, Binmaley, September 26-28.

It focused primarily on teaching strategies with the use of technology, English lessons, and lesson exemplars.

Maria Victoria S. Trinidad delivered her topic on Utilizing Web Quests, videos and other Educational Technology Tools in English, while Princess Grace M. Kim had her topic on Integrating

educational Technology.

Education Program Supervisor Agnes B. Royulada stressed that differentiated instructions and individualized instructions are necessary to effect learning, precisely because there is no single universal approach that suits all situations.

"Different strategies used in different combinations with different groupings of students will improve learning outcomes. Some strategies are better suited to teaching certain skills and fields of knowledge than others. Some strategies are better suited to certain student backgrounds, learning styles, and abilities," she explained.

Moreover, Melmar A. Ferrer cascaded lessons and strategies in Defining Words through Context and Word Analysis and Noting Significant Details to Draw Conclusions.

Michelle M. Felstead took the lead as the speaker on the topic, Inferring the General Mood of the Selection followed by the interconnecting topic entitled, Making Inferences and Predicting Outcomes rendered by Jeneffer D. Chung.

The topics on Determining Cause and Effect Relationship and Getting the Main Ideas and Supporting Details were hauled out by Michelle L. Perez.

The last day of seminar was the demonstration teaching that showcased the acquired knowledge and skills of the participants.

'I came here to bring joy' – SDS Fernandez

• Mirian G. Campos

"I came here to bring joy," this was the opening statement of Dr. Maria Celia "Joy" Junio-Fernandez, the newly-installed Schools Division Superintendent of the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Dagupan City during her Welcome Party held last September 18, 2019 at the Division Training Center.

The ceremony commenced with a Welcome Message and Acknowledgement of Guests by Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent. In her message, Dr. Servito extended her warmest greetings

to Dr. Fernandez as the new Schools Division Superintendent.

"Today marks an important event in the Schools Division Office of Dagupan because we will be given a chance to have a leader who exemplified excellence and dynamism," Dr. Servito said.

Dr. Fernandez, a former SDS of Schools Division Office 1 of Pangasinan, replaced Dr. Bugayong who was reassigned to the Schools Division Office of Alaminos City. Dr. Bugayong served the city for 2 years.

During her speech, Dr. Fernandez said that she would continue projects and initiate programs that are beneficial to the present needs of the entire division.

She stressed that she will also monitor the schools which are now ISO certified to ensure that quality service and instruction is given to every Dagupeño student.

"Being ISO certified is both a privilege and responsibility, so we must continue to live up to our promise to an excellent and quality service to our customers" she further added.

At the end of her speech, she emphasized that given a chance, she would change the term "division" on how her office is called. Division denotes divisiveness and she wanted that DepEd family of Dagupan City remains strong and united.

DC mentors get free workshops

• Agnes B. Royulada, EdD

DAGUPAN English mentors took on the role of students during the free workshops aim to further equip them with innovative assessment tools and interactive instructional methods of teaching reading.

About forty teachers from public elementary and junior high schools, divided into two batches (February 29 and March 7), participated in the free workshops sponsored by FarmOut Central Inc., a call center company in Dagupan City.

“As part of our corporate social responsibility, we conducted these free workshops to provide our teachers with new and effective ways to measure English competency,” said Mr. Wilson Chua, the company’s president.

He added, “This benchmark will enable our trainers to check the effectiveness of English training on students. We have also shared tools to create digital curriculum, content sourcing and gamification. These tools are made to make learning more fun, shorter and enjoyable.”

Participants expressed their appreciation on the relevance of this training as they cope with the challenges brought by the new normal.

Marivil Cabadu, an English

teacher from Pogo Lasip Elementary School, said the training helped her learn how to engage learners by using 21st century teaching tools.

“I encounter different challenges in teaching English specifically reading. So with this seminar, I learned different insights on how to teach reading in an innovative way,” she said.

Moreover, Jose Myra Joy Muyrong, Grade 7 teacher from Federico N. Ceralde Integrated School uttered her gratefulness for learning some apps and tools that she could use in her online teaching.

“When this training happened, I was thrilled. They introduced the utilization of Google Classroom and the use of different free educational sites. Little did I know that this would become favorable in my future classes. It gave me the opportunity to reach my students even if I don’t see them face to face and an opportunity for me to use another online tool in my teaching,” said Muyrong.

Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez, Schools Division Superintendent expressed hoped that what the teachers had learned from the free workshop would be reflected to their own classrooms.



FarmOut Inc. Trainers Rico de Guzman, Pia Katherine and Maileen Saringan Ferrer with EPS Agnes Royulada posed with the English teachers during the free workshops conducted on February 29 and March 7.

Sci teachers meet for Cross-Specialization Training

• Glaiza E. Gutierrez

New curriculum means an upgrade – it is now or never.

The Science high school teachers of Dagupan City Division convened in a three-day seminar-workshop dubbed as “Cross-Specialization Training of Grades 7 to 10 Science Teachers on their Non-Major Science Subjects” held last May 26-28 2019 at Tres Juanitos in Baybay Lopez, Binmaley, Pangasinan.

The said training is pegged to enhance teachers’ knowledge and skills in both content and pedagogy to train them in teaching their non-major science subject/domains.

“Capacitating teachers through the training will also develop students’ interest on science process skills in line with 21st century skills,” said Dr. Cherry A. Cayabyab, Education Program Supervisor in Science.

After the seminar-workshop facilitated by school heads and selected competitive trainers from the secondary schools, teachers continuously reflect on their current practices for a far, better science teaching in the Junior High School level.

“Settling in with the mediocre pedagogies and classroom management skills deprives the advancement of learning for students and instruction for teachers. The boundaries of learning, particularly in Science, do not rest in the surface of lectures, but, flow deeply on drills and experiments.” added Cayabyab.

The realm of K to 12 seems to be a big leap as the curriculum itself burdens teachers who finished their degrees in a chosen field. On the other hand, the said curriculum introduces holistic development to learners.

Hence, a training-workshop on cross-specialization mediates this barrier – equipping teachers to better facilitate the demands of the thriving curriculum and to provide opportunities to teachers to go beyond their specialization.

More aptly put, through this training workshop, the grasp of these four learning areas of Science, namely: Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Earth Science is all-encompassing – this is towards levitating the standards of instruction while ensuring the efficiency of learning.

Dagupeña earns NSEG post

• Mohamed Ardaniel C. Swandi

Dagupan City Campus Journalist Janica Beyonce D. An was elected as the secretary of the National Secondary Editors Guild (NSEG) after garnering majority of the votes of the campus journalists.

An is the Associate Editor of The Achievers, the official school publication of La Marea Academy (LMA), a private school in Dagupan City and was also one of the representatives of Region I for Science and Health Writing English - High School category in the National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) held at Tuguegarao City last March 9-13, 2020.

Along with the gathering of the best of the best campus journalists of the country for the National Schools Press Conference 2020, students also elected the new set of National Secondary Editors Guild (NSEG) officers who will lead the Philippines’ Secondary High School scribes for 2020 to 2023 on March 10.

“I am very thankful, grateful and blessed to be nominated and elected as the National Secretary Officer of the National Secondary Editors Guild (NSEG) and I assure to become a role model to my fellow Campus Journalists and students with the help of my coaches, school paper advisers, my friends and family. Moreso, this is an opportunity for me to use the power of my pen and my voice to influence, inspire, empower and achieve a brighter future for the Philippine Society. All For Him!” said An, newly-elected National Secretary Officer (NSEG) in an interview.

The said success and continuing excellence of An depicts that she truly embodied her commitment, dedication and passion in advocating truthful and responsible campus journalism.

“The whole La Marea community, Division of Dagupan and Region I is so proud of her achievement,” said Swandi, SPA of The Achievers.

Likewise, Swandi and An expressed their gratitude to the whole administration of LMA headed by Ms. Ma. Rochelle SD Novales for her unwavering support for raising the bar of campus journalism of LMA.

“This another achievement of The Achievers is for all of the LMA Community. To our Almighty God who never fails to surprise us with affluent blessings and achievements. You are truly great! There is Power in the name of Jesus!” Swandi added.

The word “joy” invokes a good feeling from something pleasant and favorable – a feeling that begets happiness and contentment. Promoting a sense of joy in the workplace has always been a good sign in developing passion for work among the employees.

“I came here to bring joy” a remarkable statement of the new SDO Dagupan’s Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez also known as Ma’am Joy, during her Welcome Party held last September 18, 2019 at the Division Training Center, which made the Dagupeño faces’ cheer with delight.

But who is Ma’am Joy? “Where did she get her name “Joy”? -- these were the common questions asked by many.

THE EMBODIMENT OF JOY

The common feeling of a first-to-meet-the-SDS teacher would be nervous and uneasy; however, with Ma’am Joy, as the conversation with her goes by, unconsciously, that sense of uneasiness and nervousness is shifting into comfort, inspiration and laughter. She possesses that warm welcoming aura which eliminates the feeling of intimidation. Talking to her quickly reveals her to be sharp of mind and is a way practical. She can be forthright, yet her approach to people -- the way she talks, and the way she expresses her sense of humor run from the wits naturally.

Coming from a family of educators and administrators, she is a natural leader and an achiever. She spent her



toddler years with her grandparents in her mother’s hometown in the island of Samar. In fact, she was the only child of her parents who was born in her mom’s birthplace. At the age of five, she started schooling as ‘saling pusa’ at Tamaro Tambac Elementary School in Bayambang, Pangasinan, in her father’s hometown. She learned how to read words at the age of two and can fully read with comprehension at the age of five. Even in her childhood years, her good intentions for others had been evident as she taught her classmates (older than her) how to read during recess.

She grew up with a religious family. Her mother was raised as a protestant, but out of love was converted to be a Roman Catholic (because her dad is a catholic). Growing up with her Inay (her mom’s mother) who is a devout one, she had her early teachings about God and she used to join her Inay with her prayers of devotions and church visits, while on Sundays she used to join her cousins at Sunday school. She jokingly said in an interview that from Mondays to Saturdays she is a catholic while on Sundays a protestant, yet in truth, she loves both religions for they speak the same good loving God. She further emphasized that “True Christians do not use religion as a dividing factor “. However, when her parents came back and settled in Pangasinan, she was purely raised as a catholic.

Having been raised in a loving and nurturing family environment, combined with quality genes, abetted in the development of a Maria Celia Abainza Junio-Fernandez who was once a little island girl giving joy to people.

THE JOY IN CARING AND LEARNING

When Ma’am Joy was young, she dreamt of becoming the Filipino version of Florence Nightingale -- an English social reformer and the founder of modern nursing-- so she took up BS Nursing in college. However, due to severe

The faces

Michelle M. Felstead, EdD

anemia, she shifted to AB Social Sciences Major in Psychology, Minor in Sociology and Cognates in Anthropology in the University of the Philippines.

Her caring nature didn’t end there. Her love for children and learning made her go deeper in understanding them as she studied Masters in



Guidance Counselling and also Master in Education in Special Education in Teaching Gifted and Talented, wherein she was a scholarship awardee of Ferrer-Magsanoc Scholarship Grant. She also finished her Doctor of Education at Pangasinan State

University in Urdaneta. Furthermore, she was also an alumna and a scholar of the Development Academy of the Philippines - Public Management Development Program as she finished Masters in Development Management – Senior Executives Class (MDM-SEC) in 2013.

THE JOY IN THE FIELD OF ADMINISTRATION

Ma’am Joy did not actually express her intentions of becoming an SDS, yet as per an old cliché, “what is meant to be will always find a way”. She first served as a psychometrician at the Philippine Mental Health Association in Quezon City. She later joined the Department of Education as a Guidance Counselor in Bayambang National High School (BNHS). She then made history as she became the very first Head Teacher of Values Education of BNHS when it became a sole subject.

Her dexterity in the field of the academe was renowned not only in the Philippines, but also abroad as she was sent by the Deped Central office to Japan to be a resource speaker.

As she ranked first in the school head’s ranking, she was designated as Principal I in Dumpay National High School. In less than a year, she became Principal II at Daniel Maramba National High School. Her innate interest

of Joy

to be with people made her a National Officer of Philippine Association of School Administrators (PASSA) now known as NAPSSPHIL.

With her distinctive gift in leadership and outstanding performance, she was indorsed by former NCR Director Nilo Rosas to take the superintendency exam administered by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC). She passed the exam, but for

City. Then, she served in Pangasinan I for five years, and now in Dagupan City.

Her stay in Dagupan might not be that long, because she is to retire on November 2020, but then for a year and three months to be spent in Dagupan City, Ma'am Joy would like to inspire the Dagupeños to bring out the best in them; to put things in proper perspectives; to listen to people, to comfort them, to change things that are not right, and best of all, to try her best to bring people as one and never break anyone.

THE JOY IN LEADERSHIP

The innate gift of leadership of the SDS was nurtured with a loving and supportive environment and was seasoned throughout decades of experience in dealing with people. Ma'am Joy is an ultimately practical leader and a level-headed woman who knows her priorities.

Moreover, according to her being a leader is not just by having the title, not just being a figurehead.

"We live in a people organization where we are guided by rules and standards. It's easy to become a leader—to be promoted to reach higher office, but to



ranking for the Principal IV. She eventually ranked first and was assigned in Bayambang National High School.

Later on, she became the OIC-Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent in Tarlac Province for 11 months and eventually became a full-fledged Assistant Schools Division Superintendent in the province of Pampanga. She later became the OIC – Office of the Schools Division Superintendent in the city of San Fernando, Pampanga. She became a full-fledged Schools Division Superintendent in 2007 while serving Urdaneta

seven years, she did not yet utter any intention of becoming an SDS. She supposed to be an Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, yet she chose to join the

become one true leader that's where the battle begins," she articulated. However, according to her, as long as one knows his/her purpose, he/she will live a righteous life.

"Public service is public trust, the humility in you in being a leader is being more inspiring than stressful," she added.

Meanwhile, she expressed that sometimes, titles affect how others perceive and treat you. "Gratefulness is not measured by my position but on who I am," she maintained.

THE ESSENCE OF JOY

Joy holds different meanings for different people. A person may find joy in shopping, in finding true love, in promotions, in service and social work or even in simple gestures given by others. However, nothing compares to the joy of having what the heart desires for it leads to contentment.

As for Ma'am Joy, on her retirement, she plans to do everything that she was not able to do because of her work. She plans to travel a lot, spend much time with her family and fulfill her bucketlist.

Meanwhile for the Dagupeños, after the many challenges they have been through, the name Joy brought gladness and hope. With her pleasing and amiable traits, Ma'am Joy did not only brought the spirit of joy to Dagupan City, but also inspiration and optimism. She advised everyone to continue working, to stay positive and to trust God.

"Everything is possible as long as you work for it. With God, everything is possible. God is generous. Work for it!" she joyfully expressed.



Learners of Malued Elementary School actively engage in answering comprehension questions based on the story read by Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez. *Photo by Reynante B. Infante*

Dagupeño studees conquer int'l arena

• Anthony Romnick B. Junio

The students of Dagupan City continue to shine in international arena be it in Mathematics, dance or sports. A proof that the city has been truly blessed with talented young citizens.

International Mathematics Competition (IMC)

The 2019 International Mathematics Competition (IMC) which was held in Singapore on August 2- 5, 2019 witnessed a lot of Dagupeño students hauling medals. Jeffrey Jan Jabanes, a grade 8 student of Pangasinan Universal Institute (PUI), won a gold medal. Kaye Monique Cua, a grade 5 pupil of PUI and Emmanuel James Laforteza, a grade 6 pupil of Mother Goose Special Schools System, Inc, won silver medals. Charlene Cruz, who is a grade 8 student of Dagupan National High School (DCNHS) and her brother, Rayver, a grade 4 pupil of West Central Elementary School I, garnered bronze medal and citation awards in the same event.

Also, Jakob Immanuel Perez, a Grade 6 student of West Central Elementary School (WCES) I, won a silver medal for the individual and a bronze medal for the team category in China Primary Math Olympiad (CPMO) held at Hangzhou, China last July 27.

Another medalist is Jhoenica Gellido, a grade 6 pupil from Mother Goose School, who won a gold medal during the International Mathematics

Olympiad Competition (SIMOC) on July 5-9 in Singapore.

IMC is an annual Mathematics competition participated by qualified students from different countries. This year's competition drew contestants from 15 countries which were: Australia, Bulgaria, China, Hong Kong, India, Mexico, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Asia Pacific Arts Festival 2019

Three students of a local dance school won gold in the Asia Pacific Arts Festival 2019 held on August 17 at the Capitol Theatre in Singapore.

Performing Arts Studio students Miyah Angela Dar of Mother Goose Special Science High School, Rea Mae Graham of Dominican School and Jilian Kay Madison Fernandez of Ateneo High School wowed the judges when they performed in the Contemporary Dance competition of the festival.

The dance performance was choreographed by Choni Young, who was also the dancers' coach.

Jess Cup 17th International Clubs Taekwondo Championships

Another young man is making names in the international arena in the person of Kimi Raikonen Soriano, who brought home a bronze medal in the recent Haikou City Jess Cup 17th International Clubs Taekwondo Championships 2019 held in Haikou Hainan China last August 21 – 25.

SDS leads read along session

• Jan Vincent D. Galvez

SDO Dagupan City Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Maria Celia Junio- Fernandez led the read-along session as she read stories and gave educational and recreational toys to grade three learners during the read-along activity at Malued ES on November 26, 2019.

Dr. Junio-Fernandez read "Ang Alamat ng Palay" written by National Artist, Virgilio S. Almarino and illustrated by Conrad A. Raquel.

Prior the storytelling proper, Dr. Agape M. Nabua, Principal IV of Malued ES expressed her excitement and gratitude to Dr. Junio-Fernandez as guest storyteller during the opening program.

Mrs. Shelamie L. Ayala, grade five teacher introduced the mystery reader to the school children. Mrs. Joanne O. Ibasan, library in-charge coordinated with the Schools Division Office in the preparation and conduct of the said activity.

The story that Dr. Junio-Fernandez read was about the love of

farming. With this story, she wanted the children to realize the value of taking care of the environment and plants. This story also appreciates the Filipino farmers and farming. Responsive kids were given tokens during the question and answer segment and the rest of the children were also given toys sponsored by the guest reader herself.

Dr. Junio-Fernandez, who joined the read along program for the first time, said she is looking forward to attending more sessions. Now on its 9th year, the Read-Along Program was launched in 2010, which aims to promote reading and improve the declining readership among children.

Dr. Venus Maria SM. Estonilo, Chief Education Program Supervisor, Curriculum Implementation Division (CID), prime mover, Mr. Jan Vincent D. Galvez, Division Librarian, coordinator of the said program and Mr. Lemuel Dino V. Visperas, Project Development Officer II, Learning Resource also graced the event.

SDO-Dagupan bags BE awards

• Vladimir C. Parayno, EdD

SDO-Dagupan emerged as one of the top performing SDOs in 2019 Brigada Eskwela (BE) in the regional and national level. Federico N. Ceralde Integrated School received its National Award at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) spearheaded by DepEd Undersecretary Tonisito MC. Umali last November 28, 2019.

Moreover, regional awards were also bagged by the SDO in Brigada Eskwela last November 14, 2019 held in Star Monica Resort. Awardees include: Dagupan City National High School as Regional Champion in the BE Jingle Contest, North Central Elementary School as 4th place, West Central Elementary School I as 5th place, Dagupan City National High

School landed 5th place; while East Central Integrated School was again hailed as sustainability awardee

All of these awards have been possible because of the full support of LGU-Dagupan, Non-Government Organization (NGO), alumni and other stakeholders.

The Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez attended the said event with SGOD Chief Maria Linda R. Ventenilla, SEPS/Division Brigada Eskwela Focal Person Dr. Vladimir C. Parayno, Principal of FNCIS Mr. Dante T. Ubando, Mr. Daniel A. Moulic, Mrs. Jennalyn F. Cuison, Mrs. Ruchelle Ann G. Bautista, School Brigada Eskwela Coordinators.



Usec. Tonisito Umali, Regional Director Tolentino Aquino, and Regional Brigada Focal Person Mr. Darius Nieto award the Plaque of Recognition to SDO Dagupan headed by Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez, together with Maria Linda R. Ventenilla, Chief-SGOD and Dr. Vladimir C. Parayno, Division Brigada Eskwela Focal Person. *Photo by Vladimir C. Parayno*

Servito: 'Passion – Key to success in Campus Journalism'

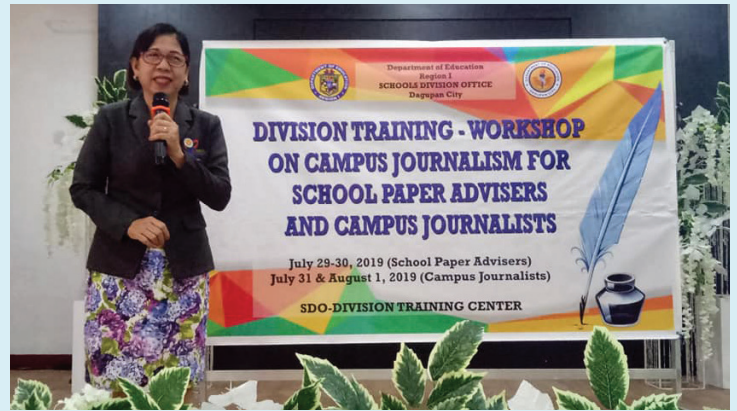
• Anthony Romnick B. Junio

“ALWAYS have the passion because it will bring you to the sweet success in Campus Journalism.” This is how Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, inspired the School Paper Advisers (SPA) and Campus Journalists (CJ) when she delivered her message during the Division Training – Workshop on Campus Journalism for School Paper Advisers and Campus Journalists on July 29 - August 1, 2019 at the Division Training Center. The four-day training was divided into two with SPAs going in first followed by the CJs.

Various fields in journalism were discussed such as Newswriting, Editorial Writing, Editorial Cartooning, Column Writing, Feature Writing, Science and Technology Writing, Sports Writing, Copy reading and

Headline Writing, Photojournalism, Collaborative/Desktop Publishing, Online Publishing, and Radio/TV Script Writing and Broadcasting.

Among the lecturers who shared their expertise were: Rhee Fer Hortaleza, a veteran journalist who is currently working at Aksyon Radyo. He gave lectures about the steps in writing editorials as well as how to do a column in the newspaper which is a new contest in the press conference; Dennis A. Solis, The ASSPAD president, discussed about the tips in laying out newspaper as well as some guidelines in TV Script Writing and Broadcasting; Filemon Rivo, Editor-in-chief of Uliran Publication, tackled the different sports lingo in Sports Writing; Ursus Junatas, National coach winner, discussed the innovative ways in how to start and end a Science and Technology article; Jerald Pangan, most outstanding SPA,



Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Lourdes D. Servito inspires the school paper advisers and campus journalists as she shares her expertise in Campus Journalism. Photo by Dennis A. Solis

gave the participants the chance to illustrate their own caricatures on certain topics such as Dengue and Human Rights Violation; and Peter Quetulio, also an outstanding SPA and national coach, provided some tips in news writing and copyreading and headline writing.

At the end of the training, the participants were awarded based on the outputs they made. The training proved to be very useful especially to the neophyte SPAs and CJs who dare to enter the colorful yet challenging world of Campus Journalism.



(From left) Mr. Francis Domingo (event host) and Dr. Jaime D. Campos, Jr. (EPS for Science), together with the Board of Judges for Physical Science Category, award the 3rd place winner for Physical Science Individual Category from Dagupan City Division Mon Anthony T. Gonzales with Coach, Mr. Reinneo Paolo D. Taliño, during the closing ceremony of the Regional Science and Technology Fair last November 23, 2019.

DC researchers reap citations in reg'l sci-tech fair

• Lora Thana R. Santiago

Dagupan City National High School's STE Program clinched three awards in the Regional Science and Technology Fair (RSTF), held at NEAP – R1, San Vicente last November 23, 2019.

Iris Javert V. Jovellanos, with Coach Mrs. Monica E. Cayabyab, won first place for his research on the “Deployment of Low-Cost Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) in Gathering Dissolved Oxygen and Salinity” under Robotics and

Intelligent Machines (RIM) – Individual Category.

Mon Anthony T. Gonzales, with Coach Mrs. Josephine B. Sunglao, clinched third place for the Physical Science (PS) Individual category with his research on “Stabilization of Cd and Pb levels and improvement of soil using Waste Mussel Shells (WMS)”

Also, under Science Innovation Expo (SIE) Individual Category,

SDO conducts training for AP teachers

• Liezl S. Cancino, EdD

SDO Dagupan City conducted training-workshop to Araling Panlipunan Teachers on Strategies and Learners' Materials Production as an intervention to improve the performance of the learners in the said subject last August 7-9, 2019 at Tres Juanitos Resort, Baybay Lopez Binmaley, Pangasinan.

The first part of the training is the revisiting of various teaching strategies for the teacher-participants to recall its key concepts and salient features. They were asked to reflect on their common practices inside the classroom for them to assess whether such strategies are properly executed. The first two sessions on teaching strategies were facilitated by Jerylle P. Tolentino and Jennifer M. Festejo, Principals of Calmay Elementary School and Tebeng Elementary School respectively.

The succeeding sessions include the discussion on the “Ortograpiyang Filipino” by Dr. Renato Santillan, Principal I of Bacayao Sur Elementary School.

Since Filipino is the medium of instruction in teaching Araling Panlipunan, teachers are expected to have good understanding on the

use of the said language. The said session is useful to the lecture on “Module Writing” by Juanito M. Villanueva, Master Teacher 1 of Dagupan City National High School, “ABAKADA (Balik Kasaysayan)” by Dr. Markconi F. Taroma, Principal I of Carael National High School and “Writing a Travelogue” by Cristina C. Aquino, Principal I of Judge Jose De Venecia Sr. Memorial Technical Vocational School.

The second part of the training focused on the production of Learners' Materials which started with a lecture on “Preparation of Instructional Materials” delivered by Dr. Eince B. Camota, Master Teacher II of Dagupan City National High School and Dan-Dan Irika M. Centino of East Central Elementary School.

Displays of various localized instructional materials which served as outputs of the training were highlighted in the last day of the activity. The teacher-participants presented modules, activity sheets, pictures, graphic organizers, and video clips to the training team for further suggestions.

Preventing plagiarism through Smallseotools

• Michelle Mina Felstead, EdD

With the advent of technology, researching for data and needed information is made easy. Information in electronic format are now accessible with just a few mouse clicks. This made copying and pasting of one's work easier. This also makes students and other writers fall into the bait of plagiarism.

In the classroom setting, some teachers are disappointed with the assigned writing tasks given to the students. Some student writers are too lazy to construct their own sentences in presenting their ideas. Some of their work were copied and pasted without paraphrasing or summarizing them, and what is worse is that they do not write proper citations.

The following are strategies by Robert Harris (2015) in his blog entitled "Anti-Plagiarism Strategies for Research Papers – Strategies of Awareness" which can be used to combat the increasing amount of plagiarism on research papers and other student writing. By employing these strategies, teachers can help encourage students to value the assignment and to do their own work.

UNDERSTAND WHY STUDENTS CHEAT.

Some of the reasons include: students simply do not know what plagiarism is. Other students know what plagiarism is, but do not consider it wrong since many others are doing it without being penalized. Moreover, some students fear that their writing ability is inadequate and many are interested in the shortest route possible through a course. With so many things to do (both academic, extra-curricular activities and recreational activities) and with poor time management and planning skills due to procrastinating, they run out of time as the due date looms, and thus they are tempted to copy a paper when time is short and they have not yet started the assignment.

TEACHERS MUST ALSO EDUCATE THEMSELVES ABOUT PLAGIARISM.

Plagiarism on research papers takes many forms. Some of the most common include these: Downloading a free research paper; buying a paper from a commercial paper mill; copying an article from the Web or an online or electronic database; copying a paper from a local source; cutting and pasting to create a paper from several sources, quoting less than all the words copied; and faking a citation.

TEACHERS MUST EDUCATE STUDENTS ABOUT PLAGIARISM.

Teachers must not assume that students know what plagiarism is, even if they nod their heads when asked. Provide an explicit definition for them like, "Not giving due credit to the creator of an idea or writing is very much like lying because without a citation, you are implying that the idea is your own."

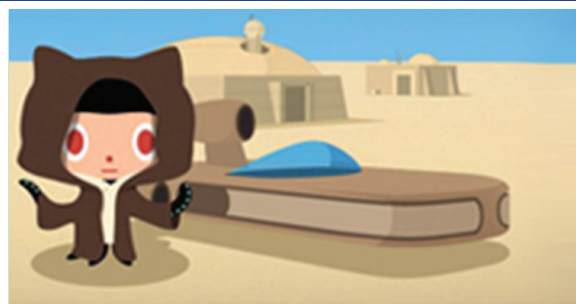
DISCUSS THE BENEFITS OF CITING SOURCES.

Many students do not seem to realize that whenever they cite a source, they are strengthening their writing, not weakening it. Emphasize to them the value of citing sources. Citing a source, whether paraphrased or quoted, reveals that they have performed research work and synthesized the findings into their own argument. By quoting (and citing) writers who support the student's position, the student adds strength to the position.

MAKE THE PENALTIES CLEAR.

Though many students have an awareness about plagiarism, still, they do copying and pasting others' ideas. This is because they are not penalized with the offense that they did. Make a clear policy about copying one's work and specify the penalties involved.

Aside from these strategies cited by Harris, teachers can also use some free tools in checking plagiarism among students' work. One of these is the "smallseotools.com." To use this plagiarism checker, just go to the website by typing smallseotools.com, then copy and paste the content of the article inside the box, and click on the big red button that says "Check Plagiarism". Then the article is automatically scanned for duplicated content. When the test is done, an exact percentage that tells how original or unique the article is presented. Also, phrases or sentences shown in red means they already existed online and will not pass Google plagiarism tests. Links are also provided to see the original source online where the students copied the material.



THE use of mobile applications is becoming a trend in the classroom setting as innovation of the 21st century education. Mobile applications are categorized under the umbrella of educational technology tools.

Mobile applications allow students to use their mobile phones in educational and informative purposes in a game-based manner where they could enjoy learning. It breaks the monotony of traditional classrooms and encourages students to participate and engage in the teaching-learning process individually or collaboratively. These applications come with ready-made assessment materials for almost all subject areas but teachers may also create their questions that would fit their context. These are also user-friendly and easy to manipulate. Teachers act as "host" in administering any of these interactive resources.

1. KAHOOT

It is a platform used to administer quizzes or surveys in an interactive way. Multiple choice questions are projected on the screen. The students answer the questions by tapping the options on their mobile phones or tablets with cellular data. Instead of letters, options come in a form of different shapes and colors. Its music and timer give additional excitement to the learners.

2. Quizizz

It is another educational tool that transforms classroom into an interactive environment. Similarly, Quizizz is also used in administering multiple choice or true or false questions, either timed or untimed. Unlike Kahoot, questions and options are both displayed on the devices of the students. It has music, avatars, memes and leaderboard that appeal to the students and makes learning livelier. Audio of the questions and options are available. It can be used as live in the classroom, practice or as homework. Quizizz also does item analysis so teachers get feedback and results in real time.

3. Padlet

It is a digital wall, also called the Padlet wall, allows students to express their thought on a common topic or answer to a question. It can be used as substitute to KWL chart, an exit slip or as an assignment. Students can attach images, pictures, video clips, document and text as they post their ideas in the digital wall. It is collaborative in nature since students can see and may comment on the work of others posted on the wall. It is doable even if there is only one phone per class.



SmallSEOTools



MOBILE APPS IN THE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM

• Princess Grace M. Kim

4. Pickers

It is an educational assessment tool without the need of the students to use mobile devices. The teacher is the only one who needs a mobile phone with Pickler app. Students need only to download Pickler cards available on the internet. The teacher using his Pickler application scans the printed and downloadable Pickler cards to get students' responses and feedback. The advantage of this application is that students need not to worry about devices and internet.

5. Mentimeter

This educational tool allows the teachers to get a response from the students using computers, tablets or mobile phones to respond to the questions or quiz. There are various ways on how to use Mentimeter depending on the response the teachers want to get from the students. Multiple choice questions, surveys, digital wall are just a few of the variations available in Mentimeter.

6. ProProfs

This is an online assessment resource. Students access multiple choice questions on this site. Students receive printable electronic Certificate of Achievement that displays their score, the title of the quiz and the date when the quiz is taken.

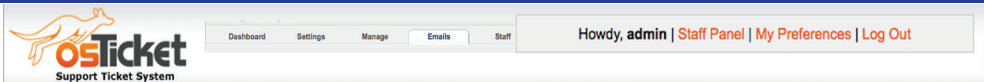
7. ZipGrade

It is a mobile application for teachers and is used to check answer sheets faster and easier. It comes with downloadable answer sheets with special code only for ZipGrade application. This application also does item analysis.

While these applications work with an internet connection and in trial versions, it is worth to try and experience these in the classroom. The free version offers a good deal of features; the premium version offers upgrade and license. In the absence of students' mobile devices, paper and pen can also be used as response material. There have been many researches conducted claiming the benefit of integrating educational technology in the teaching and learning process. As the quote says, "Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational."



Students collaborate in answering their quiz using Kahoot. They also enjoy checking their answers using ZipGrade. Photo by Princess Grace M. Kim



REDEFINING EFFICIENCY IN THE WORKPLACE

• Reynante B. Infante

Prior to the implementation of the Quality Management System in the office, around 30 – 50 clients are processing documents in the Schools Division Office – Dagupan City and among the estimated numbers, approximately half of those clients are able to accomplish their processed documents. Until came the SDO Dagupan Ticket-Support System.

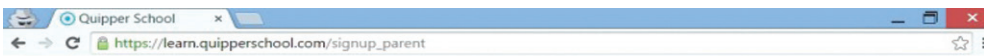
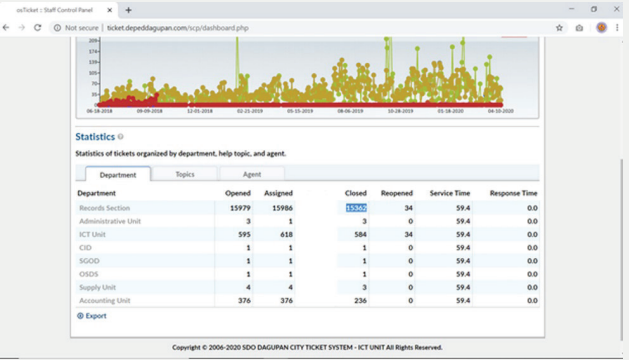
Back then, the process of requesting a service record or an employment certification is that, an employee should personally go the Office and make a request.

Since the implementation of the SDO's Quality Management System, the Information and Communications Technology Unit of DepEd Dagupan City developed a system that will streamline service requests called as the SDO Dagupan City Ticket-Support System. The primary objective of this system is to manage services which are physically requested in the office; automate and notify the workflow of documents that are submitted in the Records section. Also, it seamlessly routes inquiries created via web-forms and it provides accurate and timely information for internal management that integrates and fulfills departmental objectives. Every support request is assigned a unique ticket number which a user can use to track the progress and responses online, thus, redefining work efficiency in the workplace. The following are service requests or help topics in the system: 1. DepEd Email Creation and Password Reset; 2. ICT Hardware/ Software Servicing (SDO Personnel); 3. Request for Certifications; 4. Request for Issuance of Payslip; 5. Request for Service Record; 6. Submission of Report and Documents.

The platform of the ticket support system is web-based and integrated into the division website. It is powered by osTicket version 1.10.4 and running in PHP version 7.0.33. and was launched last September 2018. It has eight departments that systematically automates the process, namely: Records Section; Administrative Unit; ICT Unit; CID; SGOD; OSDS; Supply Unit and Accounting Unit.

Among the departments, the Records Section receives the most tickets since all documents are to be submitted initially in that section. A daily average of sixty (60) tickets being processed and resolved or closed in Records Section. To date, the Records Section has processed 15, 362 tickets; ICT Unit – 584 tickets; Accounting Unit – 376 tickets.

Truly, the ticketing system has redefined dynamism in the workplace with a visual increase in staff efficiency – teachers have less interaction outside of their work, employees have ease with which it can be managed and it facilitates in tracking services moreover, it saves time and resources. With this system, it is the right tool to accomplish great things.



QuipperSchool A Tool for Modern Day Education

• Paul Michael P. Felstead

In this 21st Century, learning is fast-paced, varied and able to cater to the needs of each individual student. It depends on students' individual pacing in learning. In the classroom setting, many are now shifting to blended learning. Blended learning is a model combining traditional classroom practice with e-learning solutions.

There are many ways on how the blended method of teaching can be employed and the use of Quipper is one. Quipper is an e-learning service provider that has been in the forefront of advancing the learning level of students through tools employing information and communication technology.

Quipper Philippines offers three services. These three services run on a single online platform, with the difference being the type of content available. They serve as learning management systems or textbook replacements for K-12 schools.

The first service is Quipper School, available only to public schools in the Philippines through the company's partnership with the Department of Education. The content on Quipper School consists of lesson slides and quizzes for grades 4 to 10.

The second service is Quipper School Premium, which contains study guides (downloadable PDF-based lessons) and quizzes for grades 4 to 12.

The third service is Quipper Video, which in addition to the study guides and quizzes, also includes video lessons for grades 10 to 12.

Teachers can access a library of topics that is in line with the Department of Education curriculum for their students to read, and ready-made quizzes for students to answer. Students' scores and progress can be monitored online, even parents can log-in and check their child's progress.

Quipper allows students to learn at their own pace anywhere where there is an internet connection. This is very useful especially when there is a suspension of classes, especially in Dagupan City where there are a lot of class suspensions due to bad weather and floods. Quipper can bridge the gap and continue the learning process without geographical limitations.

DC researchers reap

From P13

Xyrelle Nicole B. Beltran, with Coach Mr. Reinneo Paolo D. Taliño, won fifth place with her research "Interactive DRRM Map of Dagupan City National High School."

This has set a new standard for the Dagupan City Division, particularly Dagupan City National High School – STE Program, in coming up with more relevant projects in the future engaging empowered learners to serve the community.

"We hope that this feat will encourage more schools to take part in the growing community of Research in the region as research culture continues to soar," said Dr. Cherry A. Cayabyab, Education Program Supervisor (EPS) for Science.

The RSTF has been an annual avenue for Research enthusiasts to showcase their most relevant projects within the community each individual or team has invested in. These incredible projects were categorized into four (4): Life Sciences (LS), Physical Sciences (PS), Robotics and Intelligent Machines (RIM), and Science Innovation Expo (SIE).

The Life Sciences were evaluated by Dr. Evelyn E. Oda, Dr. Jomar Aban, and Dr. Maricel Pajimola. The Physical Science entries were taken in by Dr. Ofelia Giron, Prof. Celso Jucutan, and Prof. Analyn Sagun, and the Robotics and Innovation Expo categories were judged by Dr. Bernardo Lamadrid, Mr. Kris Bryan Rialubin, and Mr. Manny Hortizuela.

The researchers are set to compete in the National Science and Technology Fair this coming February in Tagaytay.

SDO conducts....

From P13

The training-workshop was graced by Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, CESO VI, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent of SDO Dagupan City who inspired and challenged the teacher-participants to keep honing their craft to achieve an improved learners' performance. The said training was conceptualized by Dr. Liezl S. Cancino, Education

Program Supervisor In-charge of Araling Panlipunan.

DC artists emerged winners in Sining Tanghalan, RFOT

• Sheryl S. Villacorta

SDO-Dagupan City artists were hailed winners in the Regional Festival of Talents (RFOT) held last November 28-29, 2019 hosted by SDO-San Carlos City with the theme, **Authentic Filipino Talents and Skills: Breaking the Barriers for Inclusive Education.**

All winners were from Dagupan City National High School. These include: First Place in PINTAHUSAY Adrian Kurt Javier and Coach Emmanuel C. Toledo; Second Place in SULATANGHAL Desiree Sheene Rosario and Coach Marko Fariñas; and Third Place in LIKHAWITAN were composers Kim Cruz, Miko Shane Querubin, Feuna May Santiago, Ray Alek Lim and Coach Frederick Narvas in the Sining Tanghal.

RFOT showcases talents and skills in Sining Tanghalan for Music and Arts. This was conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd), Region I, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD).



Dagupeño artist Adrian Kurt Javier, Coach Emmanuel C. Toledo and EPS Sheryl S. Villacorta receive award as the First Place in Pintahusay during the Regional Festival of Talents.

The competition aims to provide opportunity for learners in public and private elementary and secondary schools, as well as learners from the Alternative Learning System (ALS) to showcase their talents and skills through exhibition of their products, services and performances; and provide

opportunity for the participants to explore the culture of the host region.

First Place Winners of the different contest events in RFOT will represent the Region in the National Festivals of Talent to be held on February 17 to 21, 2020 in the City of Ilagan, Isabela to be hosted by DepEd Region II.

'I can...' kicks off

• Isabelita N. Daroya, EdD

Instructional District II, now cluster V launched its reading innovation dubbed as "I can..."

West Central Elementary School II (WCES II) implemented the reading innovation activity using materials designed to enhance the remedial reading program last September 23, 2019.

This reading innovation is under the SDO's Reading Program "Eskwela Ko, Sagot Ko" which was conceptualized and launched by Dr. Venus Maria SM. Estonilo, Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Implementation Division in support to the Department of Education's thrust "Every Child A Reader Program".

This aims to help learners develop their reading skills and be a reader at their own grade level. The "I can..." materials include the learner's activity to be used during the remedial reading instruction and Teacher's Guide which gives the remedial reading teachers specific direction on their day-to-day remedial instruction.

This innovation was patterned to the Oral Graphic Symbolic Language (OGSL) Program (McGahan, McGahan, & Broadway, 1975) and Teacher's Guide in Teaching Reading in English To Beginners and Nonreaders the OGSL Way by Arminda G. Casuyon (1973).

Public Schools District Supervisor together with the school principal of West Central Elementary School II, Mr. Reymond N. Villare, conducted an oral reading assessment to Grades 3-6 learners on August 14-16, 2019 using the PHIL-IRI pretest reading selection to validate the results of the pre-test conducted by the reading teachers.

The result showed that 50 out of 75 learners or 65.79 percent in Grade III fall under frustration level and are considered as learners at-risk. Being at risk does not mean that the learner is doomed to be a poor reader, but it does indicate that he or she may need close monitoring and prompt intervention to prevent reading difficulties. These readers-at-risk may need explicit teaching. Ordinary teaching is not enough for readers-at-risk, thus, special interventions are required (Brooks, 2007; Singleton, 2009) to meet their needs.

To further address the challenge, the PSDS together with the school head planned an intensive remedial reading program to enhance the reading skills of the concerned learners. Teachers were called for a short orientation on the implementation of the program. They divided the number of learners-at-risk, prepared remedial reading schedule and started implementing.

The program used one-on-one

approach. The teachers conducted their daily instruction to their assigned learners while PSDS and school head monitored the implementation of the program by the teachers. Friday afternoon has been their "kamustahan" or feed backing day where they share their experiences with their learners. Progress report forms and reflection papers were also prepared and submitted by the teachers.

In the post oral reading test of Grade 3 last January 14-15, it was found out that 46 out of 50 identified learners-at-risk or 92 % were able to read the PHIL-IRI posttest selection entitled "The Egg on the Grass".

"It's worth celebrating to know that the initiative and collaboration of everyone had helped the learners to have the prerequisite skills that they need so they can gradually move on using the prescribed reading materials," said PSDS Daroya,

The package of the program was shared and used by the teachers and learners of Lucao and Malued Elementary Schools with their very supportive school head, Mr. Gary B. Desoloc and Dr. Agape M. Nabua respectively.

WCES II school head, teachers and the PSDS, affirm that it is "I can..." which made a difference to the learners in developing their reading abilities.

SDO launches 'JOY of Learning'

• Jan Vincent D. Galvez

The Schools Division Office of Dagupan City under the sterling leadership of Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez, kicked-off its newest project dubbed as The JOY of Learning (A Day with Ma'am Joy).

Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, CESO VI, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent and project proponent brought pleasure and happiness to the learners and teachers of West Central ES I and West Central ES II last December 05, 2019. The project was also brought to Lucao ES and Juan P. Guadiz last December 06, 2019.

This innovative project was designed to create a happier learning environment for all schools, learners, teachers and personnel. Fun activities such as reading a children's story, feeding children and planting fruit-bearing tress and ornamentals took place.

A total of two hundred (200) grade five and grade six learners were gathered in all four schools. Dr. Servito emphasized to the children to be helpful, friendly and sensitive

to others as she read an exciting adventure story and fable entitled "Rainbow Fish To the Rescue", written by Marcus Pfister.

During the storytelling session, learners who got the correct responses were given tokens from the guest reader. After the storytelling session, children and teachers were treated to a healthy snacks brought by the SDO

Officials.

Dr. Servito was accompanied by Mr. Jan Vincent D. Galvez, Division Librarian and Mr. Lemuel Dino V. Visperas, Project Development Officer II for Learning Resource. This project became possible and successful through the support and cooperation of the school heads and teachers.



Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Lourdes D. Servito reads a story entitled "Rainbow Fish to the Rescue" to the learners of WCES I and II, during the kick-off of the "Joy of Learning Project."

SDO DC awards Division Searches

• Princess Grace M. Kim

Schools Division Office of Dagupan City headed by SDS Dr. Maria Celia Junio-Fernandez together with ASDS Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, SGOD Chief Maria Linda R. Ventenilla and Atty. Jose O. Oviedo awarded winners of 2019 Division Searches during the Educators' Night held at Dagupan City People's Astrodome on December 20, 2019.

For teacher category, Mr. Benedict A. Maramba of East Central Integrated School awarded as the Most Outstanding Elementary Teacher and Mrs. Princess Grace M. Kim of Dagupan City National High School -SHS awarded as the Most Outstanding Secondary Teacher for Teacher I-III category while Mr. Amulfo A. Tirao of DCNHS-SHS received the award as the Most Outstanding Secondary Master Teacher. Moreover, Renna M. Dimaapi recognized as the Most Outstanding Kindergarten Teacher and Mr. Reynardo C. Barrozo hailed as the Most Outstanding School Principal, both from ECIS.

Carael National High School bagged 6 awards for school-based category. CNHS awarded as the Best Performing School, the Best in MOOE Utilization, Cleanest and Greenest School, the Best NDEP Implementer and the Best GAD Implementer. Likewise, Salapingao Elementary School and Bonuan Boquig National High School had the Best in MOOE Utilization award. Another Best NDEP Implementer award was received by Pogo-Lasip Elementary School and ECIS as the Best School Partnership Implementer.

Cleanest and Greenest School award was also given to West Central Elementary School II for medium school category and Bonuan Boquig Elementary School for big school category.

Victoria Q. Zarate Elementary School and Dagupan City National High School-JHS won the Most Functional Library for elementary and secondary level respectively. On the other hand, Dagupan City National High School-SHS also got the award for Best NDEP Implementer and its teacher Mr. Moises S. Flores as Outstanding SSG Adviser.

Teacher Raquel A. Prado of Lucao Elementary School garnered the Best Structured Classroom and teacher Maria Angelica Lopez of East Central Integrated School earned the award as Best Research Implementer.

The division-wide search covers teaching and non-teaching personnel and sub-divided into teacher and school-based categories. Qualified personnel met the requirements set and evaluated by committee based on criteria and MOVs. The search conforms to the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) of the Department of Education.

Teachers upgrade com, IT skills

• Jeneffer D. Chung

Aware that beyond the four walls of the classroom, they play vital role as models, managers and leaders in the community, teachers sought to be eloquent and cut edge in the Division Training Workshop on Improving Communication and IT Skills of Elementary and Junior High School (JHS) English Teachers at the E-library, Dagupan City, September 30-October 1.

The training underscored skills in emceeing, IPA transcriptioning, facilitating trainings, as well as using educational technology tools in instructions. Skills in teaching were inculcated as the priority task of teachers, to be at par with the quality that DepEd requires.

"Enhancing the skills in communication and IT among English teachers is indispensable. More than

their task as imparters of knowledge, they are highly expected to provide the community with the assistance in terms of public speaking and modern technology. The trust and confidence of people are at their shoulders," remarked Dr. Agnes B. Royulada, education program supervisor in English.

Trainers on the workshop were Dennis A. Solis, Rose Ann S. Cancino, Jeniffer T. Dalmacio, Rowella L. Arena, Princess Shane Kim, Victoria Trinidad, Dr. Michelle M. Felstead and Jeneffer D. Chung. All attended regional and national training prior to the said event.

Further, participants demonstrated their learning through group presentations and individual outputs. As well as, hands-on assisted application of educational tools such as Kahoots, quiziz and Courseware were accomplished. Moreover, the E-library staff gave their full assistance in the utilization of computers and internet connection during the training.

Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, assistant schools superintendent, graced the event on the third day. She stressed the resilience and hard work of teachers as something to be admired of.



English teachers work on a hands-on activity using different applications and software used in teaching, during the Division Training on Improving Communication and IT Skills, Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. Photo by Michelle M. Felstead.

SDO DC harvests recognitions in research

• Maria Victoria Antonio, EdD

Dagupan City – Garnering the biggest number of approved Basic Education Research Fund (BERF) for FY 2018 and clinching three winnings during the Regional Research Congress held last November 20-22, 2019 at the National Educators Academy of the Philippines in San Fernando City, La Union, the Schools Division Office of Dagupan City was formally enrolled in the maiden issue of the “Panagsukisok.”

‘Panagsukisok’ is a referred research journal of DepEd Regional Office 1. Its first issue included the eight action researches of SDO Dagupan teachers and non-teaching personnel from the BERF-FY 2015.

Researchers include: John Silvester A. Alipio, John A. Aquino, Hazel Z. Dolor, Dr. Gemma M. Erfelo, Digno S. Lozano, Sherwin B. Paras, Herbert R. Perez, Eufemia M. Tomelden and Juanito M. Villanueva.

Moreover, another manuscript issued by the regional office labelled as Compilation of Abstracts from FY 2015-2018 also, put together three (3) research papers from SDO Dagupan for

2017 with authors Renato R. Santillan, Benedict A. Maramba and Jonathan J. Salazar while twenty four (24) research papers originated from BERF 2018.

The Schools Division Office of Dagupan City has been consistently recognized for its excellent performance in research since the establishment of DO 16 s. 2017 or the Research Management Guidelines (RMG) which provide guidance in managing research initiatives in the national, regional, schools division, and school levels.

This policy which is built on the gains in evidence-based decision-making from various education reforms or initiatives was aimed at strengthening the culture of research in the Department.

Meanwhile, the BERF through DepEd Order No. 39, s. 2016, focuses DepEd’s attention on relevant education issues and provides guidance to DepEd and its stakeholders in the conduct of education research and in the utilization of research results to inform the Department’s planning, policy, and program development aligned with its vision, mission, and core values.



• Glenn Ericson T. Basto

Smoking has always been a major concern in the community. Health issues most of the time walks behind the said habit, thus the department has been active in opposing such act, especially because of our main stakeholders, the learners who are minors. Countless Republic Acts, memoranda and other legal bases were released to intensify the fight. Front lined by the Deped Order No. 48 s. 2016 entitled, “Policy and Guidelines on Comprehensive Tobacco Control” this aimed to primarily educate and inform the public then create an effective cessation intervention services program and lastly enforce the implementation of tobacco control policies.

The Schools Division Office of Dagupan does not mellow out in this regard. Continuous efforts through numerous activities were carried out and some are still being steered up to date. A kick-start on the Division Orientation on Deped Order 48 s.2016 last June 2019 was attended by the ever proactive school heads of the different educational institutions. An in-depth review of the policy enlightened the participants, giving them the ideal vision of a smoke-free school and workplace. As to be certain of the program, representatives freely devoted their allegiance against smoking by signing a commitment form.

Moreover, numerous health education and anti-smoking campaigns were created for the learners, spearheaded by the Medical Unit and the School Health personnel. Highlighted by a 45-minute video presentation featuring the harmful effects of smoking held during the One Health Week celebration at Pugaro Integrated School.

Furthermore, IEC materials were distributed & installed in front of every Dagupan City Public School thus reminding everyone entering the campus about the battle against smoking, engraved in it was the “EskweLaban sa Sigarilyo” movement of the division.

To top it up, SDO Dagupan is fortunate to be included as one of the three division offices in the region (together with Urdaneta and Alaminos City) to have its designated Tobacco Control Coordinator be trained as a “Brief Tobacco Intervention (BTI) Provider”. Conducted at the Philippine Lung Center, Quezon City last October of 2019. As of today, a BTI corner for smoking cessation counselling is located at the Medical Unit of the Division Office.

A few have courageously faced the BTI program yet SDO Dagupan would like to expect more to set forth. All teaching and non-teaching personnel in addition to the learners who are engaged in the said bad practice are welcome.

A lot has been done, however more is still needed. Sadly, many from the institution are still tobacco users and unless people break the three-link chain of tobacco dependency, namely: Biological, Psychological & Socio-cultural influences, the SDO’s quest to eradicate smoking will still be a couple of blocks away.

Wishful participants to BTI program may connect through the facebook page SDO Dagupan City Quitline or @QuitlineSDOdag likewise text or call the SDO Dagupan Quitline contact number at 09325765838.

TRUTH TO BE TOLD:

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY IS FOR TEACHER'S PROTECTION

• Atty. Jose O. Oviedo



There is a mistaken notion that the Child Protection Policy under DepEd Order No. 40, series of 2012 heightens much the rights of a child versus the teacher’s rights; thus, a need for a Teacher Protection Policy too.

What our teachers tend to forget in child protection cases is that, they should not be the perpetrators or violators of the children’s rights.

Child protection cases are cases committed against a child that involves abuse, violence, neglect, exploitation or any violation of his rights, such as: child abuse, child labor, child trafficking, etc.

It is high time to emphasize that child protection cases should not be a case between a student/child versus a teacher. For the latter should be the protector of the former’s rights, and be the first to ensure that these rights are properly enjoyed and observed. Therefore, child protection cases should be: the child/student and the teacher on one team, as against the perpetrator or violator of the child’s rights on the other team.

To illustrate, Child protection policy is NOT: Student/Child vs. Teacher
Rather, Child protection policy is: Student/Child AND Teacher vs. Perpetrator/ Violator of Child’s Rights

We have to realize that between a child and a teacher, the latter has a deeper understanding and ability to invoke his rights.

In fact, we cannot expect a child to go directly to the authorities once his rights have been violated. Children do not even know and understand their rights; that is why they have their teachers to explain these rights to them.

If the teachers know by heart these rights and consider their students as their own children for they also exercise a “special parental authority” over them under Art. 218 of the Family Code, then surely, they will be the last one to violate these children’s rights.

Thus, it is very important for teachers to ponder and put in their hearts these simple points so that they would be protected under the Child Protection Policy.

Dagupan honors teachers on WTD

• Janice D. Flores

DAGUPAN City government and Dagupan City Schools Division leaders commended all the educators for their commitment in nurturing young Dagupeños through the culminating activity of World Teachers' Day celebration held at the Dagupan City People's Astrodome on October 11, 2019.

OIC-City Administrator, Mr. Allan Dale Zarate, who represented Mayor Brian Lim expressed his appreciation to the devotion of educators in nurturing and molding the future of Dagupeños.

"Thank you for being one with the mission, Our City, Our Shared Responsibility," said Zarate.

The event was corollary to the National Teachers' Month Celebration which usually starts from September 5 and culminates on October 5.

The culmination highlighted dance performances of teachers per cluster, raffle promos which provided token of gratitude to teachers and beauty pageant for Mr. and Miss World Teachers Day. Crowned title for Mr. WTD was MJ Pimentel of the SDO and crowned Miss WTD was Nessie Abalos of Dagupan City National High School.

The teachers celebrated with a country theme showcasing their cowboy outfits with their boots, spurs, belt buckles and even real-life horses. The country theme symbolizes the real culture of hard work, horsemanship, and individualism which are also qualities of good and hardworking teachers. Just like cowboys who worked all day long in the hot sun protecting the herd of horses, teachers also worked hard all day guiding and molding children and even at night in preparing lessons and materials to be used in the classroom.

This celebration is a way of Dagupeños in honoring and recognizing the incomparable contributions of teachers not only in Dagupan City, but also in the entire nation. It also invigorates the image and respect for teaching profession.

The month-long celebration in Dagupan City started with a ceremonial kick-off which was held last Sept. 9, 2019 at the Dagupan City Peoples Astrodome.

At school, students also honored their teachers by giving flowers, letters and tokens to their teachers. Moreover, the Supreme Students Government (SSG) organized a short program for the teachers during the school-based celebration of the World Teachers Day held last October 4.

This year's theme, "Gurong Pilipino: Handa sa Makabagong Pagbabago," stressed the dedication of all teachers amid all the challenges brought about by developments such as artificial intelligence, smart technologies, and cyber systems. It also emphasized the crucial role, loyal service, and dedicated commitment of teachers in developing globally-minded citizens, nurturing families, strengthening communities, and building the nation.

The Department of Education continuously recognizes the significant role of the teachers in educating the Filipino children.



Photos by Arjohn S. Aquino

HEART AND WITS OF *A Born Leader*

• Dennis A. Solis

Being emulated and trusted means one has become the image to aspire and the influencer to look up to. One noteworthy person who belongs to this fold is Dr. Lourdes D. Servito. Proof to that is her accolades as the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent of Schools Division Office Dagupan City since 2014.

Just when everyone thought that she is past her peak as a pillar of education, Dr. Servito is still as busy as ever. Upon the assumption of the position, she focused on relevant projects that upscale the standards of SDO Dagupan City. She played a vital role in the implementation of DepEd programs and projects of the division office and institutionalizing Division Initiatives and Innovations as the co-pilot of the Schools Division Superintendent.

With her dynamic and adaptive style of leadership, there were a lot of improvements in school libraries in public elementary and secondary schools in Dagupan City. During her time, more infrastructure projects were built such as school buildings, covered courts, and school facilities through her strong partnerships with LGU and other stakeholders to provide the best education for young learners.

Similarly, she has always exhibited zest for excellence. She conducted a Crash Course on School Governance and Operations for OIC School Heads and Key Teachers in 2014 as training manager, organizer and lecturer. She led the roll-out of RPMS Training for Dagupan City school heads, teachers and personnel.

Through her sheer hard work and dedication as servant-leader, she pioneered projects such as Project F.I.N.A. (Finetuning Initiatives

in Nurturing Achievers and Project L.O.R.N.A. (Learning Outcomes Raised through Nurturing Academics) which were named after the past two superintendents of SDO Dagupan City. These projects were attuned to raise the bar of excellence in the division through various academic interventions, retooling teachers' pedagogical skills, contextualization of materials and launching of ISO 9000:2015.

As a change-setter, Dr. Servito believes that the ISO 9000:2015 Certification to SDO Dagupan City is a top priority for the realization that can impact the organization's ability to meet the customer satisfaction. This became her pivotal contribution to the division as one of the key officials and process owners as this certification solidifies processes and systems at par with global standards. On that note, SDO Dagupan City became the 1st SDO-ISO Certified in the Province of Pangasinan.

In the same manner, her undeniable slew of experience in the field of journalism gave her the drive to strengthen campus journalism. Through relevant trainings and seminars, she capacitated school paper advisers with journalistic competencies and offered technical assistance especially in campus paper management. As a matter of fact, SDO Dagupan City clinched the Best Performing Division for three consecutive years in the field of campus journalism in the entire region.

Meanwhile, her strong advocacy to action research added laurels to her numerous achievements. She institutionalized the research program in the division. Under her leadership, SDO Dagupan City garnered the biggest number of approved Basic Education Research Fund (BERF) and gained recognitions in the region. Because of this, SDO Dagupan City became the 'Action Research Hub' in Region 1.

Furthermore, she was the woman behind the creation of SDO-Dagupan City March. She composed the lyrics of the song which reflects the ideals and vision of SDO Dagupan City while Mr. Frederick C. Narvas incorporated the music. First of its kind, SDO Dagupan City March was introduced to all public elementary and secondary schools. For one, it captured the division's aim to shine and strive as number 1.

Indeed, Dr. Lourdes D. Servito is a woman of essence. She may be quite modish in stature but she can tower anyone with her empathetic nature, motherly demeanor, and integrity beyond reproach.

There is no stopping an empowered woman in achieving what is best for community, a selfless public servant who has a heart and wits of a born leader.



Dr. Lourdes D. Servito, a woman of essence.