



# GRASSROOTS

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*Preparing Students To Become  
Self-Actuated, Creative, Responsible,  
Compassionate Human Beings*

## DEAR PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

*Advent Greetings of Peace! The glowing lights from the children's lanterns during the recent Martinmas celebration signaled the subtle shift of the seasons. Now, we are all busy preparing in one way or another for the coming celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation. Like Martinmas, it is also characterized by light — the inner light that we each seek to cultivate. The festivals are important guideposts in the year that can give deeper meaning to our individual strivings while also offering opportunities for us to come together in community.*

*Looking back, it has been a busy year so far with many challenges to our growth and development as a school. But there is also much to be thankful for. We have almost 100 children in the school and a growing community of caring and committed parents. We are also thankful this year for the classroom assistance of Leo Anas, Tess Cañonero, Michelle Almirante and our German volunteers — Lisa and Birger. The school grounds continue to evolve under the guidance of Manong Roger and our new school building is slowly taking shape thanks to the assistance of architect Dary Humpay. Our class 4/5 has already moved in and we hope to speedily complete the upper floor so that class 6 can also move in to their long-delayed new classroom. We are also full of gratitude to all those who have contributed time, resources and/or funds to help the school realize its vision. There is still a lot of work to do and we are working to find more creative ways to enable greater parent and community involvement in the school's development.*

*We are also looking forward to celebrating this season and giving our children a meaningful experience of Christmas. May we all be sources of light for others.*

James Sharman, Director



## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

*In the old times, people felt that the 12 days of Christmas - Dec 25 to January 5 - were dedicated to the gods - a time to reflect, a time to refrain from heavy work; and were also seen as prophetic for the succeeding 12 months. In 567 AD., the 12 days were proclaimed as a sacred, festive season for the Christian church.*

*By celebrating the Holy Nights, as they are also called, we can take a lot of the pressure off Christmas Day. The giving of gifts can be spread out over the whole period, and even the shopping, if necessary, done after the 25th, when all the sales are going on. We can send Christmas cards during this time, and still have them arrive before Jan 6th. In this way, Christmas is more than just one day crammed with an excess of gifts and food, after which one feels the inevitable let-down.*

*One can have a little ceremony for each of the 12 nights; reading an appropriate story, singing carols, lighting the candles on the tree and around the nativity scene. There can be a calendar similar to the Advent calendar, with pictures representing the 12 months of the year, or for older children, events from the life of Christ. Some families give each night a theme, or special task, in which each member has something to do --eg. a poem night: when everyone must write a poem; a night when each does something for the others, etc.*

*(The above text was lifted  
from material on Festivals)*

## KINDERGARTEN COMMUNITY

### Ang Nagligad Kag ang Pala-abuton

By Tita Bulak Lapastora, Main Kindergartner  
and Nely Sobere, Kinder Assistant

Sa amon paghanduraw sang amon pagpanglakaton sa Kindergarten sang mga nagligad nga anom ka bulan padayon kami nga naga-tuon kaupod ang mga bata. Sa adlaw-adlaw nga tanan madamo sang mga sorpresa nga masadya kag may masalimo-ot man. Apang, gahalipay kami sa ila mga ginapakita sa dalayon nila nga pag-updanay... ang ila pag-ulikid sa tagsa-tagsa...Ang paghatag sang importansya sang mga magulang sa mga manghod. Subong man ang paghatag respeto sang mga manghod sa mga magulang. Pag ulikid kag pag-unong sa abyan nga napilasan ukon nasubo-an. Ang mga magulang nagapakita sang mga palatanda-an nga nagahanda na sila para sa sunod nga tuig sa pagtapak sa Grade 1.

Nagapasalamat man kami sa mga ginikanan sa ila dako nga pag-ulikid sa ila mga kabata-an



pa-agi sa ila pagpakigbahin sa mga bulohaton ilabi na gid sa tion sang mga espesyal nga pagtilipon katulad sang Martinmas kag Advent Garden kag ilabi na gid sa pagpaninguha nga ang mga kabataan mapakadto sa eskwelahan sa tagsa ka adlaw.



Storytelling with Kinder at the Advent Garden

## GRADE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



The young ones lighting up the School

December has been a busy month for us inside and outside the classroom. While we were immersed in so much preparation for the many festivities, it was also difficult to maintain the balance of having everyday lessons. Class 1 has been very busy writing and learning about vowels - which have an inward mood compared to consonants.

This time of the year brings longer periods of darkness for each day. But last November 11th, we were able to give light to the whole school with colorful lanterns. Not only was I touched with the beautiful activities but I felt such contentment every time I saw the eager faces of my students holding their lights. It is during and after the events that I felt such satisfaction and fulfillment after having put so many hours into the preparation. It is with this kind of inner understanding that I learn how the Advent Garden, St. Nicholas, & other activities help me to be a better teacher. I look forward to working with my fellow teachers who share the same visions about holding these activities with the children.

### In A Festive Mood

By Mr. Dyman Pahila, Class 1 Teacher

Malipayon nga Paskwa!

## Pagpanglakaton

By Ms. Nesel Dable, Class 2 Teacher

Pagkatapos sang pagpahuway  
sang halos isa ka semana sa balay  
ang paminsaron wala gid nagtawhay  
Bulan sang Disyembre indi na gid mapaiway

Sa sulod sang kuwarto  
ang mga bata aktibo  
sa pagtuon sang numero  
madasig nga makabalo

Ang mga bata nangin masadya  
sa pagtuon sang mga kanta  
kag sang ila drama  
nga may tema sang paskwa

Inadlaw halos pungan  
kay wala pa natapos ang tanan  
ang sa 'Lantern Parade' nga mga kinahanglan  
sang mga kabataan

Sa kaayo nila  
sila man ginbisita  
ni San Nicolas sa asul nga roba  
kag may dala pa nga pamaskwa

Sa ila paglakat sa kadulman  
may kasanag nga naaman.  
Ang aton kabataan pagagiyahan  
sa bulig sang ginikanan, salamat sa tanan

Sa nabilin nga mga bulan  
madamo pa sang dapat bantayan  
leksyon man o selebrasyon  
ang Class 2 magapadayon sa pagpanglakaton.

## For The Love of Math!

By Ms. Maricel Chiva, Class 3 Teacher

*Class 3 has just finished the 2nd block of Math. In the first week of the block, the children deepened their ability to solve problems with 4 the processes and with big numbers. We had ten minutes of exercises after every Main Lesson to inspire in them a positive attitude towards numbers and to encourage active participation through clapping and stomping.*

*The rest of the block was spent learning the value of Philippine money, barter as the way of trading thousands of years ago, and valuable things that were used as monetary units such as obsidian rocks, cows, goats, and sheep! My class enjoyed the stories and was active in participating in every lesson and activity that we did in this block.*

cont. For The Love....

*We also enjoyed the highlight of our activities which was having a real market encounter. Each group within the class was given the chance to handle and budget their money.*

*Our time for these topics was definitely too short and I still hope to do more for our next Math block. Before we touch our new topic which is Measurements, I plan to be able to bring to my children's awareness that whatever they spend is the result of someone else's work; that each peso and centavo contains thoughts, devotion, and energy.*

## If You Were a Class 6 Student in GCS, You Would Learn About....

By Mr. Warren Slater, Class 6 Teacher

*All four types of conditional sentences were the theme of our English block back in September. How long ago that seems now! Gamot Cogon's Class 6 should now be able to express themselves using "If I..." when talking about the future, imaginary events, and what could have happened in the past. Whew!*

*From there, we all took off on an adventure to the Holy Land in the company of brave Crusades knights and chivalrous Islamic Caliphs. We were there when both sides stormed the walls of Jerusalem and we also looked into why it all happened and where they came from. The fires and burning of human conflict were swapped for more earthly matters when we studied the formation of rocks; volcanoes and earthquakes in Natural History.*

*Adventures with interest rates and Algebra should shake things up a bit before we start mixing molecules in Physics in the New Year.*

*Does it get any better than this?*

## SPECIAL FRIENDS

Ms. Tanja Baumgartner  
doing Eurythmy  
with the parents and  
children



## PARENTS' CORNER

### What is Christmas?

*By: Dra Aimee Chua, Kindergarten Parent & School Medical Advisor*

*When December came, I was immediately busy preparing for the event - the usual way: gifts, decorations, a christmas tree... I was making the belen when my son approached me and asked, "What are we doing?" I told him we were preparing for Christmas, for the coming of the Baby Jesus. He seemed to ponder my reply, then asked solemnly, "Diin siya halin?"*

*I realized that because I told him that Jesus is coming, he wanted to know where he is coming from....and the question stunned me and made me examine how I was showing him what Christmas is all about.*

*So the question I have to ask myself, and that I would like to ask all of you is:*

*How can we express to our children the true wonder, magic, and splendour of Christmas?*



*To Parents interested in contributing an article for Parents' Corner, joining the Study Group, or joining Parent Committees, please contact Anna at 0915- 6453473.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We would like to ask for assistance from anyone who may have a means of transporting driftwood to the school. The wood was generously donated by a parent, Mr. Pongan. Please contact us if you can help.*

*The GCS website will be up soon! Watch out for announcements.*

*We will be scheduling an OPEN HOUSE & ORIENTATION sometime in February 2009 for prospective parents for next school year. Please spread the word to interested friends.*

## THANK YOU

*We would like to thank all of you who have donated time, materials or resources to the school.*

*If anyone would like to know more about the specific needs or upcoming projects of the school, do let us know.*

## FINANCE

*Please settle any outstanding balances you may have with the school and the bus. We need your continuing cooperation and help to continue growing our school!*

## DATES TO REMEMBER: January - March '09

Jan 7	Resumption of Classes
Jan 30	Kamustahan
Feb 12	Last day of Term; Early Dismissal
Feb 13- Feb 16	Project Break
Feb 17	Resumption of Classes
March 25	End of classes; Pagpa-ambitanay; Early dismissal