

GRASSROOTS

MARCH 2009

Issue No. 4

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

DEAR PARENTS,



Easter greetings to everyone!

As we bring another school year to a close we can only look back with gratitude at what we have experienced this past year – the growth of the school; the new children and new families; the new friendships. Beginning with the recovery from Typhoon Frank, so many people have come forward to help the school in a variety of ways – from donations, to mentoring, to volunteer work. To all of you, we say thank you!

The heat of the March weather that we are now experiencing is perhaps an apt physical reminder of the warmth of enthusiasm and joyfulness that pervades the school. You can see it in the smiles of the children, in the sparkle of their eyes and in the caring attitudes of the teachers. It is our intention to create a culture of warmth in the school and we hope that the parents also feel and experience this warmth and caring.

Still, there are still many challenges ahead. We need to construct new facilities including classrooms, a school office and new playgrounds. This requires fundraising and a lot of hard work over the summer break. As the school grows, we are also challenged to keep pace with our administrative competence. For many of us, these are uncharted territories and though we may make some mistakes along the way, we hope to retain the trust of the parent community and our supporters who all see the value in what we are accomplishing together.

We look forward to welcoming all the new children and new families who will be joining the school next year! We wish everyone a restful break but please strive to create healthy rhythms and meaningful activities for the children during this time. See you all back in June!

James Sharman, Director

EASTER

Let our trust in God become
Like the good Earth, firm and strong.

As the Water, rising and falling,
Let God's life be always flowing.

Our voices carry through the Air.
Softly within, God's call is heard.

Fire gives warmth. Fire gives light.
God's love burns within our heart.

In all the elements, God is there.
Bringing new life everywhere.



Learn within to bear your pain.
Your heart is God's field of grain.
The field which he is ploughing.

Learn to hearken, still and clear,
To god's own word, to truly hear
The grain which he is sowing.

Learn to know the Good in you,
That power - which to God is true -
From him, your Father, flowing.

KINDERGARTEN COMMUNITY

Mga Panahon sa Kabuhi

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



Ang amon pagpanglakaton kaupod ang mga kabataan katulad sang balangaw nga madu-agon.

Gin-updan sang mga nanari-sari nga istorya. Sa malayo matahum nga tan-awon apang kinahanglan nga kilalahon kag amo lamang mahatagan sang kabuhi ang mga hiyas kag bilidhon nga mha kamatu-oran sang kabuhi.

Sa panahon sang tag-init, makusog nga nagasilak ang bulawanon nga kasanag sang Adlaw. Ang palibot napun-an sang kasadya. Nangin kaupod namon "Ang Higante kag Duwende," ila ginpahanumdum sa amon nga ang Dako kag Gamay puwede magbuligay.

Samtang sa panahon sang tagdalagas, mga dahon nagakatakatak, maluya ang palibot. Sa istorya nga "Si Mikael kag ang Dragon," may mga pagtilaw nga naga-abot nga nagatakos sang kaisog sang tagsa-tagsa. Katulad sang Prinsesa nga nangin maisog sa pag-atubang sang dragon bangod sang iya pagsalig sa langitnon nga bulig. Ang pula nga kapa ni Mikael naghatag sang kabakod nga yara ang proteksiyon batok sa puwersa nga mala-ot.



Sa tunga sang kadulom sang taglamig, ang kalangitan daw kahalintulad sang malinong nga asul, nagahulat sang bag-o nga Kasanag nga maga-abot. Ginlarawan sang "Pagpanglakaton ni Iloy Maria," nga ang paghalahad sang kabataan sang ila putli nga paghigugma paagi sa maayong hambalanon kag binuhatan amo ang magabulig kay Iloy maria nga mahuman ang bayo para kay Niño Hesus.

Sa pag-abot sang tagturobo, berde ang palibot. Amat-amat nga nagabugtaw ang mga binhi sa malamig nga pagtulog.

May bag-ong kabuhi nga naga-usbong. Ginalaragway sang "Istorya sang Alibangbang," ang kamatuoran nga sa kabuhi may posibilidad sa pagbag-o.

Salamat sa aton malipayon nga pagtamdanay. Tubtob sa liwat naton nga pagkitaay.



GRADE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Mathematical Siblings

By Mr. Dyman Pahila, Class 1 Teacher

During the whole month of February, we had our Math block. I introduced my students to the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Our circle time was mostly composed of skipping and counting in preparation for our multiplication and division.

Before the start of the block, Ms Elizabeth Wilde helped us prepare for teaching Math. I realized how hard it is to introduce the operations in the right way. There is a story about the four brothers: Green (+), Blue (-), Yellow (*) and Red (/). Green likes to collect, Blue always loses things, Yellow loves to jump and Red simply shares his things. Doing these lessons, although tiring and energy draining, was a lot of fun! We had various stories about the 4 brothers, asked questions, and got to know them very well. The children enjoyed the lessons very much, especially the group activities. For me, it was so fulfilling and little by little I feel myself achieving my tasks as a teacher in such subtle, unseen, but effective ways.

There is a quote that I like, which I wish to share with parents of small children and would-be parents: "We cannot let the grass grow faster by pulling it." Enjoy your summer!

Tying Loose Ends

By Ms. Nesel Dable, Class 2 Teacher

In everything that we do, there is always room for improvement. It is not only what we do inside the classroom now, but also the promise of doing even greater things next year is what the larger picture holds.

Our last block for Math was very intensive. We found ourselves working together with Class 1 in the Math activities. With Ms. Elizabeth Wilde's mentoring, I have been team teaching with Mr Dyman. The four processes have come to a newer form which the children enjoyed a lot. It has been an astonishing sight to see the how the children are helped by their body parts to count and answer questions that have been presented. *With 13 class 1 students and 16 class 2 students with 10 fingers on each hand, how many 2s, 3s or 4s do you think you can find?*

Learning does not stop inside the classroom. For the first time, my class experienced being away from home for one night. Most of them were very eager to learn how to cook rice, light a fire and clean a fish. They even barbecued eggs, ate hot pandesal cooked on a barbecue stick over a fire and of course, learned knot tying. This will be very good skills which we will

'Support...' cont.

in building the compost house. Mr. and Ms. Pasaporte for sharing their time and help cleaning our classroom after the typhoon Frank, to Mr. and Mrs. Valera for their effort and support in finding a nice place for my class to go camping and to all the parents who are continually extending their help and support to me and to the students of Class 3 and to the school as a whole. A million thanks for your efforts. I'm so grateful to have your children in my class. We are so blessed to have you all as parents in our school. See you all again in June!

Learning Life Lessons

By Ms. Marites Pederio, Class 4&5 Teacher

When a difficult year is over, you wonder how you survived it. You become sure that in no way was it possible that you made it without help. Then hopefully you learn gratitude and humility.

This year was extremely difficult for me. When the children came together in the beginning of the year, only two could subtract with borrowing and I had to try to bring them all to the level of Grade 5 Math, which is Geometry.

We had grammar rules to learn in English and Filipino, but above all we had yet to build up the guidelines for what works and doesn't work in human relationships. We started as a group which had children coming from different schools. Now, we are friends. Friends often fight but they always work things out.

It was fun learning the relative positions of the countries from Scandanavia to India, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia. But it was even more fun to learn about their cultures and ancient history. We met personalities from these countries who gave us inspiration, and to some students, answers to their personal questions about life.

In Science, we observed plants and animals. We drew, touched, smelled, and even tasted some of the plants. We described and characterized them and related them to humans. Some made good poems and riddles about them.

Our highest learning, I would say, has been learning to listen. We have not yet perfected this art, but considering that we moved through four classrooms this year (three of which were in the midst of construction noise), I'd say it is quite an achievement.

Onwards!

By Mr. Warren Slater Class, 6 Teacher

What a year! It has been a year of growth: expanding imagination, intuition, logical thinking, awareness of the world and everything in it. And that's just *me*. If I were to talk about 'the wondrous twelve' I would echo all of these things and add a few more.

I have seen my class grow: they have grown together as a group – learning from each other and giving help to each other, and they have grown individually by coming to terms with many changes in themselves as they push on towards the teenage years. Another reason I say 'the wondrous twelve' is because far from being a difficult year characterised by rebellions and uncertain boundaries, each of the children in my Grade Six class has shown courage and strength to take on all the tasks that I have asked of them. The journey has by no means been perfect, but a 'perfect' journey lacks stories of mishaps and stumbling along the road before picking ourselves up to carry on. For me, that's where the learning happens.



'Loose Ends...' cont from p2...

need on our next camping trip. We had our fun, although next time we will be more prepared to make sure the mosquitos are not free to make music near our ears!

Back to the classroom: have you ever seen alphabets dancing? My class was able to make each letter dance, holding hands to form beautiful names and words. This we learned in our cursive writing block.

I am very happy to have spent this year with my class. I know that next school year promises a lot more excitement still!

The Support Goes a Long Way!

By Ms. Maricel Chiva, Class 3 Teacher

Another school year ends. Wow, it feels like it just started yesterday. My class and I have done so many new activities this year. And yet there is more we could have done! It's a good thing we will see each other again in June. It will be a new beginning, but also a continuation of our learning from this year.

I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have voluntarily shared their support and help in most of our activities and practical work. To Mr. and Mrs. Depamaylo for sharing their farm with our class. To Mr. Segura, Mr. Depamaylo and Mr. Loma for helping the class

PARENTS' CORNER

By: Agnes Espano-Dimzon, Kindergarten Parent

Pamingaw

I never thought change of teeth meant so many things for children and their parents. My child who just turned seven is sporting a toothless grin nowadays, having lost five of her milkteeth. (At least the lower first three have grown back already.) Now, I have my hands full trying to adjust to her asserting herself strongly most of the time and going "padag-padag" when she does not get her own way. (*Manang-mana sa nanay*). This is why I appreciate so much the knowledge and strategies I learned from the first two blocks of the teachers training on Steiner education. I realized she is entering a new phase in her life and is learning to take on new experiences.

There are times when I lose my patience and forget (especially when I am tired), and slide back to the old fashioned ways I got from my own upbringing. I am only human after all! But we make it a point to always end our day on a positive note. If we don't tell stories like "Si Amo kag si Bao" or "The Little Mermaid", we sing songs — "Uhoy Alibangbang" and "Tuburan" side by side with "White Coral Bells" and "The Keeper".

The upside is, time and again I get small notes and cards from her thanking me for something, like the recorder I gave her for her birthday. Once I found a card from her for her manang saying 'thank you' for the fruit juice.

We are all looking forward to her entering Class 1!

FINANCE

Families with unpaid school fees need to contact GCS Administration for a meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Watch a professional Audio SlideShow about Gamot Cogon School, produced and donated by Mr. Damon Lynch:
www.damonlynch.net/shows/gamotcogon

- Gamot Cogon School now has a website:
www.gamotcogon.org

- Welcome to Christie Casugbo, our new Grade 1 teacher for 2009-10!

THANK YOU

We remain thankful to all those who continue to donate time, materials and funds to help the school initiative. Without you this would not be possible. We also would like to thank all those who have honored the recent passing of Venicio Jalandoni with their gifts to the school. "Nong Vening" donated the land for the school and we strive to honor him through our work here. We also give special thanks to LifeBank for the past four years of support!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

May - June 2009

ORIENTATION FOR NEW PARENTS

March 28

ENROLLMENT PERIOD

May 11-12 Returning Students
May 13-15 New Students

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

June 8 Grade 2-7
June 9 Grade 1
June 10 Kindergarten

HOLIDAYS

June 12 Independence Day; No classes.