



Lower School Kids Have a Blast with Projects

Written by Ma. Amelia Zialcita and Olivia Estrella-Coronado

Being in Lower School is always fun. During the second and third quarters of this school year, there were projects that brought out the independence, competence, and perseverance of the kids. The Lower School teachers' implementation of project-based learning included fun and engaging activities for the kids that integrated some of their lessons in different subject areas.

One exciting activity held recently is the Lower School 2 field trip to a culinary school. Having the main theme of "Cultural Awareness" for the quarter, the students of 2 Maple visited the Academy for International Culinary Arts in Pasig City. It was a guided learning activity wherein the kids were able to prepare different snacks from six different countries. No wonder, the kids really showed appreciation of the different cultures during their "World Cultures Day".

Meanwhile, the 3 Pine kids enjoyed being teachers during their "Children's Summit" as they educated the orphans from Tahanan ng Pagmamahal about children's rights and responsibilities. During this activity, they gleefully interacted and did their best to be effective teachers. As they all learned the message "Every right follows a corresponding responsibility", the orphans enjoyed participating in games and watching the class presentation about the following rights: to education, to play, to be respected on one's culture, to have a healthy body, and to have friends.

The Lower School 4 classes also had an exciting learning experience as they prepared and did their "Market Day". Each group planned what to sell and what ingredients or supplies to buy based on a given budget. Afterwards, they bought these things during their mini field trip to Shopwise in Libis. Indeed it was an enjoyable way of applying their learning on economics and practicing prudence and decision-making among their group members.

For the fourth quarter, the class of 1-Oak is also off to explore their chosen countries and develop their creativity in a mini field trip as they learn about their new theme "Celebrating the World."



Maple kids enjoy their cooking experience at the Academy for International Culinary Arts.



The class of 3-Pine present their pledges after discussing children's rights and responsibilities with the orphans from Tahanan ng Pagmamahal.



Ms. Liz Preyra, one of the facilitators of the Market Day, facilitate one group's purchasing.

The ABCs of Anti-Bullying

by Lady May Martinez



One of the things that Reedley International School is proud of is that it firmly believes in maintaining a bully-free atmosphere in the school.

The Upper School Guidance Department is especially keen on this, and last July 14, 2009, launched the year-long Anti-Bullying Campaign or ABC, with the theme: Kindness Overdose.

At the opening ceremonies at the Lee Kuan Yew Hall, Reedley headmaster Mr. Jerome Castro delivered the opening remarks, and ABC Project Head Ms. Jane Santos gave a short reflection. A video showing the serious effects of bullying followed, and the students were ushered into a circular formation per section. Their respective homeroom advisers read a story about bullying. The short discussion that ensued shed light on the fact that we each have our own brushes with bullying. The students were then encouraged to pin a yellow,

red and blue ribbon signifying that at one point or another, they have been complicit in a bullying incident – whether as a bully, a victim or as a bystander. But more than this, the ribbons symbolized a commitment to not be a bully, a victim or a bystander.

The other activities of the ABC project was a Caught Ya Being Nice campaign, which rallied both students and teachers to report acts of kindness witnessed in school. Another one was held last July 17, 2010. It was a fun inter-year level activity called the Mix It Up Day. For one Friday, instead of

hanging out with their usual lunch crowds, students were assigned partners from a different year level to be their cafeteria buddies. The students mingled, laughed and shared stories.

Far more than just ribbons and a meal with new friends, the ABC was targeted to be a year-long awareness campaign. It not only informed the students about the effects of bullying and what to do about it, it also gave them an avenue to step out of their comfort zones and explore companionship instead of conflict.

Around the World: Upper School celebrates United Nations Week

by Marfeal Santiago

In celebration of the founding of the United Nations (UN) on October 24, Reedley International School held a UN Week activity led by Upper School 2 and 4 students, commencing on November 16 and culminating on the 19th, 2009. They decorated their classrooms and put on costumes to create “live museums” out of their classrooms according to the country assigned to them. US 2 sections exhibited famous sights, people, and food from the United States, China, Japan, and Singapore, while the US 4 sections showcased the European countries namely, Italy, England, France, Spain, and the Netherlands. Reesian students from Lower School to Upper School toured these countries complete with their own passports that also served as their travel journals. They were entertained by the host students with a guided tour of the country they were exhibiting, an interview with the famous people of that country, and before sending them off, they had a taste of food and delicacies native to that country.



Each exhibit was also visited by selected judges who were also as amazed as were the students who visited before them. US 4 Oxford who recreated the Eiffel Tower in the middle of their room, won the 1st place; US 4 Purdue, with their Italian Restaurant setting, won the 2nd place; and US 4 Duke who parked a Spanish Galleon ship at the back of their room, and US 4 Cambridge who welcomed their tourists with a ride from the London bus, tied at 3rd place.

The activity was in line with the schools ESLRs or Expected Schoolwide Learning Results, which teaches students tolerance and appreciation of all people from different origins.



Discovering the world of early childhood education

By Lala Dela Cruz



Last November 5 and 6, 2009, Mrs. Nellie Ong, Ms. Kristin Tirona and yours truly,

together with other educators and school administrators, gathered for the first-ever Philippine Summit on Early Childhood Education, a 2-day summit held at Every Nation Leadership Institute, Fort Bonifacio.

A Professor of Early Childhood Education in the University of Texas, Dr. George Morrison discussed the best practices and trends in early childhood education, including their political and social contexts. These practices, like child-centered, developmentally appropriate practices, standards-based education, and differentiated instruction, have been utilized by early childhood educators all over the world and are believed to be the best way to go.

The second day with Ms. Laura Benson was focused on several strategies to support children's literacy learning, like picture predictions, stop sign read aloud, and read-draw-talk strategy. Before addressing spelling and grammar, teachers and parents alike should focus more on what children are trying to communicate in writing. A love for reading and writing is what we all want our children to develop.

Liza Valencia: Experiencing College Life At Cornell University

by Lady May Martinez

Every year, Reedley International School encourages its students to explore opportunities in the international academic and leadership community. Global Youth Leader's Conference (GYLC) is a program that Reedley regularly sends delegates to. And it was actually because of the GYLC that Liza Valencia, of US 4 Oxford, first had the idea of joining other international academic programs. Cornell University being her dream school, Liza applied for the Cornell Summer College Program. One can just imagine Liza's excitement as she opened the letter informing her that she got accepted.

And so, from August 12 to July 1, 2009, Liza traipsed around the beautiful Cornell University campus in New York. Her typical day consisted of waking up at 7 am, and after some yoga, having breakfast at Appel Commons. Then, she would walk 20 minutes to Goldwin Hall where lectures were held. Liza, along with 90 or so bright, eager, eclectic and intelligent students would sit in rapt attention as the most brilliant and charismatic professors talk about the interesting world of Medicine. The topics ranged from medical malpractice, to medical situational models. Afterwards, the class would break into groups and discuss the topics covered by the lecture. "My lessons, my conversations and my friends had stretched out, challenged and brightened my perceptions on the medical world, science, people and life in general. I learned that there is so much to learn about," Liza shares.





Aside from the lecture halls, Liza frequented the different libraries, would hang out with other girls in the Common Room, or would just let herself be entranced by the plants, flowers, butterflies, rabbits, geese and lakes at the Cornell Plantations. "Sometimes my jaws would hurt by the time I got to class from smiling so much because I just felt so good everyday," she says.

The academic learnings she gained from her stay in Cornell were plentiful for sure, but Liza also soaked up the pains and pleasures of independence. Liza says that, "Nobody will tell you what's wrong or right anymore. If you don't do your homework, that's on you. You won't even know if you're failing the class because the teacher won't tell you. The whole concept of balancing work and play is real."



Her stint at Cornell University not only gave Liza the experience of a lifetime, it also gave her powerful insight on her future. "I was able to have a preview of my life and of my future -- most importantly, I was able to make a real vision for myself: This is where I want to be, this is who I want to become, and this is what I want to do," Liza declares.

Juniors Stage The Tragedy of Macbeth

By Stephanie Uy and Marfeal Santiago

Lady MacDuff (Rizza Estrella) worries about his husband who fled to England. MacDuff's cousin, Ross (Anton Reloj) warns her of an impending execution.



Macbeth (David Park) lost his mind upon seeing Banquo's ghost in the party; Lady Macbeth (Laura Hein) tries to console him.



One of Shakespeare's masterpieces graced the Lee Kwan Yew hall, as "The Tragedy of Macbeth"

was played there by the Upper School Juniors last October 16th 2009. For a student-led activity, it received a handful of good nods from the entire community.

Conceptualizing the play was not as difficult as making it happen. The inexperienced juniors had a lot to prepare in order to meet the rubrics for their grade in English as it was a major part of their Literature subject. Macbeth was one of the measurement topics covered during the 2nd quarter, and classroom discussions and analyses of the play preceded its production.

The play was designed to be a batch presentation with the five acts divided among the four sections. Directors per class were also chosen, and the English teachers were confident to guide their kids in making the play happen. The English teachers of the batch agreed to give the students the big responsibility of handling the major task in consolidating the batch. It was an assessment aimed to test the students holistically.

The directors were: Bruce Que (Yale), Miguel Villanueva (Harvard), Charles De Montaigne (Brown) and Gel Caminero (Princeton). Miguel Villanueva was chosen to be the Head Director.. The script was also abridged and modified by Jessica Alberto (Yale), André Drilon (Princeton), and Carice Cayco (Harvard), to whose pens the Kings, Queens, Thanes, and Soldiers of the original Shakespeare's play became the Dons, Mistresses, Lieutenants, and Bodyguards of the Mafia-inspired adaptation of Macbeth.

It took almost a month in finalizing everything -- from the practices to the stage design. They choreographed everything, chose the costumes, did the makeup, the posters and the stage.



Mr. Aris Lumague talks to the MS 5 students about the history of electricity in the Philippines.

The Meralco Learning Shock

Krima Olive Molina

To cap off their quarter-long learning on electricity, the Middle School 5 students visited the Meralco compound to witness the various showcases on electricity and energy last December 4, 2009.

Students from both MS 5 Cypress and Mulberry first attended a lecture that featured the history of electricity in the Philippines. Also in the said lecture was an interesting training for students on how to compute their electricity consumption based on the kind of appliance or device being used.

To cement learning absorbed from the lecture, the students were then exposed to hands-on activities that showcased various sources of electricity. With the help of the Meralco Museum staff, the students were able to experience how it was like to generate energy from sources such as wind, water, and solar.

"It was amazing! I tried the different machines that generated energy, and I realized how long and hard the process is," commented Justice Maverick Cruz, 5 Cypress. Aside from the energy-generating machines, the students were also exposed



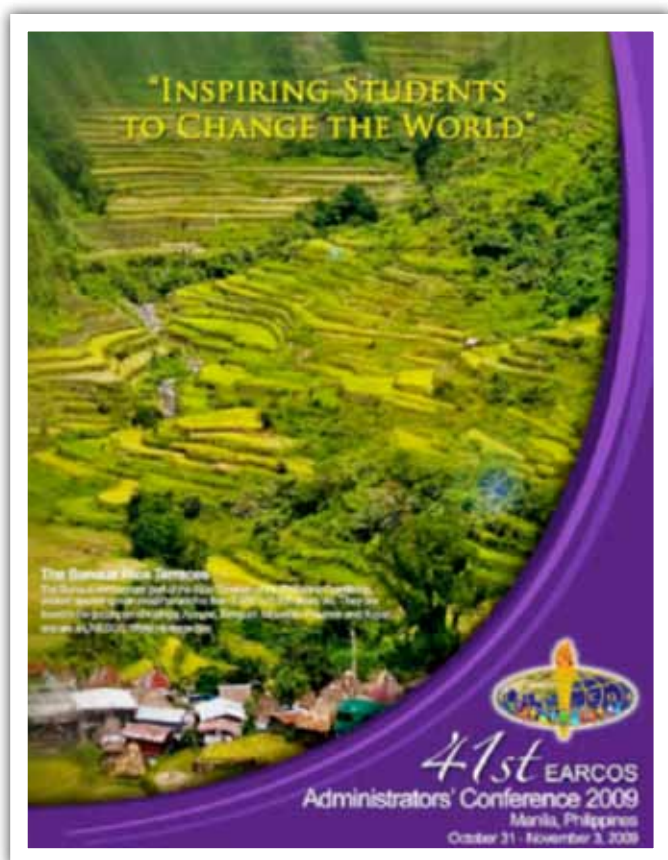
John Kim of 5 Cypress and Nicole Anne Yu of 5 Mulberry try out the Tidal Energy Model that showcases how electricity is produced by waves.

to Van de Graaf generator and the Tesla coil, which generated electric current for everyone to witness.

"I now know how to compute my electric bill, after learning how calculate electrical consumption," remarked Wesley Cua, 5 Cypress. A website that features a list of electrical devices and ways of computing electric bill for each was also shown to the students for them to visit whenever they are surfing during free time.

Reedley Leaders Attend EARCOS Administrators' Seminar

by Marfeal Santiago



The East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools (EARCOS) is an organization of 113 schools in East Asia. On October 31-November 3, 2009, they held a conference for school administrators with the theme, “Inspiring Students to Change the World” at Shangri-la in EDSA.

Reedley administrators — Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Ong, Chairman and Founding Directress; Mr. Emil Ong, Director for School Development Director; Mr. Jerome Castro, Headmaster; Ms. Jo Anne Bilo, Head of Academic Affairs for Lower School; Mrs. Maria Andrea De Guzman, Head of Academic Affairs for Upper School, Mrs. Pia Malana-Reyes, Upper School English/ESL Coordinator, and Ms. Thea Sordan, Upper School Head of Student Affairs — attended the conference and benefited from the simultaneous workshops. “It is always a pleasure to be in EARCOS because not only you learn a lot from the conference itself, you get to talk and share experiences and best practices with other school administrators,” said Mrs. De Guzman. As a new member of the Operations team and first-time delegate to EARCOS, Ms. Sordan found the Administrators’ Conference to be an enlightening experience. “There were good exchanges of ideas among attendees around East Asia. Theories, practices, and innovations on educational practices are very useful and applicable in our school,” she affirmed.

Indeed, the conference was a great success and very useful for school administrators. They took home with them the spirit of the event in inspiring their students to change the world, and brought with it joy and laughter from such a memorable occasion.





Singaporean Math and Science Teachers Share Best Practices With Reedley Faculty

By Lady May Martinez

Last September 9, 2010, Reedley International School opened its doors to visiting teachers from Singapore who enriched the faculty with their knowledge on teaching strategies and methodology.

Miss Ling Yuan, head of the Math Department at the Catholic High School in Singapore shared their formula for Math success with the Math Department, headed by Miss Rowena Gonzales. On the other hand, Madam Aznah Kilali, head of Science Department of Lower Secondary at St. Anthony's Canossian School shared best practices with the Science teachers of Upper School.

The visit and consultation was arranged by EdCrisch International, publisher and distributor of the Singaporean Math and Science textbooks used in Reedley.



The Winners Circle

by Marfeal Santiago

Kudos to the Basketball Team (14 and under category) for the 3-0 standing in the MISAA Basketball Festival Meet!

Congratulations to the Soccer Team for winning Second Runner-up in the 7 A Side Friendship Cup held last September 5!

Hats off to Keena Puzon of US2 Columbia and Regan De Guzman of US4 Purdue for winning First Runner Up Team in the Samsung Interscholastic Golf Championship while Regan won First Place in the Ladies Division.

Bravo to our Swimming Team!

Charles De Montaigne of US3 Brown won the Bronze Medal in the 25 SC Meter Backstroke, while Josell Valenton of US1 Georgetown claimed 2 Silvers for the 25 SC

Meter Freestyle and Breaststroke, 2 Golds for the 25 SC Meter Butterfly and Backstroke.

Dani Belmonte of US4 Duke took 1 Bronze for Freestyle, 1 Silver for Breaststroke, and 2 Golds for Backstroke and Butterfly.

Nicole Valenton of US4 Cambridge triumphed with 2 Bronze Medals for Butterfly and Backstroke, 1 Silver for Freestyle and 1 Gold for Breaststroke.

Reedley International School is very proud of our athletes. These students have shown determination, tenacity and courage in achieving their goals. Keep it up!

Middle School Creates a Happy Buzz

Written by Faye Vitan and Olivia Estrella-Coronado

The Middle School capped off the third quarter with fun-filled performance-based assessments (PBA's) such as story telling, poetry reading, quiz show, field trip, and musical numbers.

Opening the series of culminating activities is Social Studies' General Information Quiz Show last Dec. 8. This event tested the knowledge of the contestants about geography-capitals of different countries, and landmarks. Surviving the classroom eliminations, a pair from each level competed for the championship. After three rounds, the MS6 pair emerged as champions with 68 points.

From December 7 to 11, MS5 shared their original stories with the Lower School kids as part of the fifth graders' celebration activity in their English class. Some of the most remarkable pieces are "The Chronicles of Doomland" by Justice Cruz, a combination of sci-fi and action; "Room 212" by Ysabel Lapid, a horror story about a dead girl's haunting; and "The Sailor" by Kim Bum Jun, a tale of a young man's dream to be a fisherman.

Middle School 6 and 7, on the other hand, had their classroom-based poetry reading sessions last December 10 and 11. Accompanied



Girls from 6-Cedar shared their poems to the combined classes of Middle School 6 as their English PBA.



Reychel Robles of 6-Cedar pays tribute to her father through her poem.

with music and spa-like ambiance, the sixth and seventh graders expressed their gratitude and hopes through poetry. With the theme, "Of Poems and People," MS6 read their own poems about the most important person in their lives and the kind of person they would want to be with someday.

In Music and P.E. classes, MS students prepared various dances and songs. After studying tribal, Greek, and medieval dances in their P.E. class, the Middle Schoolers fused them into modern moves, particularly street and hip hop, with the music of their choice. Hence, their dance show was entitled "Dance Fusion." Rousing the audience was a dance number from MS6-Olive's Gothica group with their funny execution of shaking shoulders.

To end the activities, Middle school Music classes serenaded the lobby with classic Christmas songs for three consecutive days during recess and lunch. They also rendered a Mandarin version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."