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Deanery of St. Matthew
Prompts Spiritual Retreat,
Engaging Educators

by **SABELLA MARIXA S. MAURO**

To embrace the new school year with a renewed sense of purpose and a stronger connection to faith and school community, the Deanery of St. Matthew which comprises of Holy Infant Academy, Puerto Galera Academy, Northern Mindoro Academy, and Baco Catholic School engaged in a spiritually enriching retreat and recollection held at Benilda Resort, Bancuro, Naujan last June 24-25.

The retreat allowed the Catholic schools' academic and non-academic personnel to disconnect from their daily routines and reconnect with their spiritual selves. The serene environment surrounded by nature offered the perfect setting for reflection, prayer, and personal growth.

Throughout the retreat, participants were able to engage themselves in a prayerful dialogue with God through the different sessions facilitated by Sr. Maria Pacencia P. Bandalan, FMA, the spiritual facilitator. Guided by the theme: "I am at Home in School With God", Sr. Paz emphasized the importance of recognizing God's presence in every aspect of life, especially within the school community.

bythenumber

24 CASES

**MPOX CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES
BY OCTOBER 2024**

SOURCE: WHO

features • 10
THE RISE OF IDOLS

in-depth

INGENIOUS

Holy Infant Academy bolsters **New Educational Website;**
Urging attention, usage

by **CHELSEA ALEISHA T. GARCIA**

Holy Infant Academy has officially inaugurated its new educational website, representing a substantial advancement toward boosting accessibility and ensuring that students, parents, and staff remain informed about essential school resources and events, December 7, 2024, following the Field Demonstration of all grade levels by the school director, Rev. Fr. Andy Peter M. Lubi.

This new platform is a user-friendly resource hub that provides access to academic materials, upcoming school events, and news updates, ensuring the entire HIA community stays informed and connected. Parents and students are encouraged to visit the site regularly to explore its valuable content.

The website's creation was made possible through the generosity of an HIA alumnus, Mrs. Mary Rose Ang who graciously offered the website domain for free with the generous support of the school director, Rev. Fr. Andy Peter M. Lubi and school principal, Mrs. Alona V. Cueto. It was developed with the help of the

school's ICT Coordinators, Mr. Mark Noel C. Leyesa and Ms. Gimarie Ann delos Reyes, who crafted a platform designed to be intuitive and easy to navigate.

With sections dedicated to academic resources, upcoming events, and school highlights, the website also provides a space to celebrate achievements and preserve memorable moments for the HIA community.

The launch of this digital initiative reinforces HIA's commitment to providing a modern, connected, and informed learning environment, ensuring that students, parents, and staff have easy access to the tools and information they need to stay engaged and well-informed.



Holy Infant Academy takes a leap into the digital era with the launch of its innovative educational website, designed to enhance learning experiences and streamline access to resources.



QUAKE SIMULATION

Holy Infant Academy establishes Earthquake Drill;
Exhibiting safety, readiness

by ALLYZA REIGN B. ESCALONA AND ANA MARTINA FELIZ DELOS



Holy Infant Academy conducted a comprehensive earthquake drill on December 17, involving students from Kindergarten through Grade 12, as well as both teaching and non-teaching staff. The drill was part of the school's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about safety procedures and ensure readiness in the event of an earthquake.

The exercise began with a brief orientation in the gymnasium, where participants were briefed on essential safety precautions and evacuation procedures. Emphasis was placed on the "duck, cover, and hold" technique, which is vital for protecting oneself during an earthquake.

After the orientation, students and staff returned to their classrooms to prepare for the drill. When the alarm sounded, everyone promptly followed the procedures, moving quickly and safely to their designated evacuation zones.

The primary goal of the exercise was to enhance the community's knowledge and readiness for earthquakes, underscoring the importance of swift decision-making and teamwork in ensuring safety during such events. This drill reflects HIA's commitment to maintaining a safe and prepared school environment for all.

As a vital reminder, this exercise emphasized the reality that emergencies can happen at any time, making it crucial for everyone to be prepared and take safety seriously.



1148 ENROLLEES

The number of enrollees rise to 1148 which is higher compared to the statistics from the previous years at Holy Infant Academy.

bythenumber

HIA receives Membership at Acer Academy Summit 2024; Highlighting technology, progress

by CAMILLA THRES A. BOBOS

Platinum Membership Plaque was awarded to Holy Infant Academy at the Acer Academy Members Night, a distinguished event held at the Sheraton Manila Hotel on November 19, 2024. This recognition celebrated HIA's unwavering commitment to integrating technology into education, fostering innovation, and aligning with Acer's mission to empower learning communities across the globe.

The elegant evening brought together esteemed educators, administrators, and leaders from various institutions, all united by a shared commitment to advancing educational practices and fostering innovation. The event served as a platform to celebrate excellence and exchange ideas on the future of learning.

HIA's representatives proudly took the stage to accept the award, a recognition of the collective efforts of the school's

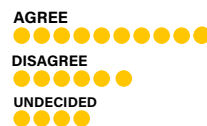
administrators, teachers, and students in embracing technology as a transformative tool for progress. The accolade underscored the institution's dedication to integrating innovative approaches into the classroom, from adopting digital learning platforms to implementing cutting-edge teaching methodologies.

The award highlighted the school's accomplishments in educational innovation but also served as an inspiration to all attendees.

Sidebar

We asked 20 HIA students about their opinion if the procedures that have done in earthquake drill were really applied in real life situationn.

This is how they responded:



AVCPs Educator celebrates Teachers' Day; Acknowledging connection, camaraderie

by BEA EUNICE C. SANCHO AND LAVERNIE Q. ABELA

Teachers from the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan Parochial Schools (AVCPS) celebrated Teacher's Day at D' Captain's Cabin Resort.

The event began with a Holy Mass, followed by a team-building activity called the "Amazing Race." Teams were divided according to the seven fruits of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.



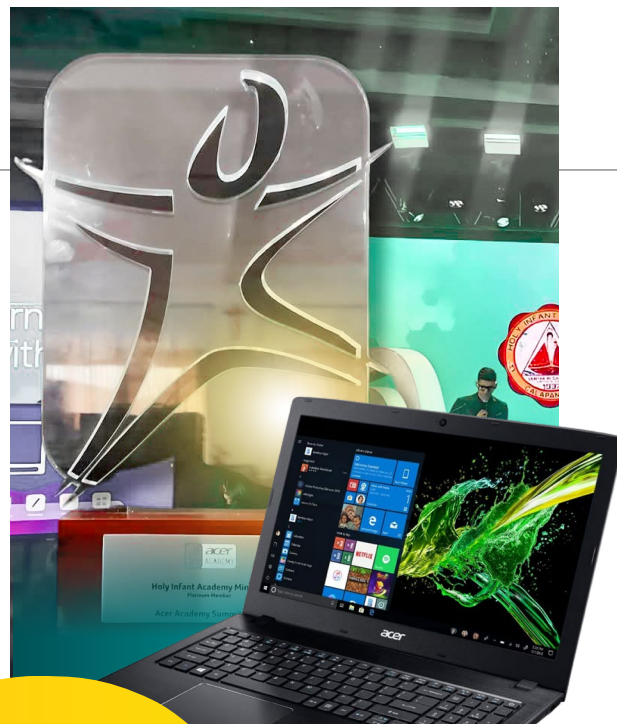
HEROES JOY: Teachers from AVCP happily wrapping up their teachers day with a smile on their faces.

Photo by YLLANE AGUILA S. TOLINTINO

They faced challenges such as memorizing scripture verses, burning representations of the seven deadly sins, and completing the twelve gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The day concluded with a reflection on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, reinforcing the central themes of faith and community. The celebration continued with recreational activities, including karaoke sessions, volleyball matches, and pool relaxation.

The day was a testament to the dedication of educators and the vibrant and unified community of the Deanery of St. Matthew, bound by faith, love, and mutual respect.



This recognition celebrated HIA's commitment to integrating technology into education, and aligning with Acer's mission to empower learning communities across the globe.

ALWAYS READY!

HIA Scout conducts BSP Journey; Prompting new leaders, purpose

by ETHAN GABRIELLE D. MATIMATICO

Holy Infant Academy Gymnasium came alive on November 14, 2024, as scouts in crisp uniforms gathered for the 11th Investiture Ceremony, a milestone event themed “BSP Elevate @88: Future Proofing Scouting for the Next Century and Beyond.

“Laging Handa” (Always Ready). This guiding principle, emphasizing preparedness and resilience, reverberated throughout the gymnasium as the scouts embraced their roles as future leaders and contributors to their communities.

The event also underscored the enduring legacy of the BSP as it celebrates 88 years of shaping young lives. The theme of “future-proofing” scouting resonated deeply, reflecting the organization’s commitment to equipping the next generation with the skills, values, and character needed to navigate a rapidly evolving world.

Parents watched with pride, their

expressions a blend of admiration and hope, as they envisioned the bright futures awaiting their children. Meanwhile, teachers and mentors looked on with satisfaction, knowing they had played a vital role in preparing these scouts for this pivotal moment.

As the ceremony drew to a close, the gymnasium, once bustling with activity, was imbued with a sense of reverence and unity. The scouts exited the venue with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to uphold the principles of scouting and contribute to a brighter tomorrow.



LAGING HANDA. Boy scout from HIA proudly embracing the true purpose of a scout by adhering to the traditional oath-taking ceremony.
Photo by YELANE JAVILA S. TOLENTINO



Photo courtesy of PRECIOUS DAFFODIL B. DE CHAVEZ

NEW BEGINNINGS

HIA initiates Heartwarming Welcome Walk

by PAUL JACOB F. AQUINO

Excitement and energy filled the air as the Holy Infant Academy (HIA) community gathered for the annual “Welcome Walk” event on August 31, 2024.

The Welcome Walk at Holy Infant Academy (HIA) began with a cheerful crowd of returning students, faculty, and parents at the school’s main entrance. A Welcome Arc, adorned with blue and white designs, symbolized the departure into new beginnings.

The event began with a lively band performance and flight announcements. The first flight welcomed the youngest students, followed by JHS1941, SHS2016, and HIA2024, each with their own unique welcome. The

entire group then gathered in the gymnasium for a brief welcome ceremony, featuring speeches from student council members, introductions of new staff, and performances by the school choir and cheerleading team.

New students took part in a special oath, promising to serve and uphold the values of HIA as they embarked on their academic journey. The Welcome Walk is a cherished tradition at HIA, symbolizing the school’s inclusive, supportive community.

Mentors of HIA joins Training for MATATAG Curriculum; Exhibiting skills, proficiency

by PRECIOUS DAFFODIL B. DE CHAVEZ

Holy Infant Academy Kindergarten, Grade 1, 4, and 7 teachers participated in the MATATAG Curriculum Division Training held from June 24 to 27 at Divine Word College of Calapan (DWCC) Basic Education Department.

The event gathered educators from private schools, local universities and colleges (LUCs), and state universities and colleges (SUCs) across the division.

Organized by the Department of Education

(DepEd) – Calapan City Division, the training aimed to strengthen teachers’ instructional skills and curriculum proficiency.

Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on effective teaching strategies and curriculum implementation techniques. Facilitators provided insights into the latest pedagogical approaches, ensuring that educators remain equipped with innovative and student-centered methodologies.



oneforall

Photo courtesy of PRECIOUS DAFFODIL B. DE CHAVEZ

OLMHRA gets support through an Outreach Program of HIA

by HEAVEN MIGUEL D. BROSAS AND RICK PIO HANIEL A. BARQUILLA

In a heartwarming display of generosity, the General Parents and Teachers Association (GPTA) officers of Holy Infant Academy, in collaboration with the Director’s Administrative Council (DIADCO) and Grade 11 and Grade 12 members of the Campus Marshall Force (CMF), organized a successful outreach program to support their sister school, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Academy (OLMHRA) in Victoria.

The initiative aimed to assist OLMHRA’s students by providing them with essential school supplies and financial aid for their tuition fees. In addition to these practical resources, the HIA community also donated old books, nutritious food, and prizes to help encourage the students’ continued academic success.

The event underscored the power of community spirit and collaboration, as the collective effort of the GPTA officers and the entire HIA community came together to make a significant impact on the lives of OLMHRA’s teachers and students.



The initiative aimed to assist OLMHRA’s students by providing them with essential school supplies and financial aid for their tuition fees.



KHIANNE YSABELL S. LOPEZ

October 18, 2024 - Holy Infant Academy participated in the "One Million Children Praying the Rosary" campaign, October 18 joining countless children worldwide in a powerful act of faith and unity.

The campaign, initiated by Most Rev. Socrates B. Villegas, D.D., and organized by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), an international Catholic charity, called on children everywhere to pray for peace and the strength of prayer.

At exactly 9:00 AM, the entire HIA community paused for a solemn prayer. In the quietness of the gymnasium, teachers and officers led the students in reciting the rosary, their voices harmonizing in a unified chorus. The rhythmic

prayer echoed through the gym, a profound reminder of faith's power to transcend borders.

For the students, this moment marked more than just participation in a global event. It was an opportunity to feel a deep spiritual connection with children around the world, all praying for the same purpose: peace. The powerful experience not only highlighted the importance of prayer but also emphasized the global unity of faith.

Illustration from CANVA

newsbit

HIA hails Adopted Priest in Classroom Visit for MINDICCASS Event

by DANIELLA ROSE ASHLIE V. MAGPANTAY

As one of the activities of the Mindoro Diocesan Clergy of Calapan Association (MINDICCASS), Holy Infant Academy had the honor of welcoming adopted priests into each classroom, October 22, 2024.

Photo courtesy of
YLLANE JASVIL S. TOLENTINO

CyberHIAns prevails at ASEAN CyberKids Camp 2024

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN

Young innovators from Holy Infant Academy made their mark on the international stage as Xialdanne Pascua Opano and Calel Jairus Balbin secured a Bronze Award at the ASEAN CyberKids Camp 2024 in Vietnam.

Competing against some of the brightest young minds in Southeast Asia, the duo proudly represented their school and country in the prestigious competition.

The event, which brings together talented students from across the ASEAN region, challenged participants to develop digital solutions that address real-world problems. Opano and Balbin impressed judges with their interactive Scratch game, designed to spark interest in science and demonstrate its role in solving everyday challenges.

"Our game takes players on an engaging journey through scientific concepts, showing how science makes the impossible possible," Opano shared. The project's innovation and educational value earned praise from both judges and fellow participants.

localnews

RESPONSE

Key findings were that the province's geology, topography, and river systems make it naturally prone to flooding. Steep slopes contribute sediment to rivers which have wide floodplains that are easily overwhelmed by heavy rain.

source: INQUIRER

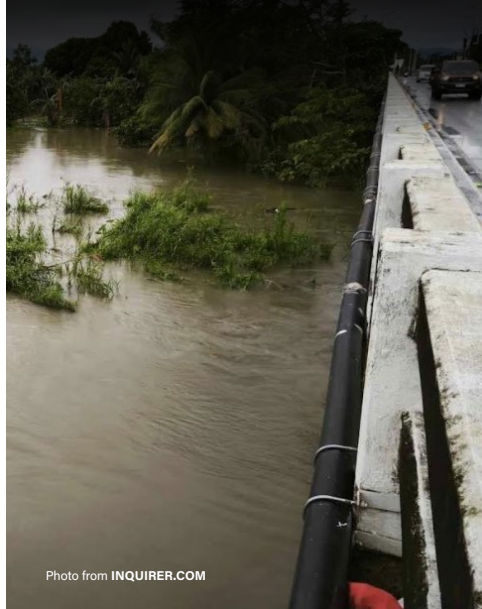


Photo from INQUIRER.COM

ORMIN gov't prioritizes long-term solutions to flooding

by JLOYD MICHAEL A. MARASIGAN

The provincial government of Oriental Mindoro is implementing significant measures to tackle the flooding issue in the province.

According to Ram Joseph Temeña from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, the government's approach involves river restoration and dredging, conducted in collaboration with national agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other organizations responsible for issuing necessary permits.

"This initiative has already commenced in the towns of Bansud and Gloria and is set to expand to rivers in other towns across Oriental Mindoro," Temeña explained.

Recent days of continuous rainfall, attributed to the shearline and northeast monsoon, have caused flooding in various towns across the province. The overflowing of silted rivers in several areas has exacerbated the situation.

In response, local government units are working closely with disaster response teams to deliver immediate aid to affected residents. Over 500 displaced families are currently sheltered in evacuation centers.

As of January 13 at noon, parts of Calapan City, Baco, Victoria, Socorro, and Pola remained submerged, with local authorities providing assistance to evacuees.



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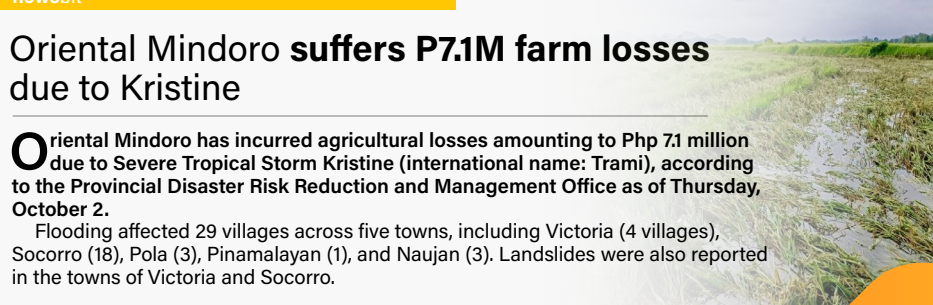
newsbit

Oriental Mindoro suffers P7.1M farm losses due to Kristine

Oriental Mindoro has incurred agricultural losses amounting to Php 7.1 million due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office as of Thursday, October 2.

Flooding affected 29 villages across five towns, including Victoria (4 villages), Socorro (18), Pola (3), Pinamalayan (1), and Naujan (3). Landslides were also reported in the towns of Victoria and Socorro.

Photo from GOOGLE





THE RIPPLES

The Official Publication of HOLY INFANT ACADEMY -
ELEMENTARY DEPARTMENT

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editorial

KEENESE OF SIGHT

An owl's watchful gaze

Rooted in the desire to enhance security, Holy Infant Academy vied for the installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras with audio inside its classrooms. These surveillance systems were proposed to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. However, while its objectives were good, it sparked a broader discussion where security and personal privacy hung in the balance.

We are living in a volatile world where changes constantly occur. One of it is the arrival of newest technologies, and the installation of the CCTV is part of it. This has raised both hope and concern among students, teachers, and parents alike. With the increasing concerns about school safety, having cameras that can record both visual and audio data offers a sense of reassurance. These systems can help monitor classroom activities, resolve disputes, and even provide evidence if needed in case of misconduct or emergencies. For parents, this represents an additional layer of protection for their children, knowing that every classroom is under constant observation.

However, for students, the constant presence of cameras that not only watch but also listen can feel invasive. Knowing that their conversations, thoughts, and even moments of vulnerability are being recorded could create a sense of unease. The classroom is a space where students should feel free to express themselves, ask questions, and engage in discussions. If students feel that their every word is being monitored, it may discourage open dialogue, particularly for those who are more introverted or hesitant to speak up. The pressure of knowing they're being watched and heard may lead to anxiety, which could detract from their learning experience.

Teachers also face challenges with the installation of these cameras. While many educators understand the importance of safety, the presence of audio surveillance might feel like an infringement on their professional autonomy. Teachers, who typically strive to create an open and trusting environment with their students, may feel restricted in how they manage classroom discussions, interactions, and discipline. The fear of being constantly evaluated or criticized based on their words could impact their teaching style and effectiveness. Furthermore, the added pressure to maintain a flawless classroom environment at all times may hinder their ability to foster creative and dynamic lessons.



The pressure of knowing they're being watched and heard may lead to anxiety, which could detract from their learning experience.

While the security benefits of CCTV cannot be ignored, the presence of cameras with audio recording may inadvertently alter the dynamics of the classroom. Teachers and students might become overly cautious in their behavior, stifling the natural flow of communication and collaboration. An educational setting thrives on mutual trust—trust that teachers are guiding students with care, and trust that students can engage without fear of being judged for every comment made. When surveillance becomes a focal point, it can overshadow the very values that make education effective: trust, openness, and respect.

Moreover, for the HIA community, which places great importance on nurturing strong relationships between students and teachers, the use of surveillance should be carefully weighed. HIA has always been known for its culture of care, where students feel like part of a larger family. The introduction of surveillance may inadvertently create a sense of distance between students and teachers, undermining the warmth and trust that define the school's educational approach. If students feel like they're being watched not just for their safety but also for compliance, they may begin to view their teachers as figures of authority rather than mentors.

In conclusion, while CCTV cameras with audio in HIA classrooms serve to protect students and faculty, it is essential to ask whether the benefits outweigh the potential downsides. The challenge lies in balancing safety with the need for privacy, trust, and open communication. As HIA continues to innovate in technology, it is crucial that the school also nurtures a culture of mutual respect and understanding, where students feel empowered to learn and express themselves freely, and teachers can guide their students with confidence and trust. In the end, it is not just about the seeming observance of an owl's watchful gaze, but about fostering an environment where both students and teachers feel safe, respected, and free to grow.

Cartoon by
DANIELLA ROSE ASHLIE
V. MAGPANTAY





foresight

AI: A risky revolution

by JIANA MARI MORALES

Technology has evolved throughout the years. From old-time technology to modern technology. Artificial Intelligence, better known as AI, takes part in modern technology. It has been revamped ever since. Numerous types of AI have been developed, like ChatGPT, Meta AI, Cici, Grammarly, and far more. But are these chatbots reliable?

As AI becomes increasingly popular, millions of people now depend on it for various tasks. From answering questions to generating images, AI offers numerous functions that make life more convenient.

Students often use AI to assist with homework, generate essays, or even solve complex problems. Additionally, AI plays a role in enhancing education by fostering critical thinking, digital literacy, and creativity.

Despite its many benefits, AI also comes with risks. One major

concern is the rise of deepfakes—AI-generated media designed to deceive people. Furthermore, AI-powered systems rely on machine learning and data analytics, which raises concerns about security and privacy. With just one click, users may unknowingly expose their personal information, making them vulnerable to tracking and data breaches. This begs the question: How can we be sure that our privacy is truly protected?

While AI offers undeniable convenience, it also poses a significant threat to security. Blindly trusting AI can be risky, as it has the potential to track and monitor users. Therefore, people must be mindful, analytical, and cautious when using AI. Instead of relying on AI for everything, users should employ it responsibly and avoid sharing sensitive personal information. In this era of rapid technological advancements, we are navigating an AI Risky Revolution—one that requires awareness, vigilance, and ethical use.

Cartoon by
ART DIMITRY D. DE LEON



voxpathuli

When nature defines karma

by CHELSEA ALEISHA T. GARCIA

Richness is not always about money or any worldly treasures. Whenever I have to describe the richness of Mindoro, the first thing that come to my mind is its biodiversity. Imagine being the seventh largest island in the Philippines where the fifth largest lake lies at, truly an admirable place. Unfortunately, people tend to mistreat these assets, and tend to be careless on the environment.

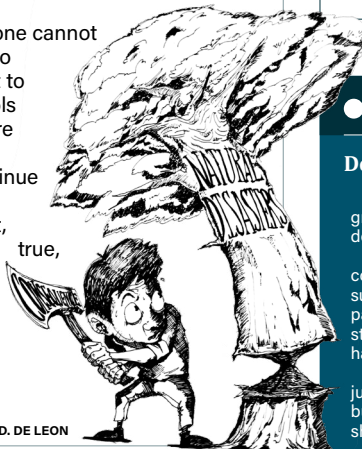
In an era where children are usually looking straight in their screens, it seems like our nature is being abandoned. Students nowadays cannot even do the bare minimum in taking care of our surroundings, further worsening environmental issues. For instance, most learners do not even know the proper waste management, as well as waste segregation. This is truly disappointing, considering the fact that

Despite that, schools continue to try educating and raising awareness regarding this. Several subjects in the curriculum teaches them how to properly take care of the global landscape. However, in a more solemn vein, this should be a general knowledge among students but

unfortunately, it is not. With that, we enter the slowly but surely phase once again, hindering the country's pursuit for progress.

In conclusion, one cannot help someone who do not really want to be helped. Schools may teach the bare minimum, but if students will continue to do what they believe to be right, even if it is not we cannot really do anything about it and just prepare as nature defines karma.

Cartoon by
ART DIMITRY D. DE LEON



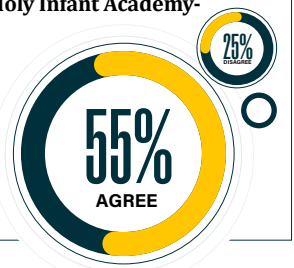
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And when these small violations pile up, the consequences become harder to ignore.”

Cartoon by
DANIELLA ROSE ASHLIE
V. MAGPANTAY

Sidebar

We asked 20 HIA students about their opinion on the disaster-readiness of Holy Infant Academy-Elementary Department.

This is how they responded:



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

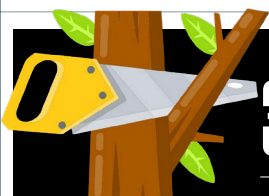
I often hear that teachers are our second parents, and I am grateful for everything they do. But sometimes, I wonder—why does it feel like they are my first parents instead?

Teachers help us learn, guide us when we struggle, and even comfort us when we feel sad. But isn't that what parents are supposed to do first? I see my teachers more than I see my own parents because they are always busy. Homework time, bedtime stories, or even just talking about my day—these moments don't happen as often as I wish they would.

I love my teachers, but I also need my parents to be there, not just to ask about grades but to ask how I feel. Teachers can help, but they cannot replace the love, guidance, and support that should come from home first.

I hope parents remember that while teachers do their best, children still need their moms and dads to be their first teachers in life.

Sincerely,
A Child Who Misses Home



316,000 ha

The country recorded one of the worst deforestation rates in the Asia and Pacific region during those years, losing 316,000 hectares of forest annually on average.

bythenumber

Illustration from CANVA



76.78 M

bythenumber

NUMBER OF SMARTPHONE
USER IN PH 2024

The Elephant Situation

In the bustling halls of schools, an invisible shift is taking place—one that, if left unchecked, could slowly unravel the fabric of the educational system. Undoubtedly, like a massive elephant in the room, which needs to be addressed immediately yet is easily ignored. Students are increasingly denouncing the very policies designed to uphold order and discipline and while the effects may not always be immediately visible, the consequences are profound.

School policies aren't just a list of rules. They're meant to create a safe and respectful place where everyone can focus on learning. But lately, it seems like these small but meaningful rules are being overlooked, creating a quiet, growing problem. The uniform is a symbol of unity, and when that's disregarded, it sends a subtle message: the rules don't matter. Being on time is another basic but important policy. Schools like HIA emphasize punctuality not just to keep the day running smoothly, but because it teaches responsibility. Yet, more and more students are showing up late, often without caring about the consequences. More troubling is the rise in academic dishonesty. Education is meant to inspire curiosity, encourage critical thinking,

and foster personal growth. They also erode the trust that teachers like Ma'am Gimarie Ann delos Reyes place in them. For faculty members like her, academic honesty is crucial, not just for grades, but for building relationships based on integrity. When that trust is broken, the school becomes a place where shortcuts are valued over real effort. And when these small violations pile up, the consequences become harder to ignore. Now is the time for students to take a step back and consider how their choices shape the school they love and the future they're building. Now is the time to address the elephant in the room, because in the end, the greatest lessons aren't just about academics—they're about the values learned through the small, everyday acts of responsibility and



featherlight

Bridging the disparities

by ALLYZA REIGN B. ESCALONA

Language literacy is a hindrance to success. In accordance to the MATATAG curriculum's Catch-up Fridays initiative, Holy Infant Academy- Elementary Department incorporated different activities such as Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) depending on the students' grade levels. This is a great example of practicing equity and equality-the country needs more of this.

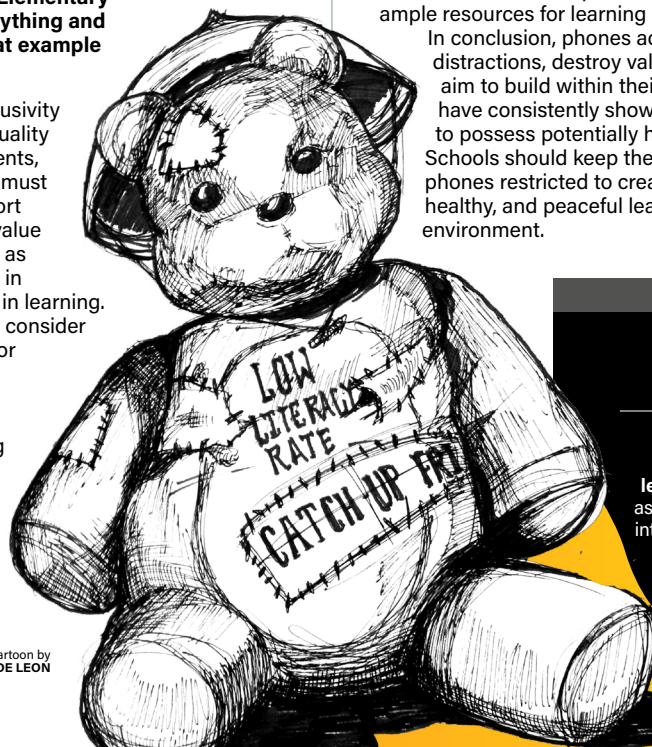
Implementing different schedules to This is a good approach especially since students have different learning progresses when it comes to reading, writing and computing. This is a good approach since this way, we can ensure that every student can improve even though they need a full refresher of everything. Inclusivity is an important aspect in education-no one must be left behind. However, the downside of Catch-up Fridays is that students often feel the urge to skip classes because they deem the program irrelevant. This mindset can be associated to the student's upbringing which can pose a great threat to the student's overall well-being. This might not be a big deal to everyone, but it can cause the students to continuously disregard education.



Inclusivity is an important aspect in education - no one must left behind.

Collaboration and inclusivity are the keys to a good-quality education Teachers, parents, and especially students, must put in a collaborative effort to ensure that students value reading and writing as it is fundamental in one's progress in learning. Schools must consider the minority or the students with special needs when implementing programs such as Catch-up Fridays. The students' low literacy rate is long overdue-it is time to take action.

Cartoon by
ART DIMITRY D. DE LEON



voxpopuli



Saboteurs of Education

by JLOYD MICHAEL A. MARASIGAN

When you walk into a classroom, one might expect students to attentively listen, sit neatly, and interact with the students while discussing a lesson. When phones are allowed within the school campus, the norm would now be students looking at their gadgets, sitting inelegantly, and the teacher finding it burdensome to teach students who are glued to their digital screens. Phones only serve as distractors for students and burdens for teachers.

“ Schools are meant to be learning spaces, but introducing devices like phones into schools would undermine these goals. They act as digital distractions, affecting students' attentiveness and academic performance.

A study by Joshi et al. (2022) found that college students checked their phones an average of 3.52 times during a single lecture, negatively affecting their academic performance. This undermines the mission of schools to encourage learning and attentive listening.

Prohibiting phones in schools presents a no-win situation for both students and teachers, as it sets a bad precedent for the learning environment. The Philippines, where students spend the most time on their phones, is also in a similar situation.

Dangerous media consumption is another issue. Schools should be aware of the harmful content they consume online, such as TikTok's #deviouslicks hashtag, which has led to vandalism and theft. Schools should be cautious about allowing devices with malicious content inside their campuses.

Some argue that phones provide emergency assistance, but our school already provides a school nurse and safety kits in each classroom. Phones can have troubleshooting problems and rely on stable internet, making them unnecessary. Additionally, there are already ways to get answers to questions, such as asking peers or a teacher, and computer labs provide ample resources for learning enhancement.

In conclusion, phones act as mere distractions, destroy values schools aim to build within their students, and have consistently shown themselves to possess potentially harmful media. Schools should keep the status quo with phones restricted to create a socialized, healthy, and peaceful learning environment.

Sidebar

KNOW IT NOW

Comprehension is the foundation of effective learning and communication, as it allows individuals to grasp, interpret, and apply information meaningfully.

opinion

The Official Publication of Holy Infant Academy- Elementary Department • THE RIPPLES

breakthrough



MATATAG Curriculum: Progress or Pressure?

by JLOYD MICHAEL A. MARASIGAN

In our pursuit of improving the Philippine education system, the Department of Education (DepEd) introduced the MATATAG curriculum in 2024. This reform aims to elevate the quality of learning by focusing on foundational skills, critical thinking, and the development of life skills. However, in its first year, we have already seen mixed reactions to the new curriculum. While it promises long-term improvements, it also brings significant challenges. As we navigate this shift, one question remains: is the MATATAG curriculum a genuine step forward for us as learners and educators, or is it simply adding more stress to an already overburdened system?

A Well-Intentioned Reform

The MATATAG curriculum was designed to address several long-standing issues in our education system. It seeks to reduce the overemphasis on rote memorization and instead promote critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills. By focusing on fundamental learning in literacy and numeracy, the curriculum aims to better prepare us for the demands of the 21st century. It strives for a more holistic educational model that doesn't just focus on knowledge acquisition but also on developing the skills we need for the future.

Rising Pressure in the Classroom

However, despite its well-meaning intentions, the MATATAG curriculum has placed significant pressure on both us as students and our teachers. One of the most obvious challenges is the limited time allotted for each lesson—just 45 minutes. In many classrooms, we find ourselves racing against the clock to keep up with the extensive material. The pace often feels overwhelming, leaving little room for in-depth understanding or thoughtful discussion of the topics at hand.

Teacher Strain and Adaptation

Our teachers are also bearing the brunt of this pressure. The MATATAG curriculum demands that educators adjust their teaching methods, incorporate new strategies, and meet higher expectations for student performance. While many of our teachers are committed to providing us with the best education possible, the sheer volume of change has left some feeling burned out.

The Need for Reevaluation

As we continue to experience the impact of the MATATAG curriculum, it is clear that some adjustments may be necessary. We must acknowledge that while the curriculum's goals are admirable, its current structure may not be sustainable in the long term. The fast-paced nature and heavy workload are creating an environment where both students and teachers are at risk of burnout.

We believe that a re-evaluation of the curriculum's time allocation is essential. More flexibility in lesson duration could allow for a deeper, more meaningful

engagement with the material, benefiting both students and educators. In addition, providing teachers with better resources and support will help them adapt more effectively to the new curriculum without feeling overwhelmed.

Striking a Balance Between Progress and Pressure

Ultimately, the success of the MATATAG curriculum will depend on how well we can strike a balance between its ambitious goals and the realities of our classrooms. While the curriculum's emphasis on critical thinking, creativity, and skills development is crucial, it should not come at the cost of our well-being. Education should empower us, not pressure us into stress and exhaustion.



Cartoon by
ALYSSA RHOWEE
N. JULIANES

sidebar

RA 10533

The Department of Education (DepEd) issues DepEd Order No. 010, s. 2024, providing Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum. This policy is designed to articulate the features, design, and standards of the MATATAG Curriculum, which aims to prepare Filipino learners with 21st-century skills for both local and global job markets.

insightignite

Soaring privileges, drowning negligence

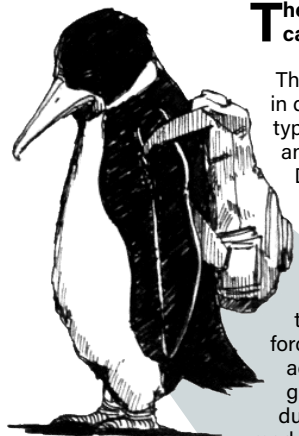
by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN

The Philippines has been facing a crisis in disaster preparedness, with numerous typhoons causing economic problems and affecting the people.

The Philippines has been facing a crisis in disaster preparedness, with numerous typhoons causing economic problems and affecting the people. Despite this, the Department of Education (DepEd) has urged no disruption of classes, even for students struggling to survive. The issue extends beyond preparedness, highlighting the deepening disregard for the underprivileged. Recently, several towns in the province have been flooded, forcing students to focus on take-home activities instead of survival. The revised guidelines for work and class suspensions during disasters require schools to switch to modular learning, online learning, or blended

options, neglecting the underprivileged.

This highlights the deepening division between the privileged and the underprivileged, with some lacking access to the internet and a place to finish activities. The government's efforts to combat the stigma surrounding this issue are insufficient, as the negative consequences are perceptible. Disasters are inevitable, and Filipinos must rise above them to recover. However, the situation creates a thin wall between the fortunate and the less fortunate, with the privileged soaring and the less fortunate drowning due to negligence. A long-term solution is needed to address this issue.



Cartoon by
ART DIMITRY D. DE LEON

PULSE

In a bid to gauge student and faculty opinions on school policies, Holy Infant Academy (HIA) recently conducted a survey asking: Should the school allow civilian clothes every Friday, instead of the usual school shirt?

As the school year progresses, this topic has sparked discussions about comfort, individuality, and the impact of dress codes on student morale. While uniforms have long been a symbol of discipline and equality, many students feel that wearing civilian clothes on Fridays could bring a sense of freedom and excitement to the school week.



enthralling melody

The Sound of Music

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN



Songs have a way of speaking to our hearts, don't they? Whether it's the joy of a new crush or the ache of an unspoken goodbye, music taps into emotions we often can't find the words for. The beauty of these songs—"Leaves" by Ben&Ben, "Sa Susunod na Habang Buhay" by Ben&Ben, "Mysteryoso" by Cup of Joe, "Tingin" by Cup of Joe, "Die with a Smile" by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, and "Dilaw" by Maki—lies in how they each capture different sides of love and longing, from playful flirtation to deep devotion and heartache. Here's how each one paints a picture of love's many shades.

"Leaves" by Ben&Ben: Healing and Letting Go

**"And all will be alright in time,
From waves overgrown, come the calmest of seas,
And all will be alright in time,
Oh, you never really love someone until you learn to forgive."**

If you've ever been heartbroken, you know how the song "Leaves" feels. It's all about letting go, finding peace, and realizing that healing takes time. Those lyrics? They're a gentle reminder that even when everything feels like a storm, calm will come. It's that bittersweet moment when you understand forgiveness isn't just for others—it's for your own heart, too.

"Mysteryoso" by Cup of Joe: The Thrill of Intrigue

**"Hindi titigil hanggang ako na ang dahilan
Ng 'yong ngiting mysteryoso."**

We've all been there—the magnetic pull of someone who just gets under your skin, making your heart race with every mysterious smile. "Mysteryoso" is all about the excitement of being drawn to someone who's not giving everything away at once. That enigmatic smile? It's a challenge, an invitation to discover more. It's the thrill of a crush, where every glance feels like a puzzle waiting to be solved.

"Die with a Smile" by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars: Love and Sacrifice

**"If the world was ending,
I'd wanna be next to you."**

Now this is love at its most intense—when you're willing to face anything, even the end of the world, as long as you're with the person you care about. "Die with a Smile" is all about sacrifice and choosing to hold onto joy, no matter what's falling apart around you. The powerful voices of Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars make this song feel like an anthem for anyone who's ever put someone else's happiness before their own.

"Dilaw" by Maki: Love and Heartbreak Intertwined

**"Kung mayro'n mang kulay ang aking nagsisilbing tanglaw,
Ikaw, ikaw ay dilaw."**

And then there's "Dilaw"—the song that reminds us of the beautiful, yet painful, complexities of love. Yellow isn't just a color here; it's a symbol of the warmth and light that someone brings into your life. But as the song goes on, it's clear that even the brightest light can leave you feeling a little empty when it fades. "Dilaw" captures that feeling of loving someone who becomes your guiding light, yet sometimes causes your heart to ache.

So, what do all these songs have in common? They're each, in their own way, about love—its joys, its mysteries, and its inevitable heartaches. Whether it's the healing found in "Leaves," the timeless bond in "Sa Susunod na Habang Buhay," the thrilling unknown in "Mysteryoso," the sweet joy of a glance in "Tingin," the sacrifice in "Die with a Smile," or the bittersweet love in "Dilaw," they remind us of the rollercoaster ride that is love.

And maybe, that's what makes these songs so powerful. They capture the feelings we all experience—sometimes in ways we can't even put into words. Through their lyrics and melodies, we find pieces of our own stories, our own hearts, and maybe even the mystery of love itself.



Cracking your Inner Numeric Prodigy: The Journey to Mastery

by AHMIRA KYLLIN D. DELOS REYES

Have you ever looked at a math genius and wondered, "How did they get so good?" Or perhaps, "Is math just for people with a natural talent?" What if I told you that anyone, including you, could become a math prodigy? It's not about being born with extraordinary skills; it's about mindset, effort, and the willingness to dive into the world of numbers and patterns. Whether you're just starting or you've been stuck on the same problem for days, there's always a way forward. So, how do you get there? Let's break it down.

1. Embrace a Growth Mindset: Believe in Your Potential

Math isn't just for the naturally gifted—it's for anyone willing to put in the effort. The first step is to believe in yourself and your ability to improve. Developing a growth mindset means recognizing that challenges are simply opportunities for growth, not obstacles to your potential.

2. Build a Strong Foundation: Master the Basics

Before you can tackle more complex problems, make sure your basics are solid. Arithmetic, algebra, and geometry form the foundation of more advanced topics. "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out," Robert Collier reminds us. Consistency and practice with the basics are key to advancing in math.

3. Practice, Practice, Practice: Consistency is Key

The more you practice, the better you get. But it's not just about solving problem after problem—it's about understanding why solutions work. As James Joseph Sylvester said, "Mathematics is the music of reason." Practice helps you hear the logic behind the solutions, making math more intuitive.

4. Challenge Yourself: Push Beyond Comfort Zones

Once you're comfortable with the basics, push yourself with more challenging problems. It's easy to stay within what's familiar, but real growth happens when you venture into harder areas. "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone," Neale Donald Walsch reminds us. Don't shy away from challenges—they will sharpen your skills and broaden your understanding.

5. Learn from the Best: Study Great Mathematicians

Mathematics is full of brilliant minds that have shaped the field. Learning from their work can provide valuable insights. Studying the techniques and thought processes of great mathematicians can inspire and guide you in your own learning journey.

By following these steps with dedication, curiosity, and a love for learning, anyone can unlock their full mathematical potential. The path to becoming a math prodigy isn't about innate talent—it's about determination, discipline, and passion. So, what are you waiting for? Start your math journey today, and let the numbers guide you to greatness!



Whether you're just starting or you've been stuck on the same problem for days, there's always a way forward.

Photo courtesy of
YLLANE JASVIL S. TOLENTINO



Dancing in Devotion: Karakol for Sto. Niño

by JAZMINE RYE C. RAMOS

In the early hours of the morning, the streets around Holy Infant Academy came alive with vibrant movement, heartfelt devotion, and festive energy as the school community united for the annual Karakol Dance. This beloved event, held at 5 AM, marked the beginning of the school's PaskuHIAN celebration, a time when faith, culture, and unity harmoniously converge.

The Karakol is more than just a dance; it is a sacred tradition rooted in the Filipino people's unwavering devotion to the Sto. Niño. The word "karakol" refers to a lively procession, typically accompanied by traditional dances and hymns, performed to honor the infant Jesus. For the HIA community, it is a tangible expression of faith, gratitude, and reverence.

As the Karakol procession weaves through the streets, the collective energy of the dancers fills the air. The students, led by their teachers, move to the beat of festive yet solemn music, holding statues of the Sto. Niño high. Their joyful expressions radiate the deep connection between their faith and the community, each step symbolizing their commitment to living out the values they hold close.

In addition to being a spiritual occasion, the Karakol Dance serves as a celebration of HIA's rich cultural and religious heritage. The school has long recognized the importance of passing down traditions that reflect the values of the Filipino people, and the Karakol is one of the most cherished expressions of this. Through the annual celebration, HIA ensures that the younger generation understands the importance of their faith

and cultural roots, keeping the traditions of devotion and community alive.

"I feel proud to be part of this tradition," shared one Grade 6 student, beaming as she danced alongside her classmates.

The Karakol Dance is the first event of HIA's PaskuHIAN celebrations, ushering in the Christmas season with a sense of joy and anticipation. The early morning celebration sets the tone for the days to come, with more activities, feasts, and gatherings to follow. However, it is the Karakol that stands out as a truly special moment—a time when faith and tradition converge in a powerful display of love, unity, and devotion.

As the dancers make their way through the streets, their hearts are full of hope and gratitude, ready to embrace the coming Christmas season with open arms. For the HIA community, the Karakol Dance is a reminder that the true spirit of Christmas lies not in the gifts or decorations, but in the love we share and the faith we hold close.

As the sun began to rise on that early December morning, the HIA community moved forward with a renewed sense of unity and devotion, confident that their shared faith and traditions would continue to guide them throughout the Christmas season and beyond.

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For the HIA community, the Karakol Dance is a reminder that the true spirit of Christmas lies not in the gifts or decorations, but in the love we share and the faith we hold close.

historycheck

87 YEARS

HIA celebrated their 87th founding anniversary highlighting the eight decade of providing quality education to every Clapaenos.

Illustration from CANVA



Myrrh than just a Season

by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

Christmas is a time for reflection, selflessness, community, and the love that Christ brings into the world. It's not just about the decorations or festivities, but about the joy of being together, reflecting, and living out the essence of the season. In a society that often emphasizes materialism and busyness, understanding the true spirit of Christmas matters because it allows us to experience a joy that transcends the temporary excitement of receiving gifts or attending parties.

Christmas is a unique opportunity for reflection, as it offers a chance to reflect on the profound significance of Christ's birth: the arrival of a Savior who showed the world the power of unconditional love and compassion.

In a world often marked by division, anger, and hurt, Christ's birth calls for unity,

forgiveness, and openness to the people around us.

The most significant gift of this season is not found under the tree but in the presence of Christ in our lives. Christ's love transcends all, offering comfort in times of sorrow and hope in moments of despair. By embodying that love in our everyday lives, we can make every day feel like Christmas.

However, the true spirit of Christmas should not end when

the decorations are packed away. The love, peace, and hope that Christ offers us are meant to carry us throughout the year. By practicing kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, we can make every day a reflection of the true spirit of Christmas. By embracing the love of Christ, we can change

“

For the HIA community, the Karakol Dance is a reminder that the true spirit of Christmas lies not in the gifts or decorations, but in the love we share and the faith we hold close.

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By practicing kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, we can make every day a reflection of the true spirit of Christmas.

Groove It!

by JAZMIN RYE C. RAMOS

Holy Infant Academy celebrated its 87th founding anniversary in grand style with a day of vibrant performances and school spirit. Academy Day 2024 was not just an ordinary event but a joyous reflection of the school's commitment to fostering creativity, unity, and talent among its students.

The performances kicked off with the youngest dancers from Kinder 2, who opened the show with their lively and spirited routine to "Banana Chacha". With their adorable and playful movements, they captivated the audience, bringing a smile to everyone's face. Despite their age, the Kinder 2 students exhibited a remarkable sense of rhythm and timing, and their infectious energy set the tone for the rest of the event. The

Grade 1 students showcased their skills with a fun and energetic performance to "Thumbs Up" by Momoland. The Grade 2 students performed gracefully to "What is Love" by Twice, showcasing their growing dance skills. The Grade 3 students performed "Tiramisu Cake" by We Are the Night, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. The Grade 4 students delivered a catchy and energetic performance to "Cupid" by Fifty Fifty, showcasing their ability to execute intricate choreography with precision. The Grade 5 students performed a dynamic mix of 2NE1 hits, showcasing their versatility and skill. The Grade 6 students performed "Dynamite"

by BTS, showcasing their high-flying moves and fast-paced footwork. The Grade 7 dancers performed "Baam" by Momoland, showcasing their growing proficiency in K-pop dance styles. The Grade 8 students performed "Sneakers" by Itzy, showcasing their ability to execute complex choreography with ease. The Grade 9 dancers performed "As If It's Your Last" by Blackpink, showcasing their advanced skills and stage presence. The Grade 10 students

performed "Idol" by BTS, showcasing their ability to execute complex choreography with ease. The Grade 11 dancers performed "Permission to Dance" by BTS, showcasing their teamwork and coordination.

The Grade 12 students concluded the event with a stunning routine to "Butter" by BTS, showcasing their mastery of K-pop dance techniques. The Field Demonstration was a fitting highlight of Academy Day 2024, leaving the audience excited and proud of talent within the HIA the incredible community.



For the HIA community, the Karakol Dance is a reminder that the true spirit of Christmas lies not in the gifts or decorations, but in the love we share and the faith we hold close.



Photo from ORIENTAL MINDORO TOURISM

Imprints of Mindoreño

by CAMILLA THRES A. BOBOS

The National Heritage and Cultural Museum stands as a beacon of history and artistry, housing artifacts, cultural symbols, and masterpieces that encapsulate the nation's diverse cultural legacy. The NHCM is dedicated to the preservation, appreciation, and dissemination of the country's rich traditions, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots.

The museum safeguards both tangible and intangible cultural treasures, including ancient manuscripts, indigenous crafts, traditional attire, and intricate beadwork. One of its most distinguished features is its exhibition of indigenous scripts, preserving the linguistic heritage of the nation's earliest inhabitants. Furthermore, the museum highlights the historical evolution of indigenous communication, shedding light on how early civilizations inscribed their thoughts on bamboo and tree bark—materials that, due to their perishable nature, led to the loss of many historical writings. However, dedicated cultural advocates have worked tirelessly to revive these ancient scripts through educational initiatives, ensuring their survival for generations to come. Traditional storytelling, once the primary method of passing down wisdom, remains an integral part of the museum's mission. Visitors can witness performances of folk narratives and poetic recitations, providing an immersive experience that connects them to the past.

Meanwhile, time-honored traditions such as the ceremonial "alay sayaw," a pre-harvest dance ritual, continue to thrive, demonstrating the resilience and enduring spirit of the nation's heritage. The National Heritage and Cultural Museum is more than just a repository of relics—it is a living testament to the people's history, culture, and identity, inviting every visitor to partake in the celebration of their ancestral roots.

BINI

THE RISE OF IDOLS

by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

Eight voices. Eight unique stories. One shared dream. Like the Red String of Fate, BINI's journey wasn't a coincidence—it was destiny. Bound by an unseen connection, each member's path intertwined, creating a bond far stronger than music. Together, they've become more than just a girl group; they are a symbol of hope and unity in P-Pop. How did fate draw BINI together, and where will their shared journey take them next?

BINI's journey reveals how seemingly small decisions can alter the course of destiny. Each member had defining moments that led them to where they are today. Whether it was deciding to pursue a music career, joining a competitive audition, or overcoming self-doubt, these choices unknowingly brought them together. If any of them had made a different choice, the group as we know it might never have formed.

The foundation of BINI's strength lies in their unity and resilience. Beyond their incredible talent, they've faced shared struggles that only brought them closer. From tiring rehearsals to the sacrifices of leaving their families behind, every challenge tested their bond. Each member supported the others through tough times, reinforcing the idea that success is never achieved alone.

BINI's music is a powerful reflection of their journey—a fusion of raw talent and personal experiences that resonates deeply with their fans. Through their songs, they've created a space where listeners can find strength, hope, and motivation. As BINI continues to release new music, their messages evolve but always remain rooted in the values they hold dear: resilience, hope, and the courage to keep going. Their lyrics offer fans an opportunity to find solace, express themselves, and connect through the universal experiences of life. Whether they are singing about victory, love, or perseverance, BINI's songs are anthems for the broken-hearted, the dreamers, and the fighters.

BINI's influence is not limited to the Philippines—they've set their sights on the global stage, taking P-Pop with them as they perform in various countries

around the world. Their recent shows, including performances in Canada and their remarkable Grand Biniverse concert in the Araneta Coliseum in Manila, are proof that their reach goes beyond their home country. BINI has proven that music is a universal language, one that connects people from different backgrounds and cultures.

As they expand their horizons and continue to perform internationally, BINI is setting the stage for even greater milestones. With each concert and appearance abroad, they are helping P-Pop gain recognition on the global stage, proving that their bond and their music are truly universal.

As BINI continues their journey, their story flourishes with each new experience. The group is not only redefining P-Pop but inspiring fans to follow their dreams and believe in the power of unity. Their music connects them to each other and to their fans, forming a bond that transcends borders. With every concert, every performance, and every new song, their collective vision grows stronger.

The Red String of Fate, though invisible, is impossible to ignore. It ties BINI to one another, to their fans, and to a future brimming with possibility. Their bond is more than just a shared dream—it's a powerful force that propels them forward. They were literally Born to Win. No matter what challenges come their way, one thing is certain: BINI's connection will always keep them rising, together.

“The Red String of Fate, though invisible, is impossible to ignore. It ties BINI to one another, to their fans, and to a future brimming with possibility.”

features **12**

The Red String of Fate, though invisible, is impossible to ignore. It ties BINI to one another, to their fans, and to a future brimming with possibility.

Illustration from GOOGLE



The success of the fund drive each year is a reflection of the unwavering commitment of the Holy Infant Academy community to make a difference.

Seasons of Giving, Moments of Joy

by CLAYN M. BUITRE

In the true spirit of Christmas, Holy Infant Academy turns giving into a tradition, as pupils and their families generously donate essential items to make the holidays brighter for those facing hardships.

As the Christmas season approaches, one of the most heartwarming traditions of HIA is the annual Christmas Fund Drive. It's a time when people set aside their own needs and desires to ensure that others, particularly the less fortunate, can experience the joy and comfort of the holiday season.

The Christmas Fund Drive of HIA is more than just a charitable event; it's an opportunity to bring the entire school community together for a meaningful cause. This year, the pupils are encouraged to contribute canned goods, rice, detergent, coffee, and other essentials—items that will provide both comfort and support to families facing hardships this Christmas.

The donated items will be distributed to families in need, ensuring they experience the warmth and joy of the season. This initiative underscores the values of kindness, empathy, and the importance of giving

back, especially during a time of year when so many need extra support.

The culmination of the Christmas Fund Drive is always a joyful occasion. When the donated goods are delivered to the families and communities in need, the smiles and gratitude of the recipients are a testament to the hard work and compassion that went into the drive. For the students, teachers, and parents involved, the experience serves as a powerful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas—sharing love, hope, and kindness with others.

The success of the fund drive each year is a reflection of the unwavering commitment of the Holy Infant Academy community to make a difference. If this tradition continues, so too will the sense of unity, kindness, and joy that brings the whole school together in the true spirit of Christmas.



TAIWAN CYBER-KIDS CAMP 2024



Photo courtesy of
YLLANE JASVIL S. TOLENTINO

Sprinkilizer: A Smarter, Greener Way to Grow

by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

As climate change and resource depletion cast shadows over the future of farming, a bright innovation emerges to light the way—the Sprinkilizer. This solar-powered device is a beacon of sustainability, designed to address the worsening agricultural crises caused by droughts and declining soil quality.

In the Philippines, the El Niño phenomenon has wreaked havoc, with agricultural losses reaching 9.50 billion in May 2024 alone. Over 175,000 farmers were affected, and approximately 163,000 hectares of farmland lay damaged. With water scarcity rising and food security under threat, the Sprinkilizer steps in as a game-changer for the agricultural sector. This ingenious device blends technology and sustainability. It

automates irrigation and fertilization by monitoring soil moisture and nutrient levels, such

as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. With real-time soil monitoring via Bluetooth and powered entirely by the sun, the Sprinkilizer offers farmers a smarter, greener way to nurture their crops. Though currently a miniature farm model, the Sprinkilizer holds immense potential. Built with sensors, microcontrollers, and solar panels, it is backed by custom software and rigorous testing. The device has already garnered recognition, winning second place in the Division Science and Technology Fair for Applied Science—a testament



This initiative has already commenced in the towns of Bansud and Gloria and is set to expand to rivers in other towns across Oriental Mindoro.

INNOVATIVE!

HIA student researchers excel at Taiwan SIP Competition, securing gold and silver awards

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN



TAIWAN- In an impressive demonstration of scientific innovation and problem-solving, Holy Infant Academy students achieved outstanding recognition at the 2024 Kaohsiung International Invention and Design EXPO securing gold and silver awards, December 5 to .

Gold Award: Biohybrid Approach for Oil Spill Bioremediation

One of the standout projects of the event was the Gold Award-winning work of Cael Jairus R. Balbin, Xialdanne P. Opano, and Jazmin Rye C. Ramos. Their project, titled Biohybrid Integration of *Trichoderma atroviride* in *Colocasia esculenta* Leaves as an Oil Spill Bioremediation Strategy, introduces a biohybrid approach that harnesses the natural properties of fungi and plants to address oil spill contamination.

The students' innovative solution combines the capabilities of *Trichoderma atroviride*, a fungus known for its natural ability to break down pollutants, with *Colocasia esculenta* (taro) leaves to enhance the bioremediation process. **Silver Award: Bluetooth-Enabled Emergency Detection System**

The Silver Award went to Ashton Earl P. Alcaide, Allyza Reign B. Escalona, and Izea Forgione A. Jumig for their innovative emergency response system,

BLAZE: Bluetooth Lighting and Zonal Emergency Detection System. BLAZE integrates Bluetooth technology with lighting systems, enabling emergency responders to pinpoint areas of concern in real-time. This system can significantly enhance the safety and efficiency of emergency situations by providing crucial information to first responders.

Silver Award: Red Tide Monitoring System

Another Silver Award was presented to Keemeone R. Gayeta for his environmental research project Red Alert: Enhancing Environmental Monitoring Systems for Red Tide Detection and Communication. Red tide, a harmful algal bloom, presents significant risks to marine ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities. Gayeta's project focuses on improving the detection and communication of red tide events, ensuring faster response times and better protection for affected areas.

The Kaohsiung International Invention and Design EXPO served as a platform for these young researchers to showcase their potential and contribute to meaningful global advancements.

Nature's Cleanup Crew

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN

Oil spills pose a significant threat to ecosystems and marine life, prompting researchers to explore a biohybrid strategy that combines *Trichoderma atroviride*, a fungus, with the nutrient-rich leaves of *C. esculenta* (taro).

This fusion aims to create a sustainable and effective method for cleaning up oil spills, showcasing how collaboration between organisms can lead to powerful environmental restoration. *Trichoderma atroviride* is known for its ability to degrade organic pollutants, particularly petroleum hydrocarbons, and is adept at colonizing contaminated environments.

Taro, a fast-growing hydrophobic plant, complements the bioremediation process with its high biomass production and nutrient content. The research uses a comprehensive methodology to assess the effectiveness of this biohybrid strategy, starting with collecting used coffee grounds as growth medium for *Trichoderma atroviride*. After colonization, the fungal culture is mixed with dried taro leaves, creating a natural mat that traps and degrades harmful hydrocarbons in oil contaminated water. This approach contributes to waste reduction and advances bioremediation research, paving the way for further optimization of *Trichoderma* fungus in bioremediation.

The successful implementation of this biohybrid approach could revolutionize oil spill response techniques, demonstrating that solutions to environmental problems often lie within nature itself.



Photo from FREEPIK

bythenumber

19K

ASF CASES

pigs had been infected and killed due ASF since December 2021
source: Bureau of Animal Industry



Double-Edged Impact

by IZEA FORGIONE A. JUMIG

In today's era of rapid technological advancement, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force, significantly impacting the field of education. The introduction of AI has brought numerous changes to academic environments, offering both challenges and benefits to students. As AI continues to evolve, many individuals, particularly students, increasingly rely on it, which could potentially lead to unfavorable consequences in education.

Not long ago, students relied on reading books and actively listening to find answers to their questions. With the advent of AI, however, this dynamic has shifted dramatically. Students now have access to AI tools that provide instant guidance, simplifying the process of achieving higher academic performance.

Learning, while often challenging, remains a rewarding journey that fosters personal growth and development. Overcoming obstacles during the learning process can lead to a profound sense of accomplishment, greater confidence, and expanded opportunities. It also cultivates resilience, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking—qualities that are invaluable in various areas of life. Although AI has reshaped how students learn, interact, and engage with educational content, it also introduces the temptation to bypass the challenging yet enriching aspects of learning.

AI's proficiency in performing various tasks underscores its potential to revolutionize education. However, the ease and convenience it offers may inadvertently encourage students to avoid the struggles inherent in the learning process. While AI provides a pathway for those facing intellectual difficulties, its integration into education must be approached thoughtfully to ensure it complements rather than replaces the valuable experiences of effort and perseverance in learning.

FLOODING CONCERN

BAHA Blues: Mindoro's Flooding Crisis — A Battle Between Nature and Man-Made Damage

by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

You wake up to the cool morning air brushing against your skin as you get ready to start your day. But when you step outside, reality hits. Floodwaters have risen overnight, covering the streets. Your freshly washed shoes are now dirty, swept away by the muddy water. It's a stark reminder of how quickly things can change in the ongoing battle against floods.

The southern municipalities of Oriental Mindoro, especially Naujan, are struggling with rising floodwaters that disrupt daily life and put people's livelihoods at risk. The area's rivers and its location near Naujan Lake act like leaks in a boat, causing the water levels to rise quickly. Meanwhile, deforestation in the surrounding mountains is like removing the boat's hull, making the land weaker and worsening the flooding.

Why the Floods?

Southern Oriental Mindoro is especially vulnerable to flooding because of its location. The large Naujan Lake and a network of rivers running through municipalities like Naujan, Pola, and Bongabong often overflow during heavy rains, causing the floods to last for days.

In the mountains, people have been cutting down trees to produce charcoal. This overharvesting leads to soil erosion, where the ground loses its ability to absorb rainwater, making the floods worse. Erosion causes landslides and further damage to the land. While charcoal production is a livelihood for many, its environmental consequences are severe. It not only worsens floods but also destroys the land that local communities rely on for farming and survival.

The region's flooding crisis is driven by a combination of natural factors, such as the geography of Naujan Lake and the many rivers, and human activities, such as deforestation. This combination makes it harder for the municipalities in the southern part of Oriental Mindoro to stop the floods, leading to a cycle of destruction that impacts both the environment and people's lives.

Possible Solutions

To break the cycle of destruction, local authorities must take action. Sustainable

practices such as reforestation (planting trees) and better management of rivers could help control the floods. Eco-friendly methods of charcoal production should be encouraged to reduce the impact of deforestation. In addition, communities could be taught alternative livelihoods like growing fruit trees or developing eco-tourism, which would reduce the pressure on forests.

The flooding crisis in Oriental Mindoro is a stark reminder of how deeply interconnected human actions are with the environment. The short-term benefits that come from activities like charcoal production and deforestation often overshadow the long-term consequences. As the floods continue to ravage communities, it's clear that unless these unsustainable practices are addressed, the cycle of destruction will only intensify. It's crucial for both local governments and individuals to understand the importance of protecting the land and water sources that sustain their livelihoods. Balancing economic needs with environmental responsibility will be key to ensuring a safer, more resilient future for these communities.

stayinformed

LEPTOSPIROSIS

The Department of Health (DOH) reported on December 2024, a total of 5,835 leptospirosis cases, reflecting a 16% increase from the 5,050 cases logged during the same period last year.

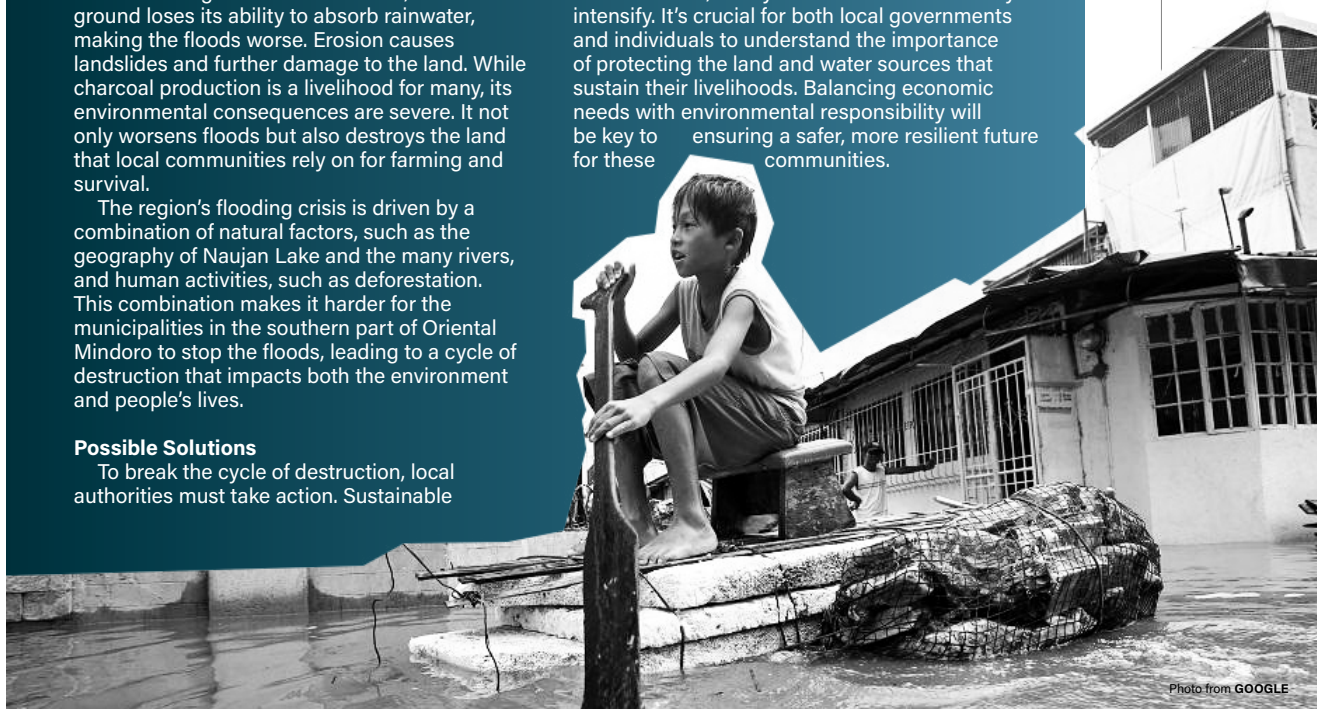


Photo from GOOGLE

Click with Caution

by EZIO GIOVANNI P. TOLENTINO

Embracing the digital age brings both opportunities and risks, with online platforms becoming a central part of our lives. However, the internet is a vast and unpredictable space where danger often lurks. Every click, like, and share carries potential consequences, from malware attacks to cyberbullying and phishing schemes.

Malware takes many forms, such as viruses that spread through files, Trojans that create backdoors for unauthorized access, and worms that self-replicate across networks. Rootkits conceal harmful activities, while botnets turn computers into tools for large-scale attacks. Beyond these, cyberbullying, spam, and phishing continue to pose serious threats.

To stay safe in this evolving landscape, we must remain vigilant and informed. Republic Act No. 10175 addresses cybercrimes, but personal responsibility is crucial. The future of our digital world is unknown, but by acting wisely, we can navigate it with resilience and awareness.



Illustration from CANVA

PRISTINE PARADISE

by PRINCESS ZIBEL F. CABRAL

The island sits at the heart of the "Coral Triangle"—the global center of marine biodiversity. It is famous for its scientifically-backed title as the "Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity" and as the "Center of the Center of Marine Biodiversity in the World."

source: CORA Philippines

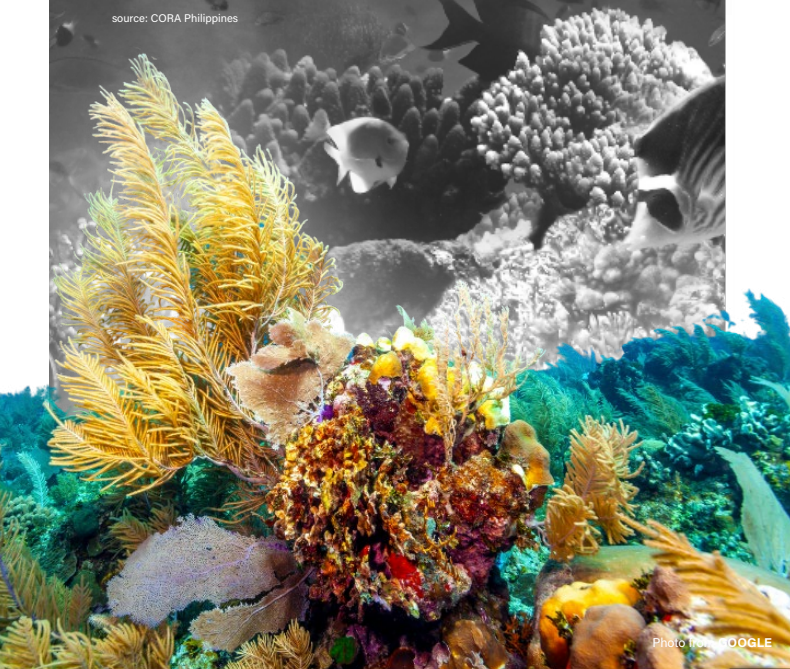


Photo from GOOGLE

Amid the breathtaking beauty of the Philippines, Isla Verde stands out as a hidden gem—a place that captivates with its understated charm and dazzling features. Its allure lies not only in its beauty but in the uniqueness that makes it utterly unforgettable.

Imagine the crystal-clear blue waters that mirror the splash of ocean waves and the creamy, grainy-white sands that contour its edges. This island, an unexpected diamond nestled in the heart of the vast sea, is a sight to behold. Even foreigners find themselves drawn to its extraordinary allure. Beyond its physical beauty, the mysteries surrounding Isla Verde make it even more intriguing. For the adventurous, it's a paradise offering endless discoveries and thrills.

Known as the center of global shore-fish biodiversity, Isla Verde is a sanctuary teeming with life. It is home to incredible species such as whale sharks, sea turtles, nudibranchs, and a stunning array of vibrant coral reefs. Situated between Luzon and Mindoro, the journey to Isla Verde begins with a scenic ship ride from Batangas, where you'll feel its inviting aura long before you arrive.

Popular among locals, foreign tourists, backpackers, and intrepid travelers, Isla Verde offers a serene escape far from the hustle and bustle of crowded destinations. Visitors can stay in charming beachfront accommodations like the Isla Verde Tropical Friendly Resort, which features a variety of options, from stone houses and traditional nipa huts to cozy tents.

Food is never a concern here, as the island serves a diverse array of fresh, nutritious meals—meat and fish dishes, vegetables, desserts, and tropical fruits. Whether you're snorkeling in the marine sanctuary, swimming in the turquoise waters, or enjoying a soothing massage, Isla Verde promises relaxation and adventure in equal measure.

As the sun sets on the horizon, it's hard not to reflect on the treasure Isla Verde represents. Despite the growing challenges of preserving natural resources in a world driven by consumption, this island continues to give generously, offering an unforgettable experience to those who visit.

Owning such a place in a country where economic challenges persist is a rare blessing. Isla Verde is a testament to the Philippines' rich natural heritage—a sanctuary of unparalleled beauty. While its deep blue waters invite you to dive in, its timeless charm ensures that the island's magic remains with you long after you leave. Truly, Isla Verde is a remarkable destination that reminds us to appreciate and protect the natural wonders we are fortunate to call our own.



Marfan Syndrome Uncovered:

Exploring the hidden challenges of this underrecognized disorder

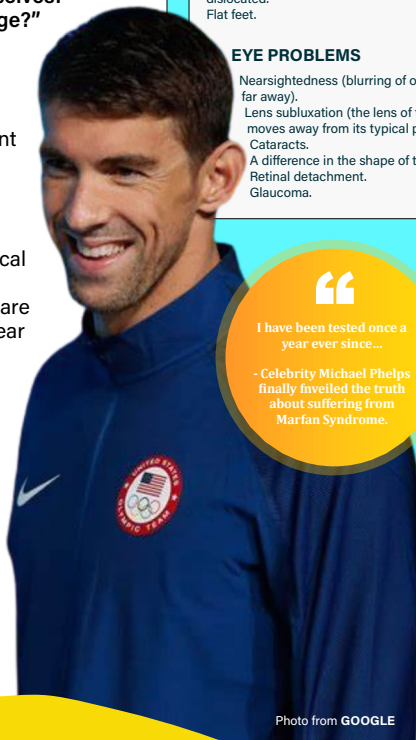
by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

In a world where the extraordinary often goes unnoticed, Marfan syndrome quietly shapes the lives of those who live with it, presenting unique challenges that remain largely underrecognized. Imagine navigating a life marked by towering height and fragile connections—both within the body and to the world around you. This genetic disorder, often misunderstood and overlooked, holds profound implications for those affected, from heart health to physical appearance. As we delve into the complexities of the Marfan syndrome, shedding light on its significance, the resilience of its individuals, and the urgent need for awareness and action, we must ask ourselves: How can we better support those living with this hidden challenge?"

Marfan syndrome is a condition characterized by physical and psychological challenges, including cardiovascular problems, musculoskeletal abnormalities, and mobility limitations. These conditions can lead to anxiety and depression, and can also cause social issues such as misunderstandings and exclusion. Notable figures who have publicly shared their experiences with Marfan syndrome include actor Drew Brees and motivational speaker Lizzie Velásquez. Brees has used his platform to raise awareness about the disorder, emphasizing the importance of advocacy and support. Velásquez, known for her unique condition, has also advocated for awareness and understanding of health issues, including Marfan syndrome.

To foster greater awareness and understanding, it is essential to promote education within communities

about Marfan syndrome and its characteristics. Schools, workplaces, and social groups can implement training sessions to inform people about the condition and promote a culture of empathy and inclusivity. Open dialogue about physical differences can create safe spaces for individuals to share their experiences without fear of judgment. Supporting awareness campaigns like Marfan Awareness Month can contribute to broader societal understanding and acceptance of those with the condition. By understanding the challenges faced by individuals with Marfan syndrome, we can create a compassionate society that values and supports diversity and differences.



healthcheck

SYMPTOMS OF MARFAN SYNDROME

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A long, narrow face.
Tall and thin body build.
Arms, legs, fingers and toes that may seem too long for the rest of your body.
Curved spine. Scoliosis affects 60% of people with Marfan syndrome.
Breastbone (sternum) that may either stick out or be indented.
Joints that are weak and easily become dislocated.
Flat feet.

EYE PROBLEMS

Nearsightedness (blurring of objects far away).
Lens subluxation (the lens of the eye moves away from its typical position).
Cataracts.
A difference in the shape of the eye.
Retinal detachment.
Glaucoma.



I have been tested once a year ever since...

- Celebrity Michael Phelps finally revealed the truth about suffering from Marfan Syndrome.

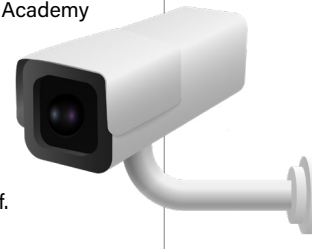
Photo from GOOGLE

Eyes and Ears Everywhere:
CCTV with Audio Enhances Campus Security at Holy Infant Academy

by ALYSSA RHOWEE N. JULIANES

Holy Infant Academy has installed CCTV cameras with audio in every classroom, enhancing its security system and providing real-time monitoring. This dual-layer of protection allows the school to respond quickly to emergencies or safety concerns.

The cameras are discreetly placed in strategic locations, while the built-in microphones capture sounds indicating potential incidents or emergencies. The monitoring system is centrally controlled by the school's admin, allowing them to make informed decisions and deploy resources quickly. The audio functionality also provides an additional layer of communication between the security team and classroom teachers, enabling them to send crucial information to the security team. Holy Infant Academy is committed to maintaining a balance between security and privacy, ensuring a safe environment for students and staff.



FLIES.

Could they be more beneficial than you think?

by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

Have you ever thought deeply about those annoying insects that seem to thrive in dirty places? Flies, with their buzzing wings and relentless presence, often get a bad rap. They're commonly associated with filth and decay, buzzing around trash bins and leftover food. But have you ever considered that these little creatures play crucial roles in our ecosystem?

Flies, often dismissed as mere nuisances, are surprisingly important to our ecosystem. Understanding their role matters as it highlights the unity of all living things and challenges our views of these insects. Flies do actually have a reason to swarm when it's warm, it may feel like they're just trying to bother us, but their population increase is really due to a mix of winter rain, available food, and rising temperatures. Insects are cold-blooded, so as it gets warmer, they become more active. Many insects wake up from their winter rest in spring and summer, ready to start their adult lives. These hungry, mobile, and eager insects are the ones buzzing around us all summer, like a three-month-long party for flies!

Think of a pollinator, you would have probably thought of bees and butterflies, but flies are actually a pollinator as well. In fact, according to an article from CSIRO, a fly can pollinate a flower just as good as a honeybee. "Horseflies are great pollinators because they're so hairy," says Bry the Fly Guy, also



Flies, often dismissed as mere nuisances, are surprisingly important to our ecosystem.

known as Dr Bryan Lessard of the Australian National Insect Collection. He also said that research from the University of England shows the common blow fly can carry more pollen stuck to its body than a honey bee," he says.

Flies are essential for various animals, including birds, lizards, and frogs, as they provide food and contribute to the ecosystem. Black soldier fly larvae can partially or fully replace traditional feed in agriculture, providing safe and effective feed for chickens, pigs, alligators, and farmed seafood without negative impacts on their health.

Flies also play a crucial role in breaking down rotting organic matter, helping to clean up after humans and prevent dead animals and waste from accumulating. They convert manure and rotting carcasses into feed for livestock and a natural food source for birds, frogs, and lizards, all for free.

Some flies are stunning, with the Leomyia notha soldier fly from Queensland being a prime example. Flies may seem like mere pests, but they contribute significantly to nature, from pollination to waste decomposition. By understanding the important roles flies play in our ecosystem, we can change our views on them and appreciate their importance in our ecosystem.

The island sits at the heart of the "Coral Triangle" — the global center of marine biodiversity. It is famous for its scientifically-backed title as the "Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity" and as the "Center of the Center of Marine Biodiversity in the World."

source: CORA Philippines



Under Pressure: The Hidden Toll of School Expectations on Mental Health

by BURNADETTE D.

Imagine a child staring at a mountain of homework, their bedtime slipping further away as the hours tick by. For students of all ages, school is no longer just a place of learning—it's a battleground of expectations. Mental health challenges among students are at an all-time high, with many struggling under the weight of academic and extracurricular demands. While ambition can be a positive force, the relentless pursuit of success is taking a toll on children's emotional well-being. The pressure to achieve success in school and beyond is a significant issue that affects students' mental health. Students often feel like they are constantly running a race, with social media and academic pressures fueling self-doubt and a belief that they are never doing enough. This pressure can lead to anxiety, chronic stress, depression, and burnout, which can interfere with their ability to focus and perform. Mental health is as important as physical health, but it often takes a backseat in the pursuit of academic success. Unchecked, these struggles can lead to stress-related illnesses, difficulty maintaining work-life balance, and feelings of inadequacy. The message that success is tied solely to achievements harms mental health and stifles creativity and individuality. To address this issue, society must reconsider what success means and prioritize mental health. Schools, parents, and society should create environments that celebrate their humanity and celebrate their achievements.

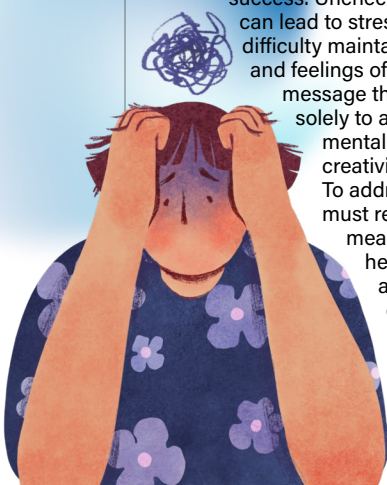


Illustration from CANVA

bythenumber



24 CASES

Dr. Rui Paulo de Jesus, WHO Representative to the Philippines, told a media briefing that the total number of mpox cases in the Philippines since July 2022 had increased to 24, as of October 10, 2024.

source: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - PHILIPPINES

Grade School Department gets Solar-Powered Air Conditioning Units: A step toward sustainability

by SABRINA BRIELLE MARCO



Holy Infant Academy (HIA) has transitioned its Grade School Department's air conditioning system to solar energy, marking a significant step towards sustainability and eco-friendly practices. The school's solar panels absorb sunlight and convert it into electricity, reducing its reliance on traditional electricity sources and lowering energy bills. Solar energy is a clean, renewable resource that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and is expected to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

The system is user-friendly and efficient, with excess power stored in batteries for future use. Holy Infant Academy is also exploring other renewable energy options, including solar-powered lighting and rainwater harvesting systems, to create an environmentally-conscious learning environment.

HEALTHFIRST

A Call for Global Health Equity

by ALLYZA REIGN B. ESCALONA



The recent rapid global proliferation of mpox, previously limited to Africa's sub-Saharan regions, has underscored a worldwide interconnectedness of global public health systems and their challenges. This particular epidemic drove home the fact that more allocation of funds in disease surveillance, research, and preparedness, particularly to those that were formerly seen as confined to certain areas, is needed. As the absence of prompt and strict containment measures in lots of states gave the virus the chance to spread trans-nationally, the point is that all kinds of diseases from infectious ones to non-infectious diseases can trot everywhere in the world, despite the protecting borders between the countries and even the continent.

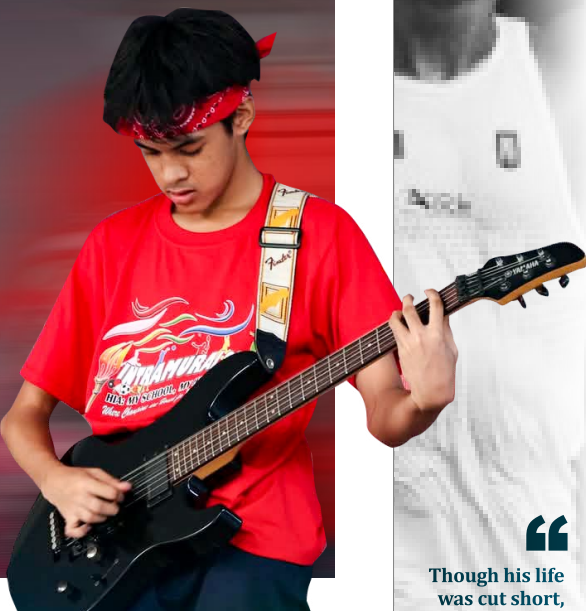
Most of the time patients do not seek medical care because hesitance is placed by social stigma which exasperates the disease outbreaks as people delay treatment and increase transmission rates because they are avoiding the healthcare system. A good way, in this case, would be to carry campaigns dealing with public health matters that would be centered on trust, communication, educational outreach, and stigma-buster. The populace needs to be informed about symptoms, transmission, and preventive measures so that mutual understanding, as well as the cooperation between patients and healthcare providers, is achieved.

Mpox serves as a stark reminder that global health is a shared responsibility, and comprehensive action is essential to prevent further escalation of this and other infectious diseases.

THE BATTLE IS ON!

With every beat of the drum, the music breathes life into Holy Infant Academy as it takes center stage in the electrifying Battle of the Bands, where talented groups clash in a fierce competition for the coveted crown.

Photo from HIA PAGE



Excellentia steals the limelight in BOTB at HIA Intramurals

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN

Familia Excellentia stole the show with an electrifying performance that secured their victory in the Battle of the Bands at the HIA Intramurals on September 27, 2024.

The HIA Covered Court was filled with energy as Familia Excellentia delivered a jaw-dropping set, complete with powerful vocals, razor-sharp guitar solos, and a rhythm section that shook the venue. Their commanding stage presence and original composition set them apart, leaving no doubt about who would take home the title.

The competition was fierce, with Familia Fides, Caritas, and Integritas each bringing their own unique sound to the stage. Pamayanan Fides captivated the audience with a soulful ballad. Pamayanan Caritas kept things upbeat with a dynamic pop-rock medley. Pamayanan Integritas impressed with their technical instrumentals.

Despite the strong performances from all teams, it was Excellentia's creativity, energy, and connection with the audience that ultimately won over the judges.

"Taas-noo kaming nag-perform," one of Excellentia's vocalists proudly shared, clearly moved by their hard-earned victory.

Reflecting on their preparation, lead guitarist Zildjan Dela Cruz added, "Kalma ka lang, tapos 'wag kang kabahan. Sipag lang sa pag-practice. 'Yun yung naging motivation namin."

As the music faded and the cheers echoed, Excellentia's triumph was sealed, leaving the crowd buzzing with excitement. With the Battle of the Bands now in the books, attention shifts back to the sports competitions, but the memories of this unforgettable musical showdown will resonate for days to come.

“
Though his life was cut short, Mervin's legacy endures.”

sportsfeature

Flames of Hope

by KING MARC MARLON C. CAJAYON III AND SONNY P. DACAYANA, JR.

In the midst of darkness, what do we seek for?

Light is essential in our lives, giving us energy to start each day. Even the smallest light, like a candle's flicker, can make a difference. It illuminates darkness, offering hope when all seems lost.

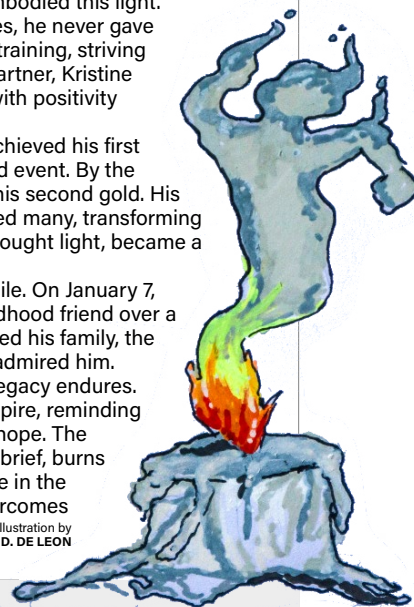
Mervin Guarte, a 32-year-old athlete, embodied this light. Despite numerous losses in the SEA Games, he never gave up. With relentless determination, he kept training, striving for greatness. As a father of two with his partner, Kristine Almiranez, Mervin faced life's challenges with positivity and perseverance.

In the 2019 Philippine SEA Games, he achieved his first gold medal in the men's 5km track and field event. By the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games, he had won his second gold. His unwavering dedication and success inspired many, transforming him into a beacon of hope. He, who once sought light, became a source of it for others.

But like a candle, Mervin's light was fragile. On January 7, 2023, he was tragically murdered by a childhood friend over a personal grudge. His sudden loss devastated his family, the sports community, and Filipinos who had admired him.

Though his life was cut short, Mervin's legacy endures. His resilience and triumphs continue to inspire, reminding us that even the smallest spark can ignite hope. The light he brought to countless lives, though brief, burns brightly in the hearts of many. Like a candle in the dark, his story proves that light always overcomes darkness.

Illustration by
ART DIMITRY D. DE LEON



Delgado clutches Table tennis championship with style

by ENZOE FRANCOIS ELMOE G. SALES

Familia Excellentia towering figure Jeff Martin C. Delgado of emerged victorious in the Grade 4-6 Table Tennis Singles Boys event, held at the Integrity Building of Holy Infant Academy on the second day of Intramurals 2024, September 26.

The elimination round saw Delgado face off against Ron Aldric S. Jardin of Familia Integritas, while Enzo Francois Elmo G. Sales of Familia Caritas competed against Ezekiel Anthony Wilcockson of Familia Fides. In the championship round, Delgado and Sales went head-to-head in an intense match. After a few minutes of strategic rallies and powerful shots, Delgado secured the victory, earning first place for Familia Excellentia.

Meanwhile, in the third-place match, Wilcockson defeated Jardin, clinching third place for Familia Fides, while Jardin settled for fourth place.

Reflecting on his unexpected victory, Delgado humbly admitted, "Nothing much, I just felt surprised because I didn't even know how to play."

At the awarding ceremony, the winners were officially recognized: First Place – Jeff Martin C. Delgado (Familia Excellentia), Second Place – Enzo Francois Elmo G. Sales (Familia Caritas), Third Place – Ezekiel Anthony Wilcockson (Familia Fides), Fourth Place – Ron Aldric S. Jardin (Familia Integritas)

With his unexpected triumph, Delgado's victory adds another milestone for Familia Excellentia in this year's intramurals. As the competition continues, all eyes are on the next set of matches, where new champions will rise.

“
The competition was fierce, with Familia Fides, Caritas, and Integritas each bringing their own unique sound to the stage.”

sportscolumn

Drifting Ashes of Legacy

by MIGUEL ANDRE V. CHENG

The benefits and recognition of deceased Filipino athletes are often disregarded, with their achievements fading into obscurity once they pass away. While some may receive posthumous honors, the majority of athletes, especially those who did not achieve international fame, are quickly forgotten. After an athlete's death, there is a brief moment of attention, typically from the media or fans who celebrate their achievements. However, this recognition is fleeting, and the athlete's contributions are often overshadowed by the next big event or athlete. For many

Filipino athletes, their careers are remembered only in passing or as footnotes in the country's sports history. What's more concerning is the lack of institutional support for these athletes. Government initiatives to preserve their legacies or honor their contributions are rare and inconsistent. This disregard for deceased athletes is disheartening because it reflects a broader issue in how we value people who work tirelessly for national pride. While some athletes may receive recognition in the form of statues or memorials, the majority of them are forgotten, and their contributions to Filipino sports are lost to time. It's important for the country to find better ways to honor and remember those who have represented it, regardless of their level of fame or success.

finalscore

2-1



FLAWLESS

HIA GS DanceSport Team wins big at Cluster Meet 2024

by XIALDANNE P. OPANO

With the fusion of elegance and execution, Holy Infant Academy DanceSport team claimed a resounding victory at the Cluster Meet 2024, capturing first place in both the Latin and Standard categories in the Primary cluster. Competing against other private schools, this win not only highlighted the team's exceptional skill but also underscored their dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence.

The DanceSport teams came together to showcase their talent and competitive spirit, with an impressive amount of participants and challenging routines, it serves as a significant event for schools to demonstrate their prowess in dance and teamwork.

In the Latin category, the dynamic pair of Jade Lauren S. Tagupa and Francis Johan M. De Guzman stole the show with their precise footwork and confident movements, their routine featured seamless transitions, synchronized steps, and an energy that captivated the audience and judges alike, the pair's ability to perform with such finesse and poise secured them the top spot in the cluster.

Equally impressive in the Standard category, Roniya Jez C. Ramos and Rajon Jared A. Dela Cruz delivered a performance marked by smooth, coordinated movements and impeccable technique, the pair's amazing execution and polished presentation earned them first place, solidifying

their position as impressive contenders in their category.

This monumental success was achieved under the guidance of Coach Katherine Buhali, whose dedication and strategic coaching played a vital role in preparing the team, the victory also symbolizes the strong sense of community at HIA.

This achievement sets a new benchmark for the school's DanceSport program, inspiring other students to reach for excellence, one of the winning dancers expressed, "This was a very fun and enjoyable experience, and we felt so happy hearing our name being awarded"

With this milestone, the HIANs DanceSport team not only celebrates their current success but also looks forward to future challenges, motivated and united by their shared passion for dance and dedication to their school.



This achievement sets a new benchmark for the school's DanceSport program, inspiring other students to reach for excellence, one of the winning dancers.



HIAN Taekwondo Players Shine at City Meet, Secure MRAA Qualifiers

by ENZOE FRANCOIS ELMOE G. SALES

Holy Infant Academy's Taekwondo team showcased exceptional skill and sportsmanship at the recent City Meet, where several players earned medals and qualified for the MIMAROPA Regional Athletic Association (MRAA) Meet Qualifiers.

In the Grade School Women's Singles, Izea Jumig earned a silver medal, securing second place just behind Sharmel Montaril of Calapan Central School, who claimed gold. This achievement also earned Jumig a spot at the upcoming MRAA competition.

In the Girls' Team Event for Grade School, Ashlie Magpantay and Izea Jumig clinched another silver medal, placing second to the East District team, who took gold.

Similarly, in the Boys' Team Event for Grade School, Enzo Sales partnered with

two players from Calapan Chu Eng School to secure second place, once again trailing behind the East District, who won gold.

"I know I only won silver and did not qualify for the MRAA, but at least I had fun. Winning is not as important as having fun," said Enzo Sales, reflecting the positive spirit of the team.

With impressive performances across various categories, HIA's Taekwondo team demonstrated determination, skill, and teamwork, making their school proud while qualifying for the next level of competition at the MRAA.



sportstrivia

Teófilo Yldefonso

Teófilo Yldefonso became the first Filipino to win a medal when he competed in the men's 200-meter breaststroke in the 1928 Summer Olympics and scored a bronze. The swimmer is also the only athlete to win more than one medal for the Philippines after he competed in the 1932 Summer Olympics.



Mabunga, Alcaide prick triumph in Table Tennis Doubles Boys at Intracad Fest 2024-2025

by ASHTON EARL P. ALCAIDE



In the Intramural 2024, a highlight event was the Table Tennis Doubles Boys competition, hosted by Holy Infant Academy. The competition was among Grade 4 to Grade 6 students from the pamayanans of Caritas, Integritas, Fides, and Excellencia battling it out in both solo and doubles categories.

An impressive duo emerged as champions from Familia Fides: Juan Gabrielle Mabunga, Grade 5, and Ashton Earl Alcaide, Grade 6. Both players are seasoned table tennis competitors who previously triumphed in solo matches, and they proved to be an unstoppable pair in the doubles event.

The championship match between Familia Fides and Familia Integritas was a thrilling contest. The game saw a series of intense exchanges, especially during several deuce scenarios, where the score was tied three times before Fides finally secured the victory with a 15-point lead.

"We didn't expect this win, but we just played our best," said Ashton Alcaide after the victory. "This is my new game," he added, clearly excited about their achievement.

With their victory, Familia Fides claimed the championship title in the Table Tennis Doubles Boys, Grades 4-6. Familia Integritas earned the 1st runner-up spot, followed by Familia Excellencia and Caritas, who took the 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.

AMAZING ARAGO

Arago dominates the pool; strikes Gold in 50m Freestyle

by Art Dimitry D. De Leon

Familia Excellentia stole the show with an electrifying performance that secured their victory in the Battle of the Bands at the HIA Intramurals on September 27, 2024.

Top-dog Marcus Audil Arago of Holy Infant Academy delivered a stellar performance at the highly anticipated swimming competition held at Oriental Mindoro National High School, September 26, 2024, securing gold in the 50m freestyle with an impressive time of 45 seconds.

Facing elite swimmers from Pamayanan Fides, Excellentia, Caritas, and Integritas, Arago wasted no time asserting his dominance. With explosive speed and unwavering determination, he surged ahead early in the race, maintaining his lead until the final stroke.

Following his victory, Arago shared his

thoughts on the intense competition. "Medyo kinakabahan ako, pero alam kong kailangan kong maging competitive para sa pamayanan ko," he said, emphasizing his drive to bring pride to his school and community.

His triumph stands as a testament to the dedication and perseverance of HIA athletes, serving as an inspiration for aspiring swimmers. Looking ahead, Arago aims to refine his techniques and continue striving for excellence in future competitions.

With the pamayanans rallying behind him, all eyes are set on Arago's next challenge in the pool, where he hopes to deliver yet another gold-worthy performance.



Looking ahead, Arago aims to refine his techniques and continue striving for excellence in future competitions.

sportscolumn

Intelligence beyond sports

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN



Are books and grades the only basis for knowledge and intelligence?

Are reading books and acing tests really harder than winning a basketball game?

For years, many people of the society often see athletes as "big bodies with empty brains." People who cannot figure out numbers so they just settle on hitting the balls.

For me, this is pure nonsense. Academics aren't the only standards for a person's IQ and certainly not their capabilities. In my perspective, some athletes are even more flexible than academically inclined people.

Sports like chess, table tennis tests your mind. Your rationality and how calmly you act when in a tough spot. In my perspective, since sports test both the mind and the body, they are more flexible to changes and their intelligence is different from academic intelligence. But it does not make them any less capable of matching said students.

These things further proves that humans have different kinds of intelligence. Not everyone can understand books and math problems. And not everyone has what it taken to have full control over your skills and body.

Everyone is different. And there are no true limits to the knowledge of the human body and mind.



You're a player against life itself where you don't know what, when or how it will suddenly affect your own plays.



Illustration by ART DIMITRY D. DE LEON

The Art of Life's Game

by ERIX JAY HARLEY M. PASCUAL

Life is pretty much an unpredictable game.

"I'll leave it in Batman's hands." Saying goes on how they leave their fate in the hands of destiny, God, or even in a sarcastic manner.

Just like rock, paper, scissors. You're a player against life itself where you don't know what, when or how it will suddenly affect your own plays. It may come late. It may come too early, not what you expect or be in your advantage. Life may hit you like a rock, slap you like paper and cut you down to pieces with a scissor. Nothing in this life is permanent and predictable. One way or another, things would not always go in your way. But this doesn't mean that you would give up and just leave everything down. You must be flexible through changes. You'll lose and you'll win. And have to

prepare your next move even if you lost in your previous one. You have choices. Sometimes, none of it feels right, but it's only one of the reasons why life is so unpredictable and at times, "thrilling." One cannot predict the future, or life. No one can always be right. We all make mistakes, errors, sins. After a loss, it might be victory. After happiness, it might be grief. However, that just makes life even more promising. In life, it's not always about winning. But knowing when to defend, to risk and when to change your strategy to get the game going.

HIAmazing Moments: The real wins behind HIA Intramurals

by CALEL JAIRUS R. BALBIN

Every year, something HIAmazing unfolds at our school, and it's not just about who scores the most points. The HIA intramurals are a week where we all come together—not just to compete, but to grow as a team, make memories, and show our school spirit. It's that time of year when we swap out our usual routines for an experience that's all about discovering our potential and cheering each other on.

The energy is undeniable from the moment the opening ceremonies kick off. The campus turns into a sea of team colors, chants, and those legendary mascots we all secretly wish we could be. But under all the excitement, there's something bigger happening: we're learning to challenge ourselves while lifting each other up. The competition is fierce, but the real win is how we grow—individually and as a community.

Everyone gets a chance to shine. It's not just about physical strength; it's about finding your place in the broader HIAmazing story. Then, there's sportsmanship—the real heart of it all.

Sure, winning is great, but what sticks with us are those moments when we see someone keep going, even when they're down. At HIA, the biggest cheers are often for those who show the most resilience, proving that what really counts is effort, respect, and playing with heart.

As the week winds down and we head into the closing ceremony, it's clear that the journey is what really matter.

medaltally

19 GOLD

HIA earned 19 gold medals from the concluded CITY MEET 2024 wherein different school competes in numerous sports event.



in-action

The Intense Battles:

Excellentia Clinches Basketball Championship Title, 21-0

by JEFF MARTIN C. DELGADO



The basketball championship games kicked off at 12:40 PM, September 26, and the atmosphere inside the gymnasium was electrifying. Cheers from the audience, the waving of colorful banners, and the palpable excitement from the HIANS made for a thrilling environment that only heightened the competition on the court.

In the Basketball Championship game, only Excellentia, Fides, and Integritas were present, with Caritas's players missing. After waiting for an additional 5 minutes, Caritas's team did not arrive, leading to their disqualification. The next match was between Fides and Integritas, with Integritas winning 27-11 and Fides securing third place. The Championship Game was a fierce battle for the first-place title, with Integritas's team posing a serious challenge.

Excellencia's MVP, Juan Manuel Flores, faced tough opponents, but adapted and led the team to victory. The final game was a fierce battle for the first-place title, with both teams battling hard. JM Flores scored 21 points, highlighting the importance of teamwork and individual performance. Excellencia won the game with a final score of 21-0, securing the championship title. The victory was a testament to teamwork, perseverance, and dedication, culminating in a well-deserved championship win.

RIPPLE MAKERS

HIA Jaguars make waves to victory at Swimming Meet

by ASHTON EARL P. ALCAIDE

Together with bodily swift moves and strokes, Holy Infant Academy's swimming team dominated the Calapan City Meet on November 21-22, 2024, making waves and hauling in bronze, silver, and gold medals across multiple events.

Under the expert guidance of coaches Mr. Darren Masongsong and Ms. Via Javier, the swimmers demonstrated exceptional skill and determination throughout the competition.

Hector Ezekiel Jaravata, Marcus Audil Arago, and Dhane Kristoffer Manalo—all standout performers—earned a spot at the MIMAROPA Regional Athletic Association (MRAA) Meet, marking a significant achievement in their swimming careers.

Jaravata, the star of the competition, was named Most Outstanding Swimmer after dominating multiple events. He secured first place in the 50m Free, 50m Back, 100m Fly, 200m Free, 400m Free, 4x50 Medley Relay, and 4x50 Free Relay. His remarkable performance solidified his reputation as a rising swimming star.

Arago, also from the elementary level, bagged first place in the 100m Freestyle and 4x50 Medley Relay. He followed up with second-place finishes in the 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, and 50m Freestyle, showcasing his versatility and endurance in the pool.

Manalo, from the secondary level, shone with a first-place finish in the 50m Butterfly and 400m Individual Medley (IM). He also earned second-place awards in the 100m Butterfly, 200m Butterfly, 200m IM, 4x100 Medley Relay, and 4x100 Freestyle Relay, highlighting his consistent excellence across multiple disciplines.



With their relentless dedication, hard work, and teamwork, the HIA Jaguars earned not only numerous medals but also the pride and admiration of the entire school community.

In addition to the top performers, other swimmers who contributed to the team's success included Lukas Masangkay, Sebastian Rye Arago, Beatriz Manalo, Jared Cheng, Albricks Colocar, Yohan Magnaye, and Amare Colocar. Their efforts in securing various podium finishes at the Calapan City Meet were vital in elevating HIA's position in the competition.

With their relentless dedication, hard work, and teamwork, the HIA Jaguars earned not only numerous medals but also the pride and admiration of the entire school community. Their accomplishments at the Calapan City Meet have paved the way for further success at the upcoming MRAA meet, where they will represent HIA with pride and determination.

sportsfeature

Flames of Hope

by KING MARC MARLON C. CAJAYON III AND SONNY P. DACAYANA, JR.

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