

BC – First Annual Family Day!

By T. Guia Marie M. Gonzaga

Faithfulness to the family is a tradition that is characterized by Filipino society since time immemorial.

Last February 9, 2011 the Basic Education of Benedicto College held its first Annual family day in line with the celebration of its Founder's Day, with the theme "BC: Nurturing the Spirit of Oneness". The aim of the said activity is to celebrate the bond of togetherness that all share with other family members under the same roof since all highly value their presence more than anything else.

The program started with a Eucharistic Celebration attended by the the BC Family composed of the school management, teachers, and parents together with their children. It was followed by a simple but breathtaking program. The children in the dif-

ferent grade levels showcased their talents through dancing and singing.

Games were prepared and joyously played by everyone including the parents. They joined in the various activities which made them closer not only to their family members but also to other parents. Each one used up their time together with their family and all having fun and big smiles.

The program ended with an exhibition basketball game which was played by the children's own daddies. Indeed, it was one of the most unforgettable and remarkable school affairs. It's not always necessary to find family fun through prolonged time together, but family day activities offer us all bond and enjoy each other's company in just a few hours.

prayer led by Shimron E. Suarez, a third year HS student and it was followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem conducted by Weenah Silvosa, a second year HS student. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Efren S. Valiente, Director & COO. Right after his welcome address was the presentation of BC Teaching Force. The teachers were given wonderful red roses while walk-

ing down the aisle. This part was followed by different presentations from each department. Then, games were played by the teachers headed by Mrs. Janelle Gomez, BC Games Master. The winners of each event were given awards and all teachers were given tokens. The event successfully ended with the teachers' big smiles for the students show of appreciation for the job well done by teachers.

First BE Graduation Rites

(Success is Sweet)

By T. Rita Mae A. Reyes

Unforgettable memories are occasions and events in our lives that leave a mark. Thus, who would forget their first graduation ceremonies? This celebration is always memorable because it is also a day of fulfilment. It is a day when students achieve one of the important milestones in their life-long education. On this day, graduates realize the fruit of their hard work, discipline, and patience. This is true not only for the graduates, but for their parents as well.

Last March 25, 2011 Benedicto College celebrated its First Graduation Rites and Third Level-up Recognition, with the theme, "The Graduate: A Partner Towards Transformational Society, An Answer to Societal Change". The graduates started the day with a celebration of the Holy Mass. Everybody's faces were painted with genuine joy. Parents could have never been prouder seeing their sons and daughters walk on the stage to receive their diplomas.

Of course, the day would not end without recognizing the students' achievements and the achievers were

given certificates and medals. These awards are not only presented to give due recognition to the deserving students but also to motivate students to strive for the best and aim high, be better citizens for the future of our country.

On this day, teachers reminded their pupils that "Time is on their side". Being young, it is a big advantage to start studying and learning many things about life. Young people should grab every learning opportunity that comes along and as much as possible should not waste time. In life, time is gold and must be used wisely. High school students are encouraged to decide what they want to be in the future so that when they reach college, they can focus all their attention in their studies.

Graduation day is a day where students live a part of their dream about their future. Graduation rites is a day to assess the direction that one has to tread. Dream big! Success is sweet for those who have the perseverance and the courage to move on despite difficulties.



BE Father-Daughters singing their favorite family tune during the First Annual Family Day last February 9, 2011.

BC TEACHERS' DAY 2011

By T. Mary-an T. Cobol, M.Ed.

Benedicto College celebrated its First Teachers Day last January 14, 2011 with the theme "Teaching: A Lifetime Endeavor of Love", held at the Kinetics Centrum. This was made possible by

the members of BC Student Body.

The event started with a holy mass at 8 am held at the BC Chapel. The second part was the program proper. It started with an opening

Editorial: Multilingualism in Basic Education: Are we for it?

By Ranulfo L. Visaya Jr., M.Ed.

In educational institutions, more so in private schools, we put premium on students' proficiency to speak in English, evidently for global competitiveness. Explicitly in basic education, administrators and teachers are scheming some strategies aimed at exposing students to maximum English language learning—that to some extent imposing some penalties to students when they speak their local languages.

However with some studies on language acquisition, we are now bending on assessing the effectiveness of our customary practice. Let's take a look at some issues, studies, and their implications on language learning and acquisition.

On early language education, "child learns best when primary education is in his/her first language or mother tongue (*lingua franca*, i.e. Cebuano) "He is most comfortable learning in one's first language and begins to conceptualize rather than merely memorize formulae and codes as one does when the language is not familiar. He learns to read more quickly and learns better in Math and Science when the medium of instruction (MOI) is his mother tongue."

Studies point out that children in classes that used mother tongue as MOI were observed to be actively participating in different classroom activities. Children, who have learned to read and write in their first language, learn to speak, read and write in the second and third languages more quickly.

Learning first language or mother tongue strengthens acquisition of second and third languages. Children who begun school in their first language with careful bridging to the two second languages were more competent in all areas of study than the children who did not.

With the above studies and implications, the Department of Education (DepEd) has come up with an order, the DepEd Order No. 60, s. 2008 that directs... "The use of the mother tongue as the language of instruction beginning grade 1 is now recognized as the most effective way to improve student learning and shall also serve as a strong bridge language to learn a second language better and faster. In consonance with this, it has further issued DepEd Order No. 74, s. 2009 "Institutionalizing Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education" that states that "Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education, herein referred to as MLE, is the effective use of more than two languages for literacy and instruction.

Though there are initial roadblocks to the implementation of this program like the need for an intensive teacher training and the formulation of authentic learning materials, the enduring benefit cannot be downplayed, that is, better instruction and learning of our school children. Let's support this laudable government program for maximum instructional efficiency and educational reform towards producing a global Filipino.



Pacman, Anyone?

By Ranulfo L. Visaya Jr., M.Ed.



Winner by unanimous decision and still the welterweight champion of the world... Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao!

The recent boxing victory of our very own Manny Pacquiao over "Sugar" Shane Mosley bestows another source of pride and inspiration among Filipinos here and around the globe. In times of quandaries, we still have mortals, like Pacman who reminds us that there is still a good, bright side in every seemingly arduous undertaking.

But who truly is Pacman to the Filipinos? What do Pacman's victories impart to the Filipinos? What does his victory reminding us of?

Every victory reminds us of STRENGTH over WEAKNESS. No amount of size of his opponent, Pacman remains to be determined to fight his antagonist. He is resolute to win over some sheer and perceived limitations. Amid coming from a lowly family and a constant source of mockery for his facility of the English language, unaffected and dogged, he would face his critics.

Oftentimes, we are easily discouraged by successive soul-destroying hardships and defeats but no matter how gigantic they may seem, like Pacman, failures should not daunt one from pursuing dreams.

CONSISTENCY over WHIMSICALITY. Focused on what he wants, Pacman is not sidetracked by personal or professional impediments. The world's numerous enticements would by and large redirect and redefine one's focus and fall on the trap of inaptness. Consistency means doing the right thing from start to finish. Some of us are only good at commencing but along the way in-

tensity would wane or falter, after all, success largely anchors on how it is being dealt with in its entirety.

HUMILITY over ARROGANCE. Winning one championship belt after another is an overpowering feat. One could be braggart over a single international winning, more so for the distinction as the only boxer in the world who has won titles in eight different weight classes but Pacman stays to be self-effacing and impervious by the muddled media hype. He remains to have his feet grounded; being unassuming over a global acclaim makes people truly appreciative of his persona.

NATIONALISM over EGOCENTRICITY. Every game, he recognizes the support of the Filipino people. Proud to be Filipino, he transcends every victory from a self-serving feat to a communal national pride. He thinks that winning means a national pride, not so much of a personal popularity. After recent victory, what a humbling statement from a national treasure upon his arrival at the Philippine airport, "This honor belongs not just to me and my family but to all Filipinos in all corners of the world."

UNITY over DIVISIVENESS. Every Pacman's boxing bout coalesces Filipinos amid political and social origins. A Manny bout means setting aside, at least for awhile, divergent and squabbling stands. It even serves as a social equalizer—no matter what collective stratum you belong, you are part of this shared national triumph.

Every Pacman's victory means every Filipino's conquest over weakness, whimsicality, arrogance, egocentricity and divisiveness. We hope to have similar Pacman's victory in the future. Anyone?

Filipino para sa Pilipino

Ni T. Ryan A. Jore

“Ang hindi marunong magmahal sa sariling wika ay mas mabaho pa kay sa malansang isda.” Isang linyang nag-ing bahagi na ng ating kultura at kasarinnan nating mga kalahi ni Juan de la Cruz. Ang linyang ito ay nasambit ng ating pambansang bayani na isa ring tagapagsulong ng ating pambansang wika. Ang wika ay isang mahalagang aspeto ng ating kultura. Sa pamamagitan ng wika ay ating napapahayag ang ating mga saloobin at kaisapan. Pero ang matinding tanong ngayon ay kung pinapahalagahan pa ba nating mga Pilipino ang wikang sariling atin?

Ayon sa ating konstitusyon ng 1986, Artikulo XIV seksyon 6 at 7, ang pambansang wika ng Pilipinas ay Filipino. Tungkulin din nating payabungin, gamitin at ipagmalaki ang ating sariling salita. Ibig sabihin nito ay dapat lamang nating bigyang halaga ang ating sariling wika at dapat nating ipagsigawan sa buong mundo na tayo ay mga Pilipino na may sariling wika at sariling kasarinnan. Sa sitwasyon natin ngayon, lalong lalo na sa mga makabagong kabataan, ay hindi na pinapahalagahan ang wikang pambansa. Sa halip, patuloy na

ginagamit ng mga kabataan ang wikang Ingles. Oo nga’t Ingles ang wika ng mundo, pero kailangan nga ba talagang tangkilikin natin nang husto ang pagsasalita ng mga wikang ito?

Wala na nga ba talagang saysay ang mga napaghirapan ng ating mga bayani? Bakit ba pinipilit nating tangkilikin ang wikang banyaga gayong hindi naman ito ang ating sariling salita? Matatandaang mayroon na tayong sariling wika bago pa man dumating ang mga Amerikano sa bansa.

Pero sabi nga nila, kailangan din nating makipagsabayan sa mundong mapanghusga. Pero hindi naman yata tama na hanggang sa mga bagay na sariling atin ay atin nang kinakalimutan. Sana naman ay mapagtanto nating wala pa ring makatatalo sa sariling atin. Ang wikang ating kinamulatan at kinalakhan ay patuloy nang namamatay. Huwag naman sana nating hayaaang mabulag na tayo ng kulturang kanluranin. Hindi pa naman huli ang lahat. Magtulongan tayo para maibalik ang kasiglahan ng ating sariling wika. Ang Filipino ay para sa mga Pilipino, ipagmalaki natin ito.

School-Home Partnership

By T. Janelle V. Gomez

As each new school year begins, new goals are set by all for school-age children, the goal to work hard and become better students. For parents, the goal is to love and support their children so that they can become good students now and good citizens tomorrow.

The parents accomplish this goal through daily actions and by being involved in their child’s school. If a student is to get the best out of their school years and build a solid foundation for their life, the students’ parents must be involved in some manner. For this solution, PTCA offers many ways in which parents can help the school and their students reach their goals.

Most working parents are oblivious to activities at school. Their involvement with the academics and extra-curricular activities of their children is very limited. Academicians believe that parents’ involvement with the child is crucial to the child’s over-all development. In order to ensure parents’ involvement in the ward’s academe, many school organized the PTCA.

Parents, teachers and community associations are formed involving students, parents, teachers and the community. By enrolling your child in school, parents automatically become members of the PTCA. The true purpose behind the association is really about communication and

collaboration between the parents and the teachers so that they can establish a trusting relationship and be open on sharing information about their children.

The PTCA’s main objective is to enhance the educational environment and learning experience for the children. They support the whole school community through many activities like coordinating volunteers for activities that support school programs, organize and participate in social and fund-raising events to help purchase needed educational materials and set up support or communication networks.

Being part of the PTCA gives you a voice when it comes to your concerns regarding school policies, programs or management. Of course, as parents, you will always have the right to address these concerns directly to the school management giving you a way to directly help and assist the school towards addressing the problem. In a way, it gives you a direct link to the school and, ultimately your child.

The PTCA bring about close cooperation between the home and school. With the help of the children via PTCA, the school can make a better learning environment for your children.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

BE RECOLLECTION 3Rs

By T. Nimpha J. Baluntang

Scientifically, 3R’s stands for reuse, reduce, and recycle wastes. This acronym had a different and unique meaning last March 16 - 17, 2011, when the Basic Education Department convened a Recollection Activity for the Grade School pupils 4 – 6 (March 17) and High School levels 3 and 4 (March 16). It was a one day activity yet it was full of new experiences for the pupils and students since it was the first time that the school had an activity like this. The activity itself was made successful and

memorable due to the expertise of Sr. Maribel Piangco, the recollection master, and Rev.Fr. Larry Sudaryanto, the one who carried out the confession and Holy Mass.

First, the students **R**eminisce good and bad memories which they have made towards their friends specifically their classmates, parents, and loved ones. They wrote it in a Palanca letter and they gave it to the person concerned. This activity made the students and pupils know and realize their fine and awful doings. It was a wakeup call for them to change their dreadful attitude and uphold their virtuous

deeds.

The activity also made them **R**ehabilitate, or re – establish shattered friendships due to several gaps with each other. Childish misunderstandings and cold war between classmates were mended or patched up for a better and healthier relationship with each other. Emotional and social raptports between students were really rehabilitated into a much stronger bond.

Finally, **R**econciliation was attained not just with their friends but also to the Divine Creator, God. This time the pupils and students were given time to examine their conscience in order to achieve a good confession. The activity ended

with a solemn mass participated by the students themselves.

Reminiscence, **R**ehabilitation, and **R**econciliation were realized at the end of the first ever Recollection Activity. It was a remarkable and momentous affair. Everybody went home with blissful faces and a pure hearts.



Summer Cool Highlights

By T. Desiree A. Mamugay

We don't want our kids to be bored this summer – there are lots of things to do, so here in Benedicto College, Basic Education we had different Summer Class Enrichment program to keep our kids busy!

We had new fun filled **summer activities** offered to our pupils both in academic and non-academic such as Developmental Reading and Writing, Basic and Advanced Math, Mixed Martial Arts, Music and Voice, Modern/Jazz Dance, Arts and Crafts, and lastly Drawing and Painting. These are the different Summer Class Enrichment program that we offer to our children of all ages for them not only to enjoy but for them to learn as well and this was made possible with the help of our gifted and dedicated teachers. The activities that we had are designed to promote the learning and development of the "whole child" in other words, they don't just focus on developing mathematics. Instead, these are sets of activities that provide our young children with experiences that will help to get them ready for kindergarten. These activities build language skills, increase thinking and problem-solving abilities, develop social skills and promote large and small muscle development.

We started the Summer Class program last April 4, 2011 and ended last May 6, 2011 this day serves as our Summer Class 2011 Culminating Activity in the Artists' Hall of Benedicto College wherein our pupils showed what they've learned during the whole month. It was really a great experienced having talented pupils who are eager to learn new stuff and wants to developed their talents. They had fun as they performed happily on stage while their parents are watching them proudly they had a good laugh about it afterwards because all the hardworks and persistence is paying off. These are not only a great way to celebrate the summer season, but also a great way to help beat summertime boredom!

SUMMER SPLASH!

By T. Shaner Allen L. Lejarde

We have just entered the month of March, and it only means one thing, summer is fast approaching. It's going to be a very hot Philippine summer full of fun, sand and sun. It's time to take time off from work or school, and relax even for a while. It is also the time to bond with family, friends and love ones.

For the majority of kids, school is out for the summer, but as we all know the learning never stops. Here are some fun and interesting facts to amaze and astound your children and friends during those otherwise hot and lazy days of summer.

DID YOU KNOW...

1. Watermelon is actually a **VEGETABLE!** It is from the botanical family Cucurbitaceae and is most closely related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash. The watermelon is composed of 92% water and early explorers often used hollowed out watermelons as canteens.

2. The first "bathing suits" for women were introduced in the early 1800's. At that time it was still considered improper for skin to be any color but creamy white. The first "suits" were composed of long-sleeved bathing dresses with woolen bloomers underneath to weigh the dress down. The only "swimming" a woman did at that time was to jump waves at the edge of the water and dip her feet, and occasionally legs, into the water.

3. Sunglasses were first worn in 15th century China. They were used by judges to conceal their expressions while presiding over court.

4. Approximately 60% of the water used by households during the summer is used for watering flowers and lawns.

5. The hottest day in the Philippines was recorded on April 29, 1912 when the temperature reached 108.32 degrees Fahrenheit (42.4 degrees Celsius) in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. The coldest day was recorded in Baguio city back in January 7, 1903 when the thermometer dipped way down to 37.4 degrees Fahrenheit (3 degrees Celsius).

6. In 1905, an 11-year-old boy named Frank Epperson invented the first **Popsicle**. He created it completely by accident. Frank accidentally left a mixture of powdered soda and water, with a stirring stick, on his porch. He awoke the next morning and found a frozen pop! He first named his frozen pop an "Epsicle", but when he got older his kids asked for "Pop's" sicle and the new name was born. Popsicles are more popular than ever today, with Cherry being the number one favorite flavor.

Summer is Fun!

By T. Recelyn E. Perocillo

The first wave of the Summer Class Program of this year started last April 4 until May 6, 2011. The Summer Enrichment Program offered Academic Programs such as Power Reading, Developmental Reading, Developmental Writing, Basic Math and Advanced Math and Non-Academic Programs like Modern / Jazz Dance, Music and Voice, Painting & Drawing, Arts & Crafts, and Mixed Martial Arts. The students were so glad on the course they enrolled. You could see on their eyes their fun and enjoyment for the activities they engaged in. They showed effort of coming to school to learn more instead of having a summer vacation. The Summer Program ended with a culminating activity that showcased what they learned from the different programs. All the Basic Education teachers for the summer programs were grateful of the precious time they have spent with the pupils and students. This made the teachers' and students' summer moment a worth-remembering experience.

Understanding by Design(UbD)

By T. Lord B. Dionaldo

What does UbD mean? Some might be curious about what the acronym stands for. UbD means Understanding by Design. UbD is an increasingly popular tool for educational planning focused on "teaching for understanding". The emphasis of UbD is on "backward design", the practice of looking at the outcomes in order to design curriculum units, performance assessments, and classroom instruction. The UbD framework was designed by nationally recognized educators Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe and published by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Understanding by Design is a registered trademark of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development ("ASCD") and UbD is a trademark owned

by ASCD.

According to Wiggins, "The potential of UbD for curricular improvement has struck a chord in American education. Over 250,000 educators own the book. Over 30,000 Handbooks are in use. More than 150 University education classes use the book as a text."

The seminar all about UbD held last February 16-17, 2011 at Sacred Heart Jesuit Ateneo de Cebu gave us good experience and knowledge about what UbD is all about. Right now, the country's schools are now implementing Understanding by Design (UbD) curriculum. Some private schools are implementing it at all levels while all the public schools are on its first year of implementation starting with first year high school subjects.

"GEOMETRIC RIGHT THUMBS FOR LOVING"

(Life is Geometry, Love is Volume)

By T. Claudia A. Suarez

*Don't expect what you have is
whom you could carve your whole
spherical trust deep down the
earth's crust.*

*Don't scream in your dream he'll
always be an ice cream furnishes
the conic sweetness despite of its
coldness.*

*Don't anticipate him so nice like a
rolling dice
bounded by cubic loyalty
always answers a numeric reality.*

*Don't wish for such
as if he could fill a tank that much
spilling of cylindrical care un-
doubtedly one could dare.*

*Don't hope totally
you'll on top hierarchy
of pyramedic time management for
your contentment.*

*Don't aspire that your are treas-
ured and never been pressured
more than a prism gold forbid for
someone to hold.*

*Wake up and widen your mind so
you could find*

*not the one with solid heart
but a man who will never part.*

*Nailed in your thalamus
you are in love suppose
examine both parts and sides if it
corresponds the needs to provide.*

*But, have you ever concluded only
one can give you the geometrical
attitude.*

*The God who never seek for re-
sponse for his volumetric love and
affection.*