

DEPED DAVAO DISPATCH

LIFE IS EDUCATION, EDUCATION IS LIFE.

The official publication of the Department of Education Region XI

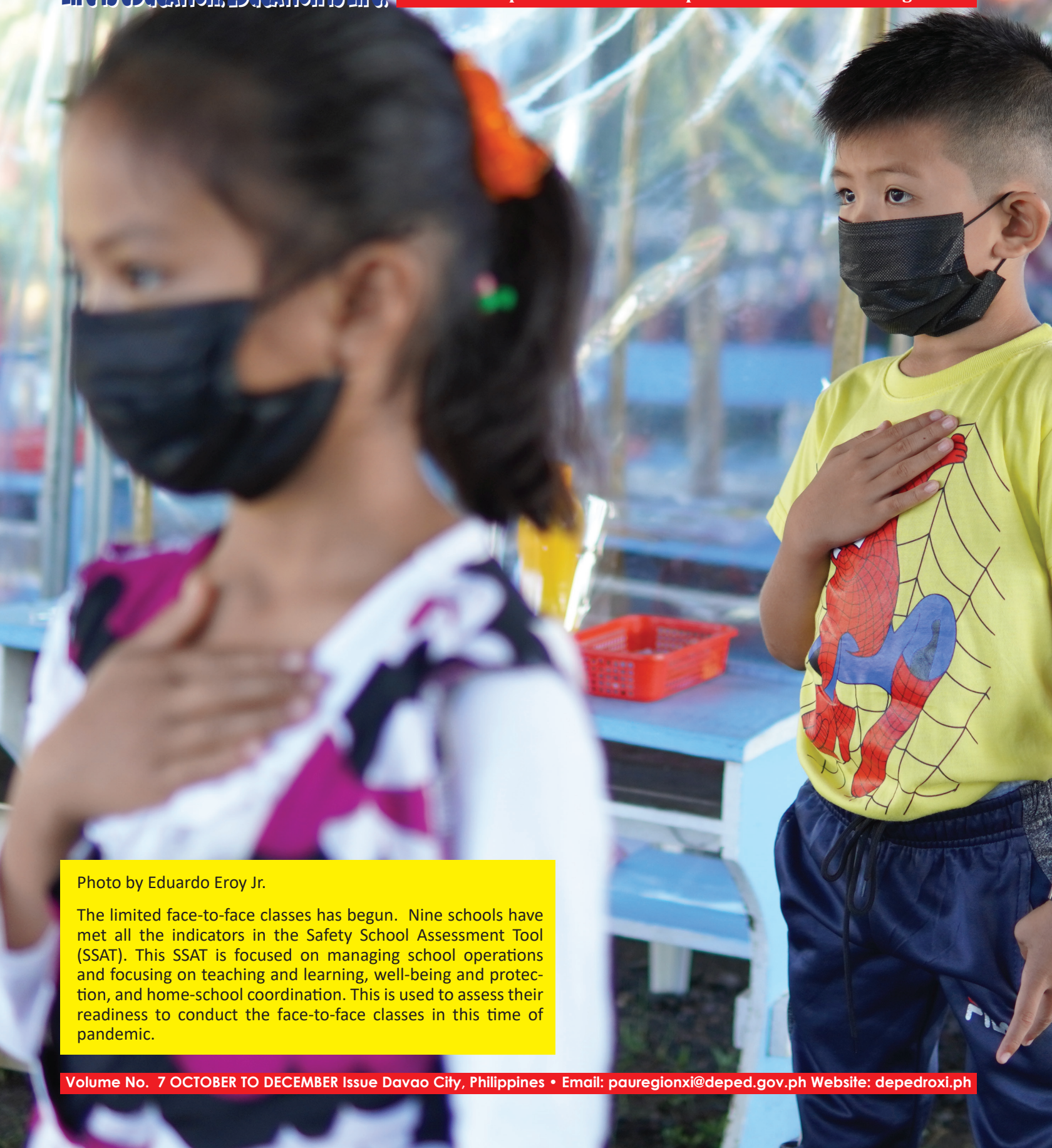


Photo by Eduardo Eroy Jr.

The limited face-to-face classes has begun. Nine schools have met all the indicators in the Safety School Assessment Tool (SSAT). This SSAT is focused on managing school operations and focusing on teaching and learning, well-being and protection, and home-school coordination. This is used to assess their readiness to conduct the face-to-face classes in this time of pandemic.



PANABOOK CLUB: BRINGING THE LIBRARY IN YOUR HOME

By Maureen Lowie G. Salahid & Iryhn E. Petalcorin

Take a book, leave a book. This is an ingenious concept created by the Schools Division of Panabo City through its PanaBook Club, a kiosk placed in a barangay with varied reading books and materials, and is open for everyone to borrow and read at home.

With this unique idea, it brings the community together as learners and parents in the neighborhood started to borrow, read, and talk comfortably in the stories they read. Basically, this is the aim of Panabo City - becoming a reading city where the culture of love for reading is alive. Kiosks are put up in all strategic places of the city and all barangays.

Recently, almost 100 percent or 61 schools in elementary and high school have launched and promoted their own kiosks. They put developmentally appropriate reading materials in all levels and languages.

You can see storybooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks or references, novels, newspapers, magazines, teacher-made materials for reading remediation, etc. Colorful decorations and flowers are also visible to catch the attention and invite everyone to come in and borrow books to read.

“We all have the responsibility to foster the love for reading. This initiative speaks about the big heart of teachers, parents, school leaders, and city leaders to develop the love for reading especially now that the learners are more engaged in gadgets,” Schools Division Superintendent Reynante A. Solitario said.

Dr. Maria Perpetua Angelita G. Suelto, an education program supervisor and division reading coordinator, initiated this advocacy. During the kickoff ceremony on September 9, she reiterated that reading must be given huge importance in the whole city by considering this as a policy for every Panabooan to heed.

Further, the Local Government Unit of Panabo showed support in the advocacy through the completion of the Division Office-PanaBOOK kiosk which was launched on November 29 during the awarding of the best implementers.

Emerged as winners for the elementary for the best PanaBOOK kiosk implementers were Southern Davao Elementary School (ES), New Visayas ES, and Panabo Central ES SPED Center, while in the secondary the top three awardees were Cagangohan Senior High School (HS), Sindaton National HS and Manay National HS.

The Bayanihan Spirit of Brigada Eskwela is also alive in this activity encompassing the saying “It takes a village to make a learner a reader”.

Through Share-A-Book activity of #ReadingDelights, donations of books are activated to increase the number of supplementary reading materials in each kiosk. Moreover, many learners, parents, private entities, barangay officials, and other stakeholders donated storybooks and textbooks and extended their generosity for the construction of the kiosks.

Many schools posted their advocacies and pictorials on social media especially on Facebook. Several positive feedbacks are evident in the comment section, and they even shared their own experiences in the kiosks.

One parent said that this PanaBook Club helps her children spend their time more in reading rather than playing online games. Also, some children shared that they target to read at least three books a day and they even invite other friends to do the same.

If these positive actions and attitudes continue, surely, we will have a city of readers. Panabo City Division continues to innovate and adapt in the changing times to make this nation a country of readers.



DIRECTOR'S DESK

create and innovate. We find ways. We met, planned, and discussed thoroughly to make sure we would not allow the pandemic to paralyze us.

We innovated. So, we had webinars on practically all concerns of DepEd: learner and teacher welfare, and parents' and community's shared responsibility. DepEd reached out to all of them through any virtual and limited interactions.

"We are human beings gifted with heavenly brilliance. Let us not waste them by simply waiting on the side in the nook and cranny of our offices and homes."

We created. We started our Diri sa DepEd Onse featuring all the best practices in all the different divisions. It wasn't easy from the start, but we continued to improve. And though limited with manpower and equipment, we still made it through with flying colors.

Now, Diri sa DepEd Onse is an innovative program of Davao Region that reached the various areas of other regions up to the national level. This is because education is not confined to one area or concern

but to all, to everybody who believed in education for all.

There were other initiatives by different offices and divisions. They added to the creativity of each one of us in the region. And for this, we recognize. We appreciate the efforts of each one to make sure that education continues despite the pandemic.

Now, we have started the limited face-to-face classes in some identified schools. This is a good start. This is a sign of progress. This is an indication that we can see more schools opening their doors to face-to-face classes.

All these are happening because we create and innovate.

We are human beings gifted with heavenly brilliance. Let us not waste them by simply waiting on the side in the nook and cranny of our offices and homes. We get up and move. We stand up to create for our stakeholders. After all, we are all gifted to give.

With this attitude of optimism and creativity, we move forward and face the challenges of the new year.

As we celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Lord, let us always remember that this is the best time to recognize all that we have for these are all blessings and miracles in our life.

And let me say, I recognize all your efforts and sacrifices to improve the plight of our learners and teachers. I recognize your love for DepEd, and I value how you express your love through service.

To my DepEd family, have a wonderful Christmas and a bountiful 2022!

If I would write everything down like a year ender story, I might end up sharing about what we have learned the hard way. Yes, the hard way.

The pandemic, in its second year affecting our lives, has been our companion every day. In every move, we think of health protocols. In every plan, we strive to achieve herd immunity. In every action, we apply precautions.

Year 2020 wasn't the worst year, but it was the best year for us in the region. We encountered two realities that gave us more reasons to move on faithfully to serve and create for our stakeholders in education.

The reality of the pandemic hounded us. At the start, it was like an immovable object that hindered us to reach out to our learners, teachers, and parents. It almost shackled us to do our usual tasks freely.

Our learners, in its second school year now, needed to stay at home confined to their respective families and deprived from meeting with classmates and friends. Their social belonging is stifled by the pandemic.

But in DepEd Davao Region, we thought otherwise. We refused to be intimidated by the pandemic. We

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First private school to open face-to-face classes

By Erland Loren C. Lawas

Rising above the challenges of the pandemic, the Faith International Academy (FIA) is the first private school in Davao City to resume in-person classes by adhering to limited face-to-face learning delivery effective November 29.

The school has set up the implementation of standard health and safety protocols prior to entering its premises. The security personnel scan the Safe Davao City QR Code, check the body temperature, and inspect vaccination cards.

“The facilities of the school are more than ready for the implementation. They have also secured what we called the shared responsibilities,” Jeneilito S. Atillo, the chief of the Quality Assurance Division, said.

Disinfectant foot baths and hand washing facilities were installed in conspicuous areas of the campus. School faculty and staff were ready to assist and guide students, parents, and guardians as they enter the premises. The management provided a help desk for its stakeholders to have easy access to information and management support services. Health declaration forms were also collected to strengthen the contact tracing mechanism. In addition, markings on the floor area were provided to reinforce social distancing

measures.

While the school offers education for kindergarten to Grade 12 learners, it only holds in-person classes to learners from Kindergarten to Grade 3, where only nine learners are allowed to enter the classroom from 8:00am to 12:00 noon during Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

As a standard health and safety protocol, students are required to wear their face mask and stay socially distanced at their designated tables and chairs.

The school caters to international students, and it has a total of 77 students currently enrolled from kindergarten to grade 12.

“I am very committed to getting back into the classroom since as a teacher, looking all the time at the computer screen is very disappointing compared to having a classroom with the students physically present,” Alastair Walker, FIA school head, said.

The school assured that all teaching and non-teaching personnel were fully vaccinated. It ascertained that face-to-face classes during the pandemic is well-planned in terms of the school health protocols to sustain its implementation as well as cater to learners with different

learning needs.

For the expanded pilot implementation of the face-to-face classes, five other public schools in the city participated. These schools are Gorgonio Tajo National High School (NHS), Dalagdag NHS, Saloy NHS, Gumitan Elementary School (ES), and Mabuhay Elementary School.

“We have been working closely with the local government unit for the preparation of the schools which are expected to reopen in January 2022. With this leap of faith, we are so grateful to everyone who supported this monumental day,” Schools Division Superintendent Reynaldo Guillena said.

He further cited that as DepEd takes a huge step in the resumption of face-to-face classes, the management is very positive that through the Bayanihan spirit, the safety of everyone involved in the pilot run is still the top priority. Hence, the superintendent is appealing to the public to observe health protocols religiously.

“As contributors in overcoming this pervasive crisis and as catalysts of change, we need to pin the hope to our future generation, we need to work hand-in-hand to create an impact that we will always be thankful for,” Dr. Guillena concluded.





Realizing hopes and prayers

By Edren T. Flores

The Division of Davao del Sur braves all the tests of the time and continues the high standards of instructional delivery through Distance Learning Modality. This modality is implemented through the production and distribution of self-learning modules (SLMs) and the advancements of modern technology by producing video lessons and radio-based instructions made available in social media and in local television and radio stations.

Now, the teachers continue to brave the tests of



time as three schools in the province have been given the approval to participate in the nationwide

pilot implementation of limited face-to-face classes.

Clib Primary School (PS) in Hagonoy, Nodilla Elementary School and Tacub Elementary School in Kiblawan were the schools assessed and marked qualified to implement limited in-person classes for two months subject to close monitoring and risk assessment.

Responding to the current Covid-19 situation, the division ensures that these schools with 303 learners all in all implementing the limited face-to-face classes adhere to the guidelines set by authorities.

Duriza Garcia, a teacher at Clib PS, shared how she handled the learners in their first two weeks in school.

"I admit there are a lot of challenges handling the pilot face-to-face class in my Grade 1 advisory. An extreme adjustment is needed in terms of

how to push the learners for them to be actively engaged in the teaching-learning activities since most of them are hesitant and they do not know how to respond," Teacher Duriza expressed.

She added she was able to motivate them gradually, but she made sure all of them consider the health protocols.

"As of this time in our 4th week, I can say that they are improving and are learning the lessons delivered to them despite the very short period of time allotted for each subject," she said while adding that she is focusing on reading.

She also disclosed they didn't encounter any Covid-related cases and they are all observing the habit of handwashing and using of

alcohol. But children have the tendency to take off their masks, so she said she needed to remind them always.

"With the face-to-face classes, I can see that they are all excited to be in school," Teacher Duriza concluded.

For almost two school years, our learning institutions have been closed for physical classes, however, the teachers, the parents, and most of all, the learners never close their hearts to hope and pray that, one day, schools will be open again. The combined efforts of the teachers, the educational leaders, the government officials, private sectors, and the community members are behind the realization of such hope and prayer.



Better things are coming

By Kristian Anhara L. Martesio

Weeks after the landmark opening of the limited face-to-face classes in more than 100 pre-identified schools all over the country on November 15, pupils are still feeling the eagerness and excitement as they are among the learners from the 27 million Filipino students who can step inside their classrooms after almost two years of home-based schooling.

In the Schools Division of Davao de Oro, five schools reopened their doors and welcomed the 171 privileged pupils for the pilot implementation of the limited face-to-face classes. These learners who were enrolled in the distance learning modalities for the previous school year were welcomed by the various regional and division officials on their first day of classes.

Maubog Elementary School – Parasas Integrated School Extension

About 78 learners from Kindergarten to Grade 3 of Maubog Elementary School - Paraasas Integrated School Extension in Pantukan, Davao de Oro were welcomed by the Regional team headed by Regional Director Allan G. Farnazo with the Davao de Oro group headed by Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Rommel R. Jandayan on the opening of the face-to-face classes.

Maugat Elementary School

Maugat Elementary School is a pure multi-grade school located at Panansalan, Compostela, Davao de Oro. The school is 56 kilometers away from the Población and reachable only via motorcycles.

About 44 learners, who are mostly members of the Indigenous Peoples (IP), were warmly received by four teachers.

Lower Panansalan Elementary School-Jacinto Extension

Lower Panansalan Elementary School-Jacinto Extension is a multigrade school situated at Panansalan, Compostela, Davao de Oro, where residents are mostly of the Mandaya Tribe.

After the challenges have been carefully addressed through the delivery of services with linkages from various stakeholders, the school greeted its 21 pupils on their first day of physical classes.

Digaynon Integrated School

Digaynon Integrated School is an extension school of Manurigao Integrated School situated in the far-flung area of sitio Danawan, Brgy. Manurigao, New Bataan, the boundary of Davao de Oro and Davao



Oriental. The school is 42 kilometers away from heart of the municipality and can be reached only through foot travel because of its stiff cliff.

But despite the challenges in reaching the school, the teachers ushered their 19 learners, all members of IP, in the new normal setup.

Barez Intergrated School – Pagsabangan Elementary School Extension

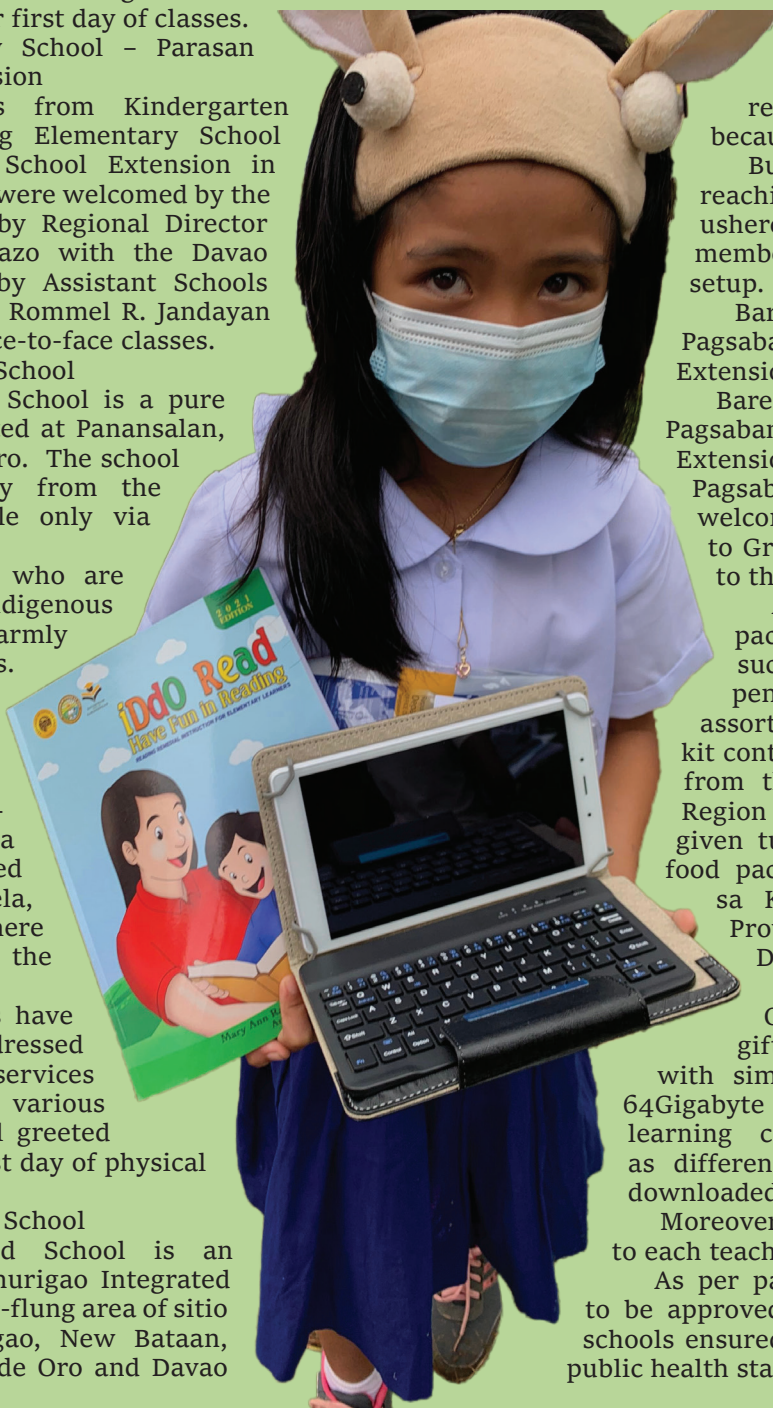
Barez Intergrated School – Pagsabangan Elementary School Extension in Sitio Bongloy, Barangay Pagsabangan, New Bataan District, welcomed the 9 learners from Kinder to Grade 3 as they finally returned to their classrooms.

All the pupils received gift packs containing school supplies such as assorted notebooks, pencils, ball pens, crayons, assorted writing pads and hygiene kit containing face masks and alcohol from the Department of Education Region XI office. They were also given tumblers, powdered milk, and food packs from the Bayanihan para sa Karunungan program of the Provincial Local Government of Davao de Oro.

The Division of Davao de Oro also took the initiative to gift each learner with tablets with sim and memory cards plus a 64Gigabyte flash drive to enhance the learning capabilities of the learners as different learning materials can be downloaded in the gadgets.

Moreover, books were also turned over to each teacher.

As per part of the very strict process to be approved in the pilot testing, all the schools ensured the compliance to minimum public health standards to guarantee the safety





of the learners' return to the school.

Cleaning of school grounds has also become topmost priority in each community and signages are visible to continue educating the members about the strict rules set against the Covid19 pandemic. Segregation and disposal of waste has been strictly implemented.

Before entering their classrooms, learners are instructed to wash their hands thoroughly and step on foot baths. They were also oriented to observe physical distancing and to avoid mingling with classmates or schoolmates who may be showing flu-like symptoms. Visitors must have their temperatures checked and perform handwashing as well.

With the start of the physical classes, the parents expressed their gratitude and appreciation that schools in their sitios were among the few chosen schools to reopen. A parent even admitted that they were never been in school, and they have a hard time teaching their own children. Being able to receive the tablet for free is a great help because they cannot afford to buy their own, added one parent as well.

The partner stakeholders in each community, the Municipal Local Government Unit, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Philippine National Police (PNP) expressed their commitment to continue in supporting the department in its endeavors by ensuring peace and order in the area.

The PLGU of Davao de Oro provided Learning Support Aids or LSA to each school in order to ensure the continuation of the delivery of education.

The preparation was not easy. Many considerations must be done to comply to the strict standards set by the Department of Education and the Department of Health: better ventilation for classrooms, hand washing and sanitation facilities, 100 percent fully vaccinated teachers, disinfected school vicinities.

Learners and teachers are now embracing the new normal setting of education and the reopening of the selected schools is an indication that better things are coming.

New Normal, new opportunities

By Raymond S. Aquino

The year 2020 was a peculiar year, with COVID-19 lodging its trademark unwaveringly on the onset of 2021. A year which felt way too long to keep up people's self-isolation, social distancing, online and masked identities. Then things were escalating as the coronavirus strain began its outbreak. As 2021 is about to close, still it does look like we won't be returning to the pre-2020 times anymore as we are down to the era of the New Normal.

The schools in Davao Occidental are adhering to Modular Distance Learning, wherein printed modules are distributed to learners with online learning networks and radio-based teaching as alternative learning delivery methods. These revolutionary approaches to distance learning have expanded access to education by bringing it to where the learners are. They have mirrored the school curriculum using broader, convincing, and engaging content and they supplemented the modular approach and online classes.

Along the bumpy road of the journey of the SDO to digital transformation with the steering



of Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Lorenzo E. Mendoza aided by Assistant SDS Antonio P. Delos Reyes, it has topped in Region XI in the field of information dissemination in three categories - print media, social media and online broadcasting making them the Region XI's entries to the National Information Leaders Award (ILAW) this year.

This ILAW is the first awarding

ceremony to be given to regional and division information officers. As finalist, the Division of Davao Occidental belongs to the Top 10 among all the participating divisions in the country.

It can, therefore, be said that the call for one direction through the 10-point agenda of SDS Mendoza who laid down this transformation through the creation of innovations to better enhance the curriculum delivery and improve school governance at all levels, and intensify the DepEd's flagship project, Sulung EduKalidad, has been serving as a workable public service scheme for the division.

With this, the Division of Davao Occidental advanced its enterprise -- Edukasyon POSSIBLE initiative which acronym spells out Provincewide Opportunities for Success Intensified to Boost Learners' Education to sustain education in the new normal. Coupled with the tagline, "Turning Your Visions into Realities!", all systems and processes are aligned to the pursued goal of transformation.



From Reefs to Ridges: Sambuok in Edukalidad

By Leorisyl Siarot

There are ample reasons to be grateful for this year. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Schools Division of the City of Mati accomplished so much in the implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan. This splendid phenomenon can be encapsulated with this line “From reefs to ridges: Sabuok in Edukalidad.”

Just recently, Hadjuria C. Gonzalez, Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education teacher, was hailed as one of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Pag-asa Awardees on November 15. The search for outstanding government workers began in the first quarter of the year.

She was the only one from Mindanao included in the finalists for the individual category which brought jubilation to the division and in Mati City. Edna Plata of CSC said Hadjuria is a good example for government workers in Mati City who tirelessly work for the good of her learners.

The last recipient of the same award from Mati City was Cecelia Vidoy, a Special Education teacher, in 2015.

Further, the search for the 1st Information Leader’s Award began this year. It seeks to recognize the efforts of the information leaders as they

advance the advocacies of all DepEd programs. It was very challenging for the division given the limitations due to the pandemic. However, strategies were laid and a plethora of initiatives rose to counter the proliferation of fake news.

Radio and tv broadcasts, print, and social media were strengthened to deal with emerging needs. Luckily, Mati City was blessed to be included in the national ten finalists for the social media management category.

For three consecutive quarters, the division was awarded as Best Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment (MEA) output. This regional activity intends to evaluate how the divisions strategically hit the targets. Schools Division Superintendent Alona C. Uy was awarded as Best Presenter for three consecutive quarters too.

Pandemic has never been a problem for students to excel.

Razl EJ G. Teman, a student of Davao Oriental Regional Science High School, represented the division in the regional Science and Technology Fair Siyensikula and won 2nd place.

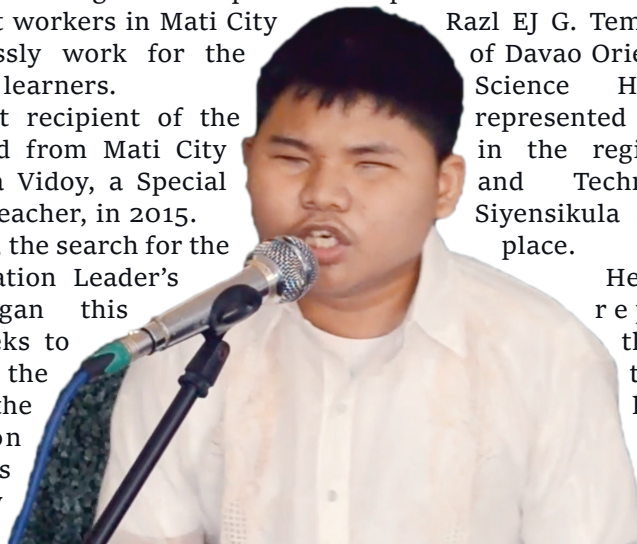
He further represented the region at the national level. His experience proves that his

determination and everyone’s support made everything possible. He even said that our current situation should push us to do better and continue to aspire for greater heights.

Another wonderful story to tell is the Brigada Pagbasa partner, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Brgy. Badas, who won in the national Search for 2021 Best SK Project-Education Category. They began their overwhelming support for the reading program during this pandemic. They thought that during this time their presence is more needed by children in their barangay.

“We have been supporting the reading program of Badas even before the pandemic, but the need to be more innovative so that those learners whose parents cannot help them for many reasons can continue learning to read. We probably are just lucky that their parents trusted us,” SK Chair Kerl Daligdig said.

Likewise, researchers of the division were declared winners in the 2021 Virtual Regional Research Congress. Schools like Asuncion Rondina Perez Memorial School as 3rd place in the Regional Search for Best School-Based Feeding Program Implementers and City of Mati National High School for winning in the Regional Festival of Talents for MAPEH and Regional Brigada Eskwela Jingle Making Contest are just few of the many feats celebrated by Mati City Division this year.



Rewards from delays

A Tagumenyo's journey towards the third spot in the Teacher's Board Examination

By Harley Aglosolos

What we see at present is just the glory. But behind the glitter are the obstacles and setbacks surmounted.

Tagum City National High School Alumnus Carl Joshua Almoite's fondness for Mathematics started when he was inspired by how his elementary teacher made understanding Mathematics concepts easy. But journeying towards high school seemed challenging.

"The major adjustments I experienced belonging to the STE (Science, Technology, and Engineering) class included almost being dropped from the class due to low grades and having experienced mild stroke. But I continued," Almoite recalled.

Though he did not have the chance to become a Math quizzer in high school since he was not among the Top 10 students, still he pursued his interest in the subject by taking Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major in Mathematics, and graduated with flying colors as Magna Cum Laude.

He has one goal after graduating – to be among the Top 10 in the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET).

"I remembered my professor saying, 'Bear in mind, Dong, that you will top the LET.' This was an affirmation for me," Almoite said.

Readiness is the key to achieve this. That's why he did not take the board exam on September 2019. He was bound to take it by March 2020 but it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

"I evaluated myself then. Maybe I was not that ready and this delay was an opportunity for me to prepare further," he said.

However, the next scheduled examination on September 2020 was still cancelled. Though a little anxious, still he reassured himself that he still needed more time to prepare.

But when the March 2021 examination did not push through, that was when he started shedding tears due to frustration.

"This waiting time is too much. I already wanted to achieve what needs to be achieved. I do not have a regular job yet," Almoite said.

The absence of face-to-face interaction and this frustration caused his depression. What made the experience more grueling was he had to give up a precious relationship just for his dream.

"While reviewing, my professor noticed that my performance waned. It was then that I realized that if this relationship is no

longer helping me grow, why do I need to continue holding to it?" Almoite realized.

His unwavering resolve never to give up bore fruit after he finally took the board exam. He gasped in disbelief after knowing that he was the Top 3 passer in LET.

"I prayed for this but still I could not believe it. It's true that when it rains, it pours," Almoite exclaimed.

He has now many offers for employment but he is discerning where he can be of maximum use and where he'll have an opportunity for growth.

"Our students must never give up on their dreams despite poverty, challenges, and setbacks. Only give up one thing – distraction. Prayer plays a vital role in achieving a goal," Almoite advised.

Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Josephine Fadul together with Assistant SDS Melanie P. Estacio congratulated Almoite in a Courtesy Call on December 2 where SDS Fadul urged him to be of service to DepEd Tagum City.

Leading by giving

By Marilou P. Masunag & Mark Fil L. Tagsip

For someone who has done many outreach activities even before the pandemic, the passion to help has become more intense. This is how Dr. Raymunda L. Apostol, public schools district supervisor of Baganga North District, grows up doing charity works because her father happened to be a public servant- a former member of US Army and the primary mover in the creation of Batawan to be one of the barangays in the municipality of Baganga, Davao Oriental.

She was nine years old when her father eventually became its first barangay captain. Public service became her grassroots, seeing how her father influenced the lives of his constituents. No wonder she chose to become an educator because she believed on the greater impact and positive influence of being one, not

just to her students but all the people she deals with every day.

Charity work is about “doing things with passion and dedication, without self-preservation,” this is how Dr. Apostol defines this act of selfless service.

A witness of life’s struggles, she never hesitated to tender a hand to the disadvantaged.

Back in 2012, when Typhoon Pablo struck the community of Baganga, her home became the refuge of many of her neighbors and shared with them everything that they need from food to clothing.

“It is not a question at

all why my family had to do that, it was more of a responsibility in showing your compassion towards others. I am humbled that I am in a fortunate situation wherein I was able to help,” Dr. Apostol said.

She was awarded with certificates of recognition and appreciation by different agencies for her active engagements with their programs and projects. The recent one was coming from 67th Infantry “AGILA” Battalion for her commitment rendered towards the men in uniform, which is vital in accomplishing their goals.

According to Dr. Apostol, those are just the least that she could do. She was grateful for the appreciation. She hopes that she also inspires others to do the same.

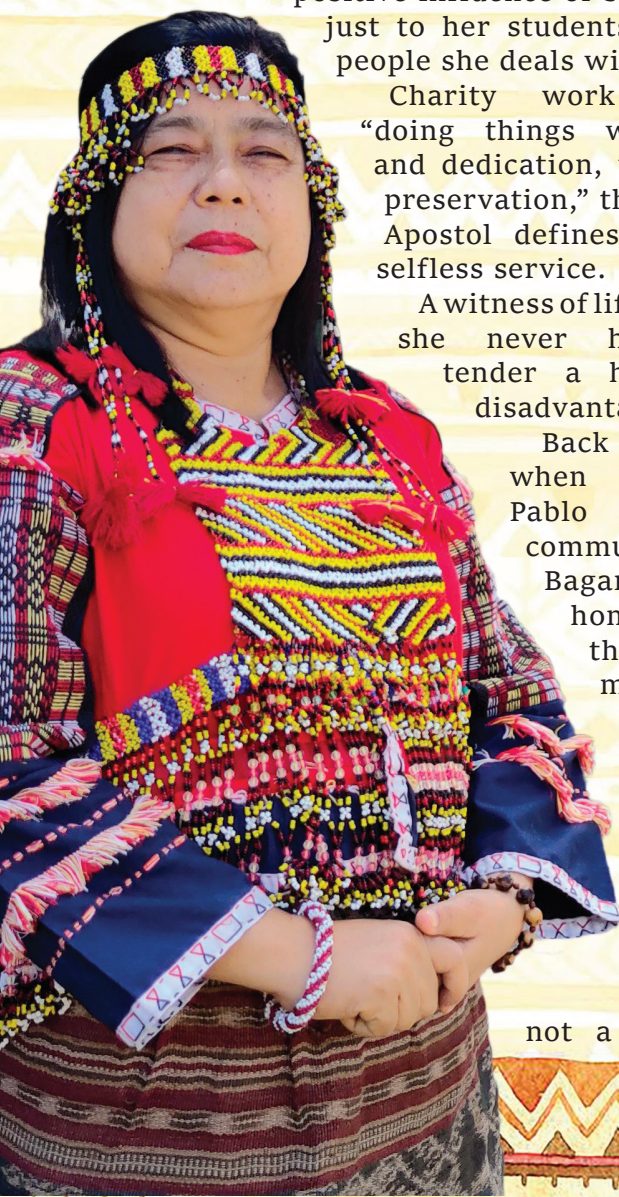
“What is all that matters is that you put your heart in everything that you do. It warms my heart knowing I could be of help no matter how big or small the endeavor is. It is my personal commitment to God and to my fellowmen,” she said.

Despite her busy schedules, she also never hesitated to engage in various government and non-government organizations.

She is currently the Vice-Chair of the Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council in Ways and Means, President of Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, Chairwoman of the Municipal Advisory Council of Baganga Police Station, Co-Chairwoman of the Local School Board, and a Member of Disaster Risk Reduction Management, Municipal Peace and Order Council and Municipal Anti-Drug Action Council.

Recently, she became an Adviser of the newly created Lumon Community, an empowered non-profit youth-led organization which carries the banner of “We Rise by Lifting Others”. She supported its cause to improve the lives of the people especially in the far-flung communities amidst the pandemic.

People she works with describe her as a woman of service; tough but with a soft heart. She is well respected not of her position but on how she was able to provide an impact in every organization she was in. She is a reflection that kindness always prevails even in times that we face adversities.



Book characters, storytellers invade Davao

By Rutchel R. Rebosura and Neil Edward D. Diaz

The Division of Davao del Norte celebrated the National Reading Month by telling stories and imitating the book characters to inspire children to read more and feel and understand what they read.

The division launched the 2021 Virtual Reading Summit highlighting the Pagbasa Aja sa Davao Premiere Show with three main events: Storytelling with the top leaders, the Virtual Book Character Parade participated and represented by all the districts of DepEd Davao del Norte, and the Awarding of the Division Qualifiers for the Most Outstanding Reading Implementers.

Regional Director Allan G. Farnazo gave his lively retelling of “Si Mabi Tutubi na Kawili-wili”. Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Dee D. Silva also performed “Si Petita ug and Kapayas”, a story written by herself. Assistant SDS Rebecca C. Sagot shared “Ang Walong Kaibigan ni Erika” and Curriculum Implementation Division Chief Eduard C. Amoguis told the story of “Si Mat-Mat ang Batang Ayaw sa Math”.

Among the characters portrayed during the Virtual Book Character Parade were Beauty and the Beast from Asuncion District, Elizabeth Bennet & Dracula from BE Dujali District, Maria Makiling & Valentina from Carmen District, Amihan & Lapu-Lapu from Kapalong East District, Hansel & Gretel from Kapalong West District, Anna of Frozen & Aladdin from Langilan District, Little Red Riding Hood and the Ugly Fairy from New Corella District, Wonder Woman & Darth Vader from San Isidro District, Little Red Riding Hood & Vampire from Sto. Tomas East District, Maleficent from Sto. Tomas West District, and Cleopatra & Sailor Moon from Talaingod District. The hosts were also garbed in Spider-Man and Hermione Granger attire.

“For six years, we are able to feature outstanding reading implementers across 261 elementary and

secondary schools. Rescuing the non-readers and readers under the frustration level every school year is a consistent plight,” Dr. Allen T. Guilaran, an education program supervisor, said.

She also mentioned this is focused on literacy in the three languages - Mother Tongue, Filipino and English. All districts and schools are happy to share their success stories even before pandemic, she said.

Every school year, the Reading Summit is the highest peak to celebrate how Davao del Norte celebrates success stories in literacy. Efforts exerted are paid off every reading summit, the focal person for reading added.

All the education program supervisors, public schools district supervisors, teachers, and all the participants of the 5-Day Division Contextualization and Conversion of English Self-learning Modules for English Grades 1-12 to Radio Broadcasting Instruction Scripts and Simulation, Reading Summit and National and Regional Teachers Araw ng Parangal 2021 where the premiere show was anchored on participated in the National Simultaneous Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Time at 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

The 2021 Virtual Reading Summit aims to continue the annual national reading month celebration, to recognize school's best practices in reading, and to urge teachers and learners to keep their passion and love for reading amid the new normal setting.

