



DEPED DAVAO DISPATCH

The Official Publication of the Department of Education Region XI

Life is Education. Education is life.

Vol. No. 9 • April - June 2022 issue



A reflection

from a head teacher of a far-flung school

By Alrey E. Callao, school head of Ulip NHS

Try to go out from where you are right now. Roam around and think of a certain problem in your workstation or community. Pause for a moment. Think again of what you can do to permanently solve the problem. Ask yourself if you can act on it or mobilize the solution all by yourself. Then, take a deep breath.

This is a reflection I made out of desperation to solve the problem with my learners. I thought I have tried the best teaching strategy I have ever known. I thought I am the best teacher. But I missed teaching when there are still learners who cannot even read and do basic arithmetic.

This reflection exposed me to the truth. I have failed to look at the problem through the lens of these learners. Moreover, this reflection is a way for me to think outside the box and address the problem of my students.

My workstation, Ulip National High School (UNHS), in Upper Ulip, Monkayo, Davao de

“I missed teaching when there are still learners who cannot even read and do basic arithmetic.”

Oro is roughly seven kilometers away from the town center. It is an adjacent barangay to the gold ore capital of the province, Mt. Diwata or Mt. Diwalwal. The majority of the residents belong to the Mandaya tribe. The main source of income for the people in the barangay includes mining and agricultural activities.

In Ulip NHS, the IP learners have been engaged in child labor activity, which is the common reason for most of their habitual absences and tardiness. Some of them used to wake up early in the morning to carry logs triple their weights and bring them from mountainous to the plain areas where the heavy trucks loaded them.

Others have entered tunnels through a tiny hole and seemed

to bury themselves about ten to a hundred times compared to their height just to dig gold, pulverize stones, and carry sacks full of stones outside from the tunnel.

Few of them also needed to mainstream helping their parents for a living to sustain the needs of the family and schooling is seen as an option or second choice. These activities have made them sacrifice their right to be in school as they preferred to hold money instead of a pen, dig soil instead of writing on paper, carry logs instead of bags, and survive for the day instead of building a better tomorrow.

As a result of my deep reflection and armed with the desire to help these learners, I designed a school-based mech-

anism to rescue them from this situation. This is dubbed project Rescue EAcH Deprived Youth (READY) as the teachers believed that these learners have been deprived of attention, comfortable education, and their rights to play and enjoy life as kids in exchange for their early engagement in child-labor activity to sustain their school needs like notebooks, papers, bags, shoes, pens, food allowance, or even to help the family expenses for food.

Project READY, a school-based scholarship program started in 2016, is an anti-child labor project, particularly for IP learners. The project READY is the fair share of teachers to combat child labor among IP learners at the school level. This project has three components or levels such as special monitoring or support and consultation given to the learners, zero school expenses by sponsoring any of their school projects and monetary obligations, and giving of school allowance.

To determine the impact of READY, school-based action research highlighting the project was conducted. The research result revealed that the academic performance of learners through their attendance, written work, and performance tasks have significantly improved. Thus, the teacher-researchers have assumed that the improvement in academic performance has somehow helped them to stop their engagement in labor activity.

The findings of the study have motivated the teachers more to continue the project. Though presently, some of the project components are eliminated due to some constraints in time and resources, still various batches of learners have finished high school through the project.

Director's Desk

As our school year ends, we again claim victory. We have again prevailed our challenges and adversities. Our character, tried and tested by tough times, has become a milestone that all of us has treasured and cherished. Our light shines the brightest as our indomitable spirit reign over our fears.

This year's theme, "Pursuing dreams and fostering resilience in the face of adversity", catalyzes our victory and struggle in coping with the pandemic. Given this, we have once again recognized the crucial role of education in achieving our goals in life.

We dream. We dream because dreams define our meaning in life. Pursuing our dreams and meeting challenges tested our resili-

ence. Our journey is interrupted with trials and challenges. The pandemic that we have experienced for more than two years now has changed our lives. But we kept our hopes high and held on to our dreams.

Now, we have emerged triumphant.

To our dear graduates, you have the ability to cope with all the challenges. You faced the struggles of learning independently without the physical pres-

ence of your teachers at your side. You maintained a happy and positive attitude. The Department, your parents, your teachers, and all those who have witnessed your journey are all proud of you.

To our dear parents and teachers, you played a major role in the success of this school year. With your support and dedication, our learners are inspired and confident to continue learning. Thank you for your meaningful contribution.

Congratulations to all our graduates! You are the reason why we always strive to create and innovate to give you what you deserve. Continue dreaming. Pursue your dreams. Carry in your heart the values that your parents and teachers have taught you.



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Karangalan Mo, Hatid Ko: Moving up rites on wheels

By Neil Edward D. Diaz



Seeing schoolchildren clad in uniforms, wearing smiles instead of masks, walking the stage with a proud gait, and shaking hands with a firm grip are things parents want to happen at the end of the school year. However, due to the pandemic, the annual recognition of awards for students during the moving up ceremonies is primarily conducted virtually.

Despite this obstacle, a brilliant strategy was developed in Napungas Elementary School, Asuncion, Davao del Norte, through the activity proposed by Kindergarten teacher Louie Rex B. Baño.

His proposal was wholeheartedly supported by Ric Michael B. Morales to hold and deliver a heartfelt tribute to the parents who relentlessly supported their little ones who persevered in their studies. This proves that even with the current educational

setup, sharing the momentous achievement with parents and students is still possible. This program started during the past School Year 2020-2021 and continues.

With the help of a fellow teacher and talented stage decorator and photographer, Sheila C. Alberca, fellow teachers also gave donations to organize and carry out the initiative.

"It's extraordinary to see kids experience these ceremonies, like with music, garlands, and pictorials. We started at 9:00 am on June 27, instead of the planned 7:00 am because we were still decorating our stage. We used the vehicle of Sir Louie Rex Baño," Alberca reminisced her experience.

She shared they started the program in Purok 6 and then Purok 7 as the road was difficult. They went last to Purok 8 as it was the farthest.

They gave out certificates and their portraits as souvenirs.

"We do this not just for the pupils, but for the parents all the more," Baño said about the activity. When the celebratory graduation music played, the happiness reflected in the faces of the parents, who, even during the pandemic, could gloriously climb the stage and witness their child's achievements. It's enough to make me feel that sense of pride, too," he continued.

Teacher Jinky V. Daugdaug also observed that while they were doing the activity, she saw that the parents were happy, and she found it cute that the parents made a conscious effort to prepare their children's uniforms and glam themselves up for the occasion to look presentable in the pictures.

"Every time we pass their houses, we turn our music up loud, getting the attention of people in their homes," she ended.

On May 10, DepEd issued Memorandum No. 43, Series of 2022, which sets out guidelines for conducting the K to 12 Basic Education Program End-of-School-Year Rites from June 27 to July 2.

Physical contact is prohibited during the personal graduation ceremony for the 2021-2022 school year. This ban is a preventive measure against the possible transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to students, parents, teachers, and visitors.

The launching of the Division of Panabo City's digital flagship called TV Aralan & ALS TV, in partnership with Panabo Satellite Cable Television-Channel 1, is making waves.

For TV Aralan, more than 40 teachers became teacher-broadcasters who delivered lessons over television for all Panabo learners with access to Facebook, internet, and cable television.

True to its mantra of "reaching the last, the least, and the lost", Alternative Learning System (ALS) Panabo City crafted the Online Enrollment by posting links on its official Facebook Page and sending its electronic Functional Literacy Test (FLT) through different online platforms convenient to the learners. This ensures that distance and physical space are no longer a factor that constrains the channeling of learning in need.

In addition, ALS Panabo developed the ALS Modular Online Blended Instruction for Learners' Education or the so-called ALS MOBILE. For those who can't access the internet, Radio-Based Instruction programs are also at the summit in bringing light of knowledge through the partnership of 15 different school-based radio stations in Panabo City.

Accordingly, the overwhelming effort of the Panabo City Division and the undying support of the different stakeholders strengthened the advocacy of ALS to reach enrollees in the 40 barangays and enrollees online by stretching its path even to those internationally settled



Addressing digital divide:

DepEd EdTech Awards 2022

By Iryhn E. Petalcorin

learners through rigid posting to various online platforms.

Thus, the rise of "Gabay Dunong Para sa OFW" was favorably welcomed by our Overseas Filipino Workers. With a committed spirit, ALS teachers in Panabo City offered flexible online learning schedules to OFWs from different time zones, where 39 OFWs enrolled from various countries officially benefited during the first year of implementation.

With all these initiatives, SDO Panabo became one of the awardees in the DepEd EdTech Awards 2022 on June 22-24 at Baguio City.

SDO Panabo bagged the Educational Technology Best Innovation Awards on ALS TV & TV Aralan. The division was represented by Phoebe Gay L. Refamonte, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, Janwarrio E. Yamota, Chief of Curriculum Instruction Division (CID), and the innovation team proponents Jaime Carlom, Neil Michael De Asis, Tyron O. Dujali, and Armando O. Aguilon Jr.

This event serves as a



platform to recognize the innovations of the division office, school leaders, and teachers even during pandemic using educational technology. Further, it inspires teachers to continue to be creative by developing outstanding performance as TV teacher-broadcasters.

TV Aralan and ALS TV were anchored in Diri Sa Deped Onse under the leadership of Regional Director (RD) Allan G. Farnazo.

DepEd brought to life a product of one's creative effort through the weekly online program Diri Sa Deped Onse.

Moreover, the government has taken some steps to address digital divide by giving laptops and cellphones. For Panabo City alone, SDS Reynante A. Solitario has

taken the initiative to link with the local government for the provision of laptops to school heads.

These were just initiatives that conquered the platform of Diri Sa DepEd Onse, TV Aralan & ALS TV. The Digital Media Productions garnered 3rd place during the 2022 ONSE (Outstanding Newsfeatures and Stories in Education) as the Most Outstanding Communications Team with 12 other nominations: Best Broadcast Story, Best Anchor- Mr. Al-Dio Madresta and Gerika Aiko Dumanayos, Best Cinematography, Best Teaser, Best Poster, Most Organized Presentation and Best Episode.

RD Farnazo emphasized that the show served as the great milestone of communications that the region practices to complement our BE-LCP during the time of pandemic.



The food hub in the region

By Aurora O. Mellorida

Food as a non-negotiable commodity will never be scarce soon in Davao Occidental. The birth of its Food Technology and Processing Center (FTPC) paves the way for state-of-the-art technology to cause abundance in the area.

Perfecting its feat, the Davao Occidental FTPC was armed even with a more sophisticated Php500,000.00 worth of equipment to allow a great start for this center to operate. It was the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) that granted such a vital facility to the center last June 27, 2022.

The DOST Provincial Director, Maria Victorina I. Dado, handed over the vacuum fryer to Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Lorenzo E. Mendoza with the FTPC Administrator and Food Technologist Maria Teresa B. Lugo and her staff.

More amazing developments have to transpire in this center with the DOST Provincial Director, Provincial Agriculture Officer Nally Bangoy, TESDA Training Center Administrator Neil Estudillo, and a representative from the business sector who guaranteed help for the full implementation of the project.



This vacuum fryer is a machine designed to fry vegetables, fruit, fish, and meat at low temperatures. This equipment has the capacity to reduce the oil content of the food. It can also help to inhibit the loss of nutrients that commonly occurs with food cooked or fried at high temperatures.

Moreover, the vacuum fryer cooks food using air pressure and hot oil at a temperature that preserves more of the oil's nutrients, and reduces its boiling point hence, releases less carcinogens. Thus, it's how the frying of the food that makes all the difference.

Consequently, vacuum-fried snacks are said to have many good qualities compared to snacks that are fried at normal pressure or higher pressure. With this technology, the raw fruits and vegetables absorb less oil since it is deep-fried for an optimal pre-defined amount of time. This makes vacuum fried chips healthier than other types of chips.

It can be remembered that on December 01, 2021, the FTPC was inaugurated. From there, the dream of having a food hub where learners can do research, experiment, and process food products and eventually earn while learning materialized.

Now, with this state-of-the-art facility reinforced with a vacuum fryer as the first food processing equipment to be



operating in the center, much has to be expected. From here, nutritious vacuum-fried vegetables and fruit chips will soon invade school canteens and cafeterias in Davao Occidental.

The agriculture sector of this province needing numerous human resources occupied in producing raw materials for various products is a picture-perfect scene painted on the landscape of the province's enterprises. Thus, employment is afforded to many and the economy is assisted to soar high. It is apt to Darwin's "Invisible Hand Theory," saying, when all is well, everything is well.

Advancing the product management system to be employed in the parlance of DepEd is pushing to educate the learners to become business-minded with a high sense of producing export quality products. The endeavor is indicative of the world

of work which is in the framework of the Senior High School program - the Technical Vocational Track as a course of work to realize relative to this humongous task.

Just then, the Food Technology Hub was established where young researchers and food innovators could subject their outputs for evaluation using the state-of-the-art food equipment and facilities and earn training and assistance on product development from partner agencies such as DOST, BFAD, DTI, and Local Government Units. With this, the research and innovation outputs of Davao Occidental Senior High School learners won't just end in school bazaar displays, but on the shelves of pasalubong centers, trade fairs, and malls all over the country and even abroad.

This once upon-a-dream food center turned into a reality now. Seeing

how visionary the leaders whose significant support to the various DepEd programs was never elusive in this part of the region, Assistant SDS Antonio P. Delos Reyes anticipated the great and larger field of possibilities. Relating DepEd to their thinking, plans, and programs, he projected the food technology and product development center for instruction and research to flourish in this province.

His forecast was made based on the priority project of the SDO with the knack of the direction of SDS Mendoza in coordination with the local, provincial, and congressional government units currently developing the project and coming into its full realization. With its value-added contribution, it is the Senior High School learners who have been profiting from such instruction and research as future product entrepreneurs.



Ms. Youth Formation

By Sheryl Laine T. Caminade

year.

On the other hand, she is an active youth inside and outside the educational arena. She actively joined peer activities in the community and voluntarily served and dedicated herself to helping other people. In addition, she played a big part in leading the students to plant trees to save Mother Earth. Her advocacy is to contribute to the environment.

During the Supreme Student Government (SSG) Youth Leadership camp held at Almendras Elementary School, Cebulan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, she was crowned as Ms. Youth Formation 2022 as guided by her mentors, Nikki Nakk Flores, Janice I. Sapin, and Joylyn L. Solis.

For Glyza, that was one of the most beautiful humbling experiences she ever had. Truly, she got a brain, beauty, and character.

Furthermore, Glyza has been an achiever in her high school years. She was awarded third place

as a writer in the division reading and development book month fair, a consistent honor student who has a great talent in skirting, baking, and writing. More importantly, she graduated with flying colors just recently with a Technical-Vocational and Live-likelihood Track – Bread and Pastry Production Strand and she is now ready for her greater battle at the tertiary level.

Indeed, the sky is the limit; her ambitions in life are higher than the sky and she does her best to excel and become a better version of herself. GLYZA also stands for Goal-oriented, Loving daughter, a Young girl full of Zeal and Aspiration.



Eleanor Roosevelt, the first lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945, said the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. This has become the favorite quote of a student who dreamed of a magnificent future not just for herself but also for her family and for everyone.

Considering her 5 '9' height, she is not a typical student as she is the tallest among the girls on campus. Additionally, students looked up to her not just because she is tall but because she is a great role model to everybody.

Glyza May Tañeza Comilang, daughter of Alfredo and Amalia Comilang, is an exemplar

president of the division federation of Youth for Environment in Schools Organization or commonly called YES-O in the division of Davao del Sur guided by Neil John T. Audan, the coordinator.

As a president, she significantly served towards safeguarding, protecting, and conserving the environment. On top of that, she is one of the speakers during the National Earth Day celebration which was proudly hosted by the division of Davao del Sur.

Indeed, a student from Ihan National High School, Kiblawan North District, became the voice of the youth as she delivered her talk about sustainable food consumption to the whole Philippines via an online platform just this

The pandemic did not hinder the visions and goals of the Schools Division of the City of Mati (SDO-Mati) Supreme Student Governments (SSGs) in achieving their bucket list of activities for the school year 2021-2022. It was a whirlwind of experiences and insights that led them to end their terms with flying colors and success.

With their respective initiatives, the student leaders of Davao Oriental Regional Science High School (DORSHS), Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy (IHMA), City of Mati National High School (CMNHS), Buso National High School, Mati School of Arts and Trade (MSAT), Mati National Comprehensive High School (MNCHS), and Badas National High School altogether brought excellence in the basket of achievements that marked history in their respective campuses.

“As a flashback, SDO-Mati SSGs raised the bar on the expectations of the community they belonged, as despite the face-to-face suspension of classes, they conducted initiatives and achieved greater sustainable goals,” Peter Jourdan Reyes, Youth Formation Officer and Project Development Officer, said.

The SSGs of DORSHS, along with MNHS, Badas NHS, Libudon NHS, Lawigan NHS, and Buso NHS, conducted an initiative to assist the vic-



Student Leaders' bucket of achievements

By Razl EJ G. Teman

tim of Typhoon Odette last December 2021. Reyes' assistance made the bayanihan activity possible. The same activity was also initiated by IHMA, in coordination with the Diocese of Mati in conducting outreach activity. Moreover, IHMA students donated to Mati City Jail and Fausta Como Salazar Memorial School through their provision of food and hygiene kits.

In addition, DORSHS also held their outreach activity, last February 2021, spearheaded by their SSG President Sophia O. Sebastian, in gracing school supplies at Licop Integrated School, thru the assistance of the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP). DORSHS was

also in-partnership with Project Kai-soan, wherein they conducted environmental awareness in Dahican, clean-up drives, and gave school supplies to local children.

Moreover, CMNHS students imparted their efforts to initiate activities such as a clean-up drive in an area in the Government Center in Dahican near the institution. They also conducted weekly, every Thursday, a clean-up activity around their campus.

Matiao NHS assisted its administration during the Oplan Balik Eskwela and in the preparation for the limited face-to-face classes.

Buso NHS student leaders rendered services to younger learners

through computer and reading tutorials. Buso NHS SSG also initiated a clean-up drive on the coastline of Bahia and Manggihay, Pujada Bay, and a tree planting activity in Buso Hot Spring vicinity. After the election, the same SSG conducted their Oplan Baklas, an activity clearing out election posters.

Because of these initiatives, the SDO-Mati qualified John Carlo Paja of Buso NHS, Sophia O. Sebastian of DORSHS, Rayhan Martino of MNCHS, Raiza Kem Flores of MNHS, Jessa M. Anghad of MSAT, Justin C. Quimpan of CMNHS, and Arman G. Santos and Elisha Michelle Chatto of IHMA to represent the schools division in the 2022 Philippine Youth Convergence, held in Palawan last June 2022.

Oliveros said her experience in the 2022 PYC will help build her leadership skills and hone future leaders in their institution.

As they have undergone the 2022 PYC, they are now ready to envision and conquer another set of activities that they believe will help the development of their community. Along with the guidance of their SSG advisers, the imparted lessons they have acquired during their 2022 PYC will help them assess and achieve their new goals for the Academic Year 2022-2023.

Cancer is no joke. If people celebrated most year-ends in December, one family had to fight the panic and shock last year after receiving the news of a 12-year-old daughter, Cerina Marchella Niaga-Malic, with Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer. It was all fight, not flight.

Marchella had to undergo surgery and chemotherapy in January 2022. While most students in the same predicament have disregarded studying and focused on health treatment, Marchella's concerns were deeply embedded if she could pass her modules and requirements on time. She prayed to graduate from her elementary education in La Filipina Elementary School in Tagum City and proceed to high school regardless of her health struggle.

After months of treatment, she was able to join the graduation ceremony. She was among those students who pursued quality learning and among those who wore their best smiles after receiving their graduation certificates. And it was there where she was welcomed and hugged by her friends together with her teary-eyed father during the interview along with an inspiring message from the guest speaker and school head, Amelita Sol M. Donayre.

Her mother, Mrs.

Mary Mar Dol Malic, narrated how they encouraged their daughter to join the face-to-face classes.

“Pagkabalo namo sa announcement ni Sir Rory J. Cosmeno nga adunay face-to-face graduation sa La Filipina Elementary School, ni decide ko as parent niya na paapilon nako siya sa graduation. Sa una nag-alangan si Marchella kay maulaw daw siya pero gina-encourage namo siya, so kadugayan ni okay ra jud na mo-attend siya sa graduation. Aside ani, maski mao pay paghuman sa iyang chemotherapy ug naa pa mi sa hospital maningkamot siya ug answer sa iyang mga modules though ma-late sa submission ug usahay



Challenged but not crippled

By Gemma Ruby M. Berido

maguol siya nga basin dili na dawaton. Gina tabangan namo siya para dili kaayo niya ikaguol ang sitwasyon. Gani payat na siya atong niapil sa contest sa Sci-Math Quiz Bee nga nakuha niya ang first place,” Mrs. Malic shared.

Marchella is the eldest child and an academic achiever. She was awarded with honors and won first place during the Sci-Math Quiz Bee at the school level. She is one

of the grantees of a company whose children of the regular associate employees maintained good grades in their academic years.

“Ambisyon nako nga mahimong usa ka doctor sa mga bata o pediatrician kay nakita nako ang akong mga kaubang bata sa hospital nga gagmay pa ug edad nga pareho nako nga gina tambalan pod. Kung makahuman ko sa pag eskwela daghan ko matabangan na mga

bata,” Marchella said.

Marchella sometimes feel frustrated and, at times, questioned God but those negative feelings vanished as she felt the love of her supportive parents. She was even advised by the physician to stop school but she never wavered from her goal to finish her studies. And so, she will pursue Grade 7 in the upcoming school year to achieve her dreams.



Realizing dreams through SPJ

By Wilfredo P. Takasan

As Magnaga National High School's (MNHS) Special Program in Journalism (SPJ) started its implementation in June 2017, the journalism advocates came across a client like no other. This client identified herself as one of the few Grade 7 learners who will be exposed to the SPJ curriculum to hone journalistic skills. She was only 13.

From the municipality of Pantukan, Davao de Oro, Aubrey Nicole Dumaog grew up far away from her mother and had no choice but to live under the custody of her grandmother. Thus, she was in elementary when she bid goodbye to the comfort of her biological parent.

Aubrey moved to San Isidro, Magnaga and lived together with her relatives for two years. But in June 2019, a chance to hopefully continue her journey to studies in the journalism program lights up her fate. She was brought to her hometown later and focused on mastering her skills in photojournalism and sports writing.

She immediately emerged as a trainee in the Lakbay Journo program of MNHS, extending basic and advanced training to young journalists in far-flung areas of Davao de Oro.

According to her SPJ-9 adviser, Michael Cantones, she struggled to come out of



her comfort zone, perhaps because of her fears to be left alone. Her dynamics, however, paved the way for her to excel in the class and even win in various press conferences.

As a Grade 9 student in MNHS during the pandemic school year, Aubrey was outstandingly performing despite adversities in life, in contrast to some learners who have a good family support system.

Juggling school and work were difficult for her. She had to stay up for hours of labor and only had a little time to rest, but Aubrey fought those battles to complete the school

year with a challenging voyage.

Above all, her faith in God was strengthened because of those hardships she experienced in the young stage of her life. She has been through a lot of silent fights. Yet, remained optimistic because of the people around her who continuously assisted her.

When asked why she chose to stay in the SPJ, she said she wanted to achieve her mother's dream for her to finish Mass Communication. She wanted to prove that we can achieve our dreams if we work hard for it.

The SPJ is initiated to realize the dreams and aspirations of the school community to produce future journalists who have a clear understanding of freedom of expression and good journalism as it lives to its school's slogan, The Finest School in Journalism and Leadership.

The vision for the young journalists would not be attained and sustained amidst the challenge of pandemic, but surprisingly, we were survivors from the test of time.

Last March 29, the reaping time for the advocates of the SPJ has finally come. Forty-two learners pompously raised their diplomas in an End-of-the School Year Rites ceremony signifying success in a four-year Development Plan of the Special Program in Journalism.

Despite the energy and synergy given to the SPJ by the school community, few learners didn't make it to the finish line of the track. Some were enticed by the value of money to work in bakeshops, malls, and even temporary jobs while others got pregnant and engaged in a relationship at a very young age.

But this realism to Aubrey Nicole, on the other hand, motivates the academe that there are still children who chase their dreams and value education. True enough, this can influence people at all adversities to positively fight back in whatever way the world has in store for them.

Rheider Jan Tubigon Bartolini of Sta. Cruz National High School (NHS) in the Island Garden City of Samal bagged 1st Place as a National Winner for Best Integration of Financial Literacy Key Concepts in Science and Mathematics (FLICSM) through Self-Learning Modules (SLMs) through a virtual awarding ceremony on May 6 sponsored by Huawei Philippines and BDO Foundation.

He hopes that through the self-learning module (SLM) he crafted, “Earn Cash from Trash,” learners will have an understanding of financial literacy and concepts as well as life skills in budgeting, saving, and investing.



Education in Basic Education Science at Ateneo de Davao University. Above all, he radiates love and inspiration to his learners and colleagues as he carries out his role as a teacher even if he is just serving for four years in the public service.

He believes that excellence should strive and thrive from any point on the map, may it be on the island or highland. Recalling his fondest memory, he grew up inquisitive as he loved picking up deadwood and hopping insects in the rolling hills of the island.

He quipped that he was really inclined towards Mathematics but it was in the third grade that his love for Science ignited when he was sent to represent his elementary school at the division level. During high school, his winning streak continued as he was the Science Division Champion in the 33rd National Quiz Bee in 2013 and later ranked fourth at the regional level.

He revealed that it is important to learn Mathematics as it is the language of Science but what fascinates him with the latter as it explains evidently the phenomena. Albeit being a teacher, one never stops him to be effective in the array of responsibilities such as School and District Science Coordinator, School Rover Scout Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation School Coordinator, and School-Based Management District Focal Person.

This island school teacher

By Jazer N. Papas

“They should know how to spend, what to spend, where to spend, and when to spend,” he emphasized. His accountability, commitment, passion, and precision catapulted his success and reveals Talicud Island’s shining glory as not just a mecca for pristine beaches and crystal blue turquoise waters but also a paradise of champions.

Before the module writing gets a green light, Sir Pitoy, as he is fondly called by his colleagues, admitted that he was gnawed with doubt if he can really finish it and beat

the deadline of submission. Encouragement, time management, and organization were the ingredients why Sir Pitoy and Ava Gloria Jean A. Montuya, his illustrator, brought Sta. Cruz MHS of Talicud Island into the limelight.

“Not all the time we will be motivated by someone, we have to teach ourselves discipline. If you endure every situation and see the output, then there will be a sense of fulfillment. We have to do our best in everything we do, may it be for the competition or not,” Sir Pitoy added.

He is a prized gem in Talicud Island. Believing that education is pivotal to one’s success, he sacrificed to become an honor student from grade school up to college and graduated with Latin Honors from the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao City with a degree in Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Biological Sciences. He chose his alma mater, Sta. Cruz NHS, to be the oasis of his professional undertakings.

His quest for knowledge remained unscathed as he is eagerly capping off his Master of Arts in