

THE NAZARETH GAZETTE



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HOME OF THE MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES



Blue Titans set Plaza Independencia ablaze in Lipa fiesta

Danica Andrei Maonantay
Princess Roxas

DURING the vibrant celebration of the Lipa City Fiesta 2026, The Nazareth School, proudly represented by the Blue Titans, demonstrated excellence in music, dance, and literary performance through a series of competitions held at Plaza Independencia from January 10 to 14.

The celebration opened on January 10 with the EBA Chorale Competition, where the TNS Chorale showcased their vocal prowess. Despite having only a few days to prepare, the group delivered a captivating performance of "Pusong Barako," an a cappella piece that highlighted the rich culture and scenic beauty of Batangas. Wearing elegant Filipiniana, barong, and silk attire, the chorale incorporated minimal synchronized movements to complement their harmonies. Competing against 15 schools, the TNS Chorale secured third place, marking a strong start for the Blue Titans in the city's festivities.

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A day of shared humanity at SOS village

Tyrone Jerome Marave

"LET'S CONTINUE giving back, not because we have much, but because we understand how much it matters." These were the words shared by CBS President Sherwin Joy Latorre as she reflected on the Outreach Program held at the SOS Village, Banay-Banay on September 20, 2025.

From the moment the Central Board of Students (CBS) arrived, the excitement of the children were undeniable. Eager faces and bright smiles greeted the group as the kids lined up for the activities especially prepared for them. Their enthusiasm and warmth instantly touched the hearts of everyone present.

The program opened with the CBS formally introducing themselves and expressing their gratitude for the warm welcome

they received from the village. This was followed by a series of games that filled the room with laughter and joy. "The room was filled with laughter and joy," shared Jela Faith Samonte, CBS Secretary. After the lively activities, the CBS and the children gathered to share a meal, an experience that went beyond food, creating memories and bonds that would be cherished long after the day ended. "We really enjoyed and had fun!" shared one of the children from the village. The program concluded with words of gratitude from the CBS President. "We came here to help others, but we leave realizing they have helped us grow even more," she expressed.

For CBS, the outreach was more than just a program, it was a meaningful experience that sparked reflection and personal growth.



SOS VILLAGE PAGE 2

Nutrition month kicks off at TNS

Marian Fredelwyn Toh

STUDENTS of The Nazareth School (TNS) celebrated Nutrition Month (TNS) celebrated Nutrition Month highlighting the importance of proper nutrition and healthy lifestyles, July 30.

This year, the celebration focused on the theme, "Food and Nutrition Security, Let's Make It a Priority! Sufficient Food is Our Right!"

The school prepared a structured program with activities that students followed throughout the month of July.

Planned events included competitions like zumba, although some were unfortunately canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Students participated in preparing a feast filled with nutritious foods, while coordinating

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TNS celebrates Sci-Math month

Sophia Gabrielle Mabilangan

SEPTEMBER was jam packed with activities to celebrate the SciMath event. The zumbamath, amazing race, & science exhibition were ways for TNS to let the students showcase their multiple intelligences (MI). This month is a way for them to prosper their knowledge & help them explore various activities that include Math and Science. The event wouldn't be possible without the SHS students (STEM) who facilitated the whole thing.

SCI-MATH PAGE 2

Blue Titans' Day Full of Adventure

Seth Amila Robel

EXCITEMENT filled the air as the Blue Titans hit the road on a fun-filled educational field trip on October 8, 2025. From observing the unique animals of Avilon Zoo, to enjoying the captivating Theater play and the thrilling rides at Enchanted Kingdom.

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The Digital Solution to Illiteracy: KHAN ACADEMY

Lindsay Maoboo

As many students continue to struggle with literacy, finding effective ways to support learning has become more urgent than ever. Reading and comprehension are not just school skills. They are the foundation of learning itself. Yet for many Filipino students, these basic abilities remain difficult to develop. Because of this, educational platforms like Khan Academy Philippines are becoming more important in today's learning environment. Through its free and accessible resources, it offers students another chance to catch up, improve, and recover from learning loss.

The growing literacy problem in the country reflects a deeper issue in the education system. Many learners still have difficulty reading with understanding, and this continues to affect their performance not only in English but also in other subjects. When students are unable to fully understand written instructions, lesson texts, and assessment questions, learning becomes more difficult and frustrating. In many cases, poor literacy also affects a student's confidence, participation, and willingness to engage in classroom activities. This shows that literacy is not just about reading words on a page. It is about understanding meaning, thinking critically, and being able to apply knowledge in real situations. Because of this, learning recovery programs should never be treated as optional or secondary. They are necessary. Students need stronger academic support, more guided practice, and more opportunities to build the reading and comprehension skills that are essential to their success inside and outside the classroom.

KHAN ACADEMY PAGE 4



Rising to the Tuktok: Blue Titans Soared at KAT 2025

James Terenz M. Hubayan

THE BLUE TITANS showcased their academic excellence and competitive spirit during the “Karibok ang Tuktok (KAT) 2025”, held on November 15-16, 2025, at the Philippine Science High School CALABARZON Region Campus in Batangas City.

The two-day event gathered talented students from various institutions to compete in academic categories including impromptu speaking, essay writing, daglian talumpati, and sanaysay writing. Demonstrating confidence, preparation, and determination, the Blue Titans rose to the challenge and secured commendable rankings in both the Junior High School (JHS) and Senior High School (SHS) divisions.

Leading the roster of achievers, Trish Daphne Ymari Lescano placed Rank 5 in JHS Impromptu Speaking, while SingKwenta Team A also secured Rank 5. Kaye Samuelle Rodelas earned Rank 8 in JHS Essay Writing, and Tamara Gaelle Maldonado achieved Rank 9 in JHS Dagliang Talumpati.

In the SHS category, Marco Sam Nolasco ranked 10th in Pagsulat ng Sanaysay, Sherlito Labrador followed with Rank 15 in SHS Dagliang Talumpati, while Danica Andrei Magpantay placed Rank 17 in SHS Essay Writing. SingKwenta Team B secured Rank 18, and Zsofia Marigeld Loro earned Rank 19 in JHS Pagsulat ng Sanaysay.

The team's success was made possible through the dedicated guidance of their coaches: Denver Patnongon, Jobhel Cuenca, Adona Javier, Julius Reyes, Patricia Villaruel, Jean Lyn Rose Rezaba, and John Kenneth Malaluan. Their mentorship and unwavering support played a vital role in honing the students' skills and preparing them for the competition.

The Blue Titans' performance at KAT 2025 reflects their steadfast commitment to academic excellence and their determination to rise to every challenge. As they continue to represent the school with pride, the community celebrates their achievements and anticipates even greater successes in the future.



BLUE TITANS' DSPC JOURNEY: DISCOVERING SKILLS, POWER, AND CONFIDENCE

Lindsay N. Magboo

THE DIVISION Schools Press Conference is more than just a competition. It is a place where student journalists are able to sharpen their craft, amplify their voices, and proudly represent their schools. Last November 13, 2025, the Blue Titans of The Nazareth School proudly stepped up and joined the competition not only carrying pen and paper, but also their determination and eagerness to win.

Many members of the Blue Titans joined the competition, representing The Nazareth Gazette in a variety of categories. There were column writers, editorial writers, feature writers, sports writers, and even broadcasting teams. Each member brought their own skills and creativity to the contest, working hard to make their school proud. Their efforts were recognized as Breanne Josselle Coronel placed 4th in Pagsulat ng Kolum, and Trish Daphne Ymari Lescano placed 7th in Feature Writing, showing that dedication and perseverance truly pay off.



The journey to DSPC was not without its challenges. The members of The Nazareth Gazette spent weeks preparing, researching, and honing their writing and broadcasting skills. Their days were filled with drafting papers, following current events, reading articles, and exercising their creativity as they practiced and improved their craft before the competition. Juggling schoolwork and training was not easy, as many of them were pulled out from classes and spent most of their days in their training room. Surrounded by the tools and tasks of student journalists, they pushed themselves to meet deadlines, practice their presentations, and perfect their pieces. Their determination to win and represent their school drove them through the long hours and tiring days, showing their commitment to both their craft and their team.

When the day of DSPC finally arrived, the Blue Titans felt a mix of excitement and nervousness. Even with the nerves, they knew the most important thing was the experience they gained. They learned new skills, built confidence, and grew as writers and teammates. Each member had their own way of showing their talents, and with or without medals, they were already winners. For the members of The Nazareth Gazette, DSPC was more than just a competition, but was a chance to learn, work together, and grow in ways they will remember for a long time.

A Festive Month; Reading Month

Sophia Mabilangan

With November arriving, the Blue Titans are ready to embrace the festive spirit of the reading month. A week filled with little activities for the students to showcase their love for books. From interactive read alouds, to fable watching, and even dressing up, the students are definitely in for an eventful week. This month is too show appreciation for the chapters that have shaped the individuals they are today.

Considering the weather conditions this month, the best thing to do is to pop open a book and dress in the most coziest outfit, exactly what the Blue Titans did. They went to school dressed in their pajamas ready to listen to a read aloud. An engaging activity, as their classmate reads and interacts with fellow students, a good way to enhance their verbal linguistic skills.

But the celebration did not stop there, in the next week, each class was able to reminisce about their love for fables. As they had a fable watching activity dressed in animal themed costumes. Bonding with their fellow classmates by discussing the fascinating aspects that they were able to watch.



Aside from fables, the students were also able to match with a book buddy and dress up as their favorite book character. Some got creative with their representation of the characters showcasing their love for the book. There were many genres, such as Disney princesses, wizards, detectives, even pirates and fairies. A great way to connect through the students' love for books.

In the last week of the reading month, the students brought books for the donation drive. Sharing the wisdom and entertainment that the books once gave them, so that others are able to create bonds and memories with it too. As they say, sharing is one of the best gifts you can give, an excellent way to end the month.



SCI-MATH

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With handling such an event there are many responsibilities and duties that come with it. "Simply I have gained not just confidence but also different friends during the interacting activities." - Juan Buena.

The event was a way to teach the students to trust and believe in themselves, with this they were able to branch out and even create friendships. "It was a bit stressful since there were unexpected circumstances but overall, it was still fun." - Lindsay Magboo. Even through the difficulties that they had to endure to make this event successful, they were able to overcome it and make the best out of what they have.

"In handling the event it was both stressful and fun, with so many tasks given and also managing the event made it hard but with the people participating it has given lots of joys for us." - Juan Valentino Buena.

"I've learned a lot especially in the exhibit wherein the STEM students explained various things. I also enjoyed facilitating the quiz bee since I've witnessed how competitive and intelligent the students are." - Lindsay Magboo.

Aside from those who facilitated the event, the SHS students were also able to participate in them too. "Yup, I was able to recall the different lessons and topics that I learned last year, such as the solar system and the organs of our body." - Althea Lubrica. The students were challenged to remember what they have learned in their past lessons, making the activities fun & interactive. Aside from these, they were also assigned to create a "SciMath Zumba Dance" that was also showcased before the event. "Another memory with my ABM classmates, so many things happened during practice, tiring but worth it!" - Althea Lubrica. Through this event bonds were made, they were able to make each passing time filled with laughter and smiles.

Definitely a good way to celebrate the SciMath month, all thanks to the facilitators, the SHS students (STEM) for all the efforts to make sure this event was memorable for everyone, and the other students who participated in the activities that they prepared. Memories and friendships were created, the students' knowledge prospered, the Blue Titans ended September with a bang.



Camping: Learning Beyond the Four Walls

Jixi Justimbaste

GRADE 12 students of The Nazareth School (TNS) conducted an overnight camping activity titled "Camp Under the Stars" as part of their Physical Education 3rd Quarterly Performance Task on November 28-29, 2025, held within the school premises.

This year's activity focused on developing teamwork, leadership, cooperation, and physical fitness through hands-on and experiential learning beyond the four walls of the classroom.

The program began in the afternoon with students preparing their tents and organizing their designated camping areas, promoting coordination, patience, and effective communication among group members. Each group also created their own flags to strengthen identity, unity, and creativity.

Planned activities included the exciting Battle of Yell and a storytelling session, where students showcased their creativity, imagination, public speaking skills, school spirit, and camaraderie. As night fell, students prepared and cooked their own meals, demonstrating resourcefulness, patience, and cooperation despite the challenges of starting a fire and organizing their tasks.

One of the most meaningful moments of the event was the campfire activity, where students shared personal reflections and lessons learned, strengthening friendships and creating lasting memories under the stars.

Through this overnight camping experience, TNS aims to strengthen camaraderie, responsibility, leadership, and appreciation for teamwork, proving that meaningful learning can truly happen beyond the classroom setting.

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their shirt colors to represent various fruits and vegetables. Additional activities promoted health awareness, teaching students the importance of staying active and making smart lifestyle choices.

Nutrition Month reminds students to care for their bodies and wellbeing, contributing positively to their education and daily habits.

Through these events, TNS aims to increase knowledge and awareness about nutrition, encouraging students to become responsible consumers of food and other resources.

LIPA FIESTA FROM PAGE 1

On January 13, the spotlight turned to "Rhythm Revolution: Dance Competition," one of the fiesta's highlight events. The Nazareth Dance Crew (NDC), composed of senior high school students, energized the stage with a dynamic and well-executed routine. Given only a week to prepare, the group performed with confidence and precision, impressing both judges and spectators. Out of eight participating schools, NDC earned a spot in the Top 4, while fellow Blue Titans filled the venue with enthusiastic cheers and unwavering support.

The series of competitions concluded on January 14 with the Sabayang Pagbigkas event, featuring Junior High School students of The Nazareth School. Their piece, "San Sebastian: Gabay sa Pagkakaiba at Pananampalataya ng mga Lipeño," honored the city's patron saint, San Sebastian. Through synchronized delivery, expressive gestures, and symbolic costumes representing various sectors of the community, the performers conveyed unity, faith, and shared identity among Lipeños. Competing alongside 12 schools, the group delivered a meaningful and admirable presentation.

Through their achievements in chorale, dance, and sabayang pagbigkas, the Blue Titans exemplified talent, dedication, and pride in representing both their school and the city. The 2026 Lipa City Fiesta became not only a celebration of culture and faith but also a testament to the students' commitment to excellence in the arts.





A diverse fusion of cultures and intelligences

Laurize Quinto
Albeah Jaye Villanueva

ON OCTOBER 24, 2025, the Nazareth School of Lipsa City, Inc. celebrated United Nations Day with a meaningful blend of fun and learning. Students of all ages participated in activities that honored peace, justice, and global unity. The campus came alive as Lower and Upper School students wore colorful native costumes representing different United Nations member countries. From African prints to Japanese kimonos, each outfit reflected rich cultural stories. As they explored decorated classrooms filled with flags, maps, and creative displays, students enjoyed sweet treats while learning about global issues such as environmental conservation and cultural diversity, guided by their teachers.

At the same time, Junior and Senior High School students showcased their talents through a Choral Reading competition. Each class delivered unique and powerful performances, combining creativity, emotion, and expression. In the Junior High School category, Grade 10 Philosophy emerged as the winner with their meaningful interpretation of unity. Meanwhile, Grade 11 ABM/STEM stood out in the Senior High School category, presenting a simple yet impactful performance focused on global justice. Their victories reflected both effort and a deep understanding of the theme.

As the celebration continued, the school also held its Multiple Intelligence (M.I.) Day, inspired by Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. This event emphasized the school's commitment to holistic education by recognizing that students have diverse strengths beyond traditional academics. The campus was filled with excitement as students, teachers, and staff came together to celebrate creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression.

Different intelligence-based stations were set up to highlight various skills such as logical-mathematical, linguistic, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, spatial, and naturalistic intelligences. In the spatial station, students observed artworks made by different grade levels and shared their thoughts through sticky note comments. By the end of the activity, the area was filled with colorful notes showing appreciation and insight.

Other stations offered interactive experiences, including games for problem-solving, singing for musical expression, and movement-based activities for bodily-kinesthetic intelligence. Students also participated in teamwork-focused tasks that strengthened their interpersonal skills. Each station provided an opportunity for learners to explore their strengths while trying new activities.

Throughout both events, student participation was enthusiastic and cooperative. Learners moved from one activity to another with curiosity and excitement, filling the campus with laughter, music, and meaningful interactions.

The United Nations Day and Multiple Intelligence Day celebrations highlighted the Nazareth School of Lipsa City, Inc.'s dedication to developing globally aware, well-rounded students. These events served as a reminder of the importance of unity, diversity, and recognizing the many ways individuals can learn, grow, and contribute to a better world.



Blue Titans celebrate Buwan ng Wika 2025

Carmela Garbo

LAST AUGUST 29, 2025, The Nazareth School held its Buwan ng Wika event. The celebration was centered on the theme "Paglinang sa Filipino at Katutubong Wika: Makasaysayan sa Pagkakaisa ng Bansa." The school planned the activity to let students, teachers, and parents honor Filipino language culture and ensure to remember our national history.

Each grade level followed a set schedule for the day and every group wore a specific color. The day included several traditional activities: Pasalubong Pinoy, Harana sa Nayon, and Palaring Pinoy. The Pasalubong Pinoy booths offered local treats and goods. There were excellent performances by the Junior High School and Senior High School students

In Harana sa Nayon, we were entertained by The Nazareth band led by those in the music club. Parents took part in the events and had a moment with their child. We were supposed to play Palaring lahi games outside, but the rain came so the game did not end that day, it continued the following days. The students enjoyed the games and performances.

The celebration ended with all participants taking home treats and items from the Pasalubong Pinoy booths. The Blue Titans were happy and excited to share what they had experienced and brought back to their families. Teachers noted that students gained a deeper appreciation for their culture and language, and understood why it matters that we do not forget our history.

Blue Ribbon Day: TNS in celebration of mental health awareness

Danica Andrei Magpantay

Laughter, music, and meaningful conversations filled the campus of Nazareth School on October 27, 2025, as students and teachers came together to celebrate Blue Ribbon Day in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. The event highlighted the importance of emotional well-being while creating a safe and welcoming space for students to connect, reflect, and grow.

The celebration featured a variety of activities designed to uplift and engage students. A lively group quiz best tested teamwork and knowledge, while a colorful photobooth area allowed friends to capture joyful memories together. One of the most heartfelt parts of the event was the affirmation wall,

where students freely shared messages of encouragement and understanding.

Among the messages posted was a simple yet powerful reminder: "It's okay not to be okay." Shared by one student, the affirmation resonated deeply with many, emphasizing that no one is expected to be perfect and that struggles are a natural part of life.

Adding to the excitement was a mini concert performed by students from the University of the Philippines, whose music energized the crowd and brought the community together through art and expression. The performance highlighted how creativity can be a meaningful outlet for emotions and stress.

SHS students showcase elegance at Dance Night 2026

Marian Fredelyn Toh

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL students of The Nazareth School dazzled in elegance as they gathered for Dance Night 2026 with the theme "A Night in Monte Carlo," held on March 13.

The event brought together Grade 11 and Grade 12 students for an evening filled with music, laughter, and memorable moments.

One of the highlights of the night was the interactive game "Nag-___ ako eh, ikaw?" which sparked fun and candid exchanges among participants.

As the night progressed, students took to the dance floor for both slow dances and upbeat party music, creating an atmosphere of celebration and connection.

Recognition was also given to standout individuals during the awarding segment, celebrating confidence, style, and charisma.

Titles such as King of the Night, Queen of the Night, Star of the Night, Face of the Night, Best Dressed, Dancing Queen, and Dancing King were awarded to deserving students.

Adding an emotional touch, Grade 12 students were surprised with a heartfelt video message from their current and former advisers, reflecting on their journey.

Dance Night 2026 not only showcased glamour and festivity but also strengthened bonds among students, making it a night to remember.

Stepping into the SHS Blue Titans' dream college

Chloe Margarette Ooon

THE NAZARETH Senior High School students had an A.S.C.E.N.D 2026: College and Career Orientation last January 23, 2026. Different colleges and universities were invited to TNS to give students a firsthand look at their programs, scholarships, and career opportunities. Each school was given time to represent their institution, allowing students to explore their options before entering higher education.

The participating schools included Faith Colleges, NU Lipa, De La Salle Lipa, Lyceum of the Philippines University, OZ Pacific Group Education & Migration, University of Batangas, University of the East, Lipa City Colleges, José Rizal University, Far Eastern University, and MOL Magsaysay Marine Academy. This wide range of institutions provided students with diverse options, from local universities to specialized academies and international pathways. Representatives discussed their departments, courses, and scholarship programs, giving students a comprehensive overview of potential college options.

Aside from informative talks, students also enjoyed interactive activities during the career orientation. There were raffles, giveaways, merchandise, and informative flyers, making it easier for students to access essential information about each school. These initiatives encouraged students to actively engage, ask questions, and clarify their career paths.

Events like A.S.C.E.N.D 2026 aim to empower students to make informed decisions about their future, guiding them closer to their academic and career dreams. With the right information and guidance, every Blue Titan can take confident steps toward their chosen college and career path.

SOS VILLAGE FROM PAGE 1

"It really showed a different side to us and gave us many realizations. It taught us to be more grateful for our lives," stated Daphne Lescano, CBS Committee on Arts. What stood out most was how a few hours of companionship could create such a powerful and lasting impact.

Kindness has the power to bridge lives from different walks of life. More than an outreach program, the day became a celebration of compassion, community, and shared humanity. As the CBS looks forward to future opportunities to serve, the memories from SOS Village remain a beautiful reminder that even the smallest efforts can bring warmth, hope, and light to those who need it most.

Blue Titans shine in FAITH Astra Battle

Marian Fredelyn Toh

Blue Titans showcased their talent and determination as they joined other skilled participants in various categories at the FAITH Colleges as students gathered for the much-anticipated Faith Astra Battle Season 13 on February 7.

Representing TNS, selected Blue Titans demonstrated their skills as they compete with other talented students.

The competition highlighted the students' creativity, teamwork, and passion, making it a memorable experience for both contestants and spectators.

Among the events, the storytelling category stood out as the chosen storytellers secured the championship title through their compelling and well-delivered performance.

Their success continued in the Mobile Legends tournament, where they demonstrated strong coordination and strategy to earn the 2nd runner-up position.

Despite facing tough competition, the Blue Titans proved their resilience and versatility across different fields.

Their achievements brought pride to their school and served as an inspiration for future participants to strive for excellence in upcoming Faith Astra Battle events.

BLUE TITANS' DAY FROM PAGE 1

This Enchanted adventure began at Avilon zoo where students saw animals of all kinds. From the tall giraffes, to the small and cute capybaras and rabbits, and including all the different kinds of reptiles, felines, and birds. The students, teachers, and parents alike enjoyed observing them all and learned many things about these interesting animals. After the zoo, the LGS department jumped into the rabbit hole and enjoyed the theater play at Eastwood City where there was colorful scenery, magical moments that brought life and joy to the audience. Meanwhile, the JHS and SHS department were able to enjoy the fun and extreme rides at Enchanted Kingdom. From the drop tower, rio grande, air race, anchors away, disko magic and more thrilling rides at the amusement park—they all enjoyed every single bit and ended the night with a colorful and amazing display of fireworks.

The day was filled with smiles and shared laughter from everyone as they explored and learned new things outside of the school. This trip was indeed an enchanting experience filled with unforgettable memories for the Blue Titans which they will for sure never forget and will remember as years pass.



FROM STRANDS TO STANDARDS:

A New SHS Direction

*Sophia Gabrielle Mabilangan
Tyronne Jerome Marave*

As a new school year is about to begin, the students are bound to experience the change in the school's curriculum. From having four major academic tracks, namely STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), ABM (Accountancy, Business, Management), HUMSS (Humanities and Social Sciences), GAS (General Academic Strand), to only having two tracks, which are Academics (Math, Science, History, and Society), Technical-Vocational-Livelihood also known as "TVL" (Home Economics, Agri- Fishery Arts, Industrial Arts, and Information & Communications Technology). A sudden shift in an important factor that may affect the student's future occupation. Now, with the new SHS curriculum removing strands altogether, education in the Philippines stands at the edge of a bold question: What happens when students are no longer defined by categories? The answer might be freedom. The strand system was created with good intentions. But reality proved more complicated. At sixteen, many students were asked to decide the trajectory of their future in incomplete self-knowledge and limited exposure. Some chose strands based on peer pressure, parental expectations, or school availability rather than genuine passion. This new change acknowledges a simple but powerful truth: Many teenagers are still discovering their strengths, yet the old system demanded certainty. The best way to help young people to find their path is to stop drawing boundaries around it.

At first glance, this shift may seem unsettling. For years, students were taught to decide early. Are you STEM? Are you HUMSS? Or rather GAS? The new system challenges that mindset. Making students use their critical thinking skills to determine their future. Implementing a new curriculum with no grasp of what could possibly happen is a huge risk to take, as the development of the country relies on their future.

Meanwhile, some may complain that having a drastic shift in the student's education system may affect them negatively. What about those who have already chosen what strand to take? Most will have a hard time choosing between those two new tracks, although they made it more simple. It is not as organized as it was before. Students have to think over their decisions, making sure the track they are going to take will surely help them with their future career. Aside from the mixed reactions from the students, others complained about the sudden change. Reasoning that the Philippines' educational system is already behind, since K-12 was only implemented in 2013, the decision to change it again may have an outcome that they do not expect. Stating that the new curriculum may cause more problems than solutions in the country's educational system and even may affect the student's relationship with school and their dreams.

With all the negative and positive impacts of the "two-tracks", the educational growth is still uncertain. It may benefit those who are still undecided but it may be an inconvenience for those who have set plans about their future. This may be the change that the Philippines' educational system needs, to have a boost and be recognized for its achievements. Or the change that may vitiate the Philippines' development in the educational field. Even with all the pros and cons of the new implementation in the education system, we all root for a better and brighter future for every student.

Mass Production of Students: Is the Tri-Semester System the Answer?

Carmela MAe Garbo

Education is meant to shape individuals, not simply produce graduates. With the introduction of the tri-semester school calendar, many believe it can improve efficiency and help students finish faster. But this change also raises an important question: are schools starting to treat students like products on an assembly line?

On one hand, the tri-semester system can offer flexibility. Students can take fewer subjects per term, which may help them focus better. It can also reduce long breaks that sometimes disrupt learning. In theory, this system aims to make education more organized and productive. However, there are concerns. Shorter terms mean a faster pace, and not all students can keep up. Instead of truly understanding lessons, some may just aim to pass requirements. This creates a risk where learning becomes rushed, and students feel pressured rather than supported. In my opinion, the tri-semester system is not entirely bad, but it should be handled carefully. Education should not feel like mass production. Students learn at different speeds, and schools must still prioritize quality learning over quick results.

To conclude, a good education system is not about how fast students finish, but how well they grow and understand the world around them. Education should shape people, not just produce graduates. When schools focus more on speed than essence, they risk losing what truly matters.



Blue Titans share their thoughts about the shift to a tri-semester period.

"Sa aking palagay dapat lamang na implement ang tri semesters sa high school upang mabigyan ng sapat na oras ng pagpapahinga ang mga mag aaral. Ngayon, buong araw ang inalalana ng mga mag aaral sa kanilang pag aaral na kung minsan o madalas ay isangroon pang mga take home activities at assignments na sa bahay naman gagawin. Halos buong araw ng isang pilipinon pag aaral ay nakalana sa pag aaral [...] lalo lamang na burnout ang mga estudyante at kung minsan ay namomotivate pa sila sa mga negative mindsets [...] Pansin ko na na ang highschools ngayon ay nka tuon sa memorization rather than hands on learning kaya madalas ang mga natutulunan ay nakaalamutan lamang din after a few weeks. Sa pag implement ng trisem ay masari din magagap ang mga subjects, which I prefer, upang mas maing exact ang need aralin at hindi magkukulang o lumabas ang aralin nila sa loob ng lalong semester. Maaring mabawasan din ang mga nasabi kong rason kanina. Ngunit it comes with a problem, dahil sa matamang ay itataas din at mas lalong dadami ang kinakailangang bayaran sa school. Maraming mga estudyante ang maaring mawalan ng oportunidad makapag aral dahil hindi lahat ay afford ito."



Danica Andrei Magpantay
Grade 12 - C Sincerity

Para sa akin po, may mga benefits ang pag-impliment ng tri-semester, pero sa current situation ng student ngayon mas nakitka ko na makakaasapko po ito sa kanila i a negative way especially kung semester ang kanilang curriculum ngayon. Kung maimplement ng tri-semester, maaring manibago ang students, mas bilis ang pacing ng lessons at maaring dumami ang sabay-sabay na gawain, mas mahihirapan mag catch up ang mga students sa lessons if ever na hindi sila makaattend ng klase (e.g. student-athletes, journalist, participants of outside school competition, valid reason of absence, etc.). lalo na para sa senior high school students na may research subjects, kailangan nila ng sapat na oras para makagawa ng maayos na output, kaya kung kulang ang time, posibleng mas ma-pressure, ma-burnout at makakaasapko sa kanilang academic performance. maikli lang din ang panahon ng bakasyon at pagpapahinga nila. kung maimplement man ito, mas better kung sa bagong curriculum ng senior high school.

Mikaela Joy Mariano
11- Humility



I would disagree with implementing tri-semester, because while they aim to organize school calendars, they can actually make things harder for students. Tri-semester also mean a faster pace, which could potentially disrupt their mental and physical health. With three terms in a year, it often means more exam periods and tighter timelines. In my opinion, it can make a school year feel rushed for many. Instead of fully absorbing a topic, students may feel pressured to constantly prepare for the next test. This creates a cycle where learning becomes more about keeping up with deadlines rather than building a deep, and continuous understanding.



Ashia Drew Garcia
Grade 9 - Empathy

In my opinion, implementing a tri-semester system in high school raises more questions than answers. While change is often marketed as "progress," we have to stop and ask: Will it really improve our learning experience, or just add more stress? The proposal to shift our academic calendar into three shorter, faster terms sounds efficient on paper, but the reality inside the classroom is often very different. High school is already a pressure cooker of deadlines, extracurriculars, and personal growth; adding a third round of finals and even faster pacing could turn our education into a frantic race to the finish line rather than a journey of discovery.

Ann Therese MangobosGrade



The implementation of a trimester system in high school presents both advantages and disadvantages. It can help reduce students' workload by allowing them to focus on fewer subjects per term, which may lead to more effective learning. Additionally, it can enable students to complete requirements more efficiently and potentially graduate earlier. However, the faster pace may require quick adaptation and could increase stress or lead to burnout. Despite these challenges, I support this system because I believe students can adapt, especially if it is implemented in a well-organized and structured manner.



Jela Faith Samonte
Grade 10 - Philosophy

THE PRICE OF NUTRITION

Jiji Justimbaste
Editor-In-Chief

For many students, a trip to the school canteen is no longer just about satisfying hunger—it has become a daily calculation of whether they can even afford to eat. Rising food prices in school canteens are becoming a growing concern that schools can no longer afford to overlook.

At the Nazareth School, students frequently express frustration over the cost of canteen food. Rice meals can reach up to 90 pesos, while snacks such as sandwiches, fries, and turon typically range from 30 to 60 pesos. As a result, many students turn to cheaper alternatives like chips and sugary snacks, which cost between 15 and 30 pesos but offer little nutritional value.

While these prices may be influenced by unavoidable expenses such as rent, staff salaries, and utility costs, the real issue lies in how they impact students' health and well-being. When nutritious meals become too expensive, students are left with limited—and often unhealthy—choices. To address this concern, the canteen could introduce more

student-friendly meal options priced between 50 and 70 pesos. This could be achieved by adjusting portion sizes while still maintaining balanced nutrition. In doing so, students would not have to compromise their health just to stay within budget.

A Grade 12 STEM student shared, "Some items are reasonable, like rice meals that cost around 80 pesos or more. However, items like bottled water and bread seem overpriced compared to outside stores. I understand there are additional expenses, but I hope they can consider making prices more student-friendly."

Ensuring that students have access to affordable and nutritious food is not just a matter of convenience—it is a responsibility. Schools must recognize that a well-nourished student is better equipped to learn, participate, and succeed. It is time for canteens to strike a balance between sustainability and affordability, because no student should have to choose between hunger and health.

FROM PAGE 1

One promising effort in addressing this concern is Khan Academy Philippines, which continues to reach more students and teachers across the country. According to the Department of Education, the platform has already served more than 711,000 learners and over 12,000 teachers in public schools. This is a strong sign that digital learning tools can make a meaningful difference when they are used properly and consistently. What makes Khan Academy Philippines valuable is its ability to provide students with lessons they can access anytime, allowing them to review topics at their own pace and revisit concepts they may not have fully understood in class. This kind of flexibility is especially helpful for learners who need more time and support to strengthen their skills, instead of being left behind; students are given another opportunity to learn in a way that is more comfortable and manageable for them. At the same time, the platform also helps teachers by offering educational resources, instructional tools, and training that can improve the way lessons are delivered. With the right implementation, platforms like this can help bridge learning gaps, support struggling readers, and create a more inclusive and effective learning environment for all. Literacy remains a serious challenge in the Philippines, but it is not a hopeless one. Students cannot be expected to perform well if they are left struggling with the most basic skills in reading and understanding. Khan Academy Philippines may not solve the problem overnight, but it is a practical and meaningful step forward. With continued support from schools, teachers, and the government, it can help more learners overcome academic difficulties and build stronger foundations for the future. At a time when education demands both action and innovation, programs like this should not only be welcomed, but fully supported.

The Future of Engineering Education Building Minds for a Changing World

Sherwin Joy Latorre

Engineering has always stood at the intersection of imagination and reality. From bridges that defy gravity to algorithms that shape our digital lives, engineers have long been the architects of progress. But as the world rapidly evolves—driven by artificial intelligence, climate urgency, and global connectivity—the way we educate future engineers must evolve just as boldly.

The traditional engineering classroom, once defined by rigid lectures and standardized problem sets, is undergoing a transformation. Today's challenges are no longer confined to neat equations with single correct answers. Instead, they are complex, interdisciplinary, and deeply human. Climate change, smart cities, renewable energy systems, and ethical AI demand engineers who are not only technically proficient but also adaptable, creative, and socially aware.

One of the most significant shifts in engineering education is the move toward experiential learning. Laboratories are no longer confined to physical spaces; virtual simulations, remote labs, and digital twins now allow students to experiment beyond geographical limitations. Project-based learning is becoming central, where students tackle real-world problems, often in collaboration with industry partners. This hands-on approach cultivates not just technical skills but also teamwork, communication, and critical thinking—competencies that are essential in today's workforce.

Equally transformative is the integration of emerging technologies into the curriculum. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science are no longer niche topics—they are becoming foundational. Future engineers must understand not only how to use these tools but also how they work and how they impact society. Coding is becoming as fundamental as calculus, while cybersecurity and systems thinking are rising in importance.

However, the future of engineering education is not just about adding new subjects—it is about changing perspectives. There is a growing recognition that engineers must be ethical decision-makers. Questions about sustainability, privacy, equity, and safety are no longer optional discussions; they are central to engineering practice. Educational institutions are beginning to embed ethics, social responsibility, and environmental consciousness into their programs, preparing students to consider the broader consequences of their work.

Another important trend is that of personalization. With the help of adaptive learning technology, education is becoming more personalized to fit individual students' needs and interests. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach to education, students can learn at their own pace and concentrate more in depth in areas in which they have special interest or need more practice.

Globalization is also affecting engineering education. This is because, in our increasingly interconnected world, borders are now considered normal rather than an exception. This means that engineering students are increasingly working in a multicultural team, even if they are working virtually. This helps in coming up with more inclusive solutions.

However, despite these advancements, many challenges persist. In particular, the access to quality engineering education is not yet evenly distributed, especially in developing countries. Therefore, to bridge the gap, there is a need to invest in infrastructure, technology, as well as teachers. Furthermore, the teachers themselves will have to keep updating their knowledge, including the latest technologies, yet remaining true to the engineering ethos.

Ultimately, the future of engineering education is not just about producing better engineers—it is about shaping individuals who can navigate uncertainty, think holistically, and act responsibly. The engineers of tomorrow will not only build machines and systems; they will help define the kind of world we live in.

As we look ahead, the field of engineering education must remain as dynamic as the field it serves. By embracing innovation while staying grounded in purpose, it can empower the next generation to turn today's challenges into tomorrow's breakthroughs.

OPLAN KALUPITAN: HUWAG NATING HAYAAN!

Jayrex Veyron Llarena

Sadyang masagana ang Pilipinas sa kayamanang dagat, pinalilibutan tayo nito. Ngunit hindi na natin ilo nagagamit nang maayos. Bakit? Dahil may humahadlang at sumasalakay sa atin, na hindi lumalaban nang patas o sumusunod sa batas! Ito ang mga barko ng *Chinese Coast Guard (CCG)*, na patuloy na lumalagay sa mga tubig natin. Kung hindi tayo ang magpoprotekta sa sarili natin, sino?

Matagal na nating hawak ang West Philippine Sea. Iyon ay bahagi ng *Exclusive Economic Zone* ng Pilipinas, o *EEZ*. Ito ang nagsasabi kung hanggang saan tayo may karapatan sa kayamanan ng dagat. Dahil mahalaga ang dagat na ito, iginiit ng Tsina na pag-aari nila ito. Kasama na rin dito ang mga dagat ng ibang bansa, tulad ng Vietnam. Bakit? Ito raw ay bahagi ng kanilang *Nine-Dash Line* (Pahugis-U), na sumasapaw sa *EEZ* ng ibang bansa. Noong 1947 pa nila inaangkin ang West Philippine Sea, kahit na tayo pa rin ang may karapatan dito. Buti na lang na ang iginiit nilang *Nine-Dash Line* ay hindi makatarungan ayon sa *Permanent Court of Arbitration*, o *PCA*. Walang basehan ang Tsina sa aksyon nila, ngunit hindi nila ito nirerespeto. Kahit malinaw na sila ang nasa kamalian, patuloy pa rin ang kanilang paglayag sa ating karagatan.



Cartoon by Anela Joreen Perada

Ang ating mga mangingisda rin ay napapabalita na. Ang mga bangka nila ay inaatake ng mga matinding kanyon ng tubig. Ngunit hindi lamang ito mga ordinaryong kanyon ng tubig, kundi mga malalakas, at may kakayanang sumira sa mga maliit na barko, tulad ng sa mga

mangingisda natin. Dahil dito ay napipiliang umalis ang ating mga mangingisda sa lugar na kanilang pinagkukuhanan ng hanapbuhay, na nagdudulot ng kahirapan sa kanilang pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay. Hindi lamang bangka nila ang pinunpuntarya ng Tsina; Ang

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) din. Kinokompronta ng *PCG* ang mga *CCG*, na minsa'y bumabangga sa mga bangka't barko natin. Ang mga aksyong ito'y humahadlang sa ating mga operatiba na gawin ang kanilang *resupply mission* sa mga isla't barko natin, tulad ng *Scarborough Shoal*, *Kalayaan Island Group*, at ang *BRP Sierra Madre*. Ilang kilometro lamang ang layo ng mga islang ito sa Palawan at Luzon. Ganiyang kalapit ang mga barko ng Tsina sa atin!

Pero hindi dapat tayo tumayo lamang at hayaan itong mangyari. Alam ito ng gobyerno, at ipinaglalaban ng Malacañang ang karapatan at proteksyon ng Pilipinas mula sa mapangahas na *CCG*. Ito'y sa pamamagitan ng mga diplomatikong protesta, mas maraming pagpapatrol sa tubigan natin, at iba pa. Kung hahayaan lang natin ang Tsina na gawin ang nais nila sa ating dagat, mas lalala lamangang panghahasok nila. At balang araw, tayo na ang kanilang isusunod.

Kaya, mga kababayan. Sumali na tayo sa laban ng bansa natin para sa ating soberanya- ating kinabukasan. Huwag na natin hayaang mawala sa atin ang karagatang Pinoy.

Between Power and Partnership: The U.S. and the United Nations Debate

Chloe Margarette Ocon

In recent years, discussions about whether the United States should reduce funding to or even cut ties with the United Nations (UN) have resurfaced in political debates. While the U.S. has not completely withdrawn from the UN, there have been moments of serious tension that have raised questions about America's commitment to the international organization.

The U.S. continues to reassess its relationship with the UN, as some policymakers argue that the financial burden placed on the country is unfair. Although the United States is one of the UN's largest financial contributors, critics believe that other nations should contribute more. These concerns have created divisions and strengthened arguments among some groups calling for a complete withdrawal from the organization.

Several factors contribute to this debate, including policy disagreements, concerns about the UN's effectiveness, and allegations of political bias. Critics argue that the UN can be slow to respond to global crises and is sometimes influenced by the political agendas of its member states. Additionally, some claim that decision-making within the organization can be blocked by disagreements among powerful countries. There have also been allegations from certain U.S. officials that some UN bodies demonstrate political bias, particularly regarding Israel.

Some U.S. lawmakers argue that international agreements supported by the United Nations may limit America's ability to make independent decisions. They believe that U.S. laws and policies should be determined primarily by elected American officials rather than influenced by international resolutions or global pressure. Supporters of this view argue that protecting

national sovereignty should be a top priority.

On the other hand, many experts believe that remaining active in the United Nations strengthens the United States' global leadership. As one of the most powerful countries in the world, the U.S. has significant influence within the organization. By staying involved, the United States can shape international policies, participate in peacekeeping decisions, and work with allies to address global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and humanitarian crises. The debate over the U.S.-UN relations reflects broader questions about America's role in the world. For students and young people, understanding this issue is important because decisions about international cooperation affect global security, environmental policy, and humanitarian efforts that shape our future.

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A Gift from Santa Dizon to the Nation

Lindsay Maboo

As the floods caused by the government's ghost projects continue to rise, they expose the growing depths of corruption of the Philippine authorities. These haunting projects continue to scare the Filipino citizens as their lives are slowly risked because of the 'public servants' irresponsible actions. Not only do these harm Filipino citizens, but also draw the nation into a state of weakness.

The lack of accountability from authorities involved in the flood control issue basically shows injustice in the country. DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon mentioned that some of the involved people could be in jail by Christmas, as they prepare to detain them with all the evidence they've gathered.

The Filipino citizens used to wait for the promised good services of the authorities, yet now they have to wait for the imprisonment of the same people they trusted to lead. Numerous people were believed to be included in the ghost projects, yet only some of them are currently held accountable for the taxpayers' money they have kept to themselves. This reveals the inequality within the country's justice system, as ordinary citizens would have faced immediate case filing and imprisonment had they been in the same situation.

Corruption also puts the Philippines' national budget at risk, potentially leading to economic instability. As a third-world country, this potential economic stability could lead to the Philippines' downfall, especially when most of the officials and government employees expected to lead the country are actually thieves and are easily blinded by money. Despite the government allocating PhP 1.47 trillion for flood control and mitigation programs over the last 15 years, infrastructures are yet to be seen in the

corrupt practices to ensure the country's development.

As Filipino citizens, we should demand for immediate imprisonment for these government officials and so-called public servants who are involved in the case of corruption associated to the flood control projects. The fact that we still have to wait for months for them to be captured just shows how incompetent and biased the government is when it comes to rich people. Although it would be a good Christmas gift for the citizens when these thieves are jailed on December, this should not be delayed as more issues arise in the country.

Immediate accountability and investigations are needed for this case. The government should do a proper monitoring of the progress of the infrastructures built to prove its completion. Instead of focusing on topics that are irrelevant to the country, the government should focus in this issue where the Philippine's well-being is at risk, the taxpayers' money is stolen, and the thieves are still liberated and living without accountability.

Transparency for the project should also be prioritized as it sets a feeling of security and proof of the action done. This will also strengthen the belief of people that there are still compassion within the government officials and authorities.

The national budget is for the citizen's safety and the country's development, not for the luxury of officials and authorities who do not have principles. As floodwaters rise and communities suffer, the nation is left to pay the cost of corruption. Let the people who have done the nation wrong pay for the unethical practices they did. Show the people that we are still capable of rising from the floods caused by the thieves disguised as public servants in our government.

OF TALENTS





Possible candidates emerge for 2028 Philippine Presidential election

Laurize Quinto

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—As early as now, several names are being mentioned as possible candidates for the 2028 Philippine presidential election. Although the election is still a few years away, discussions and preparations have already started

One of the most talked about candidates is Vice President Sara Duterte, who officially announced her plan to run for president in 2028. She is currently considered a strong contender, with surveys showing high public support. However, her candidacy may face challenges because of ongoing political issues and impeachment complaints.

Another possible candidate is senator Risa Hontiveros, who has expressed openness to running for president. She is seen as a potential leader of the opposition and aims to unite different groups before the election.

Aside from them, several other politicians are being discussed by the media as possible candidates. These include senator Imee Marcos, Senator Robin Padilla, House Speaker Martin

Romualdez, and Interior Secretary Jonic Remulla. However, most of them have not officially announced their plans.

Meanwhile, some well-known political figures have already said they will not run. These include former Vice President Leni Robredo and Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, who both chose to focus on local leadership instead.

Multiple political analysts say the 2028 election may become highly competitive especially as alliances change and new candidates emerge. Early surveys also show that Filipino voters are already forming opinions about their preferred leaders.

As the country prepares for another national election, Filipinos are encouraged to stay informed and choose leaders wisely. The 2028 presidential race is expected to shape the future of the Philippines for years to come

Libo-libong Pilipino, nananawagang panagutin ang pamahalaan

Marian Fredelyn Toh

Nais panagutin ng libo-libong Pilipino ang pamahalaan na itinuturing na ugat ng kanilang paghihirap sa gitna ng kalamidad.

Marami ang mga pahayag sa social media ukol dito matapos manalasa ang Bagyong Tino sa Cebu kamakailan lamang.

Kasabay nito, nananatiling naghihirap ang bawat mamamayan dahil sa pagharap sa sunod-sunod na bagyong nadating.

Ayon sa ilang residente, dapat managot ang pamahalaan dahil sa mabagal na pagtugon at sa hindi tamang paggamit ng pondo.

Patuloy na iniimbestigahan kung saan napunta ang pondong nagmula sa buwis ng mamamayan.

"Mommy, we lost everything," saad ng isang paskit habang nakikita nitong tinatayang ng baha ang kanilang tirahan.

Libo-libong pamilya ang hirap na umahon at magsimula muli sapagkat naanod ang kanilang mga tirahan at kagamitan.

Super Bagyong Uwan, humagupit sa Luzon

Marian Fredelyn Toh

Humagupit sa Luzon ang Super Bagyong Uwan na nagdulot ng pagbaha at pinsala nitong Nobyembre 10.

Libo-libong residente ang napilitang lumikas dahil sa paglakas ng hangin at buhos ng ulan.

Ilang gusali at paaralan ang lubog sa baha, nasira ang mga kalsada at natumba ang mga poste ng kuryente.

Ayon sa Department of Agriculture, umabot sa

Inflation rate ng Pilipinas, lumagapak sa 3.8%

Marian Fredelyn Toh

Bumaba sa 3.8% ang inflation rate ng Pilipinas at siyang pinakamababang antas sa bahagi ng 2024 ayon sa ulat ng Philippine Statistics Authority nitong Oktubre 2025.

Base ang mga datos sa naging obserbasyon ng PSA, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, at Department of Agriculture.

Natukoy ang pagbaba dahil sa pagbagsak ng presyo ng pagkain, mas murang produktong petrolyo, at mas mataas na ani sa mga lalawigan.

Patuloy ang pag-monitor ng pamahalaan sa mga suplay ng bigas at iba pang bilihin upang maiwasan ang biglaang pagtaas ng presyo.

Gayundin, sinisiguro ng pamahalaan na hindi mabibigla ang mga Pilipino kung sakaling bumaba muli ang suplay ng mga produkto.

"Magandang palatandaan ito, ngunit kailangan nating manatiling maingat," pahayag ni BSP Governor Eli Bautista.

Nagsilbing tulong sa bawat mamamayang Pilipino ang pagbaba nito lalo na para sa mga pangkaraniwang mamamayan.

Isa itong simbolo ng paunti-unting pag-unlad ng ekonomiya ng bansang Pilipinas.

Understanding ICE and its power

Seth Amila Robel

In the United States, immigration is a major issue and ICE, also known as Immigrations and Customs Enforcement is the key agency to this problem. They're a powerful— but controversial agency in the country.

ICE is known for enforcing laws related to immigration, national security, customs, and other things that keeps their citizens safe from illegal activities like trafficking, child labor, unauthorized immigration, and other unsafe activities. If there are people who have violated these immigration laws, ICE has the ability to locate these individuals and detain them.

But recently, there have been some major concerns with this agency. The major issue being a cause of multiple family separations— an example is when they took an innocent child away from their family and when they took a family member who is accused of not being an official US citizen when they really are. Another issue is that when they detain someone, they're being too harsh or aggressive which leads to the person being hurt.

There are more controversial incidents which bring suspicion to the citizens. And there have been many protests and advocacy groups that have been raising awareness and are against what ICE has been doing recently.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a very powerful agency in the States. They play a big role in law enforcement and National Security, yet it is still controversial. The government says that it's important and it just does what's right for the country, while the people say that it's harmful to them and make protests.

Duterte remains in ICC detention as case moves toward trial

Juliana Therenz Tenorio

Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte remains under detention at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, as legal proceedings against him continue. The case is connected to his administration's controversial anti-drug campaign, which has drawn global attention and criticism.

Duterte was arrested in March 2025 following an ICC warrant accusing him of crimes against humanity. These charges are linked to thousands of deaths during his "war on drugs" from 2016 to 2022. Human rights groups estimate that the number of victims may reach tens of thousands, although only a smaller number of cases are currently part of the official charges.

As of early 2026, ICC judges have ruled that Duterte must remain in detention. The

court stated that there are no new conditions that would justify his release. Judges also cited concerns such as possible flight risk, interference with the case, and the seriousness of the charges.

Prosecutors have described Duterte as a key figure in the killings, claiming he played a central role in organizing and encouraging violent anti-drug operations. He currently faces multiple counts of murder as crimes against humanity. His legal team, however, denies the accusations and argues that the case is politically motivated.

Despite concerns about his health due to his age, ICC judges have declared Duterte fit to stand trial. This means that the legal process will continue, including hearings to determine whether there is enough evidence to formally proceed to trial.

If the charges are confirmed, the trial may begin within several months to over a year. This timeline depends on how quickly the court completes its review of evidence and legal arguments. Meanwhile, Duterte remains in the ICC detention facility while awaiting the next stage of the case.

The situation has sparked mixed reactions worldwide. Some groups view the case as an important step toward justice and accountability, while others believe Duterte should be tried within the Philippines instead of an international court.

As the case continues, it remains one of the most significant international legal proceedings involving a former Philippine leader, drawing attention to issues of human rights, governance, and global justice.



Appreciating the Unappreciated

Daryle River Nazario
Clint William Carala

In the Nazareth School of Lipa City, beyond the laughter in hallways and busyness of classrooms, there is a group of hardworking heroes who keep everything running smoothly. As students focus on their lessons while teachers guide young minds, these friendly and dedicated workers do their jobs precisely. They are the maintenance crew, or the ones who fix what is broken, watch out for danger, and make sure the campus stays clean and safe. Though often unnoticed, their work is the reason the school remains stable and thriving every day.

To honor their hard work and dedication, we commenced a short interview with several members of the maintenance crew to hear their thoughts and learn about their experiences on campus.

We asked first, what inspired them to become maintenance workers. Though the stories were different, their answers shared one commonality, family. They took on this role not just as a job, but as a responsibility. They worked hard each day to provide for their loved ones and support their children's future.

We also asked about challenges they face while on duty. One worker shared that misunderstandings with some parents can be difficult, especially when enforcing rules meant to keep students safe. Although they sometimes hear complaints or hurtful words, they remain patient and focused on their responsibility to protect the children.

We then asked how it shaped their personality and daily life. One worker shared that the impact could be seen in their children. Raised with discipline, strong values, and a deep sense of righteousness, they have grown into well-educated, God-fearing adults who are now happily married.

We asked about the most difficult part of their career. One worker shared that growing older has become a challenge, as the job can feel more demanding with age. Another mentioned the constant adjustment required each year, as new students come in and workers must continually adapt to different attitudes and personalities.

For our final question, we asked what career they might have done if they weren't school maintenance workers. One shared that they would likely be a maintenance worker in their barangay. Another said they might have continued their previous work selling fishballs, kikiang, burgers, and other street food delicacies.

BLUE TITAN SPOTLIGHT: Marga Adrias brings home double gold

Danica Andrei Magpantay

In a remarkable display of talent and dedication, Shane Margarete Adrias, a proud Blue Titan, brought honor to the school after winning gold medals in the Solo and Group categories at the Youth Ambassador Performing Arts Festival held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on December 7-8, 2025. Competing on an international stage, Shane showcased not only her exceptional skill and artistry but also her ability to shine both individually and as part of a team. Her achievement reflects years of hard work, discipline, and passion for the performing arts, proving that success is earned through perseverance and commitment. More than a personal victory, her triumph stands as a source of pride for the entire school community that helped shape and support her journey. Through her success, Shane continues to inspire her fellow students, embodying the excellence, resilience, and pride of a true Blue Titan.



JOSE RIZAL THE MODEL OF MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE

Trish Daphne Ymari Lescano

Jose Rizal is known as a very talented writer, doctor, and nationalist. But he was not only intelligent in writing and words. His intelligence and capabilities range from far more than just writing. He was a polymath, with a very wide-range of knowledge and learning, which makes him an excellent model for the multiple intelligences or M.I. On August 30, 2025, Howie Soverino discussed in a seminar the colorful life of Jose Rizal. Whether it be Jose Rizal as a 'Jowa' or Jose Rizal as a friend, he delved deeper into the life of Dr. Rizal and went far beyond the surface of what we know about him. Howie highlighted many unspoken parts of our hero's life, revealing as well the many talents he had.

far beyond the surface of what we know about him. Howie highlighted many unspoken parts of our hero's life, revealing as well the many talents he had.



Our national hero displays many of the multiple intelligences, but the most obvious one would be verbal-linguistic intelligence. As not only was he a prolific poet, writer, and journalist, he was multilingual and spoke 20 different languages, as well as various Philippine dialects. Howie also mentioned in the seminar one of Jose Rizal's significant contributions to our language, the usage of 'k' instead of 'c' as he, along with other reformists argued it better represented native sounds and provided simplification and consistency. Seen as well in Rizal's many articles, essays, and novels, he used his pen to advocate for social reform and national awakening.

Another intelligence found in Rizal's colorful life was being a naturalist or the naturalist intelligence. As mentioned by Howie, he gained a new appreciation for nature during his time in Dapitan, where he bought a plot of land and would often explore and study the wonders of nature. During this time, he conducted extensive scientific work on animal specimens, plants and more. In this way he was a scientist who was an expert in fields like botany, zoology and anthropology. Not only was our hero a writer and scientist but also a very skilled surveyor and engineer. He showcased logical-mathematical intelligence through logical and problem-solving skills that helped him build infrastructure, including a water and light system for his town.

Jose Rizal was also an artist, who excelled in sculpting, painting and sketching. He used his visual-spatial intelligence to aid in his sketches and illustrations during travels and scientific research. Evident too in Howie's discussion of Rizal as a 'jowa', our hero displayed interpersonal intelligence in his profound ability to understand and interact with others. Not only did this help him with his many lovers, but also helped him with organizing movements like La Liga Filipina, managing his projects in Dapitan like the school he built, and working with a diverse group of people from all around the world. This helped him strive and form a wide group of fellow reformists and friends such as Ferdinand Blumentritt.

The most important and probably vital intelligence that Rizal displayed was intrapersonal intelligence as it is seen in writings and personal accounts that he had a deep self-awareness and a clear sense of his own values and morals. He was committed to continuous self-improvement and used his many talents and intelligences to fight for our country and people, even if it meant sacrificing himself for the sake of it. His use of his talents showed what true intelligence really is - not in what you have but how you use it.

Moreover, Jose Rizal is one of the greatest models for the multiple intelligences (M.I.). As a writer, scientist, doctor, educator, engineer, artist, and hero. Howie Soverino's seminar took a deep dive into the life of Rizal and gave us a better idea of who he truly was. Rizal demonstrated an aptitude and achievement across a wide range of skills, showing that intelligence is not a single ability but a collection of one's potential. His life as a polymath inspires us to pursue learning and gain knowledge because there is so much more we can achieve and learn. Jose Rizal truly serves as an inspiration and model to young people like us, showing that intelligence is not fixed, it is developed.

The Takeover of "TEACHnology"

Tamarah Gaelle Maldonado
Zsafia Marigeld Loro

Technology, both a word and device we widely use, is common, and known to the students and teachers of The Nazareth School alike — but it shapes us as much as we shape it?

We face technology all the time making you wonder if it is the other way around.

"Technology" simply means an application of scientific knowledge for many purposes but now, we mostly use IT (Information Technology). Meaning, technology even back then years ago before IT (Information Technology) had a sole purpose of being a powerful tool to make everything and even anything more efficient for anyone; educators and learners are no exception to that purpose.

This makes both teaching and learning accessible and easier, "Technology" as some say; Teaching through Technology — as simple as that.

No more worrying about finding and skimming through Encyclopedias and Dictionaries just so you'd find a specific piece of information you need for either your lesson for that following week or your homework due tomorrow that you

procrastinated on. In fact, the lessons students have now are on the screens of their designated televisions prepared by their teachers on a laptop with something called a P.P.T (PowerPoint Presentation)

By the accessible communication we have now on multiple platforms, we can freely talk and coordinate with our teachers and students. It is quicker, easier, and innovative. Even in the most unexpected and difficult situations (Class suspensions due to natural disasters, emergencies, etc) TNS uses Technology as a tool for a flexible schedule towards education for those who cannot attend due to personal reasons.

Though, T.N.S may not do everything with IT like other schools, technology is still a big thing here. Additionally, you'd notice that they prioritize it. Even having a ComLab (Computer Laboratory) for broader knowledge, and better understanding. That highlights the essence of "Technology" not only to teach technology but to have an efficient and simpler teaching experience.

A Celebration of Commitment and Excellence A Teacher's Day

Sherwin Joy Latorre

Teachers in The Nazareth School are the best so far as the Blue Titans are concerned. Despite our hard lessons, they put so much effort into making our school days productive while learning and having fun. Their unwavering commitment to our Education and personal growth is truly remarkable. They are like our second parents, our best friends, our mentors, all at the same time. No wonder, they deserve the most celebrated event in The Nazareth School every school year. That event is Teacher's Day!

Teacher's Day is a special occasion to celebrate and enjoy the relationship between teachers and students. As the head of the Central Board of Students (CBS), we planned a special program for them. Through the guidance of the CBS moderators —Tr. Rose, Ms. Andrea and the support of the TNS administration, we came up with a program that we really hope made them feel special even in our simple ways.

Held last October 10, 2025, Shane Adrias and Secundus Buena lively hosted the program. Starting with



the introduction of our beloved teachers, students cheered as we gave spotlight to each beloved teacher. Games were played. During the "Harana," student representatives from different grade levels blessed our ears with a song number in honor of these wonderful individuals. Nearing the end of our program, we flashed a tribute video consisting of some of the many thankful students who expressed their love for their advisers, teachers and TNS faculty. Flowers, cupcakes and giveaways were also prepared for them to enjoy. To formally end the program, a pictorial with their advisers was held for each class level.

It may be a simple program for some, but all our efforts were put into this together. Every balloon inflated, every lyric sung, every cupcake boxed, everything was made out of love for our dearest teachers.

For tirelessly sharing themselves with strangers like me, they tremendously made an impact on our lives. May they realize how special, appreciated and loved they all are.



any less as the beautiful person as the screen is. They start to degrade their own self-worth simply because of impossible standards, those of which we create for ourselves. This is a game where the rules are unsaid, and the only prize is the temporary relief from the fear of being invisible.

The digital mirror doesn't just reflect who we are, it's like a fun-house mirror: warping our perception of what is normal. It's these filters, these trends, these impossible beauty standards, these AI-enhanced faces, that drive people, especially the youth, into becoming strangers of their true, unfiltered faces. Some have been taught to hate features they were born with. It's sad to think that there could be a young girl out there, right now, looking into the bathroom mirror and feeling a pang of disappointment because she doesn't have the perfect, poreless complexion as the rest do. Our society has

essentially become so accustomed to such norms that our true selves don't feel real.

This is exactly why the "split-second accidental like" feels like a life-or-death scenario. Here we realize, we have outsourced our self-image into the eyes of others. People have been brainwashed to believe the way others view you, is the truth of your identity. We forget that that "like" is just a tap, and not the definition of one's entire being. It's a short moment in one's life that you perhaps can never even look back on. This should make us realize that we are human beings, not a grid of squares. It should make us realize as well that we can't seek others' approval to curate a version of ourselves. That's up to us to define.

IS THIS ME? SELF IMAGE IN AN ONLINE WORLD

Kaye Samuelle Rodelas

Right now, most of us are lying in the dark, staring at the rectangular prism that has become a permanent extension of our palms. We're doomscrolling, thumbing past faces and filters, until the unthinkable happens. You accidentally "like" a photo of the one person you've spent months trying to ignore. The frantic "unlike" follows, but the damage is done. You're left staring at the ceiling, heart racing over a single tap of the screen. Why does such a small occurrence cause such enormous distress? Why has the digital world turned a simple "like" into a high-stakes trial of our own self-image?

The weight of that "accidental like" reveals a deeper, more exhausting truth: we aren't just sharing our lives anymore; we're managing them. For the "influential" ones, the kids with the four-digit follower counts and the constant hum of notifications, they become wary in these situations. It's them that have to keep this perfect image of themselves, in order not to drop down from the pedestal they're already on. They feel this certain "pressure of the performance." It's less a flex, and more a maintenance job; having to make sure all pictures are safe to post, and that their portrait is ever flawless. They are trapped in a cycle of maintaining a "high-definition" version of themselves, terrified that if they stop for a second, the world will see the "standard-definition" reality of a student who is just as tired, messy, and uncertain as everyone else.

On the flip-side, there's the "un-influential" majority. If the influential ones are the actors, then the rest must be critics, who only ever seem to critique themselves. They see the filtered face of this popular boy and forget he's probably just as exhausted as the rest are. It's this innocence that drives the "inferior" into thinking they are

FEATURE

FINDING HIS VOICE



Nic Chien's Journey, and a Mother's Unwavering Support

by *livi Justimbaste*

In a world where conversations about gender identity are becoming more visible, stories of acceptance and self-discovery are helping others understand what it means to be true to oneself. One such story is that of Nic Chien, the only child of acclaimed Broadway star Lea Salonga, whose experience of coming out as transmasculine and continuing to pursue his passion for theater has inspired many.

At the age of 14, Nic began to understand and express his gender identity. Growing up with a parent in the performing arts world, he knew that performance and self-expression were important parts of who he was — but recognizing and naming his gender identity was something he did with his

family's support. Now 18, Nic openly identifies as a trans man and continues to build his future in theater.

Lea Salonga, known for her roles on Broadway and as a singer, spoke publicly about supporting Nic through each part of his journey. In interviews, she emphasized the importance of meeting your child where they are and helping them grow as the person they truly are. "The one thing that I've learned is that you have to raise your child the way your child needs to be raised," Salonga said, adding that this approach applies to every child, whether queer or not.

For Nic, family acceptance has made it easier to share his story with confidence. He has spoken about his passion for theater and how being able to play roles that align with how he sees himself—like Jack in the Wood—has allowed him to combine his identity with his art. The support he's received at home has helped him feel comfortable discussing his experiences, even when they draw public attention.

Though much of the reaction online has been positive, the visibility of Nic's journey also sparked critical comments from some people on social media. Some suggested that Salonga should have discouraged her son's transition, arguing he should

follow what God has planned. In response, many celebrated Salonga for her unwavering support, highlighting how meaningful it can be for young people to have family members who stand by them as they grow into who they are.

In another interview, Nic spoke openly about a recent medical step he took as part of aligning his body with his identity. Such decisions are highly personal and made in consultation with trusted medical professionals, family, and supportive adults. News coverage emphasized his gratitude for his family's support throughout his process.

Nic's story resonates beyond show business. For many teens—and the adults in their lives—his experience is a reminder that understanding, communication, and support can make a big difference in someone's life. Whether through the arts, school, sports, or everyday friendships, listening to one another and respecting people's identities helps create communities where everyone can thrive.

As conversations about gender continue to evolve, stories like Nic's show that acceptance at home and in society can help young people follow their dreams — on stage and off.

Lighting the Lamp, Dimming the World

by *Arabella Caguimbal*

Humans have spent decades' time blowing out the 'candles' of the Earth—the oil, the gas, the energy, the coal, and everything else, simply to maintain a picturesque environment. We are completely obsessed with lighting the bulbs for comfort that we do not notice us accidentally dimming the world. We take the necessary measures for ourselves, but at what cost?

It would be easy to say "stop," but to do so would be quite absurd for most, as the world is hastily becoming addicted because these energies and resources are reliable and available. As cities get brighter and wider, our resources, on the other hand, start to lessen. Glaciers start to melt, air quality drops, and the literal "brightness" of our future is fogged by smoke and climate crisis.

These past few months, going back to years, there has been an ongoing on-and-off situation with the disadvantages and advantages of the energy our world offers, and how humanity relies on it—for better or for worse. Exposure to such particles like metal from burning fossil fuels is linked to roughly 1 in 5 deaths worldwide. Your phones, the plastic in life-saving hospital equipment, and the massive centers for the famous and infamous Artificial Intelligence (AI), all rely on Non-Renewable energy.

These can't just be seen in electrical bills, but they are starting to show up in the ocean and in our lungs. Our reliance on coal-fired power plants—the "dirtiest of fossil fuels"—releases millions of tons of toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, into our water and land.

This is the irony of the century; we humans are a modern civilization running on prehistoric engines. While these non-renewable resources provide the power for our malls, medical labs, buildings, and what not, they are depleting at a rate even nature cannot match.

For the Philippine population, civilians are still heavily reliant on fossil fuels, but despite that, the country is simultaneously trying to set a breaking record of growth in renewable energy to bridge the energy gap. Take the MTerra Solar Project located in Luzon as an example, aiming to supply homes and boost energy security by the year 2027. But, even as these milestones are reached, we have still yet to transition from relying on non-renewable sources of energy.

However, the light doesn't have to be a fading one, not just for the Philippines, but even more so for the whole world. While we have spent centuries blowing out the Earth's candles, a new dawn is beginning to break for us. For the first time in a long time, renewable sources like solar and wind are finally catching up. Nations are shifting as well. For instance, China now builds more solar capacity than the rest of the world, proving that a bright future doesn't have to become a smoky one.

The question for humans now is no longer how to light the lamp, but how to keep it from dimming, all the while maintaining necessary individual needs. We are the architects of building a better future with our available resources. As we stand today, we have to ask ourselves: Is a bright room worth a burnt out world?

lose gracefully and win humbly is a vital "soft skill." Competitions allow students to build essential skills, including research, critical thinking, problem-solving, and presentation skills. This also includes personal skills such as proficiency, confidence, humility, respect, and solid sportsmanship. Students develop resilience, learn to handle failure constructively, and improve their ability to work under pressure.

The Common Ground

Taking all of this into account, it's best to bridge the bad and the good of competition among students by redefining what "winning" really means. To begin, the grades and rankings do not equate to identity, but rather, only serve as a data point reference. Through grades, one can see where one has improved, and where they still can. Their identity or, at least, the decision of whether or not they can consider themselves as a good student, is seen from something else: their personal bests. Everyone can't be the number 1 in the class, but anyone can be better than they were yesterday. Like the popular Filipino saying: "malayo pa, pero malayo na;" it's about having a long way to go, but realizing you've gotten far enough. Take one's difference within just a year, or even a month. You realize you've done a lot, even if it's little. It can still be appreciated. At the end of the day, really, you are your own greatest competitor.



A Growing Environmental Crisis and a Call for Action

by *Altheah Jaya Villanueva*

The Philippines, recognized as one of the world's "megadiverse" countries, is facing an alarming decline in biodiversity. Home to thousands of unique plant and animal species—many found nowhere else on Earth—the country is now experiencing rapid environmental degradation driven by human activities and climate change.

Recent scientific studies reveal that 15% to 23% of the Philippines' terrestrial vertebrates are already at risk of extinction, with amphibians and mammals among the most vulnerable. This suggests that nearly a quarter of the nation's wildlife could disappear if conservation efforts are not urgently strengthened.

Experts identify several key factors behind this biodiversity loss. The most significant is habitat destruction, largely caused by deforestation, mining, and urban expansion. The country continues to lose approximately 47,000 hectares of forest each year, drastically reducing natural habitats for wildlife and disrupting ecological balance.

In addition, environmental agencies report that around 2,000 out of 56,000 species in the Philippines are now critically endangered, primarily due to habitat loss, climate change, and human activities. These threats affect ecosystems across forests, marine environments, and wetlands, accelerating the decline of species nationwide.

Biodiversity plays a vital role in sustaining life. Healthy ecosystems provide essential resources such as food, clean water, medicine, and natural protection against disasters. However, the rapid loss of species weakens these systems, placing both environmental stability and human survival at risk. Once covered by vast forests, the Philippines now retains only a small portion of its original forest cover, underscoring the urgency of conservation efforts.

Educational institutions can play a crucial role in addressing this crisis. Schools like Nazareth School of Lipa City, Inc. can contribute by integrating science and technology into sustainability initiatives. Through environmental education, tree planting and campus greening, technology-based awareness campaigns, research and innovation, and community engagement, students can be empowered to become responsible stewards of the environment.

Despite the challenges, there is still hope. Government programs, scientific advancements, and community-led initiatives continue to promote biodiversity conservation. However, stronger collaboration among institutions—including schools is essential to create lasting impact.

The biodiversity crisis in the Philippines is not only an environmental issue but also a scientific, social, and technological challenge that demands immediate and collective action. Through education and innovation, the next generation can play a vital role in preserving the nation's rich and irreplaceable ecosystems.



by *Arabella Caguimbal*

The cursor blinks. On and off. A student stares blankly at a document, the glow of the screen reflecting in their eyes. The assignment is due tomorrow, and ideas swirl around, but never land. After a long pause, the student stumbles upon an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tab, and proceeds to type in a question. Within seconds, answers start flowing, and the blinking cursor turns into carefully crafted paragraphs—problem solved. Or maybe, problem postponed.

From classrooms in our country, to the whole world, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has made its breakthrough, and it reshapes how we students learn independently. Tools like ChatGPT and Grammarly have not just become simple applications, but homework companions. Instead of skimming through textbooks and papers, students tap onto their keyboards and easily generate the answers they need.

Writing and solving problems becomes as simple as opening your screens. Mathematical problems and scientific topics are simplified. In schools, such as our beloved Nazareth School, AI has become a common topic among both students and teachers. Not because students are incapable, but because it is an available tool. Moreover, when a student is in need of assistance, AI, in some sense, will have their back. Within a few clicks, learners are able to generate answers, write paragraphs, and solve problems.

However, beneath that convenience lies a tension we are well aware of, but never seem to speak about. Students tend to rely more on Artificial Intelligence (AI) nowadays, rather than believing in

their own capabilities and comprehension. AI indeed helps students create and reshape ideas, but sometimes it becomes the one that thinks instead. Teachers emphasize that learning takes a great amount of time and hard work of students, and it is not about simply listening to discussions and producing answers. Learning is about expanding, growing, revising, and discovering. So, when a machine generates answers and solutions, the problems and struggles disappear, but at times, so does growth.

There are questions that linger. If AI chooses the words, whose voice truly speaks? If one asks it to write a paragraph, does that really make it an original idea? Perhaps that is why some of us students are beginning to find balance. We start to create our own drafts before asking AI to provide improvement, instead of changing it completely. Slowly, we come to realize that in using AI, we use it to improve, not replace. Today, students are growing to learn that knowing the responsible use of AI is just as important as knowing how to write a sentence.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will surely not disappear, and instead, improve to become one of the advances that technology has given us. But, even the best of technology, cannot beat the minds of the youth. It cannot feel the frustration of the many tasks assigned in a week. It does not feed off the relief after completing everything and finally getting the day off.

The cursor still blinks. On and off. The student—well—however, pauses before clicking, thinks before asking. Their screen is no longer blank, and neither is the mind behind it. Our minds will never stop learning and discovering, and at this juncture, it's a matter of choice—and we are choosing to use AI as a companion to learn and continue discovering.

The Sweet Spot

Yet, competition is not adverse by default; it's sometimes a test that later shapes a student's true potential. It's like how iron sharpens iron. A healthy rivalry can push two students to achieve far more than they would have done alone. It's about raising the bar of what everyone is capable of. It prompts them to better individuality and excellence. Studies show that students who are admittedly competitive in such cases often achieve higher GPAs and better exam results. Competitive environments act as social motivators, prompting students to put in more effort to master subjects.

Aside from that, this competent attitude drives the students into engaging in subjects that would otherwise be considered boring. It's like sports: the scorecard

THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD. COMPETITION AMONG STUDENTS

by *Kayn Samuelle Rodelas*

There was a time when classrooms filled children with wonder, and learning was an end in itself. Learning was a personal journey, and having succeeded in it, was someone's exclusive joy. Comparison by rank simply wasn't part of the mix. Now, that spark has long been defused. Such children are now filled with the quiet need to prove themselves and measure their worth based on scores and evaluations. This drives us to the question: what happens when winning becomes more important than studying?

The Ruinous Rivalry

Today, the primary goal of an average student is by the least, be an honorary pupil or be an academic achiever. While on one hand, this is an excellent ambition, which by all means, drives them into having a bigger ambition beyond school, it is also critical for the pressure cooker they're conditioning themselves in. Say that a student has not reached this goal: it is likely that the student may self-deprecate or compare themselves even more to their peers. Conversely, the negative outcome is equally as bad when the students do achieve this goal. It plants a seed of thought that says: "holding myself to such a high standard is exhausting, especially when I've climbed so high that the only thing left to do is fall." Being at the top essentially creates a constant, draining fear of falling.

It gets to a point where the students at least once resort to "doing whatever it takes." This is not to master the subject, but to outpace their peers. This 'win-at-all-costs' mentality turns the classroom into a zero-sum game; for one student to rise in the rankings, another must necessarily fall. When students begin 'hacking' tests or memorizing facts just to secure a higher percentile than their friends, it calls into question what they truly value: the development of their own intellect, or simply the satisfaction of standing atop a pile of their classmates' scores. In any case, it entirely questions just what they value: position or intellect development.

The trickiest part in all this is the resulting view of one student towards their peers. A pupil seeing their classmates as "the enemy" or "the hurdle" is possible, and it may erode their sense of community in a classroom. If this mentality is shared, social isolation within the classroom may become prominent. This ultimately leads to reduced collaboration, emotional distress, hindered learning and support, and missed opportunities. Instead of appreciating the most recognizable time in someone's young life, energy and focus will be allotted to comparison more than growth, leaving the student a master of the scorecard but a stranger to the classroom.

GOODNESS OF GOD

Sherlothe Labrador

Everyone sees the goodness of God's heart, even if it is not really visible, but we can feel it. It is not just in the blessings He has given us, but He is walking with us through every problem and trial we face. He always turns our pains into purpose, a reimagined perspective. His love is personal and real; no one can truly replace that, even our sins. God loves us more than we can imagine, considering that His love is infinite. In a world full of chaos and commotion, the goodness of God will remain an eternal truth.

Have you ever been so lost that you thought that there was no way around anymore? Have you ever felt so confused and hopeless? Do you feel that the world is against you and your plans? Do you always feel that you are alone? That was me before I met God. My mind was

full of those kinds of questions back then, but now I feel like a new person. A whole different perspective was built upon me, centered on Him. I found a home where I can be anything I want, do anything I want, and express my freedom without being judged. I know that He will not make that impossible for me, since with Him, I believe that nothing is impossible. I am living a life that is not complete without prayer, devotion, and Him in it. There were times when I questioned my existence in this world. I asked a lot of questions, such as "Am I worthy to be here in this world?" though I did not get the answer right away, but I trusted Him throughout the process. Now, I have the answer from God. Yes, I am worthy to be here in this world. He gave me life and purpose that I am now holding.

We are God's MASTERPIECE, where every letter resembles a meaning of God's purpose on every living nature in this world. M for mold with intentions, every person is uniquely created and deeply valued by God. We are made for a reason, knowing that He has a plan

in our lives, even when we feel lost and unsure. A for adored beyond measure, we are not created by accident; we are created intentionally by Him. S for sustained by grace, we each possess our own inner and outer strength, that's why we are here, because we are all strong. T for treasured creations, each one of us has God-given skills, talents, and abilities where we all shine the brightest. E for enough, just as you are, we are enough, we do not need to prove anything or something to someone who does not believe in us, because God does. R for redeemed in love, true happiness comes from knowing your identity in God. P for protected always, everyone is cherished and significant to God, even if the eyes of others are against you, God is not and will never be against you. I for illuminated by truth, He planted a seed of fire in our hearts to make a difference. Small or big things, we can influence them in good and powerful ways. E for elevated for purpose, even if we doubt ourselves, God has already prepared us for the challenges that we are going to face. He

planned that, and He will lead us to a path where He knows we will learn. C for connected in spirit, God's love is the overall foundation of our life and our worth in this world we live in. That is why we love, because He first loved us. Lastly, E for eternal in value, we are not just ordinary; we are exceptional in God's eyes and heart. This results in the fact that we are all God's MASTERPIECE.

He loves all of us, and no one can ever replace that. This is the best gift that God has given us, the power of life. The way of life may not be good right now, but God is, always, in all possible ways.

He declared, "Let there be light", where in darkness, there is light. When there is chaos, there is hope. Where in every shadow, His light persists. Where in every storm, His hand steadies. In the very depths of darkness and danger, His goodness sparks the most light that serves as the direction for a new path and hope that came from His trust in us. God heals the brokenhearted with His presence and touch that healed us all.

HUMAN CONNECTION

Kent Michael Medina

Connections between people are like kaleidoscopes. No matter how the colors and shapes shift, it's somehow all the same. And that's what you call friendship, it is one of the most special connections a human can experience in this life. Love from friendship is completely different from romantic relationships, which makes it special. Every friendship is unique, molded by different bonds.

Friendships can happen in surprising ways – it can happen randomly even on a boring school day. It creates core memories which are unforgettable, which gives us joy. Having friends in this lifetime serves as a gift, a reminder that we should not go through hardships, and victories

alone. Love given and received from friendships are powerful, which can change a person's path in this world. Friends can give your life a positive and negative impact, therefore you must choose your circles wisely and clearly. Friendships have unique atmospheres because everyone of us is different.

In summary, friendship is a beautiful and powerful connection that brings impacts to our lives. In a world that is actively changing, the presence of a friend is something you can hold on to. They remind us that we are not meant to strive alone. As humans with the free will to choose who we want to be in other people's lives, ask yourself: are you a friend or a foe?

THE STORY I CONTINUE TO WRITE

Hailey Ahyescha Escubio

"Stars cannot shine without darkness." These words remind me that struggles are not meant to break us but to shape us. Life has never promised to be easy, but it has always promised to teach. As I continue to grow, I realize that greatness does not come from perfection but from persistence. Every stumble, every rejection, and every doubt has become part of a bigger story—a story not of defeat, but of resilience. My journey is far from over, but each step forward is a chapter in the story I continue to write.

There were countless times when I was told "no," yet I learned to hear it as "not yet." Those words no longer signified endings but beginnings in disguise. Every setback became a stepping stone, teaching me lessons that no easy path ever could. Even the storms I faced did not paralyze me; instead, they taught me how to dance in the rain. When the road ahead was unclear, I refused to stay lost—I became the mapmaker of my own destiny. It was in those uncertain and difficult moments that I discovered my strength, resilience, and the courage to keep moving forward. What I have come to understand is that life is not about chasing flawless victories. Instead, it is about

about embracing mistakes, rising after every fall, and believing that tomorrow always holds new chances. Failures are not the end of the story but simply pauses before a stronger comeback. More importantly, this journey is not just about myself. The choices I make and the paths I take may also become a trail for others to follow. I do not want to leave behind only footprints; I want to create pathways that will remind people that dreams—no matter how distant—can be reached if one continues to walk with persistence.

In the end, I carry this truth with me: life is my story, and I am both the writer and the star of it. The challenges I have faced are only prologues of the chapters that are yet to come. What lies ahead may be uncertain, but I embrace it with courage, persistence, and hope. For me, the best chapters of my life have not been written yet, and I am ready to shape them with my own hands. Because life is not about admiring the stars from afar—it is about learning to shine alongside them, reminding us that we, too, are meant for greatness.

The Musical Scales of Determined Learning

Sean Elison Baltian

"I wish I played guitar like that" is one of the most famous lines a guitarist would say when looking at an experienced player. Learning guitar can be a tricky path to take, as it requires you to give your time to the instrument day by day. Those practices can lead to people quitting car-ly, as it might lead to fatigue from doing it daily. Questioning yourself if you're learning too slowly or if you didn't do well is normal for guitarists, although we mustn't dwell on it completely

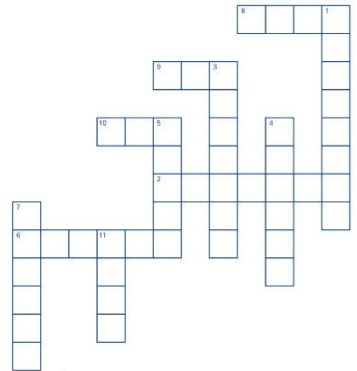
As an early guitar player, they are likely to learn basic chords, which isn't much of a challenge, yet unlocks them to play many songs they find interesting. Research was done and showed that 90% of guitarists quit in their first year. Being a guitar player for over a year is already an achievement to be a successful guitarist. Learning guitar is like taking steps that get taller and taller.

Continuing the musical journey, a question still lingers, that question boring Am I not good enough? Almost every guitarist gets it as they watch a good guitar player play. The solution? Think of it like a timeline: the person who practices every day for many hours will most likely improve as time goes on. You, maybe a starter or intermediate learner, might've started later than the experienced guitarist; this means you can still improve your skills.

Ask yourself this question: Why are you playing the guitar? I personally volunteer in our church as the guitarist. Answering this question helps you zone in on how you're going to learn. One of the best pieces of advice I can give is to pray to be better at playing the guitar and letting it glorify Him.

SAKSES!

A comic by Juliana Therenz Tenorio



Across:

- Person who guides students in learning
- School break time to relax and socialize
- Subject involving numbers and equations
- A classmate you work with
- Tool used to write

- Assignment to do at home
- Where you borrow books
- A place where learning happens
- What you review before exams
- What you receive after completing subjects
- Major test you study for



SPORTS

Cheers echoed, rackets clashed, and determination filled the courts as The Nazareth School proudly took part in the Lipa City Secondary District Meet 2025, held from October 1 to 7. Anchored by the school's Multiple Intelligences program, particularly Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence, Nazareth athletes showcased discipline, teamwork, and resilience across various sporting events, proving that learning goes beyond the four walls of the classroom.



NAZARETH ATHLETES DISPLAY GRIT AND GRACE AT LIPA CITY SECONDARY DISTRICT MEET 2025

Diane Daryl Gonzales

Leading Nazareth's athletic campaign was Badminton, where student-athletes demonstrated focus and perseverance in highly competitive matches. Kenshin James Samson earned 4th place in Bracket C – Singles Boys A, while Mac Darren Suba also secured 4th place in Bracket C – Singles Boys B.

Their commendable performances reflected not only skill but also dedication and sportsmanship. Under the guidance of their coach, Tr. Ana Regine Gonzales, both athletes showed determination despite facing strong opponents, making their school proud on the badminton court.

VOLLEYBALL LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH TRIUMPHS AND TRIALS

Diane Daryl Gonzales

At the center of the meet were Nazareth's Volleyball teams, who faced intense competition and emotional challenges throughout their games.

The Boys Volleyball Team opened strong with a victory against Stonyhust Malarayat (15–25) and later secured another win against BCAS. However, they encountered setbacks with a loss to Academia (25–18) and a heartbreaking default loss against Pangao due to unforeseen circumstances. Despite the disappointment, the team displayed resilience and unity,

showing true sportsmanship even in difficult moments.

Meanwhile, the Girls Volleyball Team faced a tough series of matches, falling short against Lodalod (23–25), Lipa Integrated High School (22–25), Lumbang (20–25), and BCAS (21–25). Though victories were not secured, these games served as valuable learning experiences, motivating the team to further improve their skills, teamwork, and confidence for future competitions.



ON TRACK FOR GREATNESS. Blue Titans Girls Volleyball athletes battled through intense matches in the Lipa City Secondary District Meet 2025, gaining valuable experience and strengthening their unity as they continue to rise and improve as a team. Photo by Miss Arwel Masangcay.

6TH AT THE SEA

Justin Kurtney Castillo



MANILA, Philippines – Took home a total of 277 medals, The Philippines ranked sixth during the 33rd Southeast Asian Games in Thailand which took place on December 9-20, 2025.

Over 1,600 athletes, coaches, and officials were sent. The Filipinos gathered 50 gold, 73 silver and 154 bronze

medals as the nearly two-week-long regional meet concluded. As the nearly two-week-long regional meet concluded.

Thailand, in their home turf, dominated, scoring 233 golds, 154 silvers, and 112 bronzes.

Although the sixth place finish was lower than the Philippines' performance in the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games, where it claimed 58 golds for fifth place, the country stood proud as they delivered outstanding performances in basketball, women's football, beach volleyball and tennis.

Rising star Alexandra Eala, smashed her way to the first gold in tennis women's singles in 26 years.

FROM MAT TO POOL: BLUE TITANS AT DIVISION MEET

Diane Daryl Gonzales



LIPA CITY, BATANGAS – Athletes Raff Aldrick Chua Tan Guat and Freya Juliana Recede represented the Blue Titans on December 1-5, 2025 during the Division Meet.

Raff participated in the secondary boys' kyurugi event in taekwondo. Through his efforts and along with his coach's guidance, he finished as a bronze medalist.

Freya took on numerous events during the Division Meet. She competed in the 4x100m medley relay, 4x50m medley relay, 400m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 200m backstroke, 200m freestyle, and 50m backstroke events.

The two athletes' competitiveness in the Division Meet served not only as a representative of the school but also as an inspiration for the aspiring Blue Titans athletes.

BASKETBALL

Nazareth Cagers Open Strong at District Meet 2025

Diane Daryl Gonzales

Wrapping up The Nazareth School's participation in the Lipa City Secondary District Meet 2025, the Basketball Boys Team delivered a commanding performance in their opening match. The Nazareth cagers dominated the game with a decisive 73–38 victory, immediately establishing themselves as strong contenders in the tournament.

The team displayed excellent ball movement, disciplined defense, and effective execution on both ends of the court. From the early minutes of the game, Nazareth maintained control of the tempo, forcing turnovers and converting fast-break opportunities that steadily widened the scoring gap.

Standing out in the match was Lito Mendoza, who played a crucial role in the team's success. His composure on the court, consistent scoring, and defensive effort provided momentum for the team, inspiring his teammates to perform with confidence and unity. Mendoza's leadership was evident as he helped guide the team through key moments of the game.

With a strong opening win, the Basketball Boys Team showed the promise and determination, reflecting the school's commitment to developing Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence through sports. Their performance served as a positive conclusion to Nazareth's campaign in the District Meet and set high expectations for their future games.

