The Internationale

IBA Gives Back...

September 2013
THE INTERNATIONALÉ SY 2012-2013

FEATURES

Dandy Doodles of our Little Dudes

Randmar Balleras: An Asian Math Wizard

Back Seat

The Butterfly

Surfing with Syrena

THE SUNSET

CONTENTS

The Internationalé. SY 2012-13

NEWS

IBA’s ACADEMIC VICTORIES in 2012-2013

UN Day Green Celebration

IBA Gives Back...

Future SSG Leaders

Nickelodeon kicks off I.B.A’s Spirit Week!

Because we care...

Community Services

It’s More Fun in IBA!!

Christmas Carols

Summer Heat Brings Summer Treats!

PTA in Action

Summer Ball:
And the Oscar goes to...

Inter-School Sports Invitational “I.S.S.I.” Highlights

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BATCH 2012
EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief: Lourvina Rose Olimpo
Contributors:
In-Yeong Choi, Paul Yvan Iya, Ga Hyung Lee, Mr. Julius Hidalgo, Ms. George Kusano, Ms. Michelle Torio,

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BATCH 2012
EDITORIAL BOARD

Marco Gabriel Patiño
Editor-in-Chief

Gracielle Ventosa & Aljomark Caayon
Managing Editors

Thea Repil & Kyle Carlos
Art Directors

Year 11 Courage, Year 11 Valor and Year 9
more specifically to

Gremyco Estoista, Bea Dimarucut, Chloe Bragas, Sarah Elizabeth Gurango

whose articles are still published in this issue.
IBA’s Academic

School year 2012-2013 is almost over and IBA has been very enthusiastic and committed in participating in different interschool academic competitions locally and internationally. With the results at hand, it is but fitting to say that this year has been really victorious.

**Pagalingan Mathematics and Science Competition 2012**

IBA bagged first and third places in the Pagalingan 2012 held at St. Francis of Assissi College on September 15, 2012.

Randmar Balleras and In-Yeong Choi, first and third placers respectively, were joined by Eryel Nicole Benitez and Jung Min Lee who also competed in the math category.

First-time contestants, Christine Yiamzon, Larissa Olimpo and Pauline Yves Iya also made a very good standing in the Science division.

One great accomplishment that could be considered in this competition is the establishment of peer-teaching among contestants during their review. Mr. Randy Balleras and Ms. Theresa Yemma Calubag facilitated the 2-day revision period and their strategy proved to be helpful in achieving the competition’s top places.

**International Mathematics Assessments For Schools (IMAS)**

Several students from secondary level competed in the International Mathematics Assessments for Schools and two of them, Randmar Balleras and Austin Lee, received credit awards. Credit wards were given to students who were able to meet the pre-set scores.
4 THE INTERNATIONALÉ SY 2012-2013

3rd Regional Feature-Writing Contest (Regional Chemistry Olympiad)

Ma. Patricia Antoinette Camatog won 3rd place in the 3rd Regional Feature Writing Contest, which was held at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Laguna on September 8, 2012.

With the theme “Chemistry in Construction Technology: Paving the Way to an Industrialized Society”, the contest focused on ways how Chemistry could contribute to better industrialized society.

Kristeen Lewis and Kyra Ramos also participated in the 10th Regional Chem-In-Hue, a poster making contest while Brandon Lao and Harvey Posadas competed in the 12th Regional Chemistry Olympiad. All competitions aim to showcase the skills and artistry of students in presenting chemistry through literary writing and arts.

Regional Math Trail and Problem Solving Competition

IBA attained 3rd place among nineteen other school contend- ers in cluster E in the Regional Math Trail and Problem Solv- ing Competition elimination last September 21, 2012, emerging as qualifiers of the regional final round.

Armed with math prowess, Randmar Balleras, In-Yeong Choi, Eryel Nicole Benitez and Austin Lee were chosen as four of the 360 whiz kids from 90 schools in the whole CALABARZON 4-A.

Sponsored by Mathematics Trainers’ Guild, SM and Collins International Trading Corporation (SHARP), the contest centered on relating math to the real world, thus making students active learners.

Australian Maths Competition

IBA received several awards in the 2012 Australian Maths Competitions both for primary and secondary divisions. In-Yeong Choi received the Distinction Award, which signifies that she was able to be one of the top 15% high scorers out of the thousands of contestants from all over the world. The Credits awards were received by Hyo Jin Kim, Eun Jin Choi, Randmar Balleras and Austin Lee. They were part of the top 50%.

Jhomar Fuedan won the Proficiency award, the award given to those who achieved the pre-set score.

Mathematical Challenge for Filipino Kid s’ Training Program (MCFKTP)

IBA bagged third place in the Mathematical Challenge for Filipino Kid Training Program (MCFKTP) where Randmar David M. Balleras, representative from Year 8, attained the top score among hundreds who participated.

MCFKTP is an initial stage of mathematics training where the MTG recruit participants to compete in various international math competitions. Jomar Fuedan, Hyo Jin Kim, and Claire Vincent Navarro also attended the said training.

Cavite School Wide Search 2013

IBA representatives qualified in the final round and ranked 7th Place in the recently held Cavite School Wide Search for Math and Science Wizards. IBA was represented by Jung Min Lee (Austin), Lourvina Olimpo, Eryel Nicole Benitez, Pauline Iya, Noriko Paderes and Brandon Lao.
IBA celebrates UN Day

The IBA’s celebration of United Nations Day has become one of the venues for the students of the different levels to show their talents in singing, dancing and drama. That’s why, this event has always been looked forward to every other year.

With the theme “A Respect for Tradition, Culture and Global Cooperation will lead to a Greener Environment”, this year’s celebration concentrated on the environmental conservation awareness through cooperation among people of every nation.

The day started with the parade of costumes with the students garbed in the traditional dress of the different nations.

Nursery and Reception students demonstrated unity among nations despite differences in race and culture as they interpreted the song ‘Peaceful World’ together on the stage. Year 1 and Year 2 students showed how beautiful our world could be through their Butterfly Aqua Dance.

Students from Year 3 to Year 6 performed and competed in the international dances year level contest where Year 5 Solidarity and Integrity emerged as winners.

Secondary students accepted the challenge of the performing a chamber theatre. The piece, written by Pauline Iya, Noriko Paderes and Lourvina Olimpo, was interpreted and carried out by the different year levels and Year 11 was declared as champion.

Special Awards were also given. Rizielle Franzine Ornada was chosen as Little Ms. United Nations while Kairu Ito was awarded as Little Mr. United Nations. Ms. Jed Bernette Ferrancullo received the award for Best in Costume for Faculty. Simraan Kaur Dhillon and Peter John Cutler were also awarded as Little Mr. and Ms. United Nations during the Armistice celebration.
For its 11 successful years, IBA Gives Back...

by In-Yeong Choi and Paul Yvan

International British Academy celebrated its 11th year Foundation Day on November 29, 2012 by giving back to the community. Unlike the previous foundations days where festivities, colorfully decorated fun booths and sports and cheering competitions were in every corner of the campus, this year’s celebration was a different one.

Giving Back through a Medical Mission

The day kicked-off with a simple programme in the morning. Atty. Virginia Patiño, a founding director of IBA, who shared her life experiences with the students, launched the IBA’s 1st medical mission. A team of doctors — all from DeLa Salle University Medical Center through the efforts of Dr. Gary Carlos, volunteered to work with the IBA team, headed by Ms. Jale Nidera, in giving free medical check-up to 200 students of Pasong Santol Elementary School.

The SSG and class officers with Ms. Jale Nidera, Ms. Yolly Iya, Mr. Mhanny Garcia, Ms. Analie Naraval, Ms. Kamille Delos Reyes and Nurse Edith Royopa served as nurses and medical aides and assisted the doctors in examining children 12 years old and below. They were stationed in different classrooms, allowing more students to be given proper medical attention.

Medicines and goody bags filled with hygiene kits and multivitamins, through the donations of the IBA family, were also distributed to these children.

Giving Back through Quiz bees and MI Challenge

After the launching of the medical mission, students prepared themselves to join the IBA’s Inter-House Team quiz bee and Multiple Intelligences Challenge, where Manticore, Phoenix and Griffin stood victorious in different categories.

The quiz bee had two division (primary and secondary) with three rounds each division — easy, average and difficult. All questions tested their general knowledge...
and spelling skills. Manticore in the primary division and phoenix for secondary emerged as the winners in the final round. The secondary phoenix members further proved their prominence when they defeated the teachers’ team in the general knowledge bonus round.

Primary Manticore and Secondary Griffin, meanwhile, established their number 1 posts in the MI Challenge. Twelve participants from each house team needed to get through seven different physical challenges such as balancing pen in ropes, picking up mongo seeds with chop sticks, head pop balloon, crocodile island, stitching needles, and other fun yet challenging obstacles in the fastest possible time. At the end of these challenges, they had to solve a word puzzle and then sing the IBA hymn.

The winning teams’ actions proved that teamwork really works and wins championships.

Giving Back through a Talent Show

IBA’s foundation day celebration wouldn’t be complete without thanking the parents and IBA supporters by showcasing students’ talents and skills through a talent show. Students eagerly participated in this evening affair filled with marvelous talents and surprising performing personalities.

There were group performers, others performed in pairs and there were a number of individual shows which definitely thrilled the audience. Among eighteen performances, two came out as People’s Choice Awardees— band Mirage and the tandem of Joachim Macapaz and Ysabelle Aguinaldo who showed their winning moves in dancing.
The Success of the SSG Projects
by Ga Hyung Lee

“The Sparkling Classroom”
Pauline Yves Iya, SSG President, instituted the “Sparkling Classroom” project, which aims to keep all classrooms clean and in order. The most sparkling classroom is announced weekly during the Monday assembly.

“Start to Care, Share a Chair through a Bottle Dunk”
A huge rectangular plastic bottle bin has been placed in the IBA quadrangle near the canteen entrance where used plastic bottles of drinks can be kept. The collected bottles are sold and proceeds will be turned-over to Eat Bulaga, a national television show, for their Share-A-Chair project. This bottle collection was initiated last year by the Science Department during the science week.

“Make A Christmas Wish”
A fundraising project during the Christmas season was the SSG’s third project. Everyone was encouraged to write their Christmas wishes for their loved ones on the SSG’s Christmas stars, which had corresponding amounts. Proceeds will be used for the future SSG ventures.

“3Rs Classroom Christmas Decorations”
Another worthwhile activity facilitated by the SSG officers was the 3Rs classroom Christmas decorations competition. Students decorated their classroom using recycled materials. Winners were Nursery Faith, ESL Intermediate and Year 10 Peace.

SSG Officers SY 2012-2013:
President: Pauline Yves D. Iya
Vice- president: Riazon Cristina B. Cagayo
Secretary: Karl Vincent P. Carlos
Treasurer: Roxanne S. Stridjhorst
Auditor: Kenneth P. Ignó
Peace Officer: Larissa Rose Olimpo
Public Information Officer: Claire Elise B. Gaurana

Year 6 Representative: Angelique Isabelle B. Gaurana
Year 7 Representative: Jhomariel Rafael L. Fuedan
Year 8 Representative: Randmar David M. Balleras
Year 9 Representative: Kenneth Andrew P. Nishino
Year 10 Representative: Da Sol Moon
Year 11 Representative: John Andrew A. Encisa

SSG Officers for school year 2013-2014:
President: David Angelo Molato
Vice- president: Jollie Anne Orlanda
Secretary: Iris Joy Valdez
Treasurer: Brandon Lao
Auditor: Kenneth P. Ignó
Peace Officer: Larissa Rose Olimpo
Public Information Officer: David Michael Garcia

Year 6 Representative: Angeliz Gutt
Year 7 Representative: Ysabelle Babilonia
Year 8 Representative: Boram Kim
Year 9 Representative: Dominic Sobocinski
Year 10 Representative: Klayd Francely Gatdula
Year 11 Representative: Hazel Mana
kicks off I.B.A’s Spirit Week!

Whenever school starts here in IBA, it only means one thing: SPIRIT WEEK!! Throughout August 28-31, students, teachers and staff were given the chance to express themselves by dressing up according to the various themes for the day. Everyone participated as the whole school was up for the challenge. Tuesday was the athlete’s and pep squad’s day and what added more fun was Nick’s slime! Nickelodeon once again visited IBA and offered a slimy fun-filled Tuesday giant back pack. Different games and booths kept our athletes and cheer leaders busy the whole morning but the most exciting part was getting slimed. The school had a time machine on Wednesday for the Back to the Future theme. Stepping into the halls were primary students wearing adult corporate attire while the adults- secondary students, teachers and staff acted and dressed like preschoolers throughout the day. Pirates were everywhere on Thursday. Students were all creative to come in their villainous pirate costumes but their innate goodness saved the day.

Filipinos rejoice and be proud of your heritage!

Filipiniana Day marked the end of our week-long activity. Rules were simple: Celebrate the Filipino culture and heritage by wearing the national costume or the traditional outfits of the Filipinos and speak the Filipino language. This was timed with ending of Buwan ng Wika which celebrated the richness of the Filipino language in all forms.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Season: It’s that time of the year again when the whole IBA family gets together and celebrates peace, love and giving thorough the annual Carols by Candlelight.

This year’s event, through the effort of Ms. Queenie Nicolas, Ms. Jewel Santiago and Ms. Jen Valeria, showcased IBA students’ talents in singing and dancing.

They offered timeless classics of music, poetry and literature as Toni Camatog and JP Cosca narrated the nativity. Christmas carols were sung by the IBA choir and primary students in between nativity scenes.

After the performances, the night was filled with hundreds of lighted candles and the audience was encouraged to reflect on the true meaning of the season.

The highlight of the event was the gift giving. Children of The Children’s Joy Foundation performed on stage while receiving donations from students, parents and guests.

The programme ended with the traditional community Christmas Carol singing with all voices raised in unison.
Because we care...

In the Philippines a ‘generation’ ago, all high school students would only be cleared for graduation after they completed the Citizens Army Training or CAT. All graduating students would be under the sun in military attire doing the military drills in preparation for pasamasid.

Today, most schools require their students to do community service instead and complete the 35 hour requirement before graduation.

So are our students in IBA. Our year 11 students perform community service three times a year. They go to orphanages, homes for the aged and hospitals to bring gifts and fun to the less fortunate. More and more of our students, year in and year out, realize that acting upon the community service is not merely a requirement but a learning opportunity. An activity that helps them realize how lucky they are.

Their output was then used by the secondary students during their visits to different institutions such as La Mesa Dam Watershed, Philippine Children Medical Center and Barangay Payatas in Quezon City to name a few.

Clearly, activities like tree planting and taking care of the orphans, elderly and cancer patients created closer family bonds and camaraderie, gave hope to the hopeless and made the world more pleasant. They all realize that serving the community carries rewards that are beyond what is obvious and tangible.

Upon seeing the positive results among our students, Ms. Jale Nidera, the manager of the community service, extended the programme to all senior primary and secondary year levels for them to take the ‘first step’ and get involved.

Years 1 to 3 students expressed their creativity through card making. They prepared cards for the orphans, elders and cancer patients. Signage making was the focus of Years 4-6 for recycling, resources conservation and street safety campaign.
Loads of Fun at Fun Farm

The lower primary students had their outbound trip to Nuvali, Gardenia and Fun Farm in Laguna last January 17, 2013. With their parents and guardians, students had an unforgettable barnyard experience at the Fun Farm after taking the carbon footprint challenge and listening to short talks about recycling in Nuvali, where they also enjoyed fish feeding and boating.

Students took pleasure in carabao-wagon riding and horseback riding. They also had fishing in the pond where ducks were quacking and waddling by. Holding, playing and feeding bunnies and guinea pigs delighted our little toddlers no end. They also couldn’t be stopped from running and racing over the different rope and obstacle courses and playing at sandbox-play area.

On top of those activities, students and parents had different thrilling group games which made them shout and laugh with excitement and eagerness to win.

The day was definitely activity-packed for our precious little learners. It was a fresh, new, and interesting experience for them.

Animals Encounter at Zoocobia and Dinosaur Island

The fun day of the primary students started few minutes after boarding the buses. On their way to Clark, Pampanga last January 24, students enjoyed singing in groups, playing mini-games and taking history lessons from the field trip facilitators.

After 3 hours, they reached Zoocobia. They had close encounter with the different animals, which were not in cages. Students had the chance to hold, feed and saw different animals up-close. Aside from the animals, students also had fun on huge slides and playground for kids, a garden maze, feeding barn and the Zooc Ride. They were also entertained by a monkey, parakeets, and a poodle which were all part of the animal show.

In Nayong Pilipino, their 2nd destination, they danced with the natives who also showed them how to make fire, clay pots and wooden weapon.

Their last destination was the dinosaur park. The children were thrilled with life-size moving dinosaur replicas with loud sound effects. It was such an attraction!
Summer Heat Brings Summer Treats!

The Year 11 classes brought us five summer treats to ward off the summer heat as part of their entrepreneurial activity in Economics.

The different products were called I Sweet ‘n Treat!, Shakyzphere, Le Brownies, The Giraffe Box Cookies and Fruiteezee, varying from cool drinks to delicious brownies.

They had a soft launching of the products on 21st of March in the open area, which provided only limited stocks. I Sweet ‘n Treat! emerged as the crowd’s favourite.

The Grand Opening was held on April 5 during the break and lunch times, with the I Sweet ‘n Treat! and Le Brownies groups dominating the others by earning the most. Most of the students tried at least one product and came to say that “it was worthwhile”.

Angelica Paloma of Fruiteezee group shared that “the hardest part of the project was the planning and preparation; however, it was worthwhile”.

This activity was a collaborative project covering topics in Economics, English and Statistics.

A Real Outdoor Adventure at Tree Top and Ocean Adventure

After listening to historical facts and fun trivia about the places in the north for more than three hours, our secondary students experienced a great deal of adventure.

Students wore harnesses, swung from trees to trees and got high on nature in the Tree Top. They experienced flying like superman and silver surf on air!

There was also a mini trail which teaches the audience how to survive in the jungle with just bamboo sticks. They were also introduced to the trained wild animals like bat, snake, eagle & raccoon.

In Ocean Adventure, students were able to watch multiple shows: the Dolphin Friends Show, where students watched the dolphins do amazing swimming tricks and interact with their trainers; the Walk on the Wild Side Show, where making fire out of bamboo was shown along with the different wild animals in the jungle and Balancing Act, where environmental friendliness was being promoted in an entertaining way and even had African acrobats perform intense and eye-catching acrobatics.
PTA in Action

The Parent-Teacher Association or PTA is one organization here in IBA that silently works, yet gives surprises to the whole IBA family. Headed by Ms. Grace Guevarra, this year’s set of officers has successfully accomplished a number of projects.

A Halloween Treat!
The IBA Halloween Party was held last October 26, 2013. Despite the stormy weather, a significant number of participants, adult and child alike, still attended the gathering in their creepy and fantasy costumes. There were food booths and accessories stalls ready to serve anytime during the party. The best surprise of all was the number of raffle prizes!

Foundation Day Motorcade
The PTA organized a motorcade on Nov. 24 alongside the festivities for Foundation Day. With their vehicles, dressed up and decorated for the occasion, they drove around the area, from Bacoor to Molino to Pala-pala. It was not only a sign of support for the IBA family, but a marketing strategy as well.

IBA Medical Mission
The PTA was in unity with IBA in giving back to the community. The officers worked with Ms. Jale Nidera in collecting medicines and goods for the students of Pasong Santol Elementary School. They also assisted the doctors and nurses in performing physical check up among beneficiaries.

Improvement of the Primary Library
The library section intended for primary students has been given a make-over, which definitely attracts more young readers to stay and read inside. Colourful cushions and child-friendly low tables have been properly arranged inside creating a more comfortable environment for the readers.

A Family Movie Watching
The movie premiere of The Wizard of Oz, dubbed Family Movie Day was held in SM Molino last March 7, 2013. Many of the students with their family members and friends attended the event and they all had a fun time. The PTA was able to raise funds from the ticket sales for the further improvement of the library.

The PTA continue to plan and work on the different projects for the benefit of the whole IBA family. True indeed, they are officers in action!
Summer Ball or Junior-Senior Prom for many is considered as the most-awaited event for any junior and senior students. It seems as if high school life wouldn’t be complete without being part of this prominent night. Even a few months before the night comes, organizing committee members start to conceptualize and prepare for the event. Participants begin to look for the most fabulous gowns and suits that will best complement the theme. Soon, boys invite their chosen partners and girls worry about their hair and make-up styles. That’s how important this event is for Year 10 and Year 11 students.

“The Oscars: Your Night in the Spotlight” was held last March 15 at Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City. Elegant in their ball gowns and suits, students had their red carpet grand entrance in the hall decorated with Oscars statues and spotlights. Shortly after, the emcees JP Cosca and Toni Camatog steered the whole program which started with a prayer led by Roxy Stridjhorst and National Anthem conducted by Jollie Orlanda. The school’s headmaster, Mr. Bryan Redin, welcomed all the participants. The Passing of Tokens/Transfer of Responsibility was even made solemn with the candle lighting. A song number was then rendered by Iris Valdez and Kyle Matias. The traditional Cotillion de Honour brought back the memories of the old movies through their soundtracks. The Class Prophecy, as imagined by Riva Adolfo and Eryel Benitez and Last Will and Testament by RC Cayago and Pauline Iga were also worth-remembering. As the prom neared the end, the proclamation of the stunning beauties who stood out among the rest gave pride and honour to Iris Valdez and Jax Park who were awarded as Faces of the Night the Night, Karl Carlos and Roxy Stridjhorst as Stars of the Night. The sweetest Couple of the Night were Pamela Jarlos and Harvey Posadas.
Stepping up TO THE GAME

Inter-School Sports Invitational “I.S.S.I.” Highlights

International British Academy was declared as the overall champion in the recently held Inter-School Sports Invitational “I.S.S.I.”

IBA bagged the Championship title in Chess through the effort of our homegrown IBA Knights.

The IBA Hawks finished 2nd Runner-up in Basketball and John Encisa (Team Captain) was chosen as part of the Mythical Team. Brandon Davey was also picked to play in the All-Star match.

The IBA Ravens Secondary Team conquered the Soccer Tournament after ending the league with a shoot-out against powerhouse Amadeo National High School. Kenneth Nishino was awarded as the “Best Striker” while Tom Jeffrey Asistio received the “Best Goalkeeper” medal.

Inter-School Sports Invitational “I.S.S.I.” was participated in by 5 schools namely International British Academy, PIMSAT Colleges, Tierra Santa Montessori, Shammah Christian School and Westhill International School. FEU-Silang and Amadeo National High School joined as guest teams in the Soccer Tournament. The league was launched last February 8, 2013 and IBA hosted the 1st season with four sporting events: Basketball, Chess, Soccer and Badminton. With the theme “Passion towards Excellence”, the ISSI players truly proved that the burning passion that they have for sports will lead them to success.

Big Athletes on the Rise

IBA, for the past years, has been the venue for potential athletes to come out of their shells. Through to the Sports Programme, fully coordinated by Mr. Julius Hidalgo, a number of students have started to shine in their chosen field in sports.

In Swimming, Antonella Lanza of Year 6 has been identified as a possible national swimmer in the next few years. She has won several Swim Meets.
Last March 4, 2013, she joined a competition at Antipao Bosay Resort and was awarded three gold medals in three events; butterfly, breaststroke and free-style with the time of 34 s, 42s and 38. 81s, respectively. She again won a gold medal for 50m butterfly, silver medal for free style and bronze medal for breaststroke UPVST League at Rizal complex. She also joined Philippine Swim League at De La Salle University- Dasmarinas, where she won a silver medal for 50m butterfly last February 23, 2013.

Hyo Jin Kim would soon be the next chess master of the Philippines. Hyo Jin has joined inter-school tournament and outside school competitions and has brought several medals as a sign of his wit and careful strategic planning. In Wesley Chess Café series of chess competitions, he has already received a gold, 2 silver and bronze medals.

During the ISSI and Westhill-IBA Games Match, Hyo Jin was declared as the champion in the field of chess.
SY 2012-2013
Dandy Doodles

of our little dudes
Back Seat

By Gremyco Estoista

Once during midnight sale in Greenhills, Power Plant; I was shopping my heart out, merrily skipping from one stall to another. As the night grew deeper so did my sleepiness and before I knew it, it was already five minutes to midnight. I really wanted to stay but seeing that almost all of the stalls were about to close, I decided to leave and head home.

The parking lot, where my car was situated, looked worse than one of those places in zombie themed movies. It was very quiet; no sound could be heard except for the beeping of my old red Civic as I used my key to open the car door. There were only a few cars parked and the nearest one was just a few steps away. As I sat down on the driver’s seat, ready to leave, I noticed that a hundred peso bill was lying several meters away from my car. With these Eagle eyes of mine I can see even the smallest ant within a distance. So then I leaped into action and grabbed the hundred peso bill innocently lying down on the ground just like an Eagle grabbing its prey. The very moment that I was checking the money that I just picked up, I heard very soft steps from a little far away, not only do I have Eagle eyes but I also possess an elephant’s ears which can hear almost anything within a mile radius. During these times when I am alone and it’s very quiet, I pretend that ghosts, monsters and other paranormal beings are chasing me on my getaway car so I hurriedly ran towards the car, closed the door and shifted into hyperspace.

On the road I am a madman, changing lanes unexpectedly, swerving and overtaking like crazy. It was just natural for me; I was still young and hot-blooded. After a while, the mood got boring, it felt like I was the only one driving in EDSA. No other cars except one which had almost the same driving behavior as me, it was a black Nissan Sentra, one of the oldest models. As time passed by, I noticed that I was in the boundary of Magallanes and Espana which was a usual spot for Hijackers. Was I being cornered? I knew for certain that the car from a while ago was following me. I looked back once again and there it was, only now it was nearer, the driver indicated a stabbing motion which surely alarmed me. The driver kept on flashing his light and asked me to pull over. I was doing inside, I did not know whether to pull over or not because pretending to stab something in the air would make no sense if stealth is what you want in order to execute your hijack, it was just like he gave away his position. I quickly decided to pull over the nearest gasoline station.

Luckily, Petron was open but none of the employees were awake, talk about sleeping on the job. I pulled over and the black car pulled over as well. I tried to open the door but a man came from behind me, held me on the neck and pointed a knife at me. Here I was sitting on the driver’s seat, shocked to learn that I have been driving from Makati to Pasay with a man in my backseat. My whole life seemed to have flashed before me, I was pretty sure that I would die right there, in that very gas station when that man from the black car hit my car window and pulled the man holding the knife out of the car. They took their fight outside the car; their movements were like those of ninjas. My eyes could barely follow their actions so I decided to get a wrench from my car and whack the bad guy out of his consciousness. It didn’t turn out as expected though; I forgot their faces so I decided to whack them both on the head. Luckily, only the bad guy passed out and the good guy told me that he had followed me from the parking lot because he saw someone holding a knife sneak into my backseat. Thank God I was followed by a concerned citizen or I could have been dead by now. Lesson Learned: Always Check the Backseat.
R. Balleras: An Asian Math Wizard

Whenever I hear the word mathematics, three things come into my mind—endless numbers, complicated operations and brain-draining solving problems. But these things seem to be the opposite for the IBA Math Wizard Randmar Balleras who loves numbers. Solving mathematical problems would be an easy task for him. And this has been proven for so many times.

Since last year, Randmar has been very much involved in different academic contests, concentrating on maths competitions. He attended the Math Trainers’ Guild (MTG) 12 Saturday trainings where he, together with In-Yeong (Sophia) Choi, and Eun Jin (Gloria) Choi, qualified to join in an ‘In House Intensive Program’, a national level math intensive workshop in Iloilo on February 2012.

In May 2012, Randmar placed 4th in the Asian Math Challenge where almost a million students competed for the same event.

Randmar also succeeded in the 2012 8th Asia Cup Stars of the Olympic Math’s Final in Hong Kong. Among 800 participants from 6 different countries, Randmar managed to get the Bronze Medal award and achieved an Outstanding Prize Award in King of Mathematics International Contest.

After his international competitions, Randmar, a math competitor in nature, did not stop joining different local math competitions. Last September, he reaped 1st place in Pagalingan 2012. Also in September, Randmar together with In-Yeong Choi, Eryel Nicole Benitez and Austin Lee vied against 19 other schools and place 3rd in the Regional Math Trail and Problem Solving Competition Elimination Round. Last February, IBA’ representatives joined the International Mathematics Assessments For Schools (IMAS) where Randmar and Austin Lee of Year 11 got a credit award together among 1500 participants from different nations.

He was also one of the Youth Excellence in Science (YES) bronze awardees institutionalized by the DOST-SEI last March 15, 2013 in Los Baños, Laguna.

Randmar, born on January 17, 2000, is first child of Mr. Randolf Balleras, an engineering graduate and a math teacher with doctorate degree in mathematics and Mrs. Marilyn Balleras, a college science and math teacher. Well, genetically speaking, he was really born with love for numbers.
The Lucky Bird
Sarah Elizabeth Gurango

The sweet bird was on a stick then it moved on a brick Then he saw some food which is really something good.

The naughty rabbit
Juliana David

The naughty rabbit eats cheese, then she says 'peace!' then she tries to look and she looks for a book.

QUICKLY
Natalie Kate Sciora

Quickly the tide races up the sand
Quickly the shadows walk on the land
Quickly the carthorse spins his mile
Quickly the old man climbs the stile
Quickly the hands turned round the clock
Quickly the dew runs the dock
Quickly the wolf - but the quickest of all
The black horse that jumps on the old wood wall.
The sun shone through the gaps That the emerald leaves made Making soft patches of light On top of the soft brown shade

And there I sat comfortably With my back on a tree Hearing the flutter of the birds Who sang and flew so free

I remember the days that were laughing together
I can never forget those times
But when you left me alone
I felt like I can never move on

Without you by my side
What would become of me?
You were the one guiding and helping me
You completed my everyday

Now that you are gone
I am all alone
In this cold place
I once called home

The moments of the past
Is hard to forget
But the present time
Is hard to accept

The past is past
I can never bring it back
If I could ever say one last thing to you
Those words would have been

I love you

I'll bring you to a world
so mystic and surreal,
a place for two
where things are dear.

Close your eyes and smell the fresh air.

Hold my hand, I'll take you there.
Through the storm and rain,
I'm there by your side.

Come with me,
and we'll never die.
There was once a gloomy butterfly that thought, “I want to look for happiness. I want to be happy”. So the butterfly decided to fly around the town, hoping that he could find happiness.

First, after seeing how happy a girl was after riding a horse, the butterfly thought, “If I can do that, then I will be happy”, so it landed on the ground, hoping that there would be someone to ride on it. The butterfly waited, and waited, but nothing rode on him.

So the butterfly thought, “If no one wants to ride on me, then I’ll just have to ride on them.” It then flew towards one of the horses and landed on it, hoping that it would feel happiness while riding on the horse. However, the butterfly landed on the horse’s nose, and that irritated the horse, making it shake its head rapidly, forcing the butterfly to fly away.

After that the butterfly saw a dog fetching a ball from its owner. The butterfly then thought, “If I can do that, then I will be happy,” so it decided to try to fetch the ball the way the dog does. However, every time the ball is thrown, it’s the dog that catches it and never the butterfly since the butterfly was so small and delicate. Eventually, the butterfly gave up trying to play catch and flew away.
The butterfly then saw some children playing tag. The butterfly thought, “I wasn’t able to ride on a horse, make anyone ride on me or catch a ball, but if I can play tag with them, then I’ll be happy”. So the little butterfly flew towards to the children, and fly away whenever one of the children would go near it. However, after a while the butterfly realized that even if it just flew and stayed in one place, no one would try to tag it. Disappointed, the butterfly flew away.

While on the verge of giving up, the hopeless butterfly watched someone decorating the pole at the center of the town with colorful ribbons, which resembled a rainbow. The butterfly was fascinated at how the ribbons were twirled around the pole and after it was finished being decorated, the butterfly wanted to fly around the pole the same way the ribbons were twirled around.

The butterfly then noticed that as it was flying around the pole, many people started gathering with smiles on their faces. To it, all the people there looked like they were feeling the happiness the butterfly was searching for this whole time.

The butterfly then thought, “I couldn’t ride on a horse make anyone ride on me, catch a ball nor play tag, but I can make people happy while flying. I can fly, and I think that makes me happy already”.

And so the butterfly realized that all it needed to find the happiness it was searching for had always been there from the start.
Surfing with Syrena

by Beatrice Dimarucut

I have always loved the ocean – the blue-green waters that stretch beyond the horizon, the smell of the tangy, briny air hovering above your skin, its sharp, salty taste and the cool currents that swirl around you while you’re swimming. Having lived in Melbourne my whole life, I’ve spent my days in its jam-packed beaches. Some people like the peace and quiet, but I prefer the excited chattering of tourists and the nonstop racket made by the locals. St. Kilda is my favourite beach – there was always a swarm of people, buzzing like bees, the ear-splitting techno music escaping from the clubs at night, the provocative hollering of the drunken teenagers. It doesn’t sound very attractive but it comforts me, in a way it doesn’t make me feel alone.

Alone. It’s something I’ve been feeling a lot these past three years. Since my mother left us, sometimes I think I can almost hear oxygen circulating my empty, hollow heart. I miss her velvety sweet voice that sung in perfect pitch to the funky tunes of Elvis and the way she would soothe me whenever I got hurt. ‘It’s okay Ella, I’m here’, she’d say, and when she did I knew everything would be okay.

But then she left and I blamed myself – they fought over me. As I grew older, my parents’ shouts grew louder. It started off with angry whispers but soon my father’s deep voice boomed throughout the household and my mother sobbed endlessly during the night – it was the most heartbreaking sound I’ve ever heard. It went on like this for weeks, until one bleak afternoon, when the rain fell violently like silver glass daggers attacking from the sky and shattering at the ground, my mother hugged me tightly and with tears streaming from her eyes, she whispered achingly into my ear – ‘I’m sorry’. The next thing I know, the sound of the closing door echoed in my ears as if she trapped us forever in a world of loneliness.

The following months were a blur. Eventually, my father and I grew accustomed of just being us two and we actually became closer. That was the summer he taught me how to surf. In a way I think surfing saved us – it was a distraction from the pain and the silence that replaced my mother’s voice. I learned quickly, we spent most of our days under the hot sun, the squawking sea gulls and the waves breaking gently on the shore. When I surf, I feel like I’m floating on air, I become a part of it. All I can hear is the whooshing of the wind against my ear and the gentle sprays of the water against my skin, sometimes I even get euphoric cheers from people on the beach and it fills me with joy, at least temporarily. It became my daily routine to surf; it was my solution to everything, my escape. I would surf from sunrise to sunset until I was exhausted enough to fall asleep and not think.
The only time I didn’t surf were during the nights when the waves were unpredictable - my father permitted me and I listened to him because after all, I was all he had. Until one night, I broke my only promise to him.

I’m not quite sure what the tipping point for me was, all I remember is the heated argument between me and my dad, our voices rose over the merry commercials of the television as his fist slammed the table until the wood groaned and split into a sharp crack. I don’t even remember why we were fighting, the point is, I ran out, got my surfboard and headed out into the beach.

During the night, it was a completely different scene. My only source of light was the grim moonlight and as far as I could see, no one else was in sight. I wondered why, usually couples stroll the beach romantically, listening to the calm coos of the night owls. Tonight, the beach had a different atmosphere, it was strangely still and almost eerie but I didn’t care. I was so furious I could hear the blood pumping to the tips of my ears that I needed the ocean’s embrace to comfort me. As I swam further from the shore, I noticed the waters getting choppier and more rigid but again I ignored this until suddenly, the light whispering breeze turned into a shrill, constant whistle and finally a blaring, frightening howl. This is when it struck me, when I realized why no one was at the beach – Syrena!

‘Storm Syrena’ must have been on the local news for a week. I was so upset it had completely slipped my mind. Immediately, I tried to turn my board around but for the first time, the waves were against me and the water lashed my face. The trees on the shore swayed vigorously as their long leaves flapped and whipped each other deafeningly. Fog formed all around me preventing me to see nothing but a white sheet enveloping everything. Simultaneously, lightning cracked the sky as the thunder grumbled like a savage beast, exploding in my ears like the beating of a thousand drums. Fishing boats on the shore bashed against each other, the sand rattled on its wooden surface that split into pieces. I could not see but I heard the metal roofs ripping apart and clanging as they spun in the weeping wind. Rain transformed into hail and chunks of ice fell from the sky and joined the never-ending rage of nature. I screamed desperately for help but my voice was drowned out by the endless chorus of the waves roaring furiously as they tossed and turned. I thought I heard what sounded like the wailing of rescue sirens and my father’s hoarse voice calling my name repeatedly. But before I could even feel hope of survival - splash! A gigantic wave formed before my eyes, resembling a gaping mouth – the ocean’s mouth that attacked and swallowed me whole. The last sound I heard was the plunk of my surfboard against my head, and then silence – as I slowly sunk to the depths of the grey sea.

The next day, I woke up to a blinding white light and realized it was only the walls of the hospital. It’s a miracle I survived! To my right, I saw my father sleeping in a battered sofa and for once he wasn’t snoring or grunting. Almost as if he knew I was awake, he stood up and embraced me. Instantly, a crowd of doctors and nurses surrounded me and started moving their mouths animatedly. I thought they would ask questions but they only continued to open and close their mouths. This went on for ages and they looked so strange and idiotic I had to laugh – but no sound came out. Everyone around me stopped and stared with pity but I still didn’t know why. Was there something wrong with my throat? That’s when my dad held up a piece of paper: ‘Honey, can you hear us?’

And I realized. Panic built up inside me the size of the waves I survived and dread struck me immediately. I was deaf. I would no longer hear the sweet chirping of the birds or the crackle of bonfires or the crunch of the autumn leaves as you step on them – nothing ever again, nothing but pure silence and the memory of the black waters nearly killing me. How could I ever love the ocean ever again?
The Sunset…

Toni Camatog

The day hasn’t been very good to me.

It started out with me zooming in and out of dreamless sleep because of the adrenaline from excitement; waking up every few hours. When the alarm clock went off at 8:30 AM, I was already lying awake in bed with my eyes heavy, feeling extremely tired. My head and back felt like a thousand mallets pounded on it from tossing and turning because of restlessness.

When I was getting myself ready and was trying to put my contact lenses in place, my best friend, who was trying to figure out how to operate the new hair-drier, accidentally blew a strong hot blast of wind at me. It dried up the lens so much that just as I was about to drop a few droplets of solution, it ripped, and I had to use my glasses.

At the beach, I was leaning across the balcony of the Sunset Saloon, which is a bar that’s like a gigantic tree-house high above the ground minus the tree, concentrated on sending a text message when a kid pushed past me, followed by another one. They knocked the cell-phone out of my hand and it plunged down about two stories onto the sand below. After dashing down the stairs, I quickly grabbed it and checked for damages. With my luck, it landed on the rocky area and the screen had a long deep scratch across the middle.

In other words: today was ironically not my day.

So now, I’m just strolling along the seashore where the water reached my ankles, staring straight down with my hands in the pockets of my shorts. I am isolating myself from my friends, just walking aimlessly in one direction: nowhere.

I feel frustrated. Today was supposed to be an awesome day, when we’d just have fun and celebrate the twenty years I’ve been on this planet—and my first day out of being a teenager. Instead, I am away from the things that would give me happiness, in fear that it would only make it worse. My eyebrows furrow, and I groan, kicking the seawater.

“Watch where you’re splashing that,” a voice warns. I glance up to see an elderly man on the sand nearby.

“Oh,” I sputter, “sorry.”

The man doesn’t reply; he only continues staring straight ahead. Just as I was about to walk away, he says, “Come sit with me.”

I startle. “If you’re not busy, that is,” the man adds.

Is this man dangerous? Why would he want me to sit with him? A thousand qualms cross my mind. Still, I sit by the man hesitantly, making sure to keep a safe distance from him.

It was silent. There weren’t many people on the beach. My friends and I had been careful to pick a place as picturesque as Boracay but wasn’t even a quarter as popular.

My friends: Are they looking for me now? Or are they having a better time without me? I was being cantankerous, which no doubt dragged everyone’s mood down in the dumps…

Out of the blue, the man speaks again. “I just love the beach at this time,” he says.

“I say something real intelligent, like, “Uh, okay.”

“It feels pleasant here, around this time,” he muses, “the warm breeze of midday, the salty aroma from the ocean, the cool water grazing my feet every time it rockied the shore, the gentle roar of the waves…”

“…the sunset?” I suggest.

The man pauses. A strained look comes across his face, and I worry that I upset him. Great—another person I disappointed. The man slowly turns his head in my direction with a small sad smile. “I’m blind.”

I am shocked, and I try to hold back a gasp. “Oh,” I whimper.

For the first time, I look at him directly in the eyes, and I am even more astonished. They were a stunning icy crystal blue, but they were full of warmth, as if home was in his eyes. They were the most magnificent pair of eyes I’ve ever seen. It was heartbreaking that he couldn’t see beauty around him with them.

He looks straight forward again. “I have been since well, for a long time. But I wasn’t born blind.” There was longing within his voice. He whispers, “Could you tell me what it’s like?” words just automatically pour out. “It’s beautiful.

“The sun gradually becomes bigger and presumably less bright as it nears the horizon. The colors all around change magically, like an engrossing light show in Disneyland. Not only that, but as you watch it, waves of euphoria ripple through you. It captivates you and makes you feel like you’re in a fairy-tale. It’s just… enchanting.

“The sun turns from a blinding white in the clear blue sky to a blazing yellow disc contained in an intense orange strip
against a dolphin blue wall. It’s sort of like decoration on an Easter egg.

“Then, as it slowly but surely dips lower, the sun absorbs the lights surrounding it, as if it were a cotton ball soaking up spilled paint, and transforms into a fiery reddish orange. It radiates a rainbow of peach, grayish pink, and indigo.

“The sky fades into a middle school girl’s passionate pink and purple blanket with a scarlet fringe on the bottom where the small orange stain that is the sun is. Finally, the sun abandons you, leaving a gaping wound on the horizon. Later, the pink and purple sky darkens until it is blue once more, only darker, with the sparkling stars lighting up the world, waiting to welcome the moon.

“It’s surreal, really. Fascinating, spellbinding, extraordinary, enticing… it’s like the whole world has paused to enjoy the scene. I wish I could just take the whole thing and bring it to my room. If only you see what I can see, you’ll understand why I want it so desperately.”

I take a deep breath. I feel as if I just got out of a trance. I glance at the man. His eyes are closed. Then he opens them, beams, and whispers, “Thank you.”

I grin and nod. Realizing that he couldn’t possibly have seen that, I say, “You’re welcome.”

Silence befell us once more, but this time it was more comfortable. The man asks, “Why were you troubled?”

Confused by what he meant, I say, “What?”

“Earlier, I think you kicked the sea and got me wet. I heard you growl. I thought you were upset,” he explains.

“Oh,” I say. I tell him about my sleepless night, my torn contacts, my cell phone, how I isolated myself by walking away and how it was probably the worst birthday I’ve ever had. The man smiles at me.

“One day does not make your whole life,” the man says, “You’re young, you have more years to come, and I wish you all the best for them. You should go make the most of the day and forget about the negatives. Enjoy what you have while you still have it. Change it from being the worst birthday to the best. If you can describe a sunset so well and get my spirits up, you can raise yours as well.”

I smile. Maybe he can see beauty after all; he just doesn’t use his eyes to do so.

Before I can reply, a girl with curly blonde hair approaches. “Grandpa, mom asked me to call you for dinner,” she says.

The man nods. He bade me farewell. The girl takes his hand and leads him away.

I realize: I don’t even know his name. I shake my head. He’s one of the people who has made the greatest impact on me and I don’t even know his name.

I don’t get up. I just enjoy the peacefulness. The sky is still purple, which is quite amusing since purple is my favorite color. The fine white sand along the shore feels soft beneath me; the calm roar of the waves soothing to my ears as it tickles my toes every time it hit the coastline, as if it is trying to tempt me into diving in. The gentle breeze plays with my dark hair, twirling and twirling in the air around my face. It feels lovely.

“Hey,” says a deep voice—a voice I’d recognize anywhere. Familiar eyes meet mine, the smile I love flashes at me.

“Hey,” I reply.

“Where have you been?” he says as I stand up and dust sand off my backside. “I’ve been looking for you everywhere.”

“Just enjoying the sunset,” I tell him, my eyes glittering.

“Without me? Aw,” he jokes.

“Oh, shush,” I laugh, lightly punching his arm. We walk side by side along the shore, heading back to the hotel for dinner.

We talk about random nothings, laughing and just fooling around. It’s a pretty long walk, and soon the moon is shining above us. His hand slips into mine. And I just smile.

“I know you haven’t been having the best day,” he says softly, “but I just have to say…” he turns so he’s directly in front of me. “You light up my world like nobody else, no matter how grumpy you act. So don’t go running away again. But even if you do, just call my name and I’ll be coming. Even if you’re in the on the other side of the world, it doesn’t matter.”
There is so much fun in IBA! There are a lot of events that we really enjoy. Also, IBA has taught us that we can still unite even though we are different from one another. --- S.M.G.

I love IBA because I learn a lot of things here. All teachers are very kind. ---

I love IBA because I learn a lot of things. I also have gained new friends. IBA has helped become more friendly and sociable. --- MCBV

The quality of education is good. --- CHH

Why do I love IBA?

I have been here in IBA for years. Even though the academics here is so hard, I still consider it a great school because I really learn a lot. My classmates here are all good influence.

I love IBA because I learn a lot in all of my subjects. My experiences here have taught me a lot. -- MFB

In this school, everybody loves one another and cares for each other. -- Lormaigne

Learning is more fun here!!!! --- DCES

IBA is where I started learning. All of my teachers have taught me well. Even though I have my ups and downs, I still learn to appreciate things. Thank you IBA for teaching me how to love and care. -- Nicole G.

This is where I have learned things since I was in Reception. I have met true friends. IBA has also disciplined me in my actions and in my words... -- JL

In IBA, I have learned to be confident to show myself to the whole school. Students here are very kind!

I have been able to enhance my talents through school plays in IBA.