

 DepEd allows physical graduation rites


 MakSci SSG holds Esports Tournament


 This one is for the... books?

MakSci holds 'F2F' classes for SHS after 2 years



Photo courtesy: Mrs. Joana Marie Duka, MSHS Teacher

By Erik Y. Lenon

After two years of online learning, Makati Science High School reopened its classroom doors for Grades 11 and 12 last April 18, 2022 to participate in the nationwide expansion of limited in-person classes headed by the Department of Education.

The face-to-face setup consisted of cycles each equivalent to two weeks, in which one week was for attending classes at school and the other was for working on assigned activities on DepEd-Makati BEAMS. Synchronous classes started at 7:00 a.m. and continued until 2:00 p.m. or

3:00 p.m., depending on the sections' class schedules.

Under this setup, a maximum of 20 students were allowed in one classroom; if the number of students willing to join exceeded this number, the class would be split into Cohorts A and B.

During the first week of a cycle, Cohort A students went to school, while Cohort B students stayed at home for their asynchronous learning. They switched places during the second week: Cohort B attended synchronous classes, while Cohort A did their asynchronous tasks at home. In case of school absence, the student would have to submit a

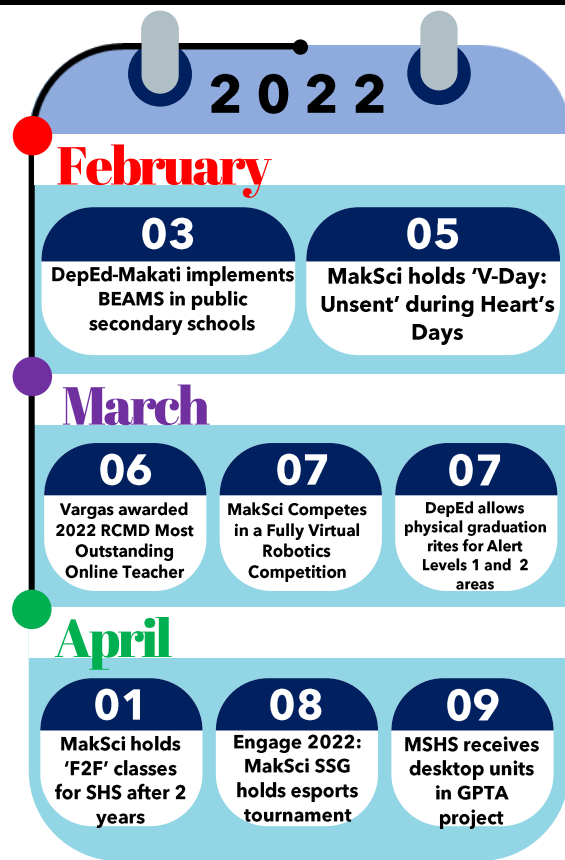
medical clearance.

Unlike before the pandemic, there were no morning assemblies held on the grounds. Instead, flag ceremonies happened every Monday at 6:45 a.m. inside the classrooms, which were equipped with air purifiers for better ventilation, a UV light for overall disinfection, and an automatic alcohol dispenser for clean hands. Green arrows on the hallways indicated the unilateral pathway across the school.

Students brought their own packed lunch and snacks as the canteen was mostly closed, having only opened for a short time last May 16-20.

Meanwhile, learners with parents who decided not to register them for face-to-face classes attended modular classes, provided with modules, PowerPoint slides, and whenever

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



MakSci holds 'F2F' classes for SHS after 2 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

possible, video lessons. They were also given asynchronous activities to submit.

Changing learning modality from modular to face-to-face or vice-versa was allowed, provided that the parents informed the adviser and that the student would have finished the current cycle first before switching modalities in the next cycle.

At school, students were excited to see their friends again and get back on track. Some have expressed they were at ease knowing that they understand the lessons better in an in-person learning setup.

Through meeting in person, the Senior High School (SHS) teachers and students were given the opportunity to know and get along with each other more outside of Zoom. Teachers caught up with the students and had casual conversations with them between discussions.

Only fully vaccinated SHS students were permitted to attend school alongside the teachers, who were also required to have been completely vaccinated.

People within the school premises were required to observe the minimum health protocols, such as mask-wearing, handwashing, and social distancing.

The pilot face-to-face classes for Grades 11 and 12 continued until June 17, 2022.

After two years of online learning, Makati Science High School reopened its classroom doors for Grades 11 and 12 last April 18, 2022 to participate in the nationwide expansion of limited in-person classes headed by the Department of Education.

The face-to-face setup consisted of cycles

each equivalent to two weeks, in which one week was for attending classes at school and the other was for working on assigned activities on DepEd-Makati BEAMS. Synchronous classes started at 7:00 a.m. and continued until 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m., depending on the sections' class schedules.

Under this setup, a maximum of 20 students were allowed in one classroom; if the number of students willing to join exceeded this number, the class would be split into Cohorts A and B.

During the first week of a cycle, Cohort A students went to school, while Cohort B students stayed at home for their asynchronous learning. They switched places during the second week: Cohort B attended synchronous classes, while Cohort A did their asynchronous tasks at home. In case of school absence, the student would have to submit a medical clearance.

Unlike before the pandemic, there were no morning assemblies held on the grounds. Instead, flag ceremonies happened every Monday at 6:45 a.m. inside the classrooms, which were equipped with air purifiers for better ventilation, a UV light for overall disinfection, and an automatic alcohol dispenser for clean hands. Green arrows on the hallways indicated the unilateral pathway across the school.

Students brought their own packed lunch and snacks as the canteen was mostly closed, having only opened for a short time last May 16-20.

Meanwhile, learners with parents who decided not to register them for face-to-face classes attended modular classes, provided with modules, PowerPoint slides, and whenever possible, video lessons. They were also given asynchronous activities to submit.

Changing learning modality from modular to face-to-face or vice-versa was allowed, provided that the parents informed the adviser and that the student would have finished the current cycle first before switching modalities in the next cycle.

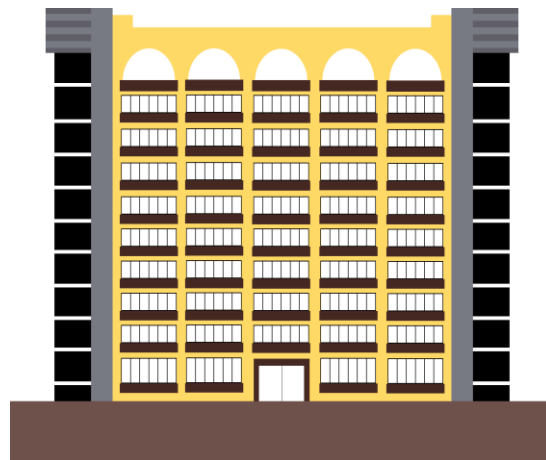
At school, students were excited to see their friends again and get back on track. Some have expressed they were at ease knowing that they understand the lessons better in an in-person learning setup.

Through meeting in person, the Senior High School (SHS) teachers and students were given the opportunity to know and get along with each other more outside of Zoom. Teachers caught up with the students and had casual conversations with them between discussions.

Only fully vaccinated SHS students were permitted to attend school alongside the teachers, who were also required to have been completely vaccinated.

People within the school premises were required to observe the minimum health protocols, such as mask-wearing, handwashing, and social distancing.

The pilot face-to-face classes for Grades 11 and 12 continued until June 17, 2022.



MATHALINONG MAKSCI: Students win awards in math



By Maxyne Ysabelle K. Academia

Makati Science High School students continued to exhibit their skills in mathematics and excel in multiple national and international competitions.

During the Philippine International Mathematical Olympiad (PhIMO) 2022 Heat Round last April 9-10, 2022, Samantha Mykhyle S. Francisco bagged Silver under Secondary 3, Frances Debborah H. Arcalas received Bronze under Secondary 2, and Jairus Alfred G. Cruz reaped Silver under Secondary 1.

Another competition, the Big Bay Bei 2021 Heat Round, was held on January 21, 2022, where four MakSci students won awards. Christian Jozef R. Dimaunahan took First Prize for Senior Secondary, whereas Rhianna Mikaela V. De Sotto, Rafael Laurence G. Padayao, and Arcalas each earned Third Prize for Secondary Two.

On Nov. 10 and 16, 2021, the American Mathematics Olympiad took place. Cruz attained Silver, while Euan Sebastian T. Garalde got Bronze, both under Secondary One.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DepEd-Makati implements BEAMS in public secondary schools



DepEd-Makati BEAMS Login Page

By Mickaela A. Aspuria

In its quest to enhance the quality of education in the new normal, the Schools Division Office of Makati City (SDO-Makati) began the implementation of its Basic Education Accessible Learning Management System (BEAMS) in all public secondary schools during the school-based In-Service Training (INSET) for the rollout of the NEO Learning Management System (LMS) conducted last February 2-3, 2022.

DepEd-Makati BEAMS is the schools division's recently unveiled official LMS powered by NEO. The teachers were briefed on how to use the platform during the held INSET.

Aside from Makati Science High School (MSHS), the schools part of the rollout were Fort Bonifacio High School, Nemesio I. Yabut Senior High School, Maximo Estrella Senior High School, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino High School, Tibagan High School, Makati High School, San Isidro National High School, Gen. Pio del Pilar National High School, San Antonio National High School, Pitogo High School, and Bangkal High School.

Being the pioneer to implement NEO LMS prior to the division-wide

rollout, MSHS serves as the lead school for SDO-Makati's project, with the school principal, Ms. Eden F. Samadan, as the lead focal person.

To capacitate the school-based teaching personnel on the functionality of NEO LMS, associated topics were discussed by lead facilitators, most of which comprised of the MSHS ICT Team, including Mr. Luvy John A. Flores, Mr. Ralmond SJ Roca, Mr. Owen B. Ombid, and Mr. Emmanuelle Joy J. Vidallo.

Their co-facilitators were Mr. John Manuel B. Padre, Ms. Lourdes Rivera, Mr. Abraham M. Bolongaita Jr., and Mr. John Jesper L. Danguie. As facilitators, they were each assigned a cluster of schools to mentor during the two-day INSET held via Zoom.

According to Flores, the MSHS ICT Coordinator, BEAMS serves as a repository of learning materials and a platform for teachers to integrate interactive activities to their lessons where any time, the students can view the lessons, quizzes, and other assessments uploaded on the website.

Before the rollout of DepEd-Makati BEAMS, most public high schools used Google Classroom as their online educational platform, until the local

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MATHALINONG MAKSCI: Students win awards in math competitions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, during the PhIMO 2021 Final Round held last Sep. 26, 2021, Dimaunahan won Gold alongside Dennis Gabriel V. Sta. Catalina bagging Silver. Dimaunahan also received the Gold Award in the Hong Kong International Mathematics Olympiad Final Round of 2021.

Each of the mentioned math competitions was held online, as will the PhIMO 2022 Final Round that is scheduled to happen in September.



DepEd-Makati implements BEAMS in public secondary schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

government granted the request of SDO-Makati to fund an LMS with features that better suited the needs of the teachers, the students, as well as the parents.

With BEAMS, teachers are able to customize the online assessments given to the students, such as by choosing whether the students can view the answers directly after submitting, and whether the student can jump to another item while answering the test. Flores stated that these features can help teachers to preserve the validity of tests and minimize cheating.

As for the students, BEAMS has a built-in chat feature that allows for them to communicate directly with teachers and other students on the learning platform. Learners can also visually monitor their class performance and keep track of the groups they are in for different projects.

Flores added that the website further facilitates parent involvement, which he says is useful, whether or not there is a pandemic. Parents are provided their own account on the LMS, through which they can access detailed information

about their child's classes, grades, and progress.

Though the development and rollout of BEAMS was not in SDO-Makati's pipeline, Samadan pushed for its implementation after seeing how NEO LMS was able to meet the needs of the MakSci community.

Prior to its switch to BEAMS, MSHS has already been using its own version of NEO LMS throughout its subject areas since the beginning of S.Y. 2021-2022 as a replacement for Moodle, the school's previous LMS, which Flores stated was costly and time-consuming.

In contrast, he commented that NEO LMS is efficient and convenient on the admin's side as the server is run by the company itself. He also mentioned that MakSci was able to use NEO for free given the size of its student population per year level.

However, NEO LMS has been in use in MakSci for much longer. Flores learned about this platform through the late Math teacher Mr. Arnel D. Olofernes, who had embraced the software formerly known as EDU 20 LMS in his classes since 2011.

From 2017 to 2018, Olofernes, who was fondly called "Tsip" by his students, shared his discovery to the Math Department, and its core teachers were able to adopt NEO LMS as a platform to upload handouts and give out tests.

While recounting his history of using NEO, Olofernes humorously gave his original reason for using the LMS.

"Ang sa'kin lang naman kasi noon, okay 'tong platform na 'to kasi I can give homeworks tapos hindi ko na che-checkan," he shared.

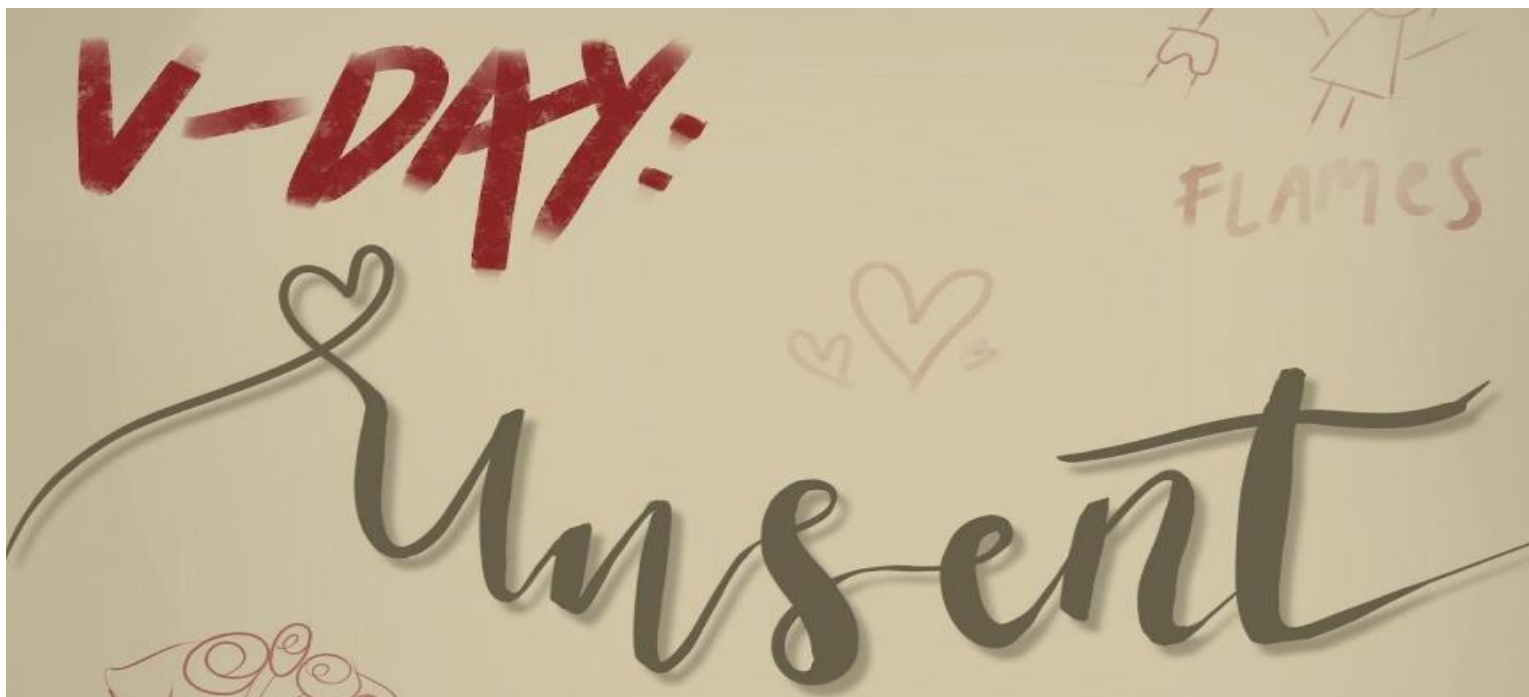
From being the only person in MakSci using NEO LMS to watching it become adapted into BEAMS by DepEd-Makati, Olofernes was proud to have witnessed the platform's evolution.



"To be honest, I felt happy and somewhat vindicated na 'yung innovations na sinimulan ko ay naipagpapatuloy."
- Mr. Arnel Olofernes

In preparation for the full operationalization of DepEd-Makati BEAMS for the Fourth Quarter, follow-up training sessions were conducted in each secondary school during the months of March and April 2022.

MakSci holds 'V-Day: Unsent' during Heart's Days



Makati Science High School SSG Facebook Page

By Mickaela A. Aspuria

Makati Science High School held its V-Day: Unsent event for Valentine's Day. The Supreme Student Government headed the event, which launched last Feb. 11, 2022.

The event allowed students to send letters to someone anonymously via Google

Forms. Students can admit their feelings to their special someone through letters by submitting an entry.

Some participants used the time to show love and appreciation to their friends. According to some, they felt like it was the only time they could give something good to them. They like sending

affectionate letters through events like this, and they are always delighted to see their friends' reactions.

The SSG sent the letters on Feb. 14, 2022, and the event was open until February 16 for those who wanted to submit after Heart's Day.



Editor-In-Chief: Ana Zoe V. Davad

Associate Editor: Mickaela A. Aspuria

Managing Editor: Marybless Avegayle Lumawag

Opinion Editor: Nicole Erika Resultay

Literary Editor: Joan Gabrielle Alegario

Layout & Graphics Editor: David Lance V. Paez

Writers

Erik Lenon
Fiona De Guzman
Jillianne Almada
Joshua Jay Businos
Julian Paul Businos
Leilah Angelique Kunkel
Gabriel Ace Capuz
Patricia Nicole Tan
Sandrinne Christina Pacifico
Maxyne Ysabelle Academia
Denise Marie Ruiz
Jillian Carina Tuazon
Matthew Ezekiel Quimora
James Enriquez
El Zechariah Lennon Gamez
Lady Shaniah Marzan
Myra Pamela Dela Cruz
Clara Marela Clarin

Adviser: Mrs. Jenny Palmenco Olinares

Principal: Mr. Michael M. Mercado



The *Makati Science Vision* is the official student publication of the Makati Science High School, a public secondary school located at Kalayaan Avenue, Barangay Cembo, Makati City. Mrs. Eden F. Samadan is currently serving as principal of the school since 2018. With our motto "Veritas, Aequitas, Libertatem," which translates to "Truth, Justice, Liberty," we aim to deliver the freshest news to the public while observing accuracy and fairness at all times.

www.makatiscience.online/vision

Vargas awarded 2022 RCMD Most Outstanding Online Teacher

By Matthew Ezekiel N. Quimora



Last March 10, Ms. Reverie I. Vargas won the award for the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas' (RCMD) "Most Outstanding Online Teacher" for 2021-2022.

Vargas won the said award in the Club's annual Search for the Most Outstanding School Teacher (MOST) among Makati public schools, with Makati High School's Mr. Felix Bunagan being this year's "Most Outstanding School Principal."

This year, RCMD in partnership with the Continuing Education for the Learning Professionals Incorporated hosted a webinar about "The Multimodal Approach in Blended Learning," which Ms. Vargas attended after hearing about it from her

department head, Mr. Mark Anthony J. Vidallo. Little did she know that this would pave the way for her to represent the school in the "Search for the Most Outstanding Online Teacher 2022."

During this year's MOST, Vargas went through panel interviews and shared her approach in teaching Mathematics and Statistics in an online setup. According to her, the questions and situations presented were out of the box, distinctive, and challenging.



"I have a certain mantra that I would always remind myself about: 'hindi okay ang okay na' and 'do your best in everything you do,' because I believe that opportunity comes once in a lifetime and with God-given talents, God's plan will prevail and will grant me my victory."

- Ms. Reverie Vargas

Makati Science High School now has two teachers who have recently been first-place winners of RCMD's MOST, Mr. Emmanuelle Joy J. Vidallo last 2019 and Vargas this 2022.



"What led me to win this award, I think, is my passion to teach and my drive to lead my students to a greater future. There are people who believed in me, in my ability, who were always there to support and give me the push I needed to overcome fear and to think clearly in every panel interview."

- Ms. Reverie Vargas

MakSci Competes in a Fully Virtual Robotics Competition

By Jillian Carina B. Tuazon

The Department of Science and Technology - Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) organized the Tagisang Robotics Competition, which was participated in by 13 schools, including Makati Science High School. It started last February 2022, but became a fully virtual robotics competition due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

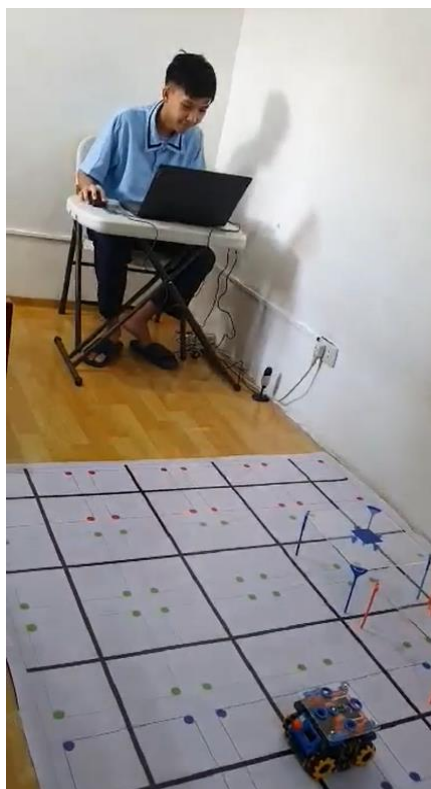
The top five ranking schools as of March are Rizal High School (500 points), Rizal National Science High School (500 points), Marcelo H. Del Pilar National High (475 points), Caloocan National Science and Technology High School (475 points), and Pitogo High School (475 points).

Makati Science High School and Taguig Science High School both ranked seventh (450 points) after Heat One of the competition.

Jon Louis C. Macopia, the sole participant from MakSci who is coached by Mr. Andrian B. Mesa, has already finished the tasks in Heat One.

the first part of the competition.

According to Mesa, it is difficult for them to do their routine training. He prefers to conduct it face-to-face, but because of the pandemic, they usually just do an online discussion about the task or problem given to them by the competition organizer.



In this virtual competition, student participants must submit their program codes to the judges because these codes need to be uploaded to the mobot (mobile robot). The judges will then test the mobot and give points based on its performance.

There are three checks in Heat One: basic mobot movement, mobot input and output peripherals, and mobot calibration. In Check One, the contestants must program the mobots to move around a playing field given a set of predetermined directions.

In the second check, mobots must be programmed to understand input and display output through the use of different peripherals (line sensor, color sensor, rotary encoder, OLED display, RGB LED) connected to the microcontroller.

In the last check for Heat One, Check Three, mobots are tasked to calibrate sensors and motors connected to the robot.

The DOST-SEI revealed the new format of their annual robotics competition in the 2021 Tagisang Robotics Technical Training held during December 13-17, 2021. As of March 2022, there are two more heats to go before the championship round.

DepEd allows physical graduation rites for Alert Levels 1 and 2 areas

By Sandrinne Christina E. Pacifico

On March 25th, 2022, the Department of Education announced that in-person end-of-school year (EOSY) rites will be resumed in areas under Alert Levels 1 and 2.

The DepEd ruled that EOSY rites should be conducted from June 27 to July 2, following the end of the school year on June 24. Private schools may implement the schedule as reflected in

their respective school calendars. Schools in areas under Alert Levels 3, 4, and 5 are allowed to conduct virtual EOSY rites only on virtual platforms.

"With the continuous downward trend of COVID-19 cases and easing of restrictions, we are allowing the conduct of limited face-to-face and virtual graduation, depending on the alert level status in each region."

- DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones



Schools are reminded to follow the minimum health protocols. DepEd Assistant Secretary Alma Ruby C. Torio remarked that "only completers, their parents/guardians, teachers, school officials, and guests" are allowed to attend the rites to "ensure the protection and safety of everyone".

Expenses shall be charged to the school's operating budget. Torio mentioned that no DepEd official or personnel shall be allowed to collect any kind of contribution or graduation fee.

DepEd allows physical graduation rites for Alert Levels 1 and 2 areas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The theme for this year's EOSY rites is "Gradweyt ng K to 12: Masigasig sa mga Pangarap at Matatag sa mga Pagsubok" (K to 12 Graduates: Pursuing Dreams and Fostering Resilience in the Face of Adversity).

The agency also reminded that EOSY rites should not be used as a political forum; the guest speakers' messages must focus on the theme of this year's EOSY rites and must not campaign for anyone or any political party. Schools

should make sure that no election-related materials will be distributed within the school premises or online.

Aside from graduating senior high school students, joining the EOSY rites are also finishers of kindergarten, Grade 6, and Junior High School, as well as, excellence achievers in different grade levels. This is the first time physical EOSY rites are allowed since the pandemic started.



Engage 2022: MakSci SSG holds esports tournament



By Mickaela A. Aspuria

In spirit of the school's past yearly Intramurals, Makati Science High School (MSHS) students from each year level took part in Engage 2022, an esports event organized by the Supreme Student Government (SSG) last April 18-30.

Engage 2022 was held by the MSHS SSG with the help of the Information and Technology Core Group to reignite the excitement and competitive spirit the students have over sporting events.

Staying true to MakSci Intrams culture, each batch provided their name and logo for this year's

tournament. The competing batches were Grade 7 Phantom Troupe, Grade 8 Jumbo Hotdogs, Grade 9 Phenoms, Grade 10 Shiba, Grade 11 Spectres, and Grade 12 Advenires.

To keep track of the tournament results, the game history and points earned by each batch were recorded on an online tally board. Scoring a total of 94 points, the overall winner of Engage 2022 was Advenires. Shiba followed in second with 73 points and placing closely behind in third with 69 points was Jumbo Hotdogs.

As for the remaining batches, Phenoms concluded the competition with 59 points, Spectres claimed 54 points, and Phantom Troupe brought

home 39 points overall.

The three games included in the tournament's roster were Valorant, Call of Duty Mobile (CODM), and Tetr.io, with the first two games divided into two clusters. Each batch had the opportunity to score a number of points depending on their placements in the game events.

In a comeback story, the champion for Valorant Cluster 1 was Grade 12 A-Gaming, which bested Grade 9 Alpha Phenoms 3-1 despite losing to them in the semi-finals. A-Gaming's win earned Advenires 20 points.

Alpha Phenoms placed a strong second, earning their batch 17 points, while making the semi-finals and scoring 15 points for coming in third place was Grade 11 CKZ.

As for Valorant Cluster 2, Grade 11 Balorant Minecraft Wortnite (BMW) reigned supreme, having never lost a game throughout the tournament and winning the finals 3-0 against Grade 12 Asiong ng Bloxfruit. Spectres gained 20 points as a result of BMW's win.

Taking second place, Asiong ng Bloxfruit put up a good fight and bagged 17 points. Meanwhile, Grade 8 Le Fishe Au Chocolat fought valiantly and scored 15 points for finishing in third.

Bearing the crown this time in CODM Cluster 1 with a consistently top notch performance was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Engage 2022: MakSci SSG holds esports tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Grade 9 Celestials after their final victory against Grade 8 Valhalla secured them 20 points.

Valhalla nevertheless scored 17 points for Jumbo Hotdogs after coming in second place, while Grade 10 Aliaz landing in third garnered 15 points for Shiba.

Similarly, Grade 12 A Gaming ng Bloxfruit Tetris Chapter Advenires Community aced the CODM Cluster 2 competition, scoring 20 points for their batch after making it straight to the finals and beating Grade 10 Team Terence.

Team Terence bounced back from the defeat of their first game and finished in second place, earning 17 points for Shiba. Grade 7 WFG also made it to the semi-finals, getting third place and scoring 15 points for Phantom Troupe.

Despite having only one representative for the Tetr.io tournament, Jumbo Hotdogs scored the most individual points for the said event thanks to Gillian T. Suguitan, better known as Asashi, who dominated the competition. During



the finals, Asashi won 7-4 over Aeroboi, otherwise known as Jazz Shan J. Asombrado of Shiba, earning the two highly skilled Tetris players 20 and 17 points for their respective batches.

Meanwhile, Julian Carlos B. Gatchalian of Advenires persisted in his battle against fellow batchmate Janna Ayesha M. Reyes and secured his spot as 2nd runner up. Together, they racked up 27 points for Advenires, winning 15 and 12 points respectively.

The finals for each game event, as well as the opening and closing programs, were livestreamed on the Makati Science High School SSG Facebook page. Each game leading up to the finals was also streamed on Facebook, most of which were presented live in the official Engage 2022 group.

At the end of the school year, the first, second, and third placers for each game event will receive corresponding individual gold, silver, and bronze medals. According to the SSG, Engage 2022 served as a soft launch for the possible integration of esports into the roster of games in future Intramurals.

MSHS receives desktop units in GPTA project

By Mickaela A. Aspuria

Makati Science High School acquired 35 desktop units donated by AIA Philippines last April 1, 2022 through its partnership with the General Parents and Teachers Association (GPTA).

School principal Ms. Eden F. Samadan and ICT coordinator Mr. Luvy John A. Flores were among the

faculty present during the turnover of the desktop computers.

According to Flores, the desktop units provided by the project's stakeholder albeit being second-hand are in good shape and have specifications that make them suitable for use by the students.

Prior to the arrival of the donations, MakSci had already been



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MSHS receives desktop units in GPTA project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

lending desktop units to students without computers. The additional desktop units received last April are available for the school to lend to more learners in case the need ever arises.

Flores stated that keyboards and mice were not included with the donated units, but added that based on the last discussion the school had with the GPTA, these input devices may be donated to the school in the future.



This desktop computer donation is part of the GPTA's efforts to address the needs of the students and provide them with the proper tools for effective learning.

2022 District Schools Press Conference

Participants



1st

News Writing

Mickaela A. Aspuria

1st

Sports Writing

Roan Jessa P. Bodino

2nd

Photojournalism

David Lance V. Paez

3rd

Science Writing

Lizzie I. Montemayor

4th

**Copyreading and
Headline Writing**

Joan A. Alegario

8th

Editorial Cartooning

Rhodelyn F. Lucero

9th

Feature Writing

Ana Zoe Davad

9th

Editorial Writing

Erik Y. Lenon

This one is for the... books?



BBC News

Yahoo News Philippines

By Erik Y. Lenon

History has left scars and marks on everyone — we can't escape its impact. For decades and centuries, the books have exhibited the stories of tragedies and revolutions; historical figures dominated the idea of war, telling their stories as we go past the pages. Schools teach it in social studies as part of the youth's education, like national and world history. The media has contributed to spreading information about the world's journey through time. And every day, people like us create new records and breakthroughs, may they be small or big. History's part in our society would make someone think we should learn from it. But as we see the year 2022 unfold, events we only saw in books are alarmingly coming to life.

The late 1930s was hellish. The world was recovering from the aftermath of the first world war, yet another one flourished right before everyone's eyes. As Germany, headed by Adolf Hitler, slowly broke the provisions in the Treaty of Versailles, the world powers geared for a much worse battle. In 1938, Hitler sent troops to Austria and annexed Czechoslovakia. A year had passed, and Germany invaded Poland from the west, prompting France and Britain to declare war. In the end, World War II broke out.

Shock is an understatement for the whole world, as everyone is unprepared for another global crisis. Many countries condemned Russia's actions, calling for its stop. The United States of America has imposed notable sanctions, such as ban on investments in Russia and measures imposed against Russian banks like Alfa Bank, hoping that these economic punishments ease the tension among Russia, Ukraine, and worldwide.

The Philippines has mixed views. The country's leader, President Rodrigo Duterte, expressed his neutrality towards the conflict, telling everyone not to take sides. However, he was stunned and hurt by the actions of his personal friend, Putin. Presidential aspirant and Manila Mayor Isko Moreno backed the neutrality, saying that the country should not take sides in the meantime. Instead, everyone must prioritize the evacuation of remaining Filipinos in the conflicted land and the COVID-19 pandemic. Candidate Ping Lacson has an opposite view, stating that as a signatory of the UN Charter, the Philippines has the right to criticize Russia's actions.

Several points were made, but the Ukraine-Russia conflict clarified who is the oppressor and the oppressed. "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never

the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere." Those are the words Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and an author who wrote a book about atrocities against the Jews during World War 2, said in 1986 in his Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech. The Russian aggression has strained the lives of ordinary citizens and bruised global relations. Being neutral is like tolerating Russia's attacks. That is why it is crucial to condemn Putin's actions.

The result of the brutal attacks is evident all across the globe. Civilians in Ukraine try to make ends meet as the invader bombs their homeland. The loss of family and the sounds of gunshots in once a peaceful country have caused the Ukrainians trauma. The war has slowly destabilized the global markets and industries over the past months. High prices and inflation are waving at everyone as the battle continues. The skyrocketing gas prices prevent people from spending more on other essential goods, affecting many industries, businesses, and investments as a domino effect. Economic sanctions against Russia have weakened the banks. Products have been cut to the country, causing panic-buying and a continuous decrease in the supply of goods in Russia.

The consequences of the war are not only within the two battling countries; it's a rippling effect all around the globe. While one might say that the battle won't reach their country, everyone will eventually feel its outcome. Sure, taking no sides keeps the peace within the countries outside of the conflict, but in the long run, the world will soon see the brutal consequences. The Philippines began noticing the war's repercussions; gas prices are at all-time high, and uncertainty dooms the OFWs in Ukraine. Neutrality adds salt to the injury, reminding us of the world's mistakes a century ago. So why express neutrality when we can pick the side against the aggressor?

No one knows how to stop the war entirely. Peace talks have been ongoing, and none are successful. Some experts say that China might act as a mediator between the two countries, as their intervention holds some influence over Russia. The worst-case scenario is that no one will resolve the conflict due to their issues throughout history. The world must hope that this won't reach a fiery global-scale war because it will be history's end once it does—our last page.

Should we really invest in the revival of nuclear energy in the Philippines?

By Nicole Erika R. Resultay

Last February 28, 2022, President Rodrigo Duterte approved an executive order regarding the inclusion of nuclear energy in the Philippines' energy mix, while the country prepares for the phasing out of coal-fired power plants, to contribute to the country's climate goals. The order also addresses the possible reopening of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), which will be looked into by an interagency panel. The BNPP had been mothballed two years after its completion in 1984 and served as a tourist destination since 2009.

Nuclear energy had been off the table before due to safety concerns. However, the addition of nuclear power to the energy mix could help ease the high cost of electricity and provide a solution to the energy supply issues. "Since we want a stable, reliable, and sustainable energy resource, I believe that nuclear is the way to go," Philippines Secretary of Energy Alfonso Cusi said.

There are plenty of advantages to considering nuclear energy. A very big advantage of nuclear energy is that it is carbon-free, without sacrificing the huge amount of energy it produces. This doesn't mean that nuclear energy doesn't produce carbon dioxide completely — however, the carbon dioxide produced by nuclear power is indirect and emits a much lower output than other energy sources.



Jiru27 / commons.wikimedia.org

Despite the great benefits using nuclear power has, there's a reason why it hasn't been implemented in the energy mix, until now. To start off, nuclear power plants are expensive to build, despite the low cost needed to operate them. Apart from the actual power plant, the costs also cover the needed protection to safely contain the waste produced by nuclear plants.

Additionally, the uranium often utilized in nuclear energy isn't renewable — uranium has a limited supply that requires mining. To mine uranium, miners can make use of open-pit mining, which is relatively safe for miners, but not for the environment itself — this can cause radioactive particles to be left behind, cause erosion, and pollute water sources. On the other hand, underground mining is just as bad, as miners are exposed to not only danger from mining underground itself, but also to a high amount of radiation from the radioactive waste produced by extraction and processing.

However, arguably nuclear power's well-known disadvantage is the possible malfunction and the nuclear waste produced. Last March 2011, the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster occurred, where a tsunami caused damage to the generators of a nuclear power plant, which were needed to cool down the reactors — without the

generators, the core parts of the reactor could melt from the energy released from the nuclear reactions. This is exactly what happened — radioactive materials and chemical explosions were released afterward.

Apart from the dangers of radioactive materials caused by malfunction, there's the matter of nuclear, radioactive waste, an inevitable by-product of nuclear power plants. Radioactive materials and waste are both incredibly dangerous, as they can cause extreme damage to our body, as well as cause cancer. The reason why nuclear power plants are expensive is because of the safety concerns needed to properly store and dispose of nuclear waste because it can not be destroyed. Additionally, nuclear power plants can be a target for terrorists, and uranium can be used to create nuclear weapons that could both result in great catastrophe.

So, for the Philippines, what should be our best course of action? Although nuclear energy might help us alleviate the costs of electricity and give our energy supply stability, it's not enough for us to wholly focus on nuclear energy when there is a much better option, that is safe not only to the environment but for us, specifically. There is, of course, the matter of reducing carbon emissions to reach our climate goals. Instead of nuclear energy, I believe that the government should focus and invest in renewable energy instead. The advantages of renewable energy are immensely worth the disadvantages — if the Philippines wants to meet its climate goals, as well as give solutions to the country's high electricity expenses and low supply of energy, they should invest in renewable energy instead.

Turning Red: On Growing up And Change



Turning Red - Disney Wiki

By Nicole Erika R. Resultay

Pixar's newest film, *Turning Red*, revolves around several different themes that occur in the adolescent life of teenage girls. From overprotective mothers to geeking out with friends, there's a little bit of everything for those who'd like to reminisce or are still in this stage of puberty.

The protagonist of the movie is Meilin Lee, a 13-year-old girl who finds herself in a predicament, as she wakes up one day as a giant red panda. The key to controlling this transformation comes from being calm and keeping one's emotions under control. However, for 'Mei', that might seem like a hard task, given the chaos a teenage girl's life surely can't get enough of. Thankfully, her best friends Priya, Abby, and Miriam are there to keep her calm. Throughout the film, Mei develops a great level of control over her transformation into the red panda.

Within the show, Mei's red panda is revealed to be a hereditary trait of

women in her family, and to get rid of it, an ancient ritual has to take place. To add more to the plot, Mei and her friends' favorite boy group, 4Town, is, well, coming to town! Although the dilemma of the concert's pricey tickets stumps the four girls for a while, an accidental encounter with several students and Mei's red panda makes them realize how they could turn what was once a horrible disaster into an advantage!

As we see through the film, for Mei, growing up meant expectations, although she has always been exposed to them — even though her mother had certainly meant well, it repressed a part of Mei that she wished to let out. Further down the movie, we get to see how her mother carried the same burden of expectations that Mei had, but things are a little bit different now.

Mei's rebellion in the film started to show the cracks of this need for something to change, and the turning point had been Mei and her mother's inevitable confrontation about what Mei wanted, and who she really is, underneath the picturesque perfect

daughter that she was. Mei liked boys and dancing, in ways her mother might find distasteful — Mei had likes and dislikes that she shared and cheered with her friends, as most of us do, things we'd hide from family otherwise for fear of embarrassment.

The movie ends on a bittersweet note, as Mei and her mother come to a certain point of understanding, as they meet eyes in the last scene, and Mei goes out with her friends. Although things had certainly changed, it didn't mean it was a bad thing. The world might turn upside down, but through and through, Mei's relationship with her mother stays strong — not because they are bonded by blood, but by mutual respect and love. Things have changed, yes — but not for the worse.

Truly, *Turning Red* is an amazing movie, with its charming animation, its humor, and its tearjerkers. Although this short recollection hardly covers the wonders of this film, you can be sure to watch out for these beloved characters, and the movie's ties to familial themes and friendships over adolescent years. This period of youth feels nerve-racking but it is also exciting. The movie depicts the inevitability of change in our lives — we change in ways we didn't think we could, but change is important as we go about a world that helps us realize who we are at our core. The things that matter the most stay the same, and at the end of the day, that's all we really have to keep in mind in this ever-changing world.

Encanto and its relation to generational trauma, relate to a Filipino experience



<https://movies.disney.ph/encanto>

By Lizzie Annika I. Montemayor

Kin. What comes to your mind when you first hear that word? Is it family? Clan? Connection? Kin is defined as “a group of persons of common ancestry” by Merriam-Webster. However, kin has an entirely different meaning in internet slang. Urban Dictionary defines it as a character you identify with. When it comes to family and relatable characters, Disney’s *Encanto* surely comes to mind, especially for Filipinos. What is it with *Encanto* that allows us to see ourselves and certain members of our family in each of the characters? *Encanto* may seem like a typical movie about the reconciliation of family, but behind that is its representation of dark and heavy themes such as generational trauma. This certain aspect of the movie makes it seem like we, as Filipinos, are watching our own lives on the screen.

The characters in *Encanto* are well structured; all their actions round back to their core values. The unwavering character they have creates a certain image that people

can easily associate with. It is as if we see the stereotypical dynamics of a family in the blueprint of the characters. First, we have the main character Mirabel who, despite being reminded that she is more than enough, cannot ignore the fact that she lacks something. With that, she is willing to go above and beyond, to the point of putting herself in danger just to prove that she is worthy of her family. Now going to her sisters, Luisa and Isabela. Luisa, with super-strength, can do anything for anyone. Yet her strength brings out a fear that manifests into her greatest weakness. She is afraid to fail people. She fears that she is not worthy if she cannot give if she “cannot be of service” as she explicitly said. Then there’s Isabela, the “perfect” one. Liked by everyone, she seems to have it easy, not until we learned how much she has to let go to keep herself “lovable” in the eyes of others.

I’m sure we’ve met a Mirabel, we’ve talked to a Luisa, and we’ve seen at least one Isabela in our life. The Mirabel’s who fall just a bit behind their family, yet they pour their soul

into efforts of making it up to them. Those who yearn for acceptance and belongingness. The Luisa’s, the eldest ones, the one who shoulders everything, the one who must always give yet have no option to give up. The Isabela’s, in which behind the beauty we see the ugly realities they have to live with. To be themselves they have to cater to everyone. Being selfish is not an option, and mistakes have absolutely no place in their lives, after all, what are they if not perfect?

And then we have Abuela Alma. It is easy to infer that she is the one behind all the complexities these sisters have but what about her? What was behind her that pushed her to impose such ideals? We’ve probably seen an Abuela in the form of the elderlies surrounding us. We might even talk about them among those who are of the same age, yet have we ever discussed what must be the reason they act like that? The simple answer is the past — their past, our past. It was later revealed in the movie that Abuela Alma has lost her whole community and her husband to armed conflict. It is also discussed that this directly relates to refugees and immigrants. Although not exactly in the same situation, the struggle of Filipinos comes close when tracing back to the origin of it all — colonialism and other forms of societal abuse of power.

One may wonder, why does something that happened almost 80 years ago still affect us? This is where the term “generational trauma” comes in. It is almost as if we inherit the “trauma”. To be precise, unhealed trauma is likely to push people to choose to do hurtful things, intentionally or not. In Abuela’s case, she was extremely strict and held such high standards within her family because she was afraid that she may easily lose her home again if not properly protected. She may also lose her community if they are not led well. However, as she admits herself, she lost sight of what truly is important to her, it’s not the fact that they must be a “perfect family” that they need to give up their all to keep the miracle. What she really wants to treasure, deep in her heart, is not some external force that gives them strength and power, but the

Encanto and its relation to generational trauma, relate to a Filipino experience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

love in her family that keeps them together.

These types of things can easily be seen in Filipino households. Parents are so bent on having their kids get a degree, that they ignore the true passion of these children. Sometimes, it ends up in emotional negligence, when in reality they only wanted to help them have a stable future as they may have experienced living in instability themselves in the past. We may see elderlies say hurtful things and do hurtful things when they try to correct us or just point things out about us. They do this because, in reality, they themselves have never experienced gentle and constructive criticism. They grew up thinking the only way to survive is either through compliance or intimidation.

Our grandparents and our parents most likely lived their lives with nothing but survival in mind.

but survival in mind. In times of colonial rule and even military rule, they never had the freedom of choice, they never had access to proper education, they never had the privilege of recreation, and maybe they never really had the time to think about what love must look like, must act like, must sound like. They may never really have the chance to know what love really feels like.

Inside of all of us are the same confused children looking out and thinking why? Why can't I have that? Why can't I be like that? Why can't they be like that? And with these questions, we may now have answers. We, as the new generation, have the slightest

of access to information and educational content. Our generation has the privilege of a more accessible education. We hold the power of uncovering these truths and more accessible education. We hold the power of uncovering these truths and seeing the wholeness behind the broken parts of the people who raised us. We might not be able to forgive, and we will never forget, but at the very least we can understand and we can sympathize. We love and are loved, we hurt and are hurt because we are human. And maybe it's time we see everyone as they are — a human. Everyone is just a human — prone to failure and mistakes before they were our mothers, before they were our fathers, before they were our sisters or brothers, and even before they were our teachers. The past that we share may be the one that keeps us apart today but in the uncertainties of tomorrow, it might be the only thing that will keep us together.

Mausoleum for Sale

By Ana Zoe V. Davad

Kevin is tired of the flower shop, and it's probably equally tired of seeing much of him - though it wouldn't be aware of that. Whenever he travels back in time, he always uses the flower shop at seven thirty on the dot. The atmosphere is silent, and customers rarely choose the early hours of the morning to purchase flowers. For that, Kevin is grateful.

The day moves on like clockwork. Traveling back in time doesn't require anything in particular. Kevin could travel back in a packed train station if he so wished. There really isn't any particular reason he continues to use the flower shop as a rest stop, other than familiarity. One time, after a particularly bad failed attempt, he'd seen the newly opened flower shop by the side of the street. He didn't recognize it, so he walked in, wishing to get away from the memories

everywhere around him.

A particularly bright arrangement of marigolds catches his eye, and he makes his way over to them.

"Did you just do it again?"

Kevin stiffens and turns around slowly. "Excuse me?"

A blonde man is standing behind him. The smile on his face doesn't reach his eyes, and it's far too knowing for Kevin's comfort. "You know, travel back in time. Doesn't it get tiring, doing it multiple times in one day?"

No matter how hard Kevin racks his brain, he cannot remember ever seeing this man in his thousands of failed attempts to fix his past. Surreptitiously looking around, he realizes that the flower shop is empty. Perhaps, then, this person is the florist he has never met before. "You can't do it more than once a day?"

"I've been able to do it since birth."

Kevin shivers involuntarily, one hand clenching in the depth of his coat pocket. "I first traveled back when I was in my teens." He can't imagine how terrifying it would be to accidentally go back in time as a toddler.

"And who are you trying to save?" The look the man gives Kevin pierces him to the core.

"My son."

"Now that we've got those pertinent details over with, my name is Orion." Orion holds out his hand. "You are...?"

Hesitantly, Kevin takes it. "Kevin."

"How long have you been doing this?"

"Ages. Too long to keep count."

"You save him once, but some other thing kills him in the end. He keeps dying, so you keep trying. Am I correct?"

Kevin wonders if this isn't the first time Orion has met a time traveler in need of help. He asks as much, and Orion laughs, loud and clear. "Only you, my friend."

Though he's been nothing but affable and friendly so far, Orion is putting Kevin on edge. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Mausoleum for Sale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

mere fact that this is the first time Kevin has met him through his thousands of runs is already suspicious. But there was something else about the man that made him seem like he was merely going through the motions, like a ship with coordinates set but no captain at the helm. Kevin doesn't know how to ask about this, so he asks about other things. "Will you help me?"

"Of course." Orion takes a sip of the coffee left out on the counter and grimaces. "Your son always dies today, at the same time?"

"Sometimes not. He falls into a coma, and never wakes up." His voice breaks a little as he remembers seeing his little boy on a hospital bed, dwarfed by its size. Every single failed repetition will be worth it if it means he'll never have to see that again.

After that initial meeting, not much changes. The flower shop is the same. But now, there was Orion, and that made him a little less weary. The two of them spend a lot more time together in the time that follows. Kevin walks Orion through what he's done, what he hasn't done. A neverending experiment with ever-changing results.

He would rather not admit it, but Orion is good company. It's almost as though they already know each other,

clicking together like two puzzle pieces. They bounce ideas off of each other, argue over whether the vending machine's orange juice or soda is worse, and keep one another from going insane. The other man follows him consistently on his attempts. Kevin picks his son up from school, holds his hand as he guides him through the streets, but something always happens without fail. He leaves before he can see the light leaving his son's eyes.

Kevin no longer remembers how long he's been doing this. He lost track at some point, or maybe he stopped needing to count. "I don't think I can do it again," he confesses as he plucks the petals off a wilting daffodil.

"You don't think you can fail again."

"Yeah." The last petal falls to the ground. Seeing him die one more time might be the thing that actually breaks him.

"One more try. Just one last try. If you don't, you'll regret it." Orion has that look on his face again. Like he's not quite looking at Kevin, but past him. So he agrees.

The next day, Orion plucks a peony from the window display and tucks it in Kevin's breast pocket. "For good luck," he says. They go over the plan again, until it's practically burned into the back of his mind.

Just to be sure, though, Kevin lets Raphael

sit on his shoulders on the walk home. His son wraps his arms around him and cheers. "Papa, I thought you were gonna be late again!" He's heard that sentence so many times, but he'll never tire of the way the seven-year-old beams at him like his mere presence means the world.

As they walk home, they pass by a tiny yellow flower growing through a crack in the concrete. The closer they get, the more restless Kevin becomes. His heart is thumping against his ribcage with something shaped like fear and tentative joy. When they successfully walk through the door, the tears spill over.

"Pa?" Raphael pats at his wet cheeks. He looks half-ready to start crying too. "What's wrong?"

Kevin pulls him into a hug. "I'm just... really, really happy," he whispers. He's too overwhelmed by sheer joy to notice the man entering the mausoleum down the street.

Orion cracks a tiny smile and murmurs to himself, "Let's see each other again in the past, Kevin." Around him, time flows backwards, the sun rising to the peak of the sky from the west. Vines creep out of the cracks in the concrete and cover the walls. Several colorful flower arrangements appear around him. He flips the sign to read "OPEN".

Kevin should be arriving soon.

[Polaris]

By Marybless Avegayle Lumawag



Spotlight pointing right at me
And who might my second star to the
right be?

The answer, without doubt, could
only be you

Whose existence makes me want to
start anew

From beginning of spring to the
second bloom

Wind, flowers, sea, snow, and moon

Your voice a true solemn tune

Like sunshine beaming as it sets
after noon

All stars revolve around thee

Smiling brightly, more than ever,
in this dream

You — the true protagonist

Sparkle... shine, ablaze like a
morning stars' gleam

end.

Skin Deep



Elizabeth Rose Thompson - Tumblr

By Nicole Erika R. Resultay

You love me, but you don't like me.

I tell you this, and you laugh at the absurdity,

but your eyes hold mine solemnly like I have seen right through you.

I look away and laugh along because this was precisely how it was meant to be.

You trust me, but you don't know me.

We hold water cooler conversations
and obligatory smiles when our eyes meet.

We make a joke out of everything, I think.

It's precisely why we don't bring up this space between us,
the elephant tightly pressed against our throats, our faces.
We smile anyways.

You hold me, but you don't see me.

It is this irony in my bones, brittle and carved just enough to fit your palm,

But not enough between us to press your fingers to my heart,

your hands in my brain ready to pick me apart.

You know the curve of my knees and my ankles
But still unable to see through the mask I've honed
from fire and spite, from frustration and tears.

It is precisely why I look away from you,
my neck craned so far away you'd trace its path,
its longing for anywhere else than here.

I love you, but I hate you too.

I say this to myself quietly, still in disbelief.

I look at you from afar, for the last time
the rose-tinted film crumbling into dust.

I watch it and crinkle my nose.

I peel off my paper skin.

And then, I walk away.

