GSSC: SHARING THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS

30 Years of Excellence

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Driven to Excel!
Talent is a personal gift given to us by God. Many times, people inherit their talents from their parents. Each one has his or her own set of these gifts. Talents must be used for the greater good of everyone and not for greed and selfishness. Moreover, a person should develop his talent by practice and determination so that he can do a lot of good to himself and to others. One way of doing this is by discipline, patience, obedience and hardwork. A person who says he doesn’t have any talent is most probably just too lazy to discover it. We should always remember to thank God for the talents He has given us. Talents also give us confidence to follow our dreams and do great things in our life. They may be skills in sports, technology, knowledge, arts, etc. Actually, even just being able to read a book is talent.

Without these talents, the world would be a complete disaster. Just imagine life without sports, games, and competitions. The world would be such a lonely place to live in!

Great world events like the Olympics show how talents of people can develop because of practice, determination, and hard work. Every four years, the Olympic competitions showcase people who are able to conquer big dreams through teamwork, discipline, obedience, patience, etc. These competitions also help a person know his weaknesses, what to learn from them, and how to overcome them. They test man’s courage and determination.

Let us now apply these ideas we have said about talents to our situation as students. Getting high grades isn’t the only way to be successful. Excelling in sports, extracurriculars, technology, and many more is another road to success. Not all people who get high grades end up in a good school and become successful. For example, being a great basketball player can get one scholarships from good colleges. And if you are really good, you can even end up prestigious in the PBA or NBA. You can have fun playing your favorite game while at the same time making lots of money. The best way to be successful is to use your talent, coupled with hard work and a little bit of luck. At times, even small talents can go a long way.

Here’s a good motto to live by: “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, “I used everything you gave me.””

– Erma Louise Bombeck
As it had done for the past three years, the Grade School Student Council (GSSC) once more oversaw the Intermediate School Christmas Outreach with the children from Sitio Santo Nino. Through the supervision of the Baguio Force 5 (see related story on page___), the GSSC mobilized the whole I.S. Community and the various campus clubs in high school to come up with another very meaningful and fun-filled morning of community service that benefitted around 200 Grade 4 and 5 children from Cupang Elementary School Annex.

The activity started with a general assembly occupied one of the gazebos for their carnival-like surprise. The SR Photo Club, led by GJ Agregado, not only provided exciting games for the children, they also took a lot of fun shots of the kids, copies of which would be given to their Principal. Gawad Kalinga Southridge Chapter had the children laughing in excitement with the party games organized by Sluggo Rustia (III Year) in their booth located beside the Rabbit Cage in the Courtyard. He also talked to them about what GK is doing as a Club. Then, there was the “Read-Aloud” session of the Southridge Servers Society at the cafeteria basement. It turned out to be a fun activity as well for the children. Lance Katigbak and Aldo Manzano led the group. Meanwhile, some Grade 7D students led by Dax Javellana hosted a shooting contest in the covered courts, giving away generous candy rewards for the lucky ones.

By 11:00 a.m., everyone was once again assembled at the gym for the Jollibee lunch party for everyone. Like real gentlemen, the Southridge boys let the children from Cupang get their lunch packs first. In no time, however, everyone was already enjoying his own hearty meal of burger steak and hotdog with drinks. Soon, the Jollibee mascot appeared and provided more fun and excitement for the children. Unfortunately though, by this time, the Intermediate School students had to proceed to the Auditorium for the screening of “Crock: The 2008 Christmas Play” presented by the High School Student Council. Meanwhile, volunteers from Second Year High School took over the supervision of the distribution of the Noche Buena Packages for all the 200 children, plus the 35 teachers of the school. There was great joy in the faces of everyone, both the children receiving their gifts, as well as the high school students distributing them. Each child also went home with some special magazines from ____, through the courtesy of Mr. Luden Salamat.

At the end of the whole morning’s event, everyone was tired, but happy. There’s great joy in having been able to make people happy. All the volunteers, the Club members who set up the fun booths, the Second Year students who distributed the goodie bags, the High School Student Council officers who supervised the children’s arrival and departure, even the Jollibee staff who distributed the lunch packs, and of course, the Grade 4 to 7 students who played games with the children, raised the money to pay for all the expenses, and most of all, the Grade School Student Council Officers and the Baguio Force 5 Officers who oversaw the activity from start to end, with the support of all the Intermediate School teachers and Officers, could rightfully congratulate themselves for another fantastic and fruitful Christmas Outreach.
For the third straight year since the Christmas Plays were revived, the Southridge High School Student Council managed to put up another wonderful performance this year! “Rumpy” for 2006, “Flicker” for 2007, and now, “CROCK!” for 2008!

When I first heard that the school was putting up a Christmas play, I felt really excited, but also a little scared because I was expecting our director to be stricter than last year’s “Flicker” Director. I was so wrong! During the auditions, I met EJ Tabuena, the writer and Director of the play. He immediately explained to us that the play was about Ronnie Trump, the 6th grandson of Ebenezer Scrooge who, in one night, would be visited by 3 ghosts, and Ebenezer Scrooge himself!

I auditioned for the role of one of the sons of Tim Arnolds, the poorest worker of Ronnie Trump. Four days later, I was told that I was in the play once again! I also managed to make it to “Flicker” in 2007. I was so excited when I told my teachers about it. Things became even more exciting when EJ told me that I would be playing another minor role in the play, aside from the one I previously mentioned. I would also be one of the carolers whom Ronnie sends away, and then later gives him a gift.

It was actually fun attending the practices. Sometimes, you get to skip an entire class. Sometimes, some of our cast members would use the technical producer’s laptop during free time and play “DOTA”, or any other computer game, to while away the time. It wouldn’t also be unusual to see some exhausted students sleeping in the couch to catch up with their rest. After all, the whole project really zapped many students. It was one big hard work!

After only 13 days of rehearsals, we were almost ready! Our last practice was December 15 in the conference room. We were told to perform like it was already show time. Everyone was nervous, but also very excited. The next day, December 16, was already the first of our three shows. It was for the Primary School and the 1st and 2nd year high school students. We woke up as early as 5:30 am because we all had to be in the auditorium by 6:30 am. Some of us woke up even earlier than that for “Simbang Gabi”. When we all got there, the producers were in the tech room testing the sound effects, the band members were tuning their guitars, some of the cast members were playing cards, listening to their Ipods or sleeping, while the rest of the crew was setting up the stage. Soon, in less than 2 hours, the show started. We were somewhat distracted because the Primary students were a little bit noisy. But eventually, we managed to adjust and the show went smoothly. The Primary School students loved the show! It was worth all the sacrifices!

Our next show was for the Intermediate School, and the 3rd and 4th year high school students. Earlier, I thought that the Intermediate School students won’t be able to watch the play because of their outreach activity. But I was pleasantly thrilled when I realized that they managed to fix the schedule. I found out that their outreach was cut short for the students to be able to watch the play! By this time, the props, acting, and sound effects had all improved! Things finally went very well after that.

Then came December 19! It was the last day of class and also the last show of “Crock”. Sadly, there were only 10-20 people watching the last show. It was really understandable because some students were having sleepovers, barkada gimmicks, etc. Anyway, with that, the play’s run was finally over. To be honest, I felt bad that the play was over because I had such a great fun experience. Before I end this, I just want to thank everyone who was part of the play, especially Mr. Flores who made sure that the play would be a success. I also want to thank everyone for all the support they gave to us and to our play. I now look forward to the Christmas Play 2009!
Last November, five select students of Grade 7 participated in the Junior Leaders Campference organized by YMCA Manila. It was the first time ever Southridge participated in this annual conference which is a gathering of around 300 top Grade School student leaders from all over Luzon. I was lucky to have been chosen to form part of this elite group that represented Southridge. For a few days, we participated in activities that helped us grow in our leadership skills.

The Southridge contingent was composed of Mr. Mann Rentoy, Moderator of the GSSC, Gabo Itchon, GSSC Chairman, Gino Guevara, Technical Staff of the GSSC Special Committee, Alfonso Opulencia, Editor-in-Chief of Junior Ridge, Marco Uytiepo, Head of the Winning Group in the last Tagaytay Leadership Seminar held in August, and myself, also a member of the GSSC Technical Staff. From the start, we knew it was a great group of students chosen by the Intermediate School OpCom.

The adventure started on the early morning of November 26. We assembled in Molave Study Center at 4:00 a.m. to be able to catch the 5:00 a.m. trip from the Victory Liner in Pasay City. Gino and Gabo met us at the terminal, while Mr. Rentoy, Marco U, Alfonso and I were brought there by Alfonso’s Mom. As soon as we got our tickets, the bus was already ready to leave. We arrived in Baguio City a little after 12 noon. And by 1 p.m., we were already taking a wonderful, hot meal in the house of Gino, near Pacdal Church. It was a very beautiful house which Gino’s mom allowed us to stay in for the duration of the seminar. We had so much fun playing card games and playing with “Cuando”, the house dog, whenever we stayed at home to rest. In due time, we got to meet our fellow campers. There were ice breakers, dance performances, “getting-to-know-you” activities and of course, a lot of speeches and talks given by the organizers.

But what made the experience really memorable and fruitful for us were the sessions we spent discussing how we could make things better in our school. We were amazed at how much we were able to learn and understand because of these discussions, which sometimes even went as late as 11 in the evening in the Guevara Rest House. The group also discussed how each one of us can be a real leader in Southridge. We committed ourselves to really be examples to our other schoolmates, and be ready to involve ourselves in projects that will benefit the students and the school, in general.

By the time we were preparing to go back to Manila, for example, we were so excited with so many plans and ideas that we wanted to immediately share with the Officers of Intermediate School. In fact, the very week we got back to school, we gave a presentation to Mr. Kawada about these resolutions. We were very happy, of course, to know that Mr. Kawada was giving his full support to these proposals. In fact, the group decided to form itself into an informal “Elite Club” to be known as “Baguio Force 5”. So far, the group has been involved in two successful major activities: the Intrams Food Sale and the Intermediate School Outreach. Moreover, the group continues to meet every week to plan out with the GSSC the upcoming Fathers’ Day Horror Booth.

The Baguio seminar was also full of fun surprises. We got to have time to visit some exciting places in the City for our own exciting outings. We played mini-golf in Camp John Hay, strolled along the hills of the Camp, meddle with huge crowds of people in SM Baguio, and even do a pilgrimage and attend Sunday Mass at the Baguio Cathedral. We had so much fun that by the time we were having our last dinner in Session Road on the last night, we decided to top it with ice cream desert as a way of celebrating the successful trip. We look forward to more fun trips together that will bring about even greater fruits of leadership for the school! And Baguio is just the first stop!
Scuba Diving: Opening Up A New World

by | Ben Ferrer

The ocean has always been a source of curiosity for people. After millions of years of living here on earth, we still haven’t unraveled all its secrets. Our ocean holds many of them. Questions about the ocean frequently pop up: “What kind of dark creatures lurk in the black depths of the abyss?” “Where do shipwrecks go after they sink?” “How deep underwater is man permitted to go if allotted an infinite amount of air?” These are some of the many mysteries that led to the invention of scuba diving.

SCUBA is an acronym which stands for: Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus. That’s a fancy name for all the gear that you use when diving underwater. The scuba gear is divided into three parts: The air tank(s) (the metal cylinders which contains the compressed oxygen and nitrogen), the BCD (Buoyancy Control Device) and the regulator (the piece in which you breath through). You need all these in scuba diving plus your diving suit, mask, flippers, weights, etc.

People have been diving ever since primitive man was forced to find a source of food from the sea. Diving “SCUBA style” was first invented by Jacques-Yves Cousteau, a French officer in the navy. He came up with a light-weight compressed air-container with a regulator that was not quite fully automatic (air being supplied at a constant flow rather than on-demand). Jacques-Yves Cousteau founded the first diving club in Paris in the year 1935 to test out his new invention. The development of modern masks, fins and snorkels came from the natural diving fishermen from the South of France in the 1920’s and the 1930’s. American Guy Gilpatric attempted the creation of the first scuba mask out of an old pair of flying goggles with putty and painted over. His Russian friend came up with the first rubber mask with a single framed window. De Corlieu patented fins and Englishman Steve Butler, created the first successful snorkel tube. The development of the first basic scuba equipment was the product of the jointed work of the Americans, Frenchmen, Russians, and Englishmen.

Diving is amazing. When you first try it, the experience is unexplainable. It feels as if you are swimming without any limits, swimming without ever having to go up for breath or getting exhausted. I had first tried out scuba diving in Bohol on a trip with my cousins. Into-dives aren’t exactly what you call “cheap”, but the cost is all worth it. The first time you step into the water, it is like a whole new world is opened up to you and you immediately forget all that bulky gear that you have on. You get to see all the beautiful marine life “up-close and personal” and, very much unlike being in an aquarium, you are actually right there living with the fishes instead of just watching them behind glass barriers. A peaceful silence envelopes you under water. It seems that time never passes by down there and only comes back to you once you finally get out.

Scuba diving is a fun and dangerous sport, but it’s not just limited to adults, it’s for us kids too. Children from ages 11 and above are allowed to have their own junior certifications after going on a short course. It will teach them everything they need to know about operating underwater and about proper caring for undersea life. We need to be extra careful when swimming among the delicate coral. Once you’re finished with the course, you’re allowed to dive anywhere (as long as it’s within your limit). Another good thing about diving is that it encourages people to take better care of our seas and oceans, as well as the life that it contains by showing them the true beauty of our seas and why it is so important to preserve it: not just for recreational means, but also to preserve a source of livelihood, food, travel and, most importantly, life. The ocean is home to thousands of fish species. We land-dwellers aren’t the only living things on earth. Scuba diving teaches many virtues as well such as obedience, patience, respect, and trust. In diving you are given a “buddy” or partner to dive with to keep each other safe. You put your trust in that buddy as he does in you.

There are so many things that you can discover with each dive, and in each you could write a whole paragraph. Many discoveries have been made in the 473 years of it’s existence. Recreational diving is increasing in popularity. Diving courses for kids have already opened. Stickers with the diver’s emblem are seen more frequently these days on car bumpers. More and more people are discovering the wonders of scuba diving and the of the world that it opens.
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
By Carlos Victa

Carlos says... “This is a hilarious book just like the book FLUSH”. The story is divided into three main parts. The main part is about Roy Eberhardt and his friends “Mullet Fingers”, and his stepsister Beatrice. The main part focuses on their efforts to try and save the owls’ homes from getting bulldozed to make way for a construction. The second is about Officer David Delinko, who is one of the Officers investigating the sabotage acts on the construction site. He was caught sleeping during his early morning patrol once and was nearly fired. Now, with his job on the line, he basically thought about nothing else but getting his job done. But when he sees the Burrowing Owls and slowly thinks about what will happen to them, he slowly has a change of heart towards the end of the book. The third part is of the construction Foreman Leroy “Curly” Branitt who also has his job on the line now that the construction was two weeks late. Despite his efforts to guard the construction site, the site is continually sabotaged and gets fired in the end. In the last part, he doesn’t join Roy and the rest of the crowd to protect the owls, but refuses to take any orders from his boss.

Overall I’d say this is a great book with its unpredictable and hilarious characters. Aside from being funny, you could learn something, too. I noticed that Hiaasen writes mostly about environmental problems. This book illustrates how animals are affected when we destroy their home for the sake of money. Nobody likes seeing their home destroyed. How would we feel if someone showed up on our homes and told us that our house was going to get bulldozed? In the words of Calvin and Hobbes: “How would humans feel if animals bulldozed a suburb and put in new TREES?”

Have You Met Matilda?
By Matthew James S. Mendiola, Grade 5B

“Who put superglue in dad’s hat?”
“Was it really a ghost that freaked Mom out?”

The story of “Matilda”, written by Roald Dahl and first published in 1988, is truly amazing. Matilda is a very smart kid who loves to learn in spite of having parents who do not care about her, and a school headmistress who terrorizes the kids as well as the school teachers. She has to come up with brilliant ideas to get back at her abusive, idiot parents, and to stop Trunchbull, the school headmistress, from bullying her teachers and classmates.

The first few chapters of the book described the home environment where Matilda Wormwood grew up. Here, the author showed a sharp contrast between a little girl eager to read and learn, and parents who were totally disinterested in educating themselves. In school, she had to face a mean, strict and kid-hating bully in the person of the headmistress who brought misery to everyone in school. With this setting, little matilda had to learn to fight back.

Matilda was one and a half years of age when she started to show signs of unusual intelligence. The first person that she fascinated was the librarian, Mrs. Phelps, who noticed her great interest in reading. Then, there was Miss Honey who took interest in her as she was extraordinarily brilliant. While the kind-hearted Miss Honey recognized Matilda’s amazing talent, it was a different story at home as Matilda’s parents abused her often. Aside from Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, Matilda had a worse enemy—Trunchbull. When the headmistress wrongly accused Matilda of putting a newt in her drink, Matilda was so enraged and discovered that she had special powers—she could control things with her mind!

How did the story end? Did Matilda really defeat the Trunchbull? What other incredible things happened in the story? To answer these questions, you have to read and find out. I strongly recommend this book to those who want to know what perseverance truly is. This is one book that I don’t mind reading over and over again.

Have you met “Matilda”? She’s worth reading about!

A Different World
By Jay Luistro, Grade 5B

Do you believe in fairies? Maybe this book will open your mind. Have you see a nixie in a stream? Have you seen an angry little boggart? Have you seen a different world with weird creatures? Mrs. Black and Mr. Di Terlizzi made the start of “Spiderwick” in 2003. This book is called “The Field Guide”.

This book is about three children named Mallory, Simon and Jared. When they go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda’s house, they discovered a field guide to fairies and begin to have some unusual experiences.

Jared Grace, who always got in trouble, found the field guide in their old attic. He got into trouble because of the boggart that kept annoying him. And it annoyed him because he had destroyed its home. He made a new house, which made the boggart become a happy little brownie. A brownie is a creature that helps people. But if you make it mad, it would go crazy.

I strongly recommend this to children my age because it makes your imagination stronger. It is really easy to read, too. This is one of those books I really had a lot of fun with. I think it’s because of all the suspense and conflicts in the story. Once I started reading, I couldn’t put it down. I was so curious about what would happen next. I wish you could experience the suspense and action in this book. The only way you can is by reading it.
PHOTO EXHIBIT IN TOWN CENTER

As part of its marketing efforts on its 30th Anniversary, Southridge held a Photo Exhibit entitled “30 Years of Southridge, 30 Years of Forming MEN OF INTEGRITY” at the Promenade of Alabang Town Center on December 13 to 14, 2008. The Exhibit featured some of the highlights of Southridge achievements, past and present. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and cocktails took place at 4:00 p.m. of Saturday, December 13. Muntinlupa Representative, Cong. Ruffy Biazon graced the occasion.

SOUTHRIDGE SHINES IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Southridge continued its string of successes in various national and international Math competitions. This year alone, Southridge students have already collected a total of more than ten awards and recognitions in different International contests. James Daniel Cordon and Juancho Miguel Morales, Grade 6 students, brought home bronze medals from the prestigious China Math Olympiad last July 2008. Carlo Francisco Adajar of IV Year, on the other hand, received the Highest Distinction Award from the Australian Mathematics Competition last July 31, 2008. He was among the top 2% of all the students from all over the world who took part in it. From that same contest, five other students received Certificate of Distinction: Juancho Morales, James Daniel Cordon and Joseph Raymond Dizon, all from Grade 6, and Miggy Llamas of Grade 4. Rafael Jose Santiago also of Grade 4 went home with a Certificate of Credit.

In another international contest held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on October 25 to 31, 2008, Carlo Francisco Adajar won the Individual Silver Medal, and received Bronze Medal in the Team Category of the International Mathematics Competition. He led the Southridge Team to win the Championship in the High School Division of the SIPNAYAN Math Challenge, sponsored by the Ateneo Mathematics Society last September 6, 2008. His team, which included fellow Seniors Rajie Guevara and JC Guerrero, bested other teams from all over Metro Manila.

In the 2008 Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools, Miggy Llamas brought home a Bronze Certificate, while Rafael Jose Santiago was awarded a Silver Certificate.

Another competition that Southridge figured prominently in was the Philippine Mathematical Olympiad (PMO). It is the oldest and most prestigious nationwide mathematics competition among secondary school students. The champion and the other national finalists will be qualified to join the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMOSC) Summer Camp. The IMO is the largest and most prestigious annual international math competition among secondary school students. The representatives of the country to the IMO will be selected from the participants of the IMOSC. Last January 23, 2009, Carlo Francisco Adajar emerged as the Champion in the National Stage (nationwide). He previously ranked No. 1 in the Area Stage (NCR Division) of the contest.

Meanwhile, three Southridge students received recognition from the Department of Science and Technology last November 20, 2008, when they were declared Youth Excellence in Science (YES) Awardees. The three are Carlo Francisco Adajar, James Daniel Cordon and Juancho Miguel.
JUNIOR RIDGE PRESENTS CMMA TROPHY TO MAYOR SAN PEDRO

The Staff of Junior Ridge presented the CMMA Trophy to Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro last November 13, 2008. This is the 8th CMMA trophy won by Southridge. The winning issue was presented by Lance Katigbak, the first ever Editor-in-Chief of Junior Ridge, accompanied by (from left) last year’s Editor-in-Chief, Justin Morales, JV Valerio, Jad Cordon and Gelo Llamas (Contributing Writers) and Mr. Mann Rentoy, Moderator.

SOUTHRIDGE WINS ITS 8TH CMMA TROPHY
Senior Ridge is Best Campus Paper for Grade School in 2008

Southridge once more asserted its supremacy in the field of Campus Journalism by bringing home its 8th Trophy from the prestigious Catholic Mass Media Awards. The school’s newspaper for Grade School, the JUNIOR RIDGE, was awarded as the Best Campus Paper for Elementary in the country by the CMMA in a fitting ceremony held at the GSIS Auditorium last October 29, 2008. Two issues submitted by Southridge made it to the finals, which included “The Greenery” of La Salle Greenhills, “The Central Point” of Carmona Elementary School, and “Aloysyan” of St. Aloysius Academy of Dasmarinas. Last year’s issue LIVING BY THE MOTTO: VIRILITER AGITE, won over all the other entries from various schools from all over the country. The Editor-in-Chief of the winning issue was Justin Morales.

Previous to this year’s award, the High School publication, THE RIDGE, was elevated to the CMMA Hall of Fame for winning that category for four straight years, besting entries from other top schools from all over the country. Two trophies were also received by THE RIDGE for the Best Print Ad Category in 2002 and 2004.

Earlier this school year, THE RIDGE was also awarded as the 2nd Best Campus in the country in the annual Gawad Evelyn Pacheco Journalism Competition sponsored by the Philippine Normal University. The Contest was participated in by more than 970 high school students coming from 107 public and private schools from NCR.

Noteworthy Achievement

Morales. It was also around this time when two students made a big splash in the E.nopi & UP Math Club Invitational Math Competition held at UP Diliman. Danillo Carmelo Mendoza of Grade 2 won GOLD, ranking no. 1 out of 180 participants. And James Daniel Cordon of Grade 6 also brought home the GOLD, also ranking 1 out of 279 Grade 6 participants and garnering a perfect score.

As for the 2009 MTEROBANK-MTAP-DedEd – Math Challenge (commonly known as MTAP), Southridge continues to be en route to another impressive finish this year. In the ELIMINATION STAGE held last January 9 & 10, the following students turned in remarkable performance which earned them the title of Merit Awardees:

- Dino Mendoza (Grade 2) – First Honors
- Jad Cordon (Grade 6) – First Honors
- Juancho Morales (Grade 6) – First Honors
- Paco Adajar (Fourth Year) – First Honors
- Jae Won Lee (Grade 4) – Second Honors
- Gerard Romero (Grade 6) – Second Honors
- Josh Albert Miller (Grade 4) – Third Honors
- Joseph Raymond Dizon (grade 6) – Third Honors

Four of them are Individual Finalists and are scheduled to compete on January 31, 2009 in Stella Maris, Cubao, Quezon City.

- Dino Mendoza (Grade 2)
- Jad Cordon (Grade 6)
- Juancho Morales (Grade 6)
- Paco Adajar (Fourth Year)

And finally, 11 levels managed to qualify for the Division Team Finals which will be held on February 13 & 14, 2009 at the Bloomfield Academy for the Elementary Teams, and Divine Light Academy for the high school teams:

- Grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- First Year, Second Year, Fourth Year
- Afternoon School First Year, Second Year & Third Year

With all these achievements, Southridge has proven once more that it has become a Math powerhouse in the country, and in Asia!
REPERTORY’S “TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE” IN SOUTHRIDGE

The Repertory Philippines’ production of “Tuesdays With Morrie”, a highly-acclaimed play came back on stage at the PAREF Southridge School Auditorium on October 3, 2008 (Friday). The play starred two of the most respected and brilliant actors in the country today: Miguel Faustmann and Bart Guingona. The two screenings at the auditorium thrilled the two sets of audiences and merited spontaneous standing ovations. The Matinee Performance at 2:00 in the afternoon was a special performance for the Teachers, as it was the school’s way of celebrating World Teachers’ Day. Students, parents and guests filled up the rest of the hall. The Gala Performance at 6:00 in the evening was even more packed. Many guests who have never come to Southridge before found their way to our school because of this great performance. Even the cast and crew of Repertory were very impressed and pleased with the warm reception they received.

The show was co-sponsored by the “30th Year Committee” and the “Multi-Purpose Coop”. This production, which was directed by theater legend Baby Barredo, has been one of the most successful plays in Repertory’s 40-year history.

SOUTHRIDGE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

We are 30 years old! And we are celebrating!

It was 30 years ago in July when Southridge started the very first school day. Today, we are amazed at how many achievements the school has been able to accomplish! We are already known in the country as one of the best in Campus Journalism. Our Football and Baseball Teams have a reputation of being among the most awarded in the country. Our students have competed and WON in national and international Math Contests. We have graduates who finished in some of the top universities in the world: Yale, Stanford, Brown, Cornell, Wesleyan, etc. For the past 16 years ever since the competition started, a Southridge student has been among the “Ten Most Outstanding Students of Muntinlupa” every year. We have already produced two Congressmen, one Vice-Governor and two City Councilors, among others. Many of our alumni are already highly regarded in their respective fields. Some are members of the most popular bands in the country: 6 Cycle Mind, Silent Sanctuary, Up Dharma Down, among others. And very many have come back to teach in their Alma Mater.

Indeed, it has been 30 years of fruitful, wonderful existence! For an institution that is meant to last forever, 30 years is very, very short. And yet in this very short period, we can already say that the school has already gone a long way. We really have every reason to celebrate! Because it has really been 30 years of EXCELLENCE!

GSSC HOSTS BOOK FAIR 2008

The Scholastics Book Fair this school year was special because it was the very first time that the project was entrusted to the Grade School Student Council (GSSC). And since it was scheduled a week before the Beijing Olympic Games, it was dubbed “Olympics and Scholastics, A Perfect Pair for a Fair”. It was full of fun, as well as exciting learning experiences for the students. The GSSC lined up a series of thrilling games and contests throughout the duration of the fair. There were lots of prizes and surprises given away.

The Book Fair opened July 28 at 7:00 in the morning, and ran up to Saturday, August 1 at 12:00 noon. Like in the past book fairs, points were given out to the classes that purchased books. And by the end of the week-long fair, many Class Advisers had received special rewards from Scholastics. Every time the students bought a book, not only did he widen his horizon and discovered the exhilarating world of reading, he also helped his Class gain points. Moreover, the school also received a lot of books a rewards because of the Fair.

GSSC HOLDS ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

More than 30 grade school student officers participated in the annual Leadership Training Seminar organized by the Grade School Student Council last July 18 to 19, 2008. As in the previous 6 years, this activity was once again held at the Benitez Compound in Tagaytay City. Teachers were around to assist the GSSC Officers in the various activities, but it was really the Officers themselves who supervised the entire seminar. The Principal, Mr. Kawada, was also around to provide support for the Council.

Practically all the 13 sections of Intermediate School were represented. There were team building games on the first day which everyone also found to be exciting and fun-filled. Then there were talks given by some teachers. The participants were divided into groups which then competed in various leadership activities.

The most important activity was the crafting and presentation of project proposals to address the most urgent needs of the student body. The group that won, led by Marco Uytiepo, was approved for implementation by the LTS participants. This was the “Southridge Week” proposal, where a week-long celebration of Southridge would be organized during the school year to foster school spirit. The teachers, who acted as judges, voted for it unanimously.

Undoubtedly, the seminar was once again a huge success, judging by the reaction of the participants.

THE GENT IS THE NEW LEADER
PROUD TO BE SOUTHRIDGE!

By Gabo Itchon, GSSC Chairman
Here is the list of our achievements in Sports for school year 2008-2009 as of 16 December 2008. Junior Ridge congratulates our athletes, specially those in Grade School, who have been giving honors to Southridge for their noteworthy performance. We are proud of you!

**FOOTBALL**

Rizal Football Association (RIFA)
All our teams in the semi-finals!

- high school (2 teams)
- grade school (3 teams)

**Candidates**
- 3rd and 4th Year High School - Champion
- 1st and 2nd Year High School - 1st Runner-Up

**Aspirants**
- Grade 7 - 3rd Place
- Grade 5 - Champion

- RIFA Cumulative (18 October 2008)
- Midgets C (Champion)
- Unopposed – PRISAA (Elementary and High School)

**VOLLEYBALL**
- Champion (APSAM)
- Champion (Muntinlupa Division Meet)

**TRACK AND FIELD**
- Patxi Santos, 3rd Place (13 - 15 age group) – Animo Sprint Triathlon
- Joaquin Reynoso, 1st Place (Age 12 below) – Adidas King of the Road Run

**SWIMMING**
- Southridge won Gold in the Brent Invitational Swimming Meet

**CHESS**
- PRISAA Champions
- Muntinlupa Division Meet Champions
Have you noticed that cars are crowding the streets, trash can be found everywhere, and waters are becoming dirty? We should act early to save the future of our lives and the Earth that our future children will live in. When we destroy Mother Nature, we are really destroying ourselves. For example, when we pollute water, which is man's main source of drink, we are really destroying our very source of survival. Or when we cut down trees, we are really destroying our very future.

There are many ways to help save Mother Earth. One way could be reducing the usage of cars and other vehicles. Cars not only consume gas, they pollute the air. Whenever we can, we should instead just walk or use a bike. We should also conserve energy by using electricity wisely. Then, we can also do recycling more. For example, we should always reuse plastic bags which are non-biodegradable. Plastic bags can actually cause clogging of sewers and eventually, flooding. Aside from plastics, we can also recycle cans and bottles. We can actually create something useful out of them. With creativity, you might even end up inventing something that will be useful to people.

We should all start doing these things. Even just a little contribution can make a difference if everyone takes part in this campaign. If we allow the world to deteriorate, we will lose the beauty of our planet. But if everyone helps out, there will still be something wonderful that the future can look forward to.

Saving Mother Earth is an Important Matter

By | Jowan Sebastian Cuesta, Grade 5

AMAZING MATH THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW!

Compiled by | Jairus Paul

1 x 8 + 1 = 9
12 x 8 + 2 = 98
123 x 8 + 3 = 987
1234 x 8 + 4 = 9876
12345 x 8 + 5 = 98765
123456 x 8 + 6 = 987654
1234567 x 8 + 7 = 9876543
12345678 x 8 + 8 = 98765432
123456789 x 8 + 9 = 987654321

1 x 9 + 2 = 11
12 x 9 + 3 = 111
123 x 9 + 4 = 1111
1234 x 9 + 5 = 11111
12345 x 9 + 6 = 111111
123456 x 9 + 7 = 1111111
1234567 x 9 + 8 = 11111111
12345678 x 9 + 9 = 111111111
123456789 x 9 + 10 = 1111111111

9 x 9 + 2 = 88
98 x 9 + 6 = 888
987 x 9 + 5 = 8888
9876 x 9 + 4 = 88888
98765 x 9 + 3 = 888888
987654 x 9 + 2 = 8888888
9876543 x 9 + 1 = 88888888
98765432 x 9 + 0 = 8888888888

Brilliant, isn't it?
And look at this symmetry:

1 x 1 = 1
11 x 11 = 121
111 x 111 = 12321
1111 x 1111 = 1234321
11111 x 11111 = 123454321
111111 x 111111 = 12345654321
1111111 x 1111111 = 1234567654321
11111111 x 11111111 = 123456787654321
111111111 x 111111111 = 12345678987654321

Now, take a look at this...
101%

From a strictly mathematical viewpoint:

What Equals 100%?
What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X
Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

If:

H A R D W O R K

8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 = 98%

And: (continued on next page)
Across:

1. A hard-living superhero that isn’t really very popular with the public enters into a questionable relationship with the wife of the public relations professional who’s trying to repair his image.

3. A vigilante, a police commissioner and the District attorney are forced to deal with the chaos unleashed by an anarchist mastermind known only as the Joker, as it drives each of them to their limits.

8. A young man with natural racing instincts tries to win the Crucible, a cross country racing rally which took the life of his brother. He drives a specially designed car, the Mach 5.

9. The canine star of a fictional sci-fi/action show that believes his powers are real embarks on a cross country trek to save his co-star from a threat he believes is just as real.

Down:

1. As seniors in high school, two young sweethearts struggle with the idea of being separated from one another as college approaches. Along with the rest of the Wildcats, they stage a spring musical to address their experiences, hopes and fears about their future.

2. Through a series of crazy occurrences, a group of actors shooting a big-budget war movie are forced to become the soldiers they are portraying.

4. A teenage girl falls in love with a vampire, risking everything in the process.

5. A very lazy panda gets unwittingly becomes the chosen one when enemies threaten their way of life.

6. Two strangers are thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes them into a series of increasingly dangerous situations, using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move.

7. Maxwell Smart, Agent 86 for CONTROL, battles the forces of KAOS with the more-competent Agent 99 at his side.

Amazing Math Things (continuation)

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96%

But:

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100%

Then, look how far the love of God will take you:

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

12 + 15 + 22 + 5 + 15 + 6 + 7 + 15 + 4 = 101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it’s the Love of God that will put you over the top!