



ACACIA WALDORF SCHOOL
Educating the Child: Head ~ Heart ~ Hands

AWS Bulletin

SY 2015-2016 — Issue No. 3 (July 2015)

MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

July 13, 2015

Dear Acacia Community,

True to the spirit of St. John's Festival, the past week has brought a tremendous amount of rain, refreshing, cleansing and transforming. The days have dramatically cooled down to temperatures of 24-27°C, which is a welcome change from the high temperatures of 35-39°C that we had to bear for the month of June.

This year, Acacia celebrated St. John's Festival like it never had done before. Classes 3 to 12 participated together. They were grouped into teams of different ages, older and younger students alike. The afternoon started with a downpour. The rain poured in torrents. Though seemingly a disappointment and hindrance in the beginning, the rain actually turned out to be a perfect setting for the water games that were planned for the students as part of the baptismal theme of St. John's Festival. All afternoon, it rained, and all afternoon they played, drenched to the skin, enjoying the refreshing pitter-patter of the rain on their faces. And as though it was all orchestrated from above, right when it was time to build the bonfire for the children to jump over as a symbol of courage and transformation, the rain suddenly ceased and the glorious sun appeared. It was magical! And every teacher and child bravely jumped over the flames, some individually, others in pairs, and others as a whole class. It was a heartwarming event. Students left the school saying this was the best St. John's Festival they ever had. They continued to speak about it for weeks. It left them with feelings of joy, unity and camaraderie. Some things, we just can't plan on our own.

The weather, with its unpredictable quality, like many uncertainties in life, is one factor that truly humbles us and reminds us that we are never fully in control. And to move forward in wisdom and courage, we keep in our minds and hearts the angels of our children who we work hand in hand with in guiding them towards their fullest potential.

With our warmest regards,

Trina Galvez
For the College of Teachers

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

July

2	Adult-Toddler: First day of classes for T/Th group
3	Adult-Toddler: First day of classes for W/F group
4	Talk: "How We Can Support Our Children's Development Through Nutrition" by Jake Tan (9-11:30am)
10	Anniversary of Sta. Rosa Cityhood (holiday)
13	Grade School: Mentor visit
14	Parent Council: Thanksgiving brunch
17	Eid'l Fitr (holiday)
20	Kinder: Mentor visit

July

27-28	Health break
27	INC Anniversary (holiday)
31	Talk: "Inclusive Wealth Creation through Social Entrepreneurship" by Gawad Kalinga (10am-12nn)

August

6/13/20	Kinder: Filipino costume days (Thursdays of the month)
21	Ninoy Aquino Day (holiday)
27	Kinder: Buwan ng Wika
28	Grade School and Upper School: Buwan ng Wika bagahinan
31	National Heroes Day (holiday)

Special talk by Gawad Kalinga's Enchanted Farm team

Members of Gawad Kalinga's Enchanted Farm team will be giving a talk on inclusive wealth creation through social entrepreneurship. The team, which is composed of passionate Filipino and international individuals, will speak to students from Classes 8-12 on Fri, Jul 31 at 10am-12nn in the St. Michael Hall, but all members of the community are welcome to attend.

Gawad Kalinga is one of the largest movements in the Philippines for social development, and its innovative Enchanted Farm in Angat, Bulacan also includes the School for Experiential and Entrepreneurial Development (SEED), a venue for training social entrepreneurs from various public schools in Bulacan.

Samples of GK farm products will be sold after the talk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our first mentors of the school year!

It is with great excitement that we always welcome a visiting mentor to our school. And so with eagerness and open arms, we greet **Gea Weeren** and **Kate Bryant** a great big hello!

Gea Weeren

Gea will be with us from Mon, Jul 13 to Tue, Jul 28. This is Gea's fourth visit to our school, with her most recent visits having been for the Asian Teacher Training (ATT) the past two summers as part of the team of mentors. She will be here primarily to support our grade

school department, as she observes various classes and makes herself available for consultation with our teachers.

Gea was a main teacher in the Netherlands for 15 years and is currently a school psychologist, which has allowed her to focus on children with special needs or learning difficulties. She is also a trainer for high school Waldorf teachers. At the most recent ATT, she held workshops on the Extra Lesson (a Steiner-based program of movement, speech, and artistic exercises to strengthen capacities in children with learning difficulties) and Counseling.

Kate Bryant

Kate will be with us from Mon, Jul 20 to Fri, Jul 31. She taught for many years in Steiner schools in New Zealand, but began mentoring schools in the early 2000's. She currently mentors at a Waldorf kindergarten back home but also conducts workshops on early childhood in Thailand and Myanmar. This will be her very first visit to the Philippines.

Kate comes to provide support to our kindergarten department as well as strengthen its position within the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE).

Mentor visits are invaluable, as they provide much needed support to the teachers of our still young and growing school. Waldorf teachers to our Waldorf teachers, their wisdom and experience allow them to affirm existing strengths but also provide insight and practical ideas into how we can do things even better or resolve puzzling issues. As July is part of the season of storms and prolonged rain, we thus ask the wider community to hold the need for passable weather in your consciousness.

Torrents, sunshine and team spirit at our St. John's Festival

The celebration of our St. John's Festival this year had promised to be remarkably different from previous years, with some exciting new activities in the lineup. For reasons both planned and unplanned, it certainly was a memorable event!

The unexpected downpour at the beginning made some plans difficult, but students were largely in good spirits during the water balloon games, and it was beautiful to witness the dynamics within our mixed-grade teams comprised of students from Classes 3 through 12.

By the time it had come to leap over the bonfire, the sun had come back to grace the festivities and free play reigned as the program wound down. Snacks were served as well – *palitaw*, *taho*, and *suman*, or rice and beans as fruits of the earth, themselves

transformed by fire and water, for sharing within the community. All items were prepared ahead of time from scratch by Classes 3 to 8.

It was a promising start to a beautiful season and school year! We thank you all for your gracious support of this activity!

Food for thought at the talk on food

There were plenty of ideas to digest after Jake Tan's talk with our community, "How We Can Support Our Children's Development Through Nutrition?" on Sat, Jul 4. Jake and his wife, Bella, were among the pioneers of Waldorf education in the Philippines, having founded the oldest Steiner school in the country, the Manila Waldorf School.

Jake spoke about the connections between the consumption of certain types of food and human health and development. He also provided an introduction to child development and the needs of respective stages from an anthroposophic perspective, to explain the significant considerations for age-appropriate food intake.

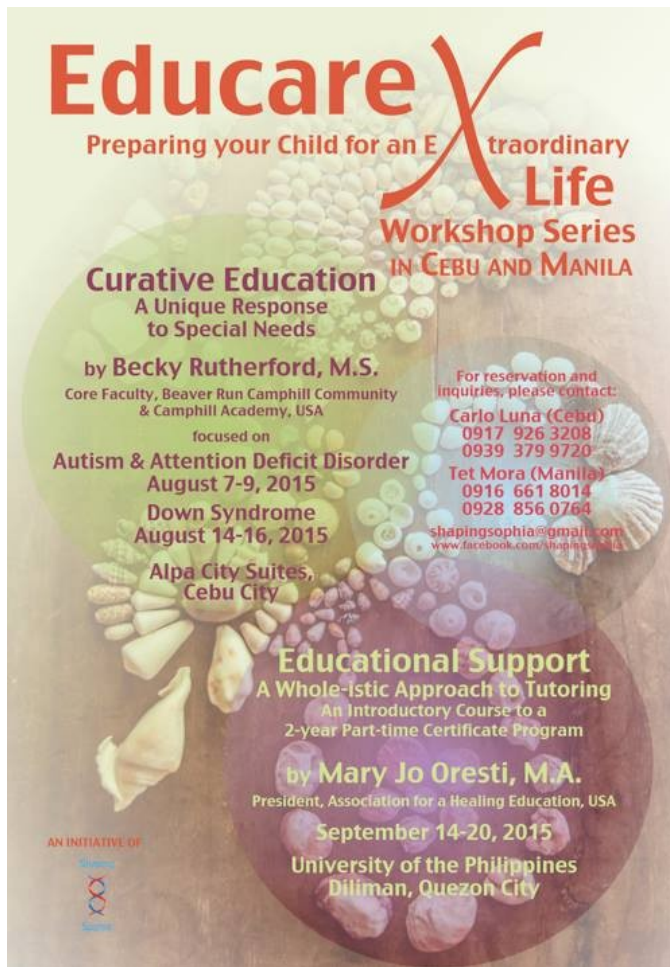
We are grateful to all members of the community who gathered with us to hear information shared on a topic that affects our care for ourselves and our children. Stay tuned, as we hope to continue our nutritional education through future talks with Jake.

Fire and earthquake response at the emergency preparedness talk

Thank you to members of the community who joined teachers and students in the emergency preparedness talk on the afternoon of Thu, Jul 2. Members of the Sta. Rosa Fire Department shared what they knew for responding to situations arising from fires and earthquakes, which included setting up internal response teams within institutions for efficient emergency action.

Do save local and national emergency contact numbers on your cellphones, as well as post them in visible places in your homes and places of work. The Sta. Rosa Fire Department may be contacted through (049) 502-5410 and (049) 534-1291.

OTHER EVENTS



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Preparing your Child for an Extraordinary Life
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Down Syndrome
August 14-16, 2015
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0917 926 3208
0939 379 9720
Tet Mora (Manila)
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0928 856 0764
shapingsophia@gmail.com
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An Introductory Course to a
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President, Association for a Healing Education, USA
September 14-20, 2015
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

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August 7-9, 14-16 – Cebu City
September 14-20 – Quezon City

More information available through
www.facebook.com/isip.manila.

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Participants will leave with innovative, practical tools they can apply in the home, clinic and school settings. Elizabeth, the first HANDLE practitioner on the East Coast, has been applying HANDLE principles over 17 years, and thus has a tremendous amount of experience and expertise which enlivens this training.

Elizabeth Frishkoff, MSW, Certified HANDLE Practitioner and Waldorf graduate, applies the HANDLE approach in clinical, school and home-based settings. From preschool students to nursing home residents, she serves clients with a wide range of life and learning challenges. She has a private practice based in Great Barrington, MA, and consults throughout New England.



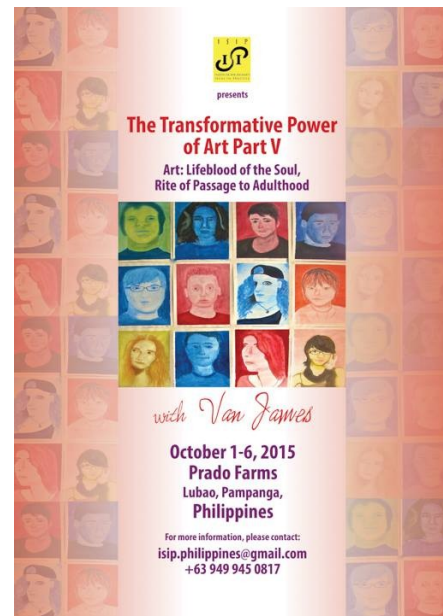
Rudolf Steiner Education in the Philippines www.rstep.org.ph

HANDLE (Holistic Approach to Neuro-Development and Learning Efficiency) Workshop

Fri-Sun, Aug 14-16

Quezon City

More information available through
www.facebook.com/rstep.org.ph.



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For more information, please contact:
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