



THE ACACIA ARCHIVE

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Happy Holly Days!



As we approach the end of the calendar year, let us take the time to reflect upon the tribulations, endeavors, triumphs, and exaltations that we all experienced in 2022. The great dancer and choreographer Martha Graham once said, “Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.”



A collection of lanterns grouped in a spiral for Martinmas. Photo by Patrizia Lopez

Furthermore, let us appreciate the special events that are celebrated at Acacia Waldorf School. The activities that the students, parents, and staff perform for Michaelmas, Martinmas, and Advent give a special feeling of camaraderie and contentment to many of those that participate.

The staff of the *Acacia Archive* hopes that everyone experiences a joyous holiday and a prosperous new year!



The Martinmas lanterns cast a warm glow onto the roof of the covered court. Photo by Molly Yoon

Community

Back On Course!

By David Tipon, Staff Writer

On September 29, AWS finally held its annual Michaelmas Obstacle Course after a two-year hiatus when the pandemic restrictions were lifted.

The course consisted of nine obstacles in total, each with their uniquely fun challenges. Each obstacle follows the Michaelmas story, which is about an archangel that goes through many difficult trials and vanquishes the dragon in the end.

Miguel Chavez, a student of Class 10 Santan said, “It was fun, being the “dragon” for the whole obstacle course was a good experience. Letting the kids conquer a huge guy is an accomplishment anyway.”



Selfie of Miguel Chavez at the base of the Petronas Towers. Photo by Miguel Chavez

Treasure hunting

The quest begins with our valiant archangel undergeared. His goal is to find equipment that he can use.

Students are tasked with finding bits of treasure within a small amount of time with the use of a sandglass. The treasures are then exchanged for points that they can use for future purposes.

Balance Beam

Our dear archangel’s path goes through a heap of searing flames, with only an unstable wooden bridge linking either side of a ravine.

The students line up neatly behind a log that is just above a fire. One by one, each student passes through safely.

Fisherman’s game



High School students and teachers circled around the “fisherman”. Photo by Aina Sta. Maria

A rope is flung around by a staff that was in the center. Students gather together in a circle, with the staff in the center. They get eliminated if hit by the rope, so students jump above it as it goes by to avoid being eliminated. The last person remaining within the circle without getting hit by the rope wins.

Vertical Climb



High School students against teachers in a tug-of-war beside the vertical rope climb. Photo by Ms. Binky

A sturdy rope is tied around a branch on a tall tree. The student's goal is to ring the bell above the rope, and climb down safely. There are knots tied to the rope to make the ascent and descent easier.

Horizontal Bridge



Teachers flailing on the horizontal bridge. Photo by David Tipon

Two ropes are tied across the trunks of two trees. The goal is to cross from one tree to the other by gripping the ropes with both hands and feet while people lightly splash water at the person crossing. Occasionally, there will be a challenge where the ropes are being shaken while a person is crossing.

Palosebo



A student climbing the bamboo pole. Photo by David Tipon

The *palosebo* is notorious for its extreme difficulty. Standing high and sturdy, this looming bamboo is held firmly to the ground. The goal is to reach the top. Many came close, but only two students reached it.

Dark Room



Students line up for the Dark Room obstacle course. Photo by David Tipon

The Dark Room, as the name suggests, is a dark maze filled with obstacles. The student's goal is to navigate through the maze blindfolded. Only by following a string as a guide can one find the exit.

Mud Crawl



High School students prepare the mud crawl obstacle course. Photo by Aaron Tolentino

The Mud Crawl obstacle consists of a 10-foot-long muddy pool with strings just a few inches above the water spanning from each side of the pool. As the name suggests, the goal is to crawl through the pool bravely. Once the higher grades go through

the pool, the staff turns on the hoses nearby and spray water all over the participants.

Dragon Chase



Miguel Chavez and Mikhaela Carlos, roleplaying as dragons. Photo by David Tipon

Michael’s goal was to vanquish the dragon once and for all. Finally the end that Archangel Michael was expecting.



Domeka Aberasturi informs the students of the challenge to come. Photo by David Tipon

Students in the lower grades are told to “tame” the dragon, while the rest of the

higher classes are told to “kill” the dragon. But in reality, the students’ goal is to tag the dragons. Potions can be bought with the saved up coins from the previous obstacle courses to gain an advantage in the chase.



High School students and teachers gather in front of the highschool building. Photo by Ms. Binky

The Michaelmas Obstacle course this year brought back memories and created new ones that will be cherished forever. Hope to see you again next year!

Female Body Types:

The female body shape explained and how to dress for your body type

World Piece – By Amara Pita, Columnist

Everyone has experienced buying an outfit after seeing how stunning it looked on someone else only for it to arrive and look completely different on you. You blame it on the model and that the quality was much better online, but we come in all shapes, shades, and sizes – each of us beautiful in our own way. The trick to dressing well and looking good is all about highlighting what makes you unique and beautiful.

Pear: Thin upper body, full hips and thighs

Assets: Slim waist, curvy hips

- Show off your firm arms with sleeveless tops and your small waist with cropped tops.
- Belted dresses
- Light colored tops and dark bottoms
- Pretty necklaces, brooches, earrings will add volume on top and highlight your slim upper body.
- Avoid overly tight outfits that show the disparity of the width of your top and bottom.

(Pear outfit options)



Apple: Full breasts and stomach, slim legs and hips

Assets: Wear dark tops and light colored bottoms.

- Avoid tight skirts. Go for full skirts that will add volume to your hip area.
- Go for body-skimming tops that are neither too tight nor too loose.
- Tailored tops look best on you.
- Avoid bulky necklaces and earrings and instead go for flashy shoes, and bold bangles.

(Apple outfit options)



Ruler: Straight silhouette or athletic frame

Assets: Trim legs and slim arms

- Wear belted dresses with full skirts.
- Wear ruffled tops or skirts to add volume to your frame.
- Soft flowing tops and skirts look good on you.
- Feminine silhouettes and flowing fabrics look good on you.

(Ruler outfit options)



Full-figured: Full-figured to plus size

Assets: curvy hips and full breasts

- Avoid wearing clothes that are too loose. This will only add unnecessary volume to your frame
- The best fit should skim the body—not skin tight.
- Go for monochromatic combinations in dark colors to lengthen and slim the frame.
- Wear heels.
- Show off smooth shoulders and décolletage.

(Full-figured outfit options)



(Hourglass outfit options)



Hourglass: proportional bust waist and hips

Assets: proportional and curvy frame

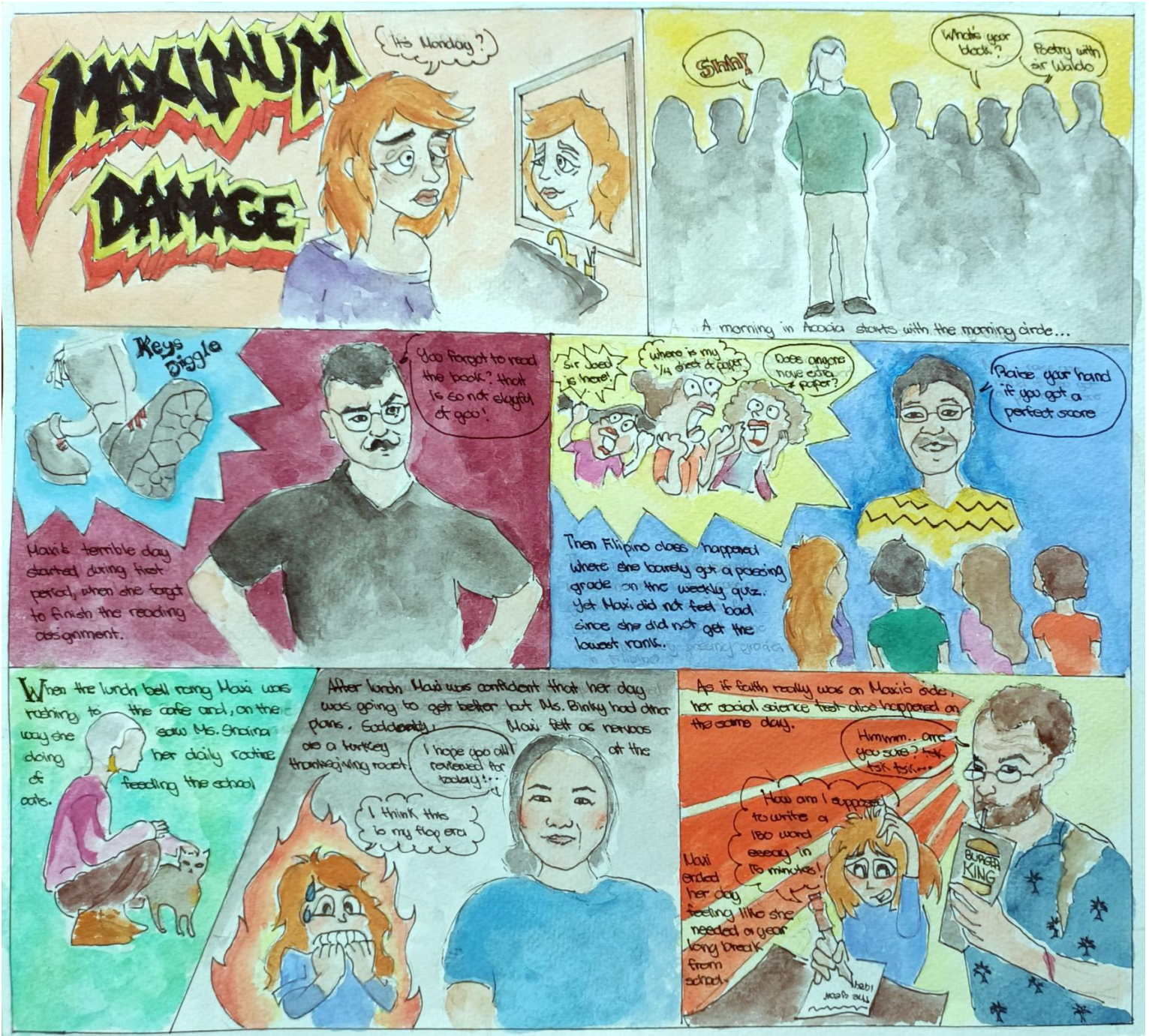
- Accentuate waist with belted tops or dresses.
- Lengthen frame with straight cut pants and heels.

The true secret to looking good is taking care of yourself and having the confidence to flaunt and celebrate what is uniquely beautiful about yourself. There is no such thing as the “perfect body type” as long as you are healthy and happy, no matter what other people may say. Bodies are not about perfection, they are about appreciation

Photo credits to: Cosmopolitan Magazine April 2020 issue

Maximum Damage

by Nicole Natanauan



Sports

Going For Gold

By Zildjian Concepcion, Staff Writer

A triathlon is an endurance sport where competitors compete for fast times in swimming, cycling, and running, with transition points in between each stage. Michael Balasbas, an 11th grade student in Acacia Waldorf School and athlete, competes in triathlons and other races. He took the gold medal in the male junior elite category in a triathlon event that took place in New Clark City, Capas.

As a young child, Michael always enjoyed sprinting and racing against his friends, always going for the win. “As a kid, the thought of training for any sport was oblivious to me,” he said. But since 2018, Michael began competing in races, and has been training in swimming, cycling and running consistently ever since. “My strength is I don’t mind training a lot. I am consistent and determined to be great someday.” Michael just cannot live a day without training.



Photo by Pitiklela Sports Photography

Michael Balasbas and his team competed in the New Clark City Triathlon on September 25th, with Michael competing in the male junior elite category. The race started with a 500 meter swim, then a transition to the 20 kilometer biking segment, where Michael had to catch up to his opponents who started before him. “I had to catch them by like 38 seconds to a minute.” Michael eventually caught them but decided to stay with the rest of the team and make up for it in the next segment. The next segment was a 6 kilometer run, Michael stayed with his team until 500 meters to the finish line, where he decided to break away from his team and run towards the finish line. Michael finished



with a time of 1:14:27, the fastest in his category!

Photo from

Michael’s Instagram

A couple months after taking gold, Michael struck silver in the Men’s youth league of the PATAFA Relay Series Finals that took place in Pasig on November 19th.

As for future plans, Michael plans on recovering from the previous race, then starting another hard training block after the last race of the season. And as for dreams, “My dream is to become a full time triathlete, training and racing for a living.”

We’ll be cheering you on Michael!

Sounds Like Teen Spirit

By Layla Ortega, Staff Writer

Michaelmas concert, if you were not there, you definitely missed out on a lot. Lucky for you, this article is here to recount the events of the concert as well as rekindle the excitement of the people who got to be there. The Michaelmas concert is an annual event where the high school students of Acacia Waldorf collaborate and put on a great show for their peers, teachers, and guests.

Preparation for this event begins a few weeks before the big day, giving the performers time to plan and rehearse their acts. The acts can range from band performances of popular rock songs to skits inspired by famous movies and actors.



Photo by Layla Ortega

Students performed together with their respective classes but also in groups consisting of students other than their classmates.

The concert was hosted by the high school's very own Miguel Chavez and Joshua Zotomayor, both also participated in three performances each that night. The show was opened by the drama elective

group, they put on a musical performance that revolved around a simple "tindahan" or shop and the people who live nearby.

What ensued were the class performances, most of which consisted of each class performing a song all together, some students sang and some were assigned to play the instruments. Class 12 Camia was the second class to sing during this part of the concert. Many high school students were looking forward to this performance, who screamed in excitement as the class began their rendition of 505 by Arctic Monkeys. Class 10 Santan was the only class to break away from this idea, giving their all in a well choreographed dance number, the audience was especially surprised with this act as it was different from the rest so far. Every class' performance was received well and was successful in wowing the audience and inciting a ton of applause.

Following this were the group performances, mostly skits making the whole audience laugh and yell. These skits ranged from something out of the 20s to a dramatic play about the smurfs and their escape from Gargamel.

The smurfs skit was a stand out due to it taking place in two areas, utilizing the space to tell the story.



Photo by Layla Ortega

This performance also involved a student wearing a green screen suit, audience members were told he would be animated with motion capture technology soon after the act, we have yet to see this version.

Once group performances were over, it was time for the jazz band to get audiences to warm up again, this was not effective, nothing could keep audiences from dancing and parading, the room was filled with fun energy.

Throughout the songs the dancing grew even crazier and more exciting once the band club began their performance, closing the concert with Nirvana's hit song Smells Like Teenage Spirit. A mosh pit of highschool students jumped and screamed along to the song, a grand ending for a night full of fun and excitement. This will surely be a concert to remember for all involved. This year's concert has certainly set a high standard for the show next year!

Panonymous

By Ainara Aberasturi

For those who frequent the Nuvali area, the name Panonymous is most likely a familiar one. The business' roots can be traced back to the AWS campus, where the owner, Yumiko Cruz started out by taking direct orders from the Acacia parents. Panonymous went from bringing orders to the school to having two shops in both BGC and Silang, selling a variety of Japanese breads, and even creating seasonal and themed breads.

Although it now takes multiple employees to operate the stores, the creation and ownership of Panonymous can be credited to Yumiko Cruz, a Waldorf parent who moved from Japan to the Philippines when the company her husband previously worked at assigned them to the Philippines. Baking was a hobby she already partook in before even moving. "I was 14 years old when I started baking bread for the first time." said Yumiko. "When I started, I didn't see it turning into a business."



Photo from Panonymous website

The AWS community was a very prominent one. In the early stages of Panonymous, Yumiko started selling to her fellow Waldorf parents when she was on her third maternity leave. During this time, she baked bread every day, and posted pictures of them onto her Facebook. Many of the AWS parents saw them, and their interest was sparked. They then began asking her to sell her breads to them.

She carried on selling to the parents from there, until eventually they became a loyal customer base for Panonymous, even before the opening of the first physical shop. When asked what made her decide to switch from just selling through direct orders to selling out of a store, Yumiko explained that her house was becoming too small of a space to bake the increasing amounts of bread that people were ordering from her. Opening a bakery was one of her goals when she began baking full time, and so to her it felt like an obvious next step.

The original Panonymous store opened in 2021 on the ground floor of the VMC building in South Forbes in Silang. The shop displays a wide array of breads in a large glass case, in a room well lit by warm toned lights. A kitchen sits behind the display, allowing for the smell of baked bread to fill the space, creating a very cozy atmosphere for new and returning customers alike.

It is both this atmosphere and the delicious baked goods that keep the AWS community returning, with some even opting to work at the store. Patrizia Lopez, a 12th grader at AWS, chose to work at Panonymous for her on-the-job training. When asked what a regular day at the shop looked like, she responded by saying that the day would usually start at 5AM for bakers and 7AM for cashiers. The bakers would then have two hours to have some stock when the bakery opened at 7AM, and then would leave around 12-2pm and the cashier would stay until closing, occasionally changing shifts with someone else. Patrizia added that “Working at Panonymous was really fun, and especially being in the back I learned a lot about

baking methods and how to shape bread. The workforce is also very positive and close to each other.”



Photo from Panonymous website

The future of Panonymous is bright, with two shops and an avid customer base, some of whom have stuck around from the beginning, and who will most likely continue to support the business through the various seasonal and classic baked breads they will create throughout the rest of its days.

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