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APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA

AMPLIFY NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 4 ISSUE



PROJECT IGNITE: NEW MANILA WINS GOLD FOR THE SECOND TIME

WRITTEN BY: AMEDEE AGUIRRE

On April 6, 2024, Project IGNITE was held at the Department of Social Work and Development - National Capital Region - Reception and Study Center for Children (DSWD-NCR-RSCC). It seeks to contribute to alleviating problems surrounding the lack of education and access to learning resources by teaching children basic skills like dance, arts and crafts, literacy skills, and basic hygiene.

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- Amplify
- Creative Works (Arts Club)
- Descendance (Dance Club)
- First Responders

To know more about the project, articles related to Project IGNITE may be viewed in the Quarter 2 (Detailed Description and Goals) and Quarter 3 (Fundraising) issues.

All the hard work of involved clubs, organizations, companies, and academic staff paid off as APEC Schools New Manila won the "Most Outstanding Project of the Year - Gold": the most prestigious award given to the Student Council during the APEX-SL workshop.

Pre-event Preparations

During the last week of December for this School Year, the Student Council started a donation drive that ran until February 29, 2024. Students and others interested in helping were encouraged to donate hygiene products and educational materials as part of the project's purpose.

Last December 28, 2023, the Student Council visited various orphanages to formally ask for approval to hold Project IGNITE in their venue. After searching and proposing the project near APEC New Manila, DSWD-RSCC accommodated the Student Council and allowed them to implement the project.

During the course of the Christmas Break, the Student Council also analyzed what other items they could give the orphanage that may require assistance. They identified companies that provide such and formally emailed them in hopes that they accommodate requests for assistance or sponsorship. After several attempts last January 16, TVP Dental B Corporation accommodated their request and willingly sent toothbrushes to the Student Council free of charge.

After the donation drive ended, the month of March served as the time to organize all donations to give to the orphanage. The donations mainly consisted of hygiene products, old textbooks, clothes, school supplies, and canned products. The clubs involved also gave gifts to the children as their way of showing gratitude to the children like coloring materials and snacks. The clubs also gave an outline of what they will do to organize the program flow.

As April 6 drew near, the Student Council visited DSWD-RSCC to plan out the preparations. They also made publication materials and playlists, contacted assigned personnel for transportation and food, signed the necessary documents for implementation, and prepared choreography for the children's entertainment.

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Event Day

The Student Council, Moderators, and Club Volunteers visited onsite to prepare everything they needed for the event and rehearse their respective activities from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The involved staff left the site at around 12:30 P.M. to prepare for the project in DSWD-RSCC as the event ran from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

While the involved staff were preparing, they recall being nervous as they were uncertain about what would happen during the event and if the kids would enjoy all the activities they prepared for them. When they saw the children greeting them upon entering the venue, their nervousness was alleviated by all the warm smiles they gave them. Zarieal Johan Mante (Creative Works Club Volunteer) mentioned, "I didn't think it was going to be that fun with the kids. I can say it was chaotic but fun," referencing the noise, inattention, and mess the kids made.





The event started with a dance performance by the Student Council followed by snack time to follow their break time schedule. After the children ate their snacks, the Amplify representatives did a puppet show about Pagong at Matsing. The Creative Works Club then followed with a coloring and line-tracing activity related to the story; they also gave coloring materials and toys.







After playtime, the First Responders Club taught the children how to wash their hands properly, and identification games, and made them watch a video about a child not wanting to take a bath and how it affected him. A dance performance was made by the Dance Club and activities for the children to learn different types of dances. These activities allowed the children to have fun with learning new things, apply them, and allow them to express themselves freely.



After the event, the Student Council gave certificates of appreciation to everyone involved in the project and gave the remaining donations to the staff of DSWD-NCR-RSCC.

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Learnings

Publicly available information stated that the DSWD-NCR-RSCC accommodated neglected, abandoned, and abused children. This made the staff feel that throughout the project, they felt fortunate for the situation they were in and the things they had. They feel that the issues addressed by the project were fulfilling as they personally witnessed and experienced the activities they prepared.

Collectively, they highlighted the importance of taking responsibility for obligations you need to do for your family. As humans, it is important to care for one another. They feel grateful that the staff has a good relationship with their families. They also highlighted the importance of education in areas where it is inaccessible and how it is necessary to share it for the betterment of our society.

Awards

As highlighted in the Special Clubs Recognition that happened last May 17, 2023, the Student Council was awarded the following awards:

- Best Project Design Guide (Bronze) - Project IGNITE
- Best Project Marketing and Pitching Materials (Silver) - Project IGNITE
- APEX-SL Integrated Approach Award (Gold) - Project IGNITE
- Best APEX-SL Project Promoting Student Excellence Award (Silver) - Project IGNITE
- APEX-SL Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Award (Silver) - Project IGNITE
- Most Outstanding Project of the Year (Gold) - Project IGNITE

The "Most Outstanding Project of the Year (Gold)" award was the main highlight of the day as Lipa (Kapit-Bisig) and New Manila (Project IGNITE) were left on stage. The audience was feeling the thrill and rush of nervousness as the winner was about to be announced, explaining the gist of both their projects.



"Project IGNITE proves that teamwork makes the dream work. They believe that involving all members of the school and the community, [...], can create change and bring hope to the less fortunate. They remain steadfast despite setbacks and failures, [...]. Truly, a gritty attitude of an APEC Schools student," said Sir Antonio Mallari Jr. (Prefect of Student Life and Development).





In the end, both branches were title-holders of the award. Screams and jumps of excitement echoed throughout the NTC Social Hall. All the efforts, energy, time, and tears that led to that moment felt worth it in the end.

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Conclusion

"The mind is enriched by what we receive, the heart is by what we give." - Victor Hugo

This quote fully encapsulates the goals of Project IGNITE. Collaboration with different clubs and organizations proves that it leaves an impact and shows the transformative effect of increasing education accessibility, community support, and charity to the less fortunate. Another gold award serves as a testament to the commitment the staff has in their hearts to make a difference and make warm smiles and memories that will last a lifetime.

This is Project IGNITE, Inspiring Growth, Nurturing Individuals Toward Excellence. The project may have come to an end, but the heart to serve lives on forever.

WORK IMMERSION AT CONCENTRIX: ANEWMANS' PREPARATION FOR THEIR FUTURE

WRITTEN BY: EPHRAIM SANCHEZ

On Apr 15, 2024, the grade 12 students of APEC Schools New Manila started their work immersion on different branches of Concentrix around Quezon City, it is part of their necessary requirement for the school year's last quarter where they experience on hand training of the duties and responsibilities within the workplace and what to expect when they become employees in the future.

Concentrix is a BPO company which is an act of outsourcing business operations to third party vendors, in simple terms it handles customer calls from other businesses. APEC Schools partnered with Concentrix to send selected students to partake in work activities for 80 hours, furthermore heads of the said branches are to grade the performances of the students during the time frame.

The branches including this partnership are: Concentrix Cubao Spark Place, Concentrix UP TechnoHub, Concentrix West Ave Cyberwest, and Concentrix Quezon Ave Eton. Students were divided according to how much each branch could provide and included 2 batches with each batch having a 80 hour period. Students that were chosen to conduct face to face work immersion was based on the initial interviews and how well you presented yourselves, for students who opted to do online instead, they are tasked to do modules and synchronous sessions through the Concentrix website.

The internship students were placed either in the recruitment or testing department as a main focus of concentrix. Recruitment is where applicants apply for the position within a company, it is where personal and career information is gathered to assess if one is qualified, it also includes the pre screening and basic interview questions among others. Testing is where applicants' skills are put on a test and placed in a situation that arises within the position they're trying to fill in; examples of these are speaking tests, listening tests, and typing tests among others.

Students that attended the said immersion have participated in interacting with people different to them and to types that they don't usually are able to interact with within the school hours. Additionally the bond created between fellow co-interns and the heads of respective departments will be something they wouldn't forget, according to the student's experience most has been friendly to them within the immersion and never tried to pressure or stress them out.

It will be an invaluable experience being able to take part in such an activity, besides it being a requirement for one's fourth quarter grades, it teaches you invaluable skills and values that you will be able to use in the future. Besides that it gives you a foresight of the workplace environment and how it goes, when the time comes that you do start working full time, it becomes a lot easier and lessens the pressure.



WORK IMMERSION AT CONCENTRIX: ANEWMANS' PREPARATION FOR THEIR FUTURE

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As students reflect on their participation, all the memories of the journey will be remembered, not only for the lessons it taught, but also for the connections that were made along the way with co-interns and respective persons in charge that made a memorable and comfortable working environment for everyone involved. Despite the numerous struggles and exhaustion each student faced branching out of school grounds and facing something that was out of the ordinary, it was nonetheless worthwhile for everyone that was involved.

The students were utmost grateful to both APEC Schools and Concentrix for igniting such opportunities that they were involved with. It shows their initiative and willingness to enrich the education of its learners and future contributors of this country. They hope that such experience helps other students in the future that enables them to step up and be positive contributors in their communities.



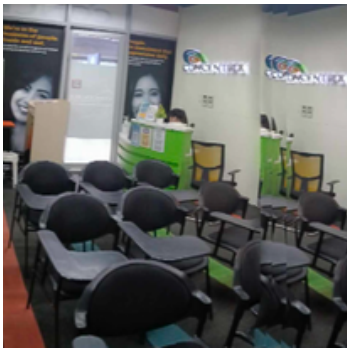
Concentrix Sparks Place Cubao



Concentrix UP TechnoHub



Concentrix Eton Centris



Concentrix Cyberwest

A PROM NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA

WRITTEN BY: TROY SANDI, ZARIEAL MANTE

On May 11, 2024, A wonderful night full of Glitz and Glam was held at Matrix Creation Events where students of APEC Schools New Manila held their prom there. It consisted of grade 9 up to grade 12 students who had participated in joining the prom. Everyone showed up in their fascinating dresses and suits, a truly wonderful and competitive activity for everyone in order to showcase their gorgeous faces and outfits. With the thought of having their debuts, they shine to impress those who they are, giving their confidence high remarks.







As we recall the events, one of the most memorable was the performances by students from grades 9, 10, and 12. For grade 12 students, it was a mixture of grade 11, grade 12 STEM, and ABM students who participated together in the Discotillion. The grade 11 students contributed to the dance to be able to fill up the partners needed by the students. Now before diving into the practice and showcasing of the Discotillion of the grade 12 students with their grade 11 partners, it is first necessary to understand what it is about.

A Cotillion/Discotillion is an etiquette dance routine for students, typically in high school, where students form in a group for the dance along with their partners. This dance is actually performed either after dinner or during prom night.

The students dedicated their Saturdays in practicing their Cotillion in order to really get the hang of the dance itself, to avoid any mistakes and have a wonderful time once it will be performed on the night of prom. The students that participated were six students from Grade 12 ABM, and nine for STEM while for the Grade 11 three people had participated. For the Grade 12 ABM it was Tristan Pagarigan, Troy Vincent C. Sandi, Prince C. Balane, Johnly Agustin, Prencess Pasco, Jhems Mae Angco. While for STEM, it was Kassandra Althea Magbanua, Krizia Mae Verano, Lady Marianne Elpidama, Michael Benedict Macha, John Lemnard Patena, Patrick James Remon, Francis Penaflor, Jarsen Victorio, and Amedee Nicole Aguirre As for the Grade 11 students were Cesmin Valmonte, Rhed Bustamante and Chzarmia Alfante. With the participation of the students, the performance had exceeded and met the expectations of the audiences.

A PROM NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA

WRITTEN BY: TROY SANDI, ZARIEAL MANTE





This was the start of the performance where the students were in place at the spotlight and danced the night away. With the ambiance of the palace and the song being played, the performance shows etiquette and class with a hint of modern dance and fun. Truly a night full of sparkle filled the event and our moments were recognized and cherished by all.



The crowning moment of the evening came when the prom king and queen were announced. Jhems Mae Angco and Johnny Agustin stole the show, beaming with joy as they accepted their crowns and took their rightful place on the throne.

The excitement didn't stop there, as the prom princess and prince were also announced. Andrea Gomez and Jeremiah Martinez added to the glamour of the night, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone.



But the real highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the performance of the dancers, led by Mr. Devin Gayatao Bulanier and Ms. Shane Mendoza. Their energetic moves got everyone on their feet, singing along to the music.

The prom was a night filled with laughter, love, and unforgettable memories. Congratulations to all the winners and performers who made this night so special.

A PROM NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA

WRITTEN BY: TROY SANDI, ZARIEAL MANTE

In a spectacular display of talent and teamwork, students from Grade 9, 10, and 12 also showcased their dancing skills in front of their fellow students, mentors, and staff coordinators during the annual prom night celebration.

The event was a night to remember as students from different year levels came together to perform to popular songs that got everyone grooving.

The Grade 9 students kicked off the night with their energetic performance, dancing to the upbeat tunes of "Shut Up and Dance", "Di Ko na Mapipigilan", and "Magsayawan". The crowd was wowed by their synchronized moves and infectious energy.

Next up were the Grade 10 students, who took the stage with their own unique style. They danced to a medley of songs including "Dandelions", "Girl in the Mirror", and "Dear Future Husband". Their performance was marked by impressive choreography

The Grade 12 students, who brought the house down with their rendition of “Leonora”, “I see the stars”, and “in the name of love”. The seniors' confidence and stage presence shone through as they danced with ease and precision.

The event was a huge success, with students, teachers, and staff alike having a blast. The performances were a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students involved.








APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA GRADE 10 STUDENTS SHINE IN FIRST-EVER RESEARCH DEFENSE

WRITTEN BY: ZARIEAL MANTE

May 7, 2024 — The day of the first-ever defense of students from grade 10 students at APEC New Manila will be remembered. The students, who had been rehearsing tirelessly for weeks, finally took the stage to showcase their knowledge and skills.

As the clock struck 10:00 AM, the atmosphere was electric. The students, their hearts pounding with anticipation, gathered in the auditorium, their scripts and notes at the ready. Each group had a mere 25 minutes to present and answer questions from their mentors, a daunting task that required precision, confidence, and teamwork.

Despite the pressure, the grade 10 students rose to the challenge. With practiced ease, they delivered their lines, answering sample questions with poise and conviction. The panel was impressed by the level of preparation and enthusiasm displayed by the young defenders.

As the last group presented their final answers, the tension was palpable. Would they be able to complete all the tasks on time? Would they be able to answer all the questions correctly? The wait was over as each group completed their defense, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

At the end of the day, it was clear that while parts needed to be revised, the students had made it through together. The collective effort and camaraderie were evident in every presentation, and it was clear that this experience had brought them closer together.

The successful defense of these grade 10 students set a new standard for future generations of students at APEC New Manila. As they look back on this momentous day, they will remember the sense of accomplishment and pride that comes with overcoming adversity.

SPECIAL CLUBS RECOGNITION DAY

WRITTEN BY: AMEDEE AGUIRRE

Last May 17, 2024, students from all branches of APEC Schools who are part of the Student Council, Amplify, and Peer Facilitators Group celebrated all their accomplishments and efforts in the National Teachers College Social Hall. These clubs are recognized for being hands-on with the student community, from encouraging active participation and looking out for one another to recording and documenting all activities that happened throughout the School Year.

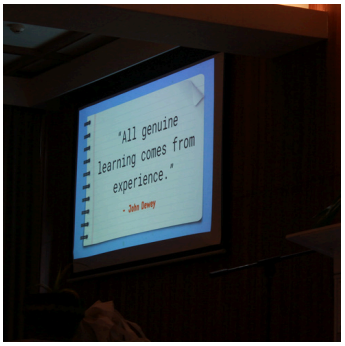
The first main segment acknowledged the efforts made by the Amplify team, dedicated to sharing events and freely sharing ideas within the APEC Schools community. 3 awards are given to select members per branch. In New Manila, they are the following:

1. Writer of the Year: Troy Vincent Sandi
2. Artist of the Year: Raveena Julia Ocampo
3. Content Creator of the Year: Prince Balane





After the awarding, Mr. Kent Haridas Resurreccion was invited to discuss student leadership and excellence. He highlighted the importance of knowing your responsibilities and taking initiative. He also stated the importance of working hard and making substantial outputs.







The second part of the program discusses the importance of stress management. Guidance Associates Ms. Hanna Tiglao and Ms. Grace Gener talked about the different types of stress, the signs and symptoms of long-term stress, and how to deal with them. An icebreaker activity demonstrated the myths and facts surrounding it. At the end of the segment, the peer facilitators were given recognition for their commitment, with Kent Adrian Joaquin being the "Most Outstanding Peer Facilitator of the Year" in APEC Schools New Manila.



SPECIAL CLUBS RECOGNITION DAY

WRITTEN BY: AMEDEE AGUIRRE





After 2 exceptional performances from C. Raymundo and Sta. Rita and a TikTok dance challenge came the third and final segment of the event, the APEX-SL award recognition. This segment is the most awaited part of the whole event to commemorate the efforts done by the Student Council to their community. In summary, the Student Council won the following awards:

- Best Project Design Guide (Bronze) - Project IGNITE
- Best Project Marketing and Pitching Materials (Silver) - Project IGNITE
- APEX-SL Integrated Approach Award (Gold) - Project IGNITE
- Best APEX-SL Project Promoting Student Excellence Award (Silver) - Project IGNITE
- APEX-SL Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Award (Silver) - Project IGNITE

Seven nominees were called on stage to announce the recipients of the "Most Outstanding Project of the Year"

Bronze:

- V. Luna - Project Patnubay
- C. Raymundo - APEC Go Green Pro
- Pateros - C.L.E.A.R.

Silver:

- Tondo - Your Fun, Their Fortune
- Las Pinas - Project Hirasyon

Lipa and New Manila were left standing in the middle of the stage, adding to the thrill and nervousness felt by the audience. Both the sites' projects were being described and highlighted how the previous school year's winner is also a nominee this year. In the end, cheers and screams of excitement from the audience echoed as Sir Antonio Mallari Jr. announced that both branches were winners of the said award.



The day ended with everyone celebrating and taking group photos to highlight the momentous occasion. The audience also got a chance to talk to other students to congratulate them on their achievements. Congratulations to all the awardees for exerting all your efforts to significantly contribute to the betterment of your school community!



APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA STUDENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT SY 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY: PRINCE BALANE & FIONA VARON

Through the years the APEC Schools Student Council had no responsibility for publishing the financial reports that they have during the term that they served. With this, it made the student council have low accountability and transparency to the students. Luckily, as mandated by the institution of APEC Schools the student council now is guided and under the constitutions and bylaws of the APEC Schools Student Council, and with this the student council now has different rules with regards to their duties and responsibilities and one of them is their finance. According to Article 8 (Finance), Section 6 of the APEC Schools Student Council constitution the Student Council, through the Treasurer and the Auditor, shall submit the financial report to the Prefect of Student Life and Development, the Lead Adviser, the Deputy Adviser, and the student body for publication in the Amplify Quarter 4 newsletter at the conclusion of each academic year.

As of the creation of this report on May 30, 2024, the current funds of the APEC Schools New Manila Student Council amount to ₱12,257.10. With that said, below are the more detailed Financial Report (Table 1) and Breakdown of Profit and Loss (Table 2) of the APEC Schools New Manila Student Council Financial Report as of May 30, 2024, for the school year 2023-2024.

Presented below is the APEC Schools New Manila Student Council financial report for the school year 2023-2024. In Table 1 (Financial Report), the financial report covers all the expenses and revenue gained from the different income-generating projects and activities that the student council implemented at the start of the school year.

Student Council Financial Report - S.Y. 2023-2024					
PROJECT		TYPE OF TRANSACTION	AMOUNT		DATE OF TRANSACTION
			IN	OUT	
		Starting Balance	₱5,000.00		
Recognition Photoshoot		Recognition Photoshoot Profit	₱2,825.00		July 15, 2023
Teachers' Day Token of Gratitude		Planner Notebooks		₱1,940.00	October 5, 2023
Valentines	Merchants of Love	Adora Chocolate (Small)		₱270.00	February 14, 2024
		Adora Chocolate (Big)		₱300.00	
		Balloons		₱120.00	

APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA STUDENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT SY 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY: PRINCE BALANE & FIONA VARON

		Duck Clips		₱266.64	
		Heart Clips		₱480.00	
		Plastic Roses		₱240.00	
		Dried Roses (Small)		₱399.96	
		Dried Roses (Big)		₱600.00	
		Dried Leaves		₱300.00	
		Flowers		₱150.00	
		Rose Candy		₱150.00	
		Transportation		₱300.00	
		Merchants of Love Revenue Day 1	₱2,290.00		
	Cupid Serenaders	Cupid Serenaders Profit Day 1	₱170.00		
	Nathalies' Sweets	SC Profit	₱296.00		
	Merchants of Love	Merchants of Love Revenue Day 1	₱2,260.00		February 15, 2024
	Cupid Serenaders	Cupid Serenaders Profit Day 2	₱270.00		
	Nathalies' Sweets	SC Profit	₱210.00		
Fun Week Photobooth		Ink Expense		₱1,145.00	February 20, 2024
		Photo Paper Expense		₱770.00	
		Fun Week Photobooth Profit	₱260.00		
		Fun Week Photobooth Profit	₱260.00		February 21, 2024

APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA STUDENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT SY 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY: PRINCE BALANE & FIONA VARON

SINAGTALA	**Mister and Miss New Manila**	Tumbler (Raffle Prizes)		₱285.00	February 22, 2024
		Hand Fan (Raffle Prizes)		₱300.00	
		Earphones (Raffle Prizes)		₱400.00	
		Trophy		₱1,650.00	
		Wristbands		₱600.00	
		Bouquet		₱500.00	
		Ribbon		₱556.00	
		Mister and Miss Votes	₱2,810.30		
		Transportation		₱500.00	
		SINAGTALA Profit	₱14,780.00		
Project IGNITE		Champion Bar Supra Clean		₱109.00	April 6, 2024
		EQ Colors XL30s		₱428.50	
		EQ Colors Large		₱321.85	
		Absolute Distilled Water		₱410.00	
		JJ BB Lotion		₱849.25	
		Zesto Orange		₱84.00	
		Zesto Mango		₱188.00	
		Zesto Apple		₱164.00	
		Tarpaulin		₱730.00	
		Ice		₱200.00	
		Jolibee (Meal for the Kids)		₱6,000.00	
		Transportation		₱2,937.00	

APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA STUDENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT SY 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY: PRINCE BALANE & FIONA VARON

	SINAGTALA Profit	₱14,780.00		
Project IGNITE	Champion Bar Supra Clean		₱109.00	April 6, 2024
	EQ Colors XL30s		₱428.50	
	EQ Colors Large		₱321.85	
	Absolute Distilled Water		₱410.00	
	JJ BB Lotion		₱849.25	
	Zesto Orange		₱84.00	
	Zesto Mango		₱188.00	
	Zesto Apple		₱164.00	
	Tarpaulin		₱730.00	
	Ice		₱200.00	
	Jolibee (Meal for the Kids)		₱6,000.00	
	Transportation		₱2,937.00	
Intersite Tournament	Contribution		₱1,500.00	April 20,2024
Class Picture	Class Picture Revenue	₱16,650.00		May 6, 2024
	Cash Out Fee		₱60.00	
	Printing Expense		₱8,890.00	
	Editing Expense		₱650.00	
SC Awards	Certificate Paper		₱80.00	May 30,2024
	Total	**₱48,081.30**	**-₱35,824.20**	
TOTAL CASH ON HAND		**₱12,257.10**		

Table 1. Financial Report

APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA STUDENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT SY 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY: PRINCE BALANE & FIONA VARON

As is presented in Table 1, the student council started with a balance of ₱5,000.00 being passed over by the previous student council; this was then used to fund the different projects and activities of the student council. Over time, with the implementation of different income-generating activities like the recognition photoshoot, the Valentines activities, the Fun Week photo booth, and the SINAGTALA, the student council had accumulated an amount of ₱19,208.70. These accumulated funds are then used for the outreach program of the student council, titled Project IGNITE, where the student council donated different commodities that the DSWD Reception and Study Center for Children needed. With an expenditure of exactly ₱12,421.60, the student council was left with ₱6,787.10.

After that, the student council participated in the intersite tournament that required a contribution of ₱1,500.00, which left the student council with ₱5,287.10.

Proceeding, the student council organized a class picture taking for grades 7 to 11, which accumulated ₱7,050.00 in profit, making the student council funds ₱12,337.10.

Finally, as of May 30, 2024, the student council bought certificate papers amounting to ₱80.00, making the recent balance and cash at hand ₱12,257.10.

Along with that presented below is Table 2 (Breakdown of Profits and Loss) is the total breakdown of the cash in hand that the student council has; this calculates the total profit or loss of each project or activity that is implemented.

TOTAL CASH ON HAND BREAKDOWN	
Starting Balance	₱5,000.00
Recognition Photoshoot	₱2,825.00
Teacher's Day Token of Gratitude	-₱1,940.00
Merchants of Love	₱973.40
Cupid Serenaders	₱440.00
Nathalie's Sweets	₱506.00
Fun Week Photobooth	-₱1,395.00
SINAGTALA	₱12,799.30
Project IGNITE	-₱12,421.60
Intersite Tournament	-₱1,500.00
Class Picture	₱7,050.00
SC Awards	-₱80.00
TOTAL	**₱12,257.10**

Table 2. Breakdown of Profit and Loss

Overall, having a financial report for student organizations such as the APEC Schools New Manila Student Council is important as it gives transparency and allows students to know where the student council funds are going, along with that the student council itself can be more accountable and observe their own financial activities.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF APEC SCHOOLS STUDENT COUNCIL SIGNING: BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE LEADERS

WRITTEN BY: TRISTAN PAGARIGAN

"With proper governance, life will improve for all." — Benigno Simeon Aquino III

Every governing body needs a set of rules and regulations to function effectively and maintain accountability, and the student council of APEC Schools New Manila is no exception. For years, the student council at APEC Schools operated without a specific set of rules and guidelines beyond the general handbook. While the performance of the student council was commendable throughout the years, there was a clear need for a dedicated framework and guidelines to clearly define their roles and responsibilities. To address this, the institution of APEC Schools, under the guidance of Sir Antonio D.P. Mallari Jr., has established "The Constitution and Bylaws of APEC Schools Student Council."



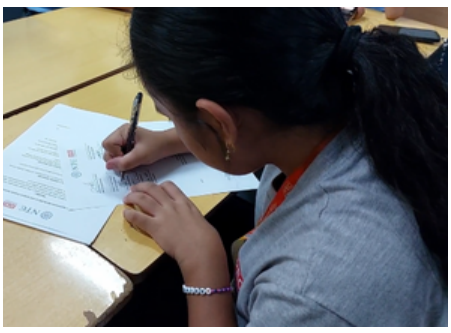


The Constitution and Bylaws of APEC Schools Student Council is a comprehensive document outlining the rules, regulations, and duties of the student council. It consists of ten articles that cover everything from general provisions to the specific roles and responsibilities of each student council officer. It also details the various tasks the council must complete throughout the school year, like their finances and the APEX-SL.

Sir Antonio DP. Mallari Jr., the Prefect of Student Life and Development, ratified the Constitution and Bylaws of APEC Schools Student Council, and it was distributed to all branches. Each student council representative of each site signed the constitution, signifying their commitment to uphold its principles and building a framework for future student council members. Along with this, on April 8, 2024, the student council and batch representatives of APEC Schools New Manila ceremonially signed the constitution, marking a significant step towards better governance and accountability.







Ultimately, having a constitution ensures that the student council operates with transparency and accountability. This provides a clear framework that helps prevent corruption, promotes accountability, and guides the student council in serving the student body effectively. This milestone signifies a new era of structured governance that will undoubtedly enhance the school community's overall experience.

APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA TOURS THE NATIONAL TEACHERS COLLEGE CAMPUS

WRITTEN BY: RAVEENA OCAMPO

Last April 25, 2024, students from APEC Schools New Manila embarked on an insightful campus tour of the National Teachers College (NTC). The visit, organized jointly by the two partner schools - NTC and APEC, was made to introduce the students to the opportunities available at one of the esteemed teacher education institutions in the country and provide a sense of direction to the transition of students to new academic environments, as the New Manila branch of APEC Schools is set to permanently close at the end of the academic year.



The NTC Campus opened its doors to the students of APEC Schools New Manila with a warm welcome from the school administrators and student ambassadors as they led an introductory session at the NTC Social Hall, where they went over the rich history of the institution and its commitment to excellence in fostering teacher education. They also discussed the various Senior High School strands, college programs, and student organizations or clubs available to the students. Student leaders and alumni from NTC also shared their experiences with the school and the role it played in shaping their future.

Following the informative session, APEC students were divided into smaller groups with designated NTC tour guides leading them as they visited each of the campus facilities. The first one was the prayer room, which was a serene space where students can pray, worship, or simply meditate and have a quiet moment to find solace amidst their academic pursuits. Next, was the guidance office of NTC, APEC students were not able to visit inside but the guidance team greeted them in the hallway to briefly discuss the role of their office in the school, as well as their bulletin board containing the activities and events they had. They also handed out bookmarks containing affirmations to the students as a souvenir gift.





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Afterwards, APEC students were led to the food laboratory where they were able to observe the space in which NTC culinary students do their practical work and exercises, equipped with all the necessary cooking equipment needed to hone their skills. From there, they moved on to the state-of-the-art mock cafe where NTC hospitality and tourism management students practice their skills in food and beverage service and customer relations.





They were also able to check out a mock hotel room also provided to the hospitality and tourism management students of NTC, equipped with all the amenities of a modern hotel room, such as a plush bed and furnishings. The tour then proceeded to the NTC library where students can enjoy a decent collection of books from their shelves across genres, but mostly educational. A unique feature of this library were the cubicles that were definitely keeping the students' needs in mind as they can be used for groupworks, meetings, discussions, or just an overall space for them to study or read with some privacy.







APEC SCHOOLS NEW MANILA TOURS THE NATIONAL TEACHERS COLLEGE CAMPUS

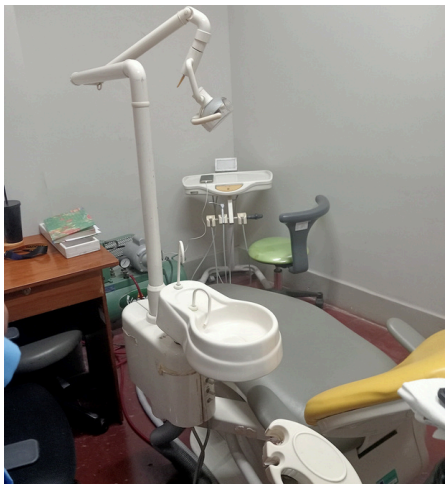
WRITTEN BY: RAVEENA OCAMPO

APEC students were then guided to the P.E room or dance room which is furnished with mirrors lining its walls for the students to easily monitor their movements and form as they participate in dance rehearsals or fitness exercises. After that, they were led outside to the canteen, however, the tour guides only allowed them to observe from a distance due to the midday heat, and they only briefly explained that there were several food stalls in the canteen to cater to the various preferences of the students. Lastly, APEC students were guided to NTC's clinic featuring a waiting area, reception, and an examination room consisting of four medical beds. They were also informed on the services available to the students, such as routine and basic dental checkups, as well as first aid.









To finish off the campus tour, NTC provided snacks and refreshments to APEC students and they were given a couple of classrooms to occupy in order to rest and recuperate from the day's activities. As APEC New Manila students boarded their buses back to the branch, there was a sense of excitement and inspiration that filled the air, grateful for the opportunity to visit the NTC campus, which for some students, may be a glimpse into the next chapter of their educational journey.

ALL EYES ON RAFAH: URGENT CALLS FOR ACTION AS CONFLICT IN GAZA DEEPENS

WRITTEN BY: RAVEENA OCAMPO



The phrase "All Eyes On Rafah" became widespread on various social media platforms over the recent months, asking people to pay attention to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, which has now entered its eighth month as Gaza, particularly its Rafah border, remains critical with civilians caught in the midst of the violence. The phrase has been used by people ranging from the Director of the World Health Organization, Dr. Rick Peeperkorn, to millions of social media users using the hashtag to the point of trending on platforms such as Twitter, Tiktok, and Instagram. Regardless of background, people unite in their concern for the atrocities that have emerged, and will further result as the Israeli-Palestinian war drags on and fails to come to a ceasefire.

Rafah is located at the south of the Gaza strip and is currently the sole border out of Gaza and into Egypt. There were two other border crossings other than Rafah - Erez, a border crossing to Israel in the northern part of Gaza, which is used by people, and there's Kerem Shalom, which is located in Southern Gaza and is used for commercial goods junction with Israel. Both of these borders, however, have been shut in response to the attacks launched by Hamas.

On May 7th, 2024, the Israeli army seized and closed the Rafah border crossing, effectively cutting off Gaza's only entry point for humanitarian aid and relief operations. This blockade prevents lifesaving assistance and basic services from reaching vulnerable people in Gaza, even with officials warning of famine spreading further as Israel continues its assault on the city.

Figures from the U.N as of May 2, 2024 states that 1.1 million Gazans, which is half the population, already faces a catastrophic food insecurity, with 1 in 3 children suffering from acute malnutrition. Cindy McCain, the head of the World Food Program, has also stated two days later that while there is no official declaration, the threat of famine still looms large as it continues to spread from Northern Gaza and is making its way into the south, with Gazans having dangerously low access to food, medicine, shelter, and other essentials as the war rages on.

"All Eyes on Rafah" reminds the people that we must not turn away from the continued suffering in Gaza and the deteriorating situation that the city has been plunged into by the ongoing war. The phrase emphasizes the pressing need for the world to pay attention to the crisis, keep raising awareness, and pushing for action to help alleviate the hardships that civilians are already facing. With the Israeli-Palestinian conflict currently in its eighth month, people are calling for all eyes to be on Rafah, they are asked to raise their voices to put pressure on governments and world leaders from both sides to take action and work towards a ceasefire that will end this prolonged violence.

PRESSURES OF EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND ITS EFFECTS ON STUDENTS

WRITTEN BY: EPHRAIM SANCHEZ

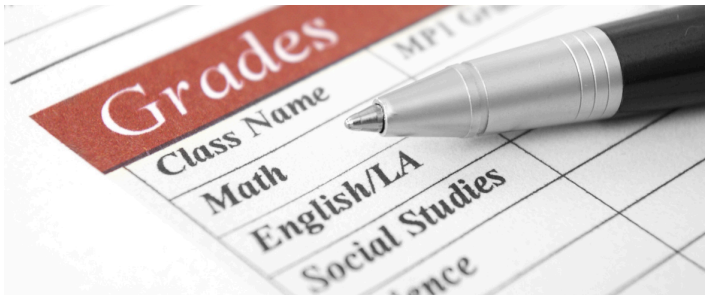
It's normal to feel pressured sometimes when dealing with tasks that are overwhelming, it's our body's way of reacting to such occurrences. Which is why it can be a positive quality experiencing such, it only means that as individuals we are trying and making an effort with the work at hand. Furthermore, feeling calm and in control while doing so, can help people complete tasks and achieve great things. But it does become a problem when too much pressure is occurring, that calm composure is replaced by a feeling that one is out of control which is when stress happens becoming negative and deteriorating to our overall health as a person.

Pressure can happen voluntarily, when we are being too harsh on ourselves trying to complete things, it can also be involuntarily when people around us persuade and enforce us to do things we do not want to do or set exceeding expectations, whatever is the case.

Excelling in academics is of essential value to our society currently, receiving academic validation, being top of our classes, or getting high marks on tests are something students hear all the time as measures of their success as an individual. Otherwise you're considered a failure, someone who isn't learning and will not lead a good life. It's set in stone in the mind of people that those with higher educational attainment are much deserving of respect and validation compared to those who do not. Essentially such metrics can be partially true, someone that has such attainments may be able to have stable employment and employment opportunities but should it be the only basis of a student's success?

Such a burden gives immense pressure to students and can negatively impact their lives, how about their excellence in other fields? Or their way of presenting themselves? How about the positive characteristics they show to other people around them? I believe each one of us measures success differently and should always be taken into account.

What's more altering is the fact that such pressure is given by the ones closest to us, teachers, family members, and peers among others. It can be stressful trying to reach the standard they've set for us and not wanting to disappoint them. Here are possible effects a student may encounter dealing with such.



1. **Obsession with grades**

Don't get me wrong, caring about the grades you are receiving is a good thing, it shows discipline and accountability for one's actions. However when it comes to obsessively thinking about what your grades turn out to be, it becomes damaging. This sort of thinking changes the perspective of how students are learning within the educational system, as they focus more on memorization rather than deeply understanding the new concepts. Grading might have been an effective metric to determine a student's academic performance for years, but we shouldn't treat it as the sole metric.

PRESSURES OF EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND ITS EFFECTS ON STUDENTS

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2. Unable to relax

It's always a good thing that a student is hardworking and tries his/her best to finish tasks as quickly as possible. Simultaneously a student being able to clear his/her mind is equally important as it increases focus and learning concentration. Furthermore it helps you keep a positive outlook and continually be motivated with the activities you have to do, knowing you have leisure time for friends, family, and especially yourself. Students that are constantly pressured of educational success though usually are restless, unable to stop doing tasks even if they are already burned out. This is more damaging than beneficial as forcing your mind and body to do tasks you aren't motivated to do, which will result in a mediocre quality of work.



3. Psychological and physical problems

Too much pressure can affect a student's overall health, like being too stressed, always anxious and even lead to physical symptoms like headaches and sleep disturbances.

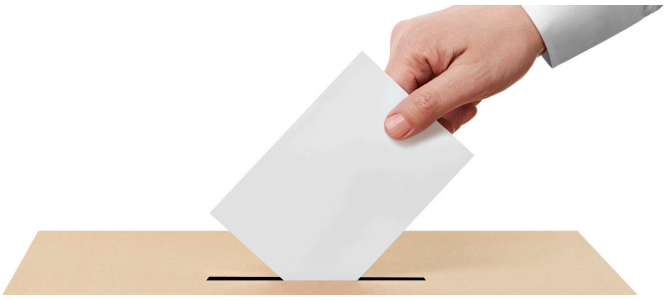
This is damaging as such is affecting a student's daily life, and in extreme cases, it can ruin a student's academic performance and have an opposite effect from what the pressure is trying to achieve. It ruins the student's learning experience and will lead to a negative mindset in the school environment.

"My advice for young people is to just be yourself. There's no pressure. Do what you want to do. And if you want to do something, then go after it and make it happen." - Millicend Simmons.

The quote exemplifies the perspective of this article and my views. I believe that as students let's not be too pressured, we're too young for that, let's live our lives the way we want to live it with proper limitations. Furthermore I wanted to emphasize how diverse each student is and can excel in different areas of lives. Which is why we need to take the initiative to help our loved ones not feel pressured, help them excel where they want to and not try to dictate the path's that they lead.

WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT ELECTIONS

WRITTEN BY: RAVEENA OCAMPO



The student council elections season is upon us once again as the corners of our campuses, from bulletin boards to our social media feeds, are filling up with the eager faces of student candidates from various partylists, all of them trying to prove their worth to us, and ultimately, our votes. Though, in the grand scheme of things, it may be easy to underestimate the importance of student elections, to dismiss it as just this formality or tradition that doesn't deserve much attention and careful consideration from people, because after all, it's just in a school, right? Wrong. Sure, it may not be like voting for the leader of a country, but what we must realize is that the impact of student elections actually extends far beyond the school walls.

First and foremost, student government elections give us a practical lesson on civic responsibility that must be taken seriously, it teaches students that they have a right to vote, and that they have a voice in shaping their school environment by being able to choose who represents them and makes decisions on their behalf. They are taught how to scrutinize and choose a candidate based on their credentials, platforms, and whether they align with the needs and values of the people they represent. By getting involved now, students are given the opportunity to experience contributing to a democratic process and responsibly choosing their leaders, which will be instilled in them when they get to participate in actual elections and vote for people who will have the power to influence their communities and their nation.

Moreover, participating in student elections not only instills a sense of responsibility and duty among the student voters, but also the candidates themselves that are elected to represent their peers. It gives these student leaders a training ground to prove themselves in terms of their integrity and the strength of their character. Whether they are honest and transparent with their interactions with others, respectful of their opponents, serve the best interests of the student body, and remain resilient in the face of scrutiny and tough questions about their platforms, all speak volumes about their suitability for a leadership role. Through the election process, they are taught the invaluable lesson that running for leadership will never be about winning votes or the power you'll wield, but earning the trust of the people you intend to represent and being committed to the betterment of your community.

So, as we navigate through this season of student council elections and consider each face vying for the opportunity to lead, we must keep in mind the true importance of voting. We must recognize that it is more than just a formality or tradition, but both a privilege and responsibility that has the power to shape the future of the school community. Whether for better or for worse, lies in the hands of student voters and the decisions they make that will echo throughout the halls of their school, eventually rippling beyond the campus and into the kind of leaders they will entrust with this nation.