Brentwood Celebrates Fil-Am Friendship Day!

International School, Naga City, Philippines

A day-long celebration of the Filipino-American Friendship Day which coincides with the United States Independence Day was conducted at Brentwood College of Asia International School, Naga City, Philippines on July 4, 2013.

A fitting tribute to the long and lasting relationship between the United States of America and the Philippines, Brentins highlighted such momentous event with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at exactly 8:00 in the morning at Brentwood Hall.

Contest in Poster-Making was held among Basic Education and those belonging to the Tertiary level. It was truly amazing and inspiring to watch multi-faceted Brentins depict in crayon painting their individual interpretation of the kind of friendship existing between the two countries. Winners were announced and awarded namely: Adelo Endozo of the Tertiary level and Jan-Macreen Bergante of the Basic Education level.

In the afternoon, a program showcased the multiple talents and skills of Brentwood students exhibited in colorful production numbers of dances, songs and fashion show depicting the culture of both countries, which actually commenced after the soulful singing of the national anthems of the United States of America and the Philippines.

The whole day affair culminated in a press conference welcoming the three students from Taiwan namely: Melanie Chen, Catherine Chen and Timothy Tan. Four students coming from United States of America namely Hermenegildo Jason Asor, Francis Angelo Lleno and Mary Arjen Tayo, after their 4 months stint in Ohio and Virginia, USA, were also given a welcome bash.

The celebration was indeed fun and memorable as can be gleaned from the jubilant faces and festive air surrounding Brentwood.
The ISA trip to the United Nations
SEK Boca Prep,
United States

On March 27, 2013, I was asked by our Boca Prep Head of School, Mr. Stan Daniel to attend a Youth Conference at the United Nations with him and another student, Adam Sturm. Our trip to the UN, and to New York in general, was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. From the hospitality of the people in the city, all the way to the amazing conversations had with some of the most important people in the United Nations created a trip that I will never forget.

As it was my first time in “The Big Apple” I did not know what to expect. You can never truly understand how amazing New York City really is until you experience it first hand, like I have now done. From being able to go to the top of the Empire State Building, as well as eating $1 pizza in New York highlighted the superb contrasts and completely different worlds that one city has to offer. However, it is not to be forgotten that the highlight of the trip- for probably all three of us- was the visit to the United Nations.

Upon arriving around an hour and a half early to ensure our place in the main room, (instead of the overflow room) I could tell that what was inside would astound me, and make me think about the future that was ahead. After getting through the rigorous security checkpoint and sitting down right in the center of the room, Ban Ki Moon, the secretary general of the United Nations, sat down no more than 15 feet away from us.

As the discussions began, it became incredibly apparent that the United Nations had not created the Youth ECOSOC forum to lecture us with information on what they were going to do, but instead ask us about what we think should be done. The discussions ranged from women in science to technology innovation, and each and every one of those topics was highly enjoyable. Listening to professors and students give opinions from all around the world opened my eyes to the different issues people face, and how they all have different (yet incredible) solutions.

The 3 days spent in New York were tightly packed, with things to do every second of our stay, and I feel incredibly honored to have been able to go on this trip with Mr. Daniel and Adam.
Agora Sant Cugat’s Model UN
Agora Sant Cugat,
Spain

Secondary 4 students and Baccalaureate volunteers from Agora Sant Cugat International School participated in the very first AMUN – The Agora Model United Nations – a simulation of the United Nations sessions. The objective of the event was to familiarise students in the procedures and workings of the Model United Nations so that they could participate in future international MUNs in other schools abroad. The MUN sessions take place all over the world and make young people aware of what is debated in the UN, improve their English and debating skills as well as improve their public speaking skills.

In the AMUN, every one of the 88 Delegates were assigned a country and were informed of the formal requirements in their International English lessons. Students were also asked to look for information about the two debating themes “Promoting the transparency of public administrations, including the United Nations” and “Prevention and minimising the effects of pests and plagues”. In a previous session, the delegates drafted different resolutions (proposals to find solutions to the different problems) and the organisers chose the best of the resolutions to debate during the session.

There are two things that I have taken away from the trip and ECOSOC especially: One, how technology is constantly shaping the world today, and how the UN are capitalizing by giving the youth a voice, letting them share their opinion on something that will be vital in shaping the future. Secondly, the experience really illuminated my mind to how big and culturally diverse New York is, as the number of countries and cultures represented simply on the streets showed how many people go to New York to pursue their dream.
During the conference, the different resolutions were read and during the Open debate they were modified and amended. Finally, a round of votes to pass or throw out a resolution took place. All the organisers and everyone who took part in the whole event were really satisfied with the experience and are looking forward to future AMUN sessions and inviting other local schools to join in with them in this memorable experience.

**Building Future World Leaders**

SEK Las Americas International School,  
Dominican Republic

SEK International School of the Americas had students participate in the model of the United Nations’ Eight International Conference of the Americas. This event simulates the protocol and different forms of work of the United Nations. One thousand five hundred youngsters of different countries from around the world attended this event.

During three days, the children debated different themes from the global agenda. They had the opportunity to discuss the topics in English, French and Spanish. The themes discussed were the following: drug control, the fight against international terrorism, illegal gun trafficking, air contamination around the world and health. More in depth world wide issues that were discussed were world peace and natural disasters. The diplomatic youngsters came up with possible solutions to these world wide conflicts.
Cempaka Schools Triumph Again
Cempaka Schools, Malaysia

After three nail-biting days of suspense, the UNICEF sponsored Mathematics, Literacy & Science World Education Games ended on 7 March, 2013, when Cempaka Schools, Malaysia, again took the top places in the international competition. Scores of names from Cempaka Schools Malaysia appeared in the 'Hall Of Fame', from individual medal tallies to high-achieving groups. Another 'feather in the cap'. Cempaka Schools Malaysia defended their title as World Champions as they came out as the overall champion for the fifth consecutive year in the World Education Games 2013.

The feat was not an easy one. Cempaka students had to compete against 5 million school children from 30,000 schools in 226 countries. Maintaining the title as Champion School, and keeping Malaysia’s name on the world academic map, was an enormous task. There was a lot of work and planning involved. Preparing students for the mental challenge, keeping motivated, were crucial. Students were seen busy putting strategies into place and working out the best outcomes. Across the schools, laptops and iPads were used to the fullest, as Primary and Secondary students were seen figuring out solutions to challenging questions, from accuracy in Spelling to precision in Mathematics.

In his congratulatory remarks, upon receiving the trophies on behalf of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyuddin Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, said:

“In winning nine world trophies within the span of five years, Cempaka has established itself a strong academic reputation that is benchmarked internationally.”
Philippines School Gets Cambridge Seal of Approval
Westfields International School, Philippines

Education in the Philippines is going through an upheaval for the good. That also goes for Westfields International School (WIS) in Angeles City, Pampanga, in Central Luzon.

President Aquino, on May 15, signed the K to 12 Basic Education Program law, which adds two years to basic education, makes enrollment of children in kindergarten compulsory, and mandates the use of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction from kindergarten to third grade before English is introduced.

Two years will be added to the four-year high school curriculum, starting this school year, bringing the Philippines educational system in line with the rest of the world. In anticipation of this law, WIS strove to also add an internationally recognized two-year program to its high school curriculum. After much discussion, it was decided to connect with the world’s leading educational provider of academic qualifications and programs – the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), based at the University of Cambridge in the UK. Correspondence began in mid 2012.

The school went through a rigorous accreditation process, culminating in an inspection visit to the campus by a representative of CIE in February this year. The school’s management and leadership, teaching and learning processes, educational values, and physical environment were scrutinized down to the last detail.

In order to meet these new educational challenges, WIS has continued to develop its state-of-the-art facilities through the expansion of amenities that utilize the latest educational technology.

On March 2, WIS finally received a letter of approval from CIE, granting not only the program applied for, the Cambridge Advanced Level (for Grades 11 & 12), but also Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (for Grades 9 & 10). The dedication and hard work of the school’s faculty and staff finally paid off.
SEK Budapest at the World Scholar’s Cup

SEK Budapest, Hungary

The World Scholar’s Cup is an academic competition that gathers students from many different countries around the world, challenging them to celebrate knowledge. The students say it is a truly great experience that can increase their understanding about different subjects and connect them to the real world.

SEK Budapest International School had two teams participating in the Scholar’s Cup 2013 in Prague. The students competed in four different events: Team Debating, Scholar’s Bowl, Collaborative Writing and Scholar’s Challenge. In each one our teams were very successful and qualified for the following round in Dubai (UAE) on June 20th 2013. The theme for this year’s Scholar’s Cup was ‘A World in Motion’ which includes The Science of Transportation, The Turbulent Earth, Movement in Poetry, Film, and Prose, Movement in Art, Music, and Dance, and The Great Migrations.

In Dubai there were 1600 competitors and about 550 teams from all around the world, and among them our SEK Budapest team of Gemela Zsombor, Tóth Attila, and Lakatos Istvan won the 1st place and the best team in Europe. Lakatos Istvan also came 4th overall in the Collaborative Writing category among 75 students. Excellent results motivated many students to join the newly formed Scholar's Cup Club in our school, looking for academic challenges on an international level.
Poverty Project
St. Catherine's Moorlands School, Argentina

Middle School students organized an Assembly on Poverty. This event helped students to feel empathy for people living in extreme poverty all over the world and encouraged them to join the struggle against it.

For one week, the whole of Middle School worked several projects on the theme in class and participated in different activities.

Level 1 students had to do research on different countries to look for indicators of the standard of living and compare them.
Level 2 students learnt what it actually means to be poor by looking into the lives of children in different parts of the world. They had to describe their lives as if they lived in any of these countries.
Level 3 students had to look at different artistic expressions of poverty and were exposed to poems written children living in shanty towns. This led to an extensive debate in the class. Then, they had to show their own thoughts and feelings using the step inside routine of I see, I think, I wonder through art in computers and collage.
Level 4 students had to do research on different songs and then write their own lyrics to express their ideas.
Level 5 students rounded up the Assembly with a speech. Students shared their dream for a better world and said what they were going to do in their own lives to make a difference.

Here are some reflections from our Level 3 Students:

I see the contrast of our lives.
I see how we prejudge without realizing that we do so.
I see Juanito is sleeping uncomfortably. I see a kid who is trying to have fun with the trash that people throw. I see a child who represents all the kids who live in slums and don't have food or toys to play with. They don't go to school.
They spend all the day looking for food in the trash to survive. I see a kid living a life that he doesn't deserve, nobody deserves to live as Juanito lives. He has to go school and play with his friends and not have a bath in a contaminated place.

I see inequality, the contrast of the lives of the poor and rich people. These paintings make people reflect about our living conditions and that some people can't afford what we can and make a change. I see the image represents child labour and how kids can enjoy their childhood.

I think we are all equal.
I think many people are in this situation.
I think we should all live in the same conditions.
I think that poor children don’t have to work and they should play like every child does.
I think that this is unfair because all human beings should have access to education.
I think they are destroyed inside.
I think they don’t have time to be children because they have to work or steal.

I think we have to react.
I think we CAN make a difference.
I think child’s rights aren’t being respected.
I think we have to make a change, we have to do something.