

# The Royal Scroll

SOARING ROYALS! YES, WE CAN!



ISSUE NO.1 MAY 2021

## SMC GOES VIRTUAL

## SMC V.O.L.T.



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## SMC GOES DIGITAL WITH VOLT CLASSES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By: Abrianna Wilson

Over the years, South Mansfield College has been very dedicated to providing quality education no matter the circumstances. It comes as no surprise that SMC continues to do this amid the Covid-19 pandemic through Virtual Online Learning and Teaching or VOLT classes. Through the VOLT classes, Royals can continue learning and growing in their academic journey while remaining safe in their homes.

The VOLT program is said to go beyond regular homeschooling by providing more than just worksheets for students to work on. During synchronous classes, learning is facilitated by the teacher which gives way for student-teacher and student-student collaboration. This also allows the students to receive timely feedback on their work and performance. Teachers give the students engaging activities through various platforms such as Quizizz and Kahoot. Learners are also able to access their lessons and activities anywhere and at any time through the learning management systems Moodle and Google Classroom.

SMC has also taken advantage of G Suite as the primary platform for VOLT classes. All classes, activities, and assemblies take place on Google Meet. For asynchronous learning, as well as some synchronous activities, students are able to access Google Docs, Slides, Jamboard, Sheets, and Forms. Using G Suite helps students and teachers access lessons and activities anywhere with a few simple clicks.



# The New Normal

*By: Fatima Rabanera*



*Cartoon by: Alyssa Jao*

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The early months of 2020 took the world by surprise with the news of a new virus from China called Coronavirus 2019 or SARS-COV-2 spreading across countries. COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in drastic shifts in daily life and routine activities, in addition to health, economic, financial, and social consequences. As of March 2020, several countries worldwide implemented lockdowns and other strict safety protocols such as social distancing and wearing of masks and face shields in public areas. Mass gatherings were also prohibited. Hundreds of thousands of lives have vanished because of the said virus. And up to this very day, the whole world is still in the middle of the crisis. Many countries, including the Philippines, continue to succumb to the extensive effects of Coronavirus. The Philippines continues to carry out strict measures to ensure the safety of the mass; however, the government falls short in providing the essential needs of the nation leaving its citizens with no other choice but to disregard the given cutback and perform their daily activities as if no pandemic is on the horizon, leading to the drastic rise in the amount of active COVID cases our country faces. One may argue that the administration has no control over this matter but given the large debt we have with the world bank, by this time, we should have seen a great improvement in how things are going. We should now be seeing a better and more effective plan of the government on how we are going to put a stop to all this.

It does not only end there. While several countries now have sufficient supply of vaccines with a high efficacy rate, we continue to purchase Sinovac vaccines created by China with low efficacy rate, risking the health of many considering that many Filipinos misunderstand the concept of the vaccine and thinking that its sole purpose is to give zero chances of a person to get infected instead of just lessening it. This leads to people attending mass gatherings with social distancing not properly implemented, leading to the easy spread of the

The idea became a counterproductive effort that caused more trouble than what it is worth. The recently released news about the arrival of a vaccine in our country caused people to think that it is now fine to disregard all safety measures implemented and that we are back to normal because of their misconception about the purpose of the vaccine, giving our health care workers a hard time in providing the needed help all patients under their care needs since they too are now tired for working longer than their regular working hours while wearing PPE's since last year.

This issue makes the control of the spread of the virus more difficult and badly contributes to the rapid rise in the number of infected people in our country. The longer we are under this pandemic, the harder it will be for our countrymen to get jobs that will help them provide enough for their families. And when this continues for a long time, our economy will also continue to decline, making it nearly impossible to give out the needs of the country, especially of those in the lower socioeconomic.

It is clear to see that the supply of vaccines in our country is one way for the government to provide help in lessening the number of people getting infected by COVID-19. But the other actions taken by them remain slow-paced making our nation's recovery something out of a film, with no clear image of what is about to happen. The people are dying to see the ending. The people desperately want to get over these restrictions and return to the normalcy we all once had. The government should have first prioritized properly educating the people of the benefits of abiding by the given safety measures and how the vaccine works. They should have also given the people a chance to decide on what vaccine they'd like to use since we are no longer allowed to use another brand of vaccine once we are already vaccinated. In this manner, we can make a speedy recovery from the virus and return to how it all used to be.

# SMC Celebrates 17th Anniversary Virtually



By: *Celena Espejo and Whischelle Ama*

Foundation Day is a significant milestone each year, where we show our appreciation for the enlightenment, courage, and commitment manifested by those who contributed to the establishment of the educational institution. Since its inception in 2005, South Mansfield College has always been consistent in providing students' needs. Through AVID, they were able to bag achievements such as 10 Most Students of Muntinlupa, Robotics Competition, Choir Competition, and many more. The institution has once again administered its role in providing high-quality education and continues gaining the trust of parents and students. It is an educational institution focused on pursuing wisdom and a foundation for nurturing good moral values.

Despite the pandemic happening worldwide and classes done virtually, South Mansfield College still celebrated its 17th year of service. The month of January marks the week-long celebration of South Mansfield College's founding anniversary. Last January 11 to 15, SMC Senior Student Council planned and executed fun activities for Foundation Week. They chose several activities that will surely suit the students' interests and are appropriate for Google meet. The competitions were Chess, Battleship, Gomoku, Poem-Making, and Poster Making. And last January 14, SMC honored its founder, Dr. Genevieve Ledesma-Tan. Students, together with the teachers and staff, gathered in a special Zoom meeting to honor and respect the 17th year of SMC. The virtual gathering was made special by the participation of Muntinlupa City Government and Department of Education officials. The program ended with a special message from the school principal, Dr. Rolly S. Donato, who thanked everyone for their untiring support, which brought the School to the peak of its existence. After class, the employees celebrated the event by having a small gathering while still following the implemented safety precautions.





Celebrating the 17 years of its foundation, SMC conducted a virtual program with numerous video greetings from our hard working local government officials, supportive parents, and successful alumni expressing their gratitude and happiness felt for the school.

The focus of the program is not just to congratulate the school for its achievements over the years but also, to remember the efforts of everyone who helped the school attain these. This is why we decided to interview the school head himself, Dr. Rolly S. Donato, to personally have his perspective on the accomplishments and challenges that the school went through during the past years:

**Q: What is South Mansfield College? Is it merely a workplace or is it something more meaningful than that?**

*"SMC is more than a workplace. I consider SMC as a family. We are composed of different individuals with different talents and capabilities, and we complement each other so that we could be able to achieve the goal of SMC which is students' achievements for you and of course to meet the other targets. So, it's a family for me. Yeah, we take care of each other.. And yes, we ask everyone to be output-oriented, but there is heart into it."*

**Q: How long have you been working in the institution?**

*"It's my sixth year in SMC, but it's my twentieth year in SGEN."*

**Q: What are the notable achievements of SMC?**

*"The first notable achievement is that we have grown into a big school. When I started in SMC, we started with 420 students and, we grew to more than 600 students. Another notable achievement would be the international winnings. We have the World Scholars' Cup. We won also in the International School Cyber Fair. Also, a very notable achievement is the 10MOST. We're very proud that for seven years we've joined – or eight years that we've joined in 10MOST, our students are – if not finalists – winners of the 10MOST. And also, we have grown into a top school and the school is known in Muntinlupa and other areas as a "Speak English School" with international standards."*

**Q: What has been the greatest contribution of our school to the community and even to society as a whole?**

*"First thing is our South Mansfield For Others (SFO). It's our community service and our help for the community. We also joined Maynilad before in our tree planting activities. Our students also do Brigada Eskwela during the face-to-face classes, and I think also the 10MOST. I consider it as a big contribution to the community. We are known as a school that produces 10MOST every year. Our connection with the city government. Yes, so that's also a big help to the community."*

## Home of the Royals: 17 Years of Service

By: Esther Grace Pre and Sharmaine Coleen Segovia

**Q: What has been the biggest challenge of SMC and why?**

*"During the regular class, the big challenge would be, or shall I say, the biggest challenge would be sports facilities. That's why before the pandemic, we already started with our plans for the gym, but you know, it was stopped by the pandemic – we're affected. And now, with the new normal, the biggest challenge is how to help our students sustain their mental health because we don't see them physically – we don't see you physically. And we don't even have a 100% or even 90% knowledge of how you are doing right now during the pandemic because we do everything virtually."*

**Q: Do you think the pandemic has affected the quality of education that SMC has?**

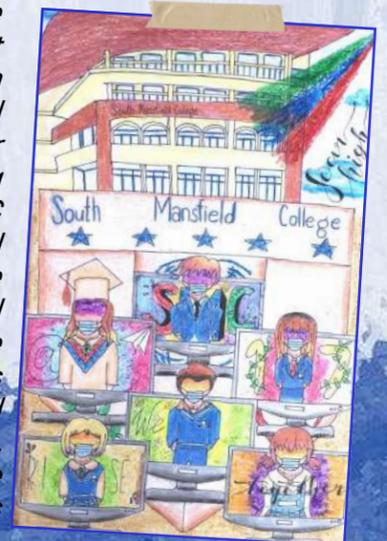
*"I don't think so because we started early in the third term last year and we've been using Moodle, so I think, we're very much ready for the virtual classes. We still have assessments. We still ask the students to do GRASPS and academic assessments and the learning continues. So, I think what we're missing right now is the physical connection with the students, but in terms of learning, it's still there so we can sustain our standards. Our standards did not change despite the pandemic. It's just the new way of learning and teaching."*

**Q: How do you see our school five years from now?**

*"Hopefully by next year, we can go back to face-to-face and of course it's no longer the old normal. It's going to be entirely new but in the next five years, I would like to see SMC grow to 1000 students – that's college and basic education combined. So around 800 basic education students and around 200 college students. And my dream is to have the gymnasium – the Royals' Gymnasium – that will also house the college students so that our college students will be separated. They will have their facilities. I would like to see the fifth floor be converted into an auditorium so we can have stage plays, musicals and we can, you know, we can already sponsor or host concerts. And of course, more winnings internationally in the next five years for our students."*

**Q: As the school embarks on its 17<sup>th</sup> year, do you have any message for the whole SMC community?**

*"To our parents, thank you very much for the untiring support and for always being there in our innovations. Thank you to our students for keeping the fire and for sustaining the AVID and soaring high every year. Like this year despite the pandemic, we still win in competitions, and we still let other schools feel our presence in different competitions and activities. And to our teachers and staff - with your passion, commitment - we are achieving all our goals and dreams as an SMC family. Thank you very much. To our local government officials, we would also like to thank you for always supporting us and guiding us. And also, the DEPED, for all the insights and for sending us greetings during our anniversaries, celebrations, and during our year-end academic activities. So, thank you so much and together we will soar higher and higher every year as the SMC community."*





## **South Mansfield College, 17 years of Growing, Learning, and Soaring Royals**

*By: Matthew Gante*

SMC has come a long way from its humble beginnings. It felt like yesterday when it was simply buildings, a couple of classrooms, and that is pretty much it. Over the years, it has grown to bloom like a flower in spring, and I will forever be grateful to have seen it grow before my very eyes. As we celebrate its 17th birthday, it allows us to look at where we are now and compare it to where we started. It is not to say all 17 years were rainbows and butterflies. We've had our fair share of trials, challenges, and setbacks. However, this does not discourage our royals to soar higher, to push themselves, and to achieve their goals while enjoying school.

It always amazes me how this institution never settles for what is enough, what is the standard. SMC strives to raise the standards of its students to promote efficient and better learning and understanding.

As a royal for more than ten years, I have witnessed multiple changes. From the canteen's expansion to a complete reconstruction of the high school building. I have seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. We lose faces and meet new ones as the years go. However, something that never left the institution was its utmost drive and passion for learning. With more and more royals receiving national and international recognition. South Mansfield College proves that it isn't merely a school or an institution. We always fail to realize that SMC isn't just a building, but a community that carries one another hand in hand to strive for excellence and service.

*(For more information on the achievements of our royals turn to page 6.)*



## **Innovation of Educational System in SMC amidst New Normal**

*By: Abbygail Barrion, Amos Cruz and Rafael Masicat*

One of the most recent public health emergencies that took a turn in our lives is the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health, business, economies, and home environments are greatly affected by this global health crisis. With over 28 million Filipino learners who have to stay at home and comply with the country's quarantine measures, there is no doubt that the education system is affected.

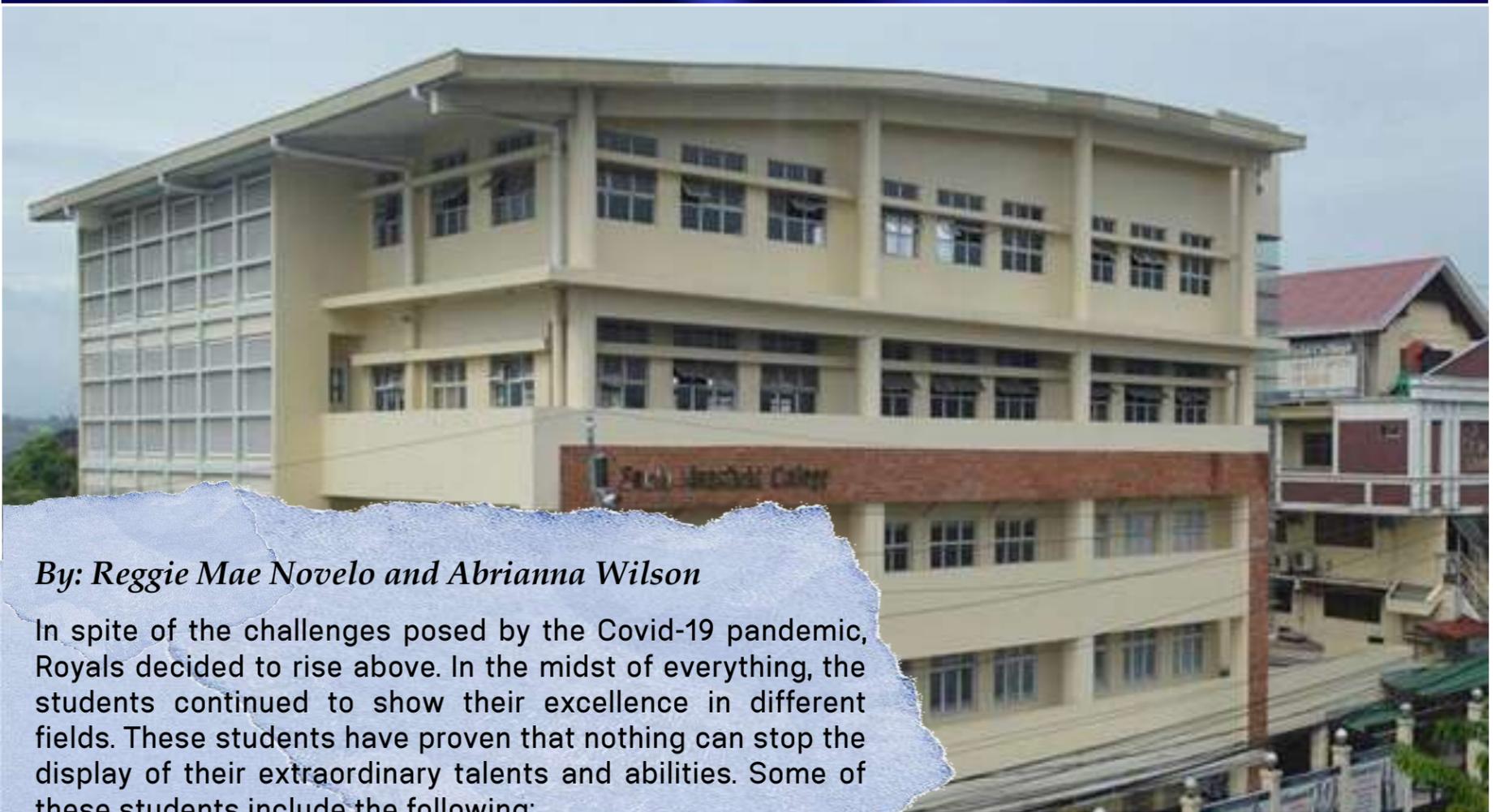
A shift from traditional learning to distance learning is a big step, but South Mansfield College exceedingly accepted the challenge. SMC took advantage of advanced technology and prepared for the new school year as early as March 2020. As the academic year 2020-2021 opened, SMC launched seamless virtual learning for its students through VOLT (Virtual Online Learning and Teaching) in line with the Department of Education's (DepEd) belief that education must continue whatever the changes and even dangers we confront now and in the future.

The DepEd's Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) in time of COVID-19 is their response to the challenges in the current Basic Education. It includes ensuring readiness for distance learning, where there is an increasing role of technology in education. According to DepEd, "*The key elements of the learning strategies that shall operationalize the BE-LCP are the streamlining of the K to 12 Curriculum into the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs), and allowing of multiple learning delivery modalities such as distance learning and blended learning, either on top or in place of face-to-face learning*".

SMC wants the best for its students, to prepare for the VOLT classes, teachers and staff attended 2-month training via Moodle. All of its teachers were also certified through the MOOC (*Massive Open Online Courses*) such as Coursera Course on Learning To Teach Online. Parents and students were oriented about the new learning system such as Moodle, Google Classroom, and Google Meet. Activities, group, and individual works are made handy through Google Jamboard, docs, slides, and sheets.

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# ACHIEVEMENTS & WINNINGS



*By: Reggie Mae Novelo and Abrianna Wilson*

In spite of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Royals decided to rise above. In the midst of everything, the students continued to show their excellence in different fields. These students have proven that nothing can stop the display of their extraordinary talents and abilities. Some of these students include the following:

### **Southeast Asian Mathematical Olympiad**

Natalie Kaitlyn R. Ventenilla of Grade 8 Commitment attained Silver in the Southeast Asian Mathematical Olympiad (SEAMO) 2020, a global mathematical olympiad that aims to increase passion and confidence in mathematics. She was recognized for her outstanding performance in the competition that landed her in the top 20 out of thousands of participants from Southeast Asia and beyond. Kaitlyn's performance also secured her an invitation to the Global Round of the competition scheduled for January 16, 2021.

### **South SEED LPDH College (SSLC) National Quiz Show**

SMC's Senior High School STEM team was invited to participate in the South SEED LPDH College (SSLC) National Quiz Show. The team was composed of Carlos Miguel Tan, Sharmaine Coleen Segovia, Alliya Delen, Abbygail Barrion, and Gabriel Cuento, coached by Ms. Lyka Maquidato and Sir Kristoffer Custodio. During the competition, held on February 19, 2021, the team bested 14 participating teams from schools in Las Piñas, Mindoro, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Bacolod, and Davao. The competition, which was part of the Foundation Celebration of SSLC, aimed at developing proficiency in the Sciences.

### **SGEN Model United Nations Main Conference**

Marie Gabrielle Opiña bagged the Best Delegate award during the first SGEN Model United Nations (MUN) Conference. The conference was held on February 20-21, 2021 which aimed to help the students strengthen their global citizenship and speaking skills while fostering camaraderie among the SGEN schools. SMC's delegates debated among hundreds of students from participating

Colleges (SISC), Stonyhurst Southville International School (SSIS) Batangas and Malarayat campuses, and the Asian SEED Academy of Technology (ASAT). Abby was chosen as the Best Delegate for displaying her proficiency in delivering speeches and debating in the style of parliamentary procedure. She was a member of the Human Rights Council representing Germany.

### **Sabio Stellar Forum**

The stellar forum is a debate competition where people from different places in the Philippines come together to compete. People of different ages came to battle one another and it lasts for two days. Last March 27-28, University of Asia and The Pacific conducted Beginner's Interschool Debate Competition, Stellar FORUM where three Grade 11 students Celena Elize Espejo, Alekean Tabuzo and Ma. Lourdes Fatima Rabanera participated. Participants came from different schools in the Philippines, trained by their respective mentors, to show their excellent talent in defending their side in the three rounds of debate during the preliminary competitions. And teams that garnered the Top 5 scores then proceeded to the Semi-Finals round then to Finals. Our team managed to win one round out of three. Fatima Rabanera managed to land on one of the high school best speakers alongside finalists. The online set-up did not hinder these students to show what they got. They were able to showcase their skills and talents. These outstanding students showed what a true Royals could be.



### Buhay ng Mag-aaral: "Ang Buhay ng Bagong Hayskul Student"



*Ni: Abby Opina*

Halos dalawang taon na mula nang nagsimula ako ng hayskul sa SMC at ito ay isang kamangha-manghang karanasan. Noong una, mahirap masanay sa lahat ng bago at mahirap na paksa, pati na rin ang karagdagang isang oras bago makauwi. Ngunit sa paglipas ng araw ay nasanay na rin ako at sa halip na ito'y ikalungkot, mas tiningnan ko na lamang ito sa positibong paraan. At oo, mas nakai-stress ito sa kadahilanang ang pagdaragdag ng tatlo pang mga paksa ay nangangahulugang tatlong beses ko ring kailangang suriin ang mga ito para sa pagsusulit dahil bahagi ito ng pagiging isang "high schooler".

Isa sa mga magagandang bagay tungkol sa pagiging hayskul ay ang pagkakaroon nang mas maraming oportunidad upang saliksikin ang mga bagay-bagay. Mayroon kaming pagkakataon na sumali sa mga kumpetisyon para sa *robotics, art, sayaw, pagkanta, isport at ang pagsusulat sa pahayagang pampaaralan. Ang mga high schoolers ay nagkakaroon din ng pagkakataon na makaranas ng mga bagay tulad ng High School Night.*

Noong nagsimula ako ng hayskul ako ay na "overwhelm" at sa karamihan ng mga mag-aaral, naramdaman na lumakad sila sa bagong mundo. Bilang bahagi ng hayskul, mas dumami ang presyur hindi lamang mula sa pamilya at mga guro kundi pati na rin sa lipunan mismo. Kapag ikaw ay nasa hayskul, karamihan sa mga mag-aaral ay may mga relasyon at crush at pagwala kang jowa minsan pakiramdan mo na OP ka lalo na kung ang iyong mga kaibigan ay "taken" na. Ngunit hindi ito ang basihan ng pagiging isang hayskul. Ang pagiging estudyante sa hayskul ay isang masaya at kapana-panabik ngunit nakatatatong na bahagi ng ating buhay na dapat pahalagahan ang bawat sandali nito. Napagtanto ko rin na maaari nating gamitin ang mga hadlang at presyur para matuto. Napagtanto ko rin na ang mga bagay na ito ay palagi nating nararamdaman buong buhay na magagamit natin sa pakikipagsapalaran sa mas malalaking hamon na darating pa sa ating buhay.

*Ni: Amos Cruz*

Marami sa amin ang napapaisip sa mga huling araw ng aming elementarya na kung ano ang bagong hamon na tatahakin bilang bagong mag-aaral sa hayskul. Ang inaasam na pagtatapos sa elementarya ay pagbubukas din ng panibagong hamon sa buhay bilang hayskul *students. May halong pag-aalala at konting pangamba rin sa bagong kabanatang tatahakin. Marahil alam naman natin na hindi madali ang panibagong yugto ng buhay mag-aaral sa hayskul, subalit makasisiguro tayo na ang landas na tatahakin ay magdudulot ng karagdagang kaalaman at karanasan para sa atin. Mabuti na lamang na patuloy tayong ginagabayan ng ating mga guro at nariyan ang suporta ng ating magulang, pamilya at mga kaibigan.*

Totoong maraming pagbabago sa buhay hayskul. Makikilala natin ang mga bagong guro, kaklase, kaibigan at bagong sistema. Inaasahan din na matutunan ng bawat mag-aaral na maging mas responsable at "independent". *Ang kabanatang ito rin ay magbibigay ng mga bagong gawain, proyekto at iba't ibang aktibidad.*

Marami sa aming mga estudyante ang nakaramdam ng pananabik sa pagpasok sa unang baitang sa hayskul. Mayroong mga bagong pagkakataon upang maipakita ang aming kakayahan, galing at talento sa iba't ibang larangan. Nakatutuwang ibahagi na ang mga bagong hayskul *students sa ating paaralan ay nakapag-uwi na ng tagumpay sa "Chorale", "Robotics", "Sports" at iba't ibang patimpalak. Ang iba ay naging bahagi rin sa mga "leadership training" at "community service". Patuloy na hinuhubog ang bawat mag-aaral na maging mahusay sa iba't ibang larangan.*

Sa buhay hayskul, may magkahalong saya at hirap. Mahalaga lamang bilang isang mag-aaral na magpatuloy tayo na mas maging masinop sa pag-aaral, maging matatag, maging positibo at manalangin sa anumang tatahaking pagsubok sa mga darating pang panahon at pagkakataon.

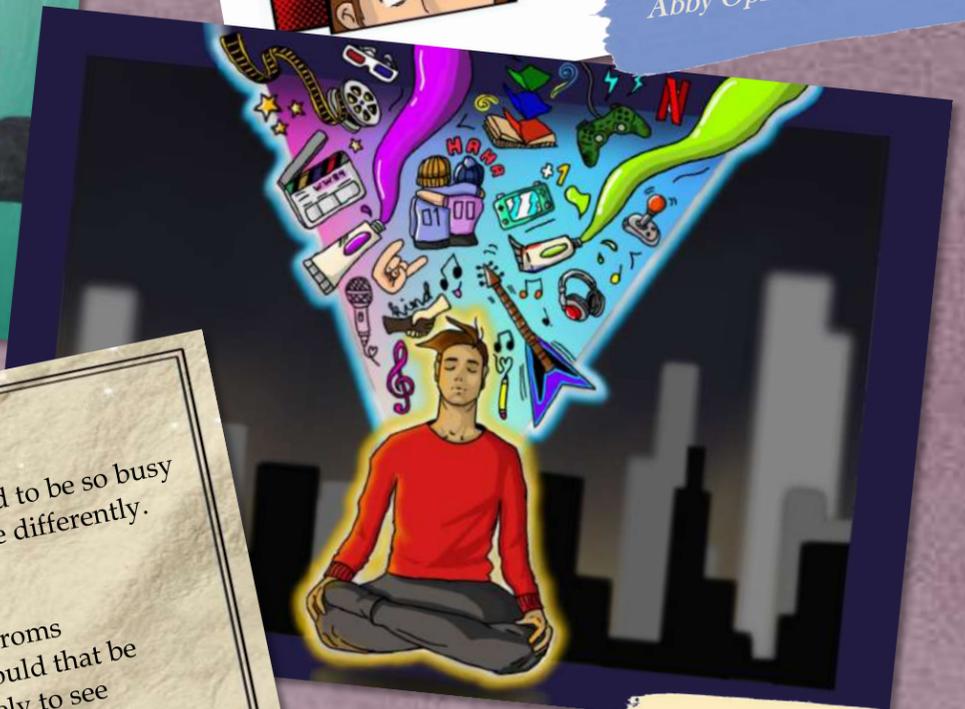
*Ni: Hannah Makinano*

Taong 2020, kinumpirma ang kaso ng COVID-19 sa ating bansa. Ang unang hinihinalang kaso sa Pilipinas ay inimbestigahan noong Enero 22, 2020, at 633 na hinihinalang kaso ang naiulat mula noong Marso 1. Dulot ng pandemyang COVID-19, ang lahat ay nagbago sa hindi inaasahang pagkakataon. Bilang isang bansang kabilang sa mga *third world countries, ang iba't-ibang komplikasyong dala ng pandemya ay may malaking epekto sa pamumuhay ng mga mamamayan ng ating bansa. Ang pagbabagong ito ay hindi naging pabor para sa lahat ng mga mag-aaral, lalong-lalo na sa mga hindi pribilehiyo na makasabay sa panibagong sistema ng edukasyon.*

Para sa akin, masakit isipin ang katotohanan na karamihan sa mga kapwa kong mag-aaral sa ating bansa ay tumigil ng pag-aaral dahil sa hindi sapat na kagamitan. Ang ilang mga mag-aaral naman ay kumuha ng *modular learning, online learning, o kaya naman ay blended learning. Ibang-iba sa dating paraan ng pag-aaral, ang mga mag-aaral ngayon ay tumututok sa kanilang mga aralin sa loob ng kanilang mga tahanan. Bilang isang mag-aaral sa gitna ng pandemya, kinakailangan kong tanggapin ang kinakaharap na sitwasyon upang sanayin ang sarili sa tinatawag ngayong "new normal". Hindi man ito naging madali sa araw-araw na pagharap ko sa aking laptop, patuloy pa rin ang pagsisikap sa pagkatuto kahit pa may mga pagkakataong nagkakaroon ng problema sa koneksyon ng Internet, pagkalito sa mga talakayan, pagka-abala sa paligid, at iba pang mga komplikasyong nararanasan dahil sa distance learning.*

Ang ating buhay ay puno ng mga pagsubok na kailangan nating harapin dahil sa pandemyang COVID-19, nagkaroon tayo ng panibagong hamon na nakapagpabago sa ating araw-araw na pamumuhay. Sinubok ng sitwasyong ito ang ating lakas ng loob upang malagpasan ang mga hindi inaasahang pangyayaring ito. Isa ito sa marami pang mga pagsubok na mararanasan pa natin sa ating mga buhay. Sa kabila ng pag-aalinlangan, pag-aalala, pagkalumbay, at pangangamba, patuloy tayong mga mag-aaral na nagsusumikap,

# DANGEROUS WOMENS



Abby Opina

## Locked Up

The streets are empty where everyone used to be so busy  
Starting from a single virus now we live differently.

No caps, no gowns  
Cancelled graduations and proms  
Oh, how I wonder what a night could that be  
Stunning pretty smiles are lovely to see

I had no idea that I would miss waiting  
In queue, traffic, even the school bell to ring  
I had no idea that I would miss the noise  
Laughters from girls and boys

I was completely unaware that I will long for those days  
Moments and memories of the good old days  
Like a look, it lingered  
"Take me back" I whispered

Now here we are,  
People are locked up inside their home  
always checking news through their phone

Angelica Sualog