



S tudents, P arents, & E ducators' D igest

The Official Newsletter of the New Era University Special Education Program

Quezon City, Philippines

Volume 1 • Number 2 • April – September 2013

Executive Minister Opens NEU-SPED Mobile and Solar- Powered Facilities

THANK YOU SO much, Brother Eduardo Manalo, for these very beautiful gifts you have given us. We love you,” said Frederick Segui, one of the children with special needs at New Era University. Frederick was referring to the New Era University Special Education Facilities that were opened for use on March 14, 2013. These facilities, which include playrooms and reading rooms, were conceptualized by the Executive Minister out of his love and concern for children with special needs, along with their parents and teachers.

The program started with an inspection of the NEU-SPED Facilities’ rooms by the Executive Minister. Then the children with special needs performed songs and dances before Brother Eduardo and his family. After their performances, the children gave him thank you cards. The SPED rooms are mobile, air-conditioned, and solar-powered- the first of its kind in the Philippines.

Located near the elementary and high school building, each

SPED facility also has its own comfort room and dressing room. The colorful interior design, as well as the skylight, brightens the environment for children, encouraging fun and learning. Various puzzles, board games, toys, and books are available for the kids to enjoy while developing their skills.

Amazed and delighted with the new SPED facilities, the teachers jokingly exclaimed, “While it is easy to encourage them to make use of the rooms, it will be a struggle to get them out of there.”

The visit and the gifts of the Executive Minister all the more inspire the children, parents, and teachers to be all that they can be for the glory of the Almighty God. □

Written by Ed H. Lumbao
assisted by Markfel T. Serreno

with permission from PASUGO- GOD’S MESSAGE
(April 2013, Vol.65; No.4; ISSN 0116-1636)



The selected pupils, as they happily present their songs and dances before Brother Eduardo and his family.

Photo courtesy of: Flogico Arcena

Inside This Issue

Message of the NEU President	2
NEU-SPED Rocks 2nd Time	2
Director's Desk: Learning is Fun at NEU	3
SPED Month Celebration	3
NEU –SPED Program in the 2013 International Conference	4
SPED Awareness and Appreciation Day	5
A Decade of NEU SPED Service	8
Former NEU SPED Directors' Perspectives	10
Reflection: Graduation, Inclusive Education and Children and Youth with Special Needs	12
Family Ties: God Gave You Me	14
Family Ties: Explaining Autism to My Son	15
SPED Awareness in NEU-Lipa Batangas	16



Message from the NEU President

Congratulations on your tenth year!

I read from the school history that a decade ago, the NEU SPED Program began its benevolent mission of offering an inclusive education program to children with mild to moderate disabilities. Unlike the New Era University, your Program did not attempt to grow in the number of its enrollees yet its success can be felt and seen in other aspects. Your Program is acknowledged to be one of the best examples of what true inclusion is. One proof is the fact that distinguished developmental pediatricians and diagnosticians refer their client to your Program. Another is the belief and support shown by the Church Administration manifested by the presence of three recently-constructed mobile rooms that house a library, playroom and work center exclusively for use by your clients. One reason is that you have the most caring and experienced administrators and faculty whose forbearing is a great source of unconditional love that parents and students continuously feel and is continually being treasured in the ten years of your existence.

Let me congratulate you also for having your own newsletter. Your newsletter is a very apt medium for showcasing untapped talent and skills of not only your students but parents and educational coaches as well. It is an important channel for circulating information about your Program that other members of the NEU community and the larger society outside have no inkling at all. But most of all, may your newsletter continue to be not only an effective and efficient sounding board of students' and teachers' writing potentials, but also a medium of expressing deep-seated feelings, sentiments and thoughts which inspire others as well.

I urge you to continue your efforts and assure you that the School Administration shall always be your partner in all your fruitful undertakings. Kudos and Godspeed!

NILO L. ROSAS

NEU- SPED "Rocks" 2nd Time

By Teacher MARIE JANE G. GOZO

Our program, along with other nine leading SPED schools in Metro-Manila, participated in the momentous event entitled *EdSPEDcially For You* on February 2, 2013, at Robinson's Galleria Activity Center (Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City). This annual celebra-



Students, Parents, and Educators' Digest

The Official Newsletter of the NEU SPED Program
No. 9 Central Ave. New Era Quezon City
Tel No. (3915)9814221

Contributors:

Penelope P. Sandoval	Liezel A. Vargas
Eliezer SG. Ortiz	Orlando M. Cabigting
Ed H. Lumbao	Ruby R. Gelacio
Diana J. Veninoso	Delia D. Tolentino
Felomena S. Colansi	Jessa Ray M. Calma
Odyssa Belle D. Pagala	Rose Ann E. Narciso
Aprilyn N. Almendra	Avelyn M. Gagalang
Farida Raga P. Agatep	Ellaine Jann A. Simeon
Mary Anne Apple M. Jacob	Cherry Amor S. Dizon
Mrs. NH. De La Cruz	Mrs. Josephine Palomares
Mrs. Elvie Lasquite	Juan Amado Cleto

Illustration & Graphic Artist: Marie Jane G. Gozo

Assistant: Odyssa Belle D. Pagala

Newsletter Consultants: Bro. Ed H. Lumbao

Dr. Edilberto I. Dizon

Editor: Marie Jane G. Gozo



Our selected students during their on stage performance at Robinson's Galleria Activity Center. Photo by: Marie Jane G. Gozo

tion of UP SPED Student Council (UPSEC) undertaking was a second time exciting experience for our students. The first was on April 2, 2011 which was held in the same venue. Both NEU-SPED performances were choreographed by teacher Marie Jane G. Gozo. The activity included students from elementary and high school level with special participation of Karlo Turbolencia (NEU-SPED alumnus). The annual event aims to connect and collaborate with different institutions toward advocacy for people with disabilities. Further, this major event was the sixth in the *SPEDCanRock!* series to showcase talents in theater and other performing arts with this goal: **"It is the ability, not the disability that counts"**. As a finale, each participating school and its students were given certificates of participation. The positive outcome of this meaningful event brought pride especially among parents and teachers. In addition, the parents and guardians, along with teachers and educational coaches, look forward to another amazing music repertoire as they "Rock" with gusto, for the third time.



Director's Desk

By Bro. ED H. LUMBAO

Learning Together is Fun at NEU

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?" Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him.

John 9:1-3, *Good News Translation*

This is a part of the Bible story when our Lord Jesus Christ gave sight to the man who had been born blind. We can learn a thing or two in this story. Playing the blame game would do us no good. Instead, just our Lord Jesus Christ helped the man who had been born blind, we could also help and support children with special needs in our own simple way.

Just like typically-growing children, children with special needs also deserve to be welcomed, to belong, to be loved and to participate in every aspect of community life.

That is why New Era University Special Education (NEU-SPED) Program supports the Salamanca Statement (UNESCO, 1994) that states that children with special needs would benefit more through inclusive education provided in regular schools which allow all children to learn together, whatever their characteristics, abilities and difficulties maybe.

However, according to Kathie Snow of Disability is Natural, "Inclusion is not children with disabilities spending the majority of the school day in a special ed room, and being "included" in regular classes for art, PE, and music. This is visitation. Inclusion is not children with disabilities attending regular education classes, but being repeatedly pulled out for special services through the day. This is part-time mainstreaming. Inclusion is not children with disabilities being in regular classes, but sitting at the back of the room with full-time aides. This is physical integration. Inclusion is not typical children (peer role models) visiting children with disabilities in special ed classrooms. This is reverse mainstreaming." Inclusive education involves much more than integration.

True inclusion only happens when a whole school embraces diversity and creates an environment where everyone belongs. Inclusion means being a part of the school community, both in and out of class. It means having friends and feeling welcome. It means having fun while learning together. It's the bridge to the future we want for our children that we at NEU-SPED Program, with God's help and with the support and guidance of the Church and school Administration, are striving for. ■

SPED Month Celebration

By Teachers MARRY ANNE APPLE M. JACOB

and ELLAINE JANN A. SIMEON

In line with the government's program for the month of February, our program conducted a SPED Month Celebration from February 7 - 15, 2013. The event aimed at catering students' varying skills. The different activities were singing and dancing, cupcake-decorating, and spelling contests. These events were held at the high school (HS) Student Center. Activities like clay-molding, recycled flower arrangement, origami, mask-painting, and photography contests were held in specific SPED classrooms, while the pot-painting contest was held at the HS quadrangle. The SPED Family Fun Games (composed of relay games) was held on February 12, 2013 at Quezon City Memorial Circle. The concluding activity was SPED Exhibit and Trade Fair held at the HS Student Center on February 15, 2013. The



The NEU-SPED Family during the Family Fun Day at Q.C. Memorial Circle.

students' math skills were applied during their product sale as the NEU Community visited, purchased, and admired the works of these talented artists. ■



10th SPED Recognition Day

By Teacher AVELYN M. GAGALANG



Our NEU President, Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, receives congratulatory hand-shake after an inspiring message. Photo by: Odyssa Belle D. Pagala

The NEU SPED Program 10th Recognition Day was held at NEU Hall on April 3, 2013. The students, together with their parents and families, were welcomed by our SPED Program

Director, Sister Penelope P. Sandoval. She expressed appreciation for such kind of occasion and shared the parents' joy of getting together and recognizing the achievements of their children. The momentous event was graced by this year's guest speaker, Dr. Nilo Rosas, our newly appointed University President. He was introduced by Bro. Ed H. Lumbao, our former Program Spiritual Adviser. Our President's message was relevant to this year's theme, "**NEU Graduates: Edified in Values and Morals.**"

The much-awaited moment was the awarding of medals and certificates to our selected students from preschool to high school level. The awards given were achievement award, best in specific academic subjects or skills, and winners in specific SPED Program activity contest or extra-curricular activities. Further, the pupils who have shown mastery in ADL (Activities for Daily Living) were also given recognition. In between the awarding ceremony were students' presentation of songs and dances. Sister Penny thanked all the significant persons who gave meaningful contributions, more specifically the parents and school administrators and staff who worked as a team. They have been instrumental in making this ceremony a success. □

NEU SPED Program in the 2013 International Conference

By Teacher MARIE JANE G. GOZO



Sister Penny delivering the important features of NEU-SPED Program as an Inclusive School during the International Seminar
Photo by: Marie Jane G. Gozo

The NEU SPED Program, through our Directress, Sister Penelope Sandoval, was invited to the seminar, *2013 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INCLUSIVE EDUCA-*

TION IN THE PHILIPPINES: WHERE ARE WE NOW?"

The event was held from February 21-23, 2013 at the Batangas Convention Center, Batangas City. This academic event was in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Governor Vilma Santos-Recto and the Provincial DepEd and School Board of Batangas. The event was organized by the Guro Formation Forum (GFF), Incorporation. The Conference aimed to: define inclusive education in the Philippines; state the policies and programs on inclusive education; look into the role and curricula of education systems; learn different perspectives and paradigms from international experts; create programs and services actualized in learning environments; and strengthen partnerships for the realization of inclusive education in the country.

Sister Penny gave a talk about NEU-SPED as one of the pioneers in inclusive education in the country and its operational program. The relevant information she shared received warm reception, more specifically from the local and international SPED practitioners.

The participants were education stakeholders (i.e. education managers and administrators, university and school officials, teachers, practitioners, researchers, and education students) including those from Bahrain, China, Greece, KSA, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar and UAE. □



Team Building 2013

By Teacher JESSA RAY M. CALMA

The faculty and staff of NEU SPED Program actively participated in its Team Building Workshop from 8:00A.M. -12:00 noon, on May 31, 2013 at the Ecopark in Quezon City. This year's theme, *"Serving our Students with Delight and Excitement"*, was spearheaded by then director, Prof. Penelope P. Sandoval, Bro. Glenn Ford Langit (the new SPED Program Consultant who facilitated the activities), our then Program Spiritual Adviser, Bro. Ed Lumbao, and our coordinator, Dr. Liezel A. Vargas. Overall, the event was successful in attaining its objectives. The activity strengthened our teamwork in providing education needs of students with exceptionalities. □



The NEU-SPED Family (Directress, Spiritual Adviser, Consultant, Faculty and staff), happily display the outputs of the Team-Building Workshop at Ecopark in Quezon City

SPED Awareness and Appreciation Day

By Teacher APRILYN N. ALMENDRA

The NEU SPED Department, headed by our directress Prof. Penelope P. Sandoval, conducted *"SPED Awareness and Appreciation Day"* in three school departments including the High School as part of the week-long Faculty Development Seminar dated June 3-7, 2013. Our then spiritual adviser, Bro. Ed Lumbao and current SPED Program Consultant Bro. Glenn Ford Langit, shared relevant information about the SPED Program objectives in terms of: providing special education, more specifically in inclusive setting; and how the faculty and staff members are going to help and manage our students in the general education classes so that these students can perform better.

Relevant questions were raised by most of the teachers in the regular class involving accommodation of students with special needs in reference with their roles as teachers in the regular



Our SPED Family distributing certificates and long-stemmed roses as token of appreciation to faculty members and staff from the Gen. Education Program. Photo by: Ellaine Jann A. Simeon

class and how may they effectively collaborate with SPED teachers. Sister Penny gave significant responses with regards to this concern. She also highlighted the strength of each child, not the weaknesses. The NEU- SPED faculty and staff expressed appreciation by awarding of certificates and giving

Continuation on page 16

WHO'S NEW?

By Teacher MIRELL B. PALMA

The NEU-SPED Program is indeed delighted as it welcomes two new members of the "family". They are Brother Glen Ford B. Langit, an evangelical worker, as our new NEU- SPED Program's consultant (who is also serving as the Assistant Director of the Human Resource Department) and Brother Ed H. Lumbao, a minister, as our new Director. □



(L-R) Bro. Glenn Ford B. Langit and Bro. Ed H. Lumbao



Parent and Educational Coach Orientation

By Teacher CHERRY AMOR S. DIZON



The educational coaches, guardians and parents who attended the orientation at the High School Audio Visual Room. Photo by: Odyssa Belle D. Pagala

The educational coach and parent orientations were held at NEU High School AVR on June 14, 2013 and

June 17, 2013, respectively, as an affirmative start of the academic year. This activity is the yearly preparation of the NEU SPED Program to give the parents and educational coaches information significant to their duties and responsibilities. The attendees were composed of educational coaches, teachers, parents, guardians and students. Teacher Apple, who facilitated the orientation, discussed: the duties and responsibilities of a good and effective educational coach; and the professional ethics for educational coaches inside and outside the regular class. Our SPED coordinator, Dr. Liezel A. Vargas, also reminded the educational coaches to be very vigilant in terms of care and the security measures of students who are under their supervision. The direct consequence in case of negligence was also discussed. This matter was further emphasized by Bro. Ed Lumbao in his talk.

The parent orientation on the other hand, was facilitated by Teachers Felomena Colansi and Delia Tolentino. They discussed about: the university policies, and important reminders that concern educational coaches, the education placements and the grading system. The election of PTA officers was also held after the orientation. Mrs. Elvie Lasquite was elected as the new president of the Parent-Teacher Association of the SPED Program. The attendees, specifically coaches and parents, appreciated this kind of undertaking because it clarifies their specific roles in the program. ■

1st NEU SPED Seminar A.Y. 2013-2014

By Teacher DELIA D. TOLENTINO



(L-R) Dr. Liezel A. Vargas, Dr. Florence Vargas-Rosal, Mr. Rolly Montilla and Bro. Ed H. Lumbao. Photo by: Ellaine Jann A. Simeon

The first seminar program of the SPED Department for the A.Y. 2013-2014 was in line with the Nutrition Month celebration entitled, *“Preview of Sensory Diet for Children with Special Needs.”* It was held on July 19, 2013 at the NEU Moot Court, high school building B. The resource speaker in this relevant topic was Florence Vargas-Rosal, Ed.D and OTRP. She shared significant information on oral food preparation through various types of massage for those children who cannot masticate their food well. The attendees took down notes, especially when she mentioned food examples that are suited for children with special needs (CWSN). Furthermore, establishing good eating behavior among children with special needs was equally helpful.

The second resource speaker who discussed on “The Effect of Proto Embryonic Stage Extract on Stress, Depression, and Neurodisorder” was Mr. Rolly Motilla. The focus of his discussion was the ability of Laminine to potentially cure neurodisorder. The attendees, who were composed of students, teachers, and parents responded positively to this seminar because the gathered information can be implemented in school and at home. ■

Celebrating Nutrition Month

By Teacher FARIDA RAGA P. AGATEP

On a Thursday of July 25, 2013, the month was filled with colours, flavours, and much excitement as the NEU SPED Program joined the Nutrition month celebration with the theme: “*Gutom at Malnutrisyon, Sama-Sama Nating Wakasan*”. The activity started with an eye-catching students’ parade, with each participant donning a selected vegetable or fruit costume. This was followed by the Mascot- Designing contest at the HS Student Centre. It featured students from preschool to high school level wearing their costume made out of recycled materials. The contests in the previous days were: Colouring, Slogan-making and



The students during the NEU-SPED Nutrition Month parade. Photo by: MJ G. Gozo

Painting on July 11th; and Food Preparation contest on July 18th. The nutrition celebration which was hosted and supervised by teachers Odysa Belle Pagala and Rose Ann Narciso, was a complete success. Below are the activity winners. 

COLORING CONTEST		
TNK	Yuan Sky Argano	1st place
	Hannah Alihassan	2nd Place
	Regur Jose Dabao	2nd Place
	Nicole Angel Uy	3rd place
	Jaycob Emmanuel Vina	4 th place
	Marjames Chauncey Jamero	5 th place
ON -THE SPOT- PAINTING CONTEST		
Grades 1-2	Sebastian Lee Del Cano	1st Place
	Anjali Litghart	2nd Place
	Melchor Paul Pekas	3rd place
Grades 3-4	Nathan Miguel C. Go	1st Place
	Jade Caceres	1st Place
	Lemuel Rivera	2nd Place
	Damian Dela Cruz	3rd place
Grades 5-6	Russ Vestil	1st Place
	Raphael Alessandro Lee	2nd Place
	Alfred Eslabra	3rd place
Multilevel A	Romel Bicierro	1st Place
	Jason Fuertez	2nd Place
	Adrian Adviento	3rd place
Multilevel B	Jason Arevalo	1st Place
	Jae Antoinette	2nd Place
	Stephen King	3rd place
High School without prompt	Zelchi Zarris	1st Place
	Frederick Segui	2nd Place
	Earl Louis Sombero	3rd place
High School with prompt	Juan Pablo Reyes	3rd place
	Nielsen Lasquite	1st Place
	Erich De Villa	2nd Place
	Joaquin Angliongto	2nd Place
SLOGAN- MAKING CONTEST		
1st	Kurt Stevens Robles	
2nd	Stephen King	
3rd	Jessica Dawn Yusi	

SALAD CONTEST		
TNK	Yuan Sky Argano	1st place
	Hannah Alihassan	2nd Place
	Regur Jose Dabao	2nd Place
	Nicole Angel Uy	3rd place
	Jaycob Emmanuel Vina	4 th place
	Marjames Chauncey Jamero	5 th place
SANDWICH- MAKING CONTEST		
Grades 1-2	Dan Aldrich Padilla	1st place
	Nikky De Guzman	2nd Place
	Gabriel Sebastian	2nd Place
	Jelo Meim	3rd place
Grades 3-4	Anjali Litghart	1st place
	Melchor Paul Pekas	2nd Place
	John Vladimir Lorilla	3rd place
Grades 5-6	Raphael Alessandro Lee	1st place
	Darcy Uy	2nd Place
	Kirsten Sandoval	3rd place
Multilevel A	Adrian Adviento	1st place
	Romel Bicierro	2nd Place
	Reinier Alicante	3rd place
Multilevel B	Roman Bernard Luna	1st place
	Marc Nathaniel Sandoval	2nd Place
	Nathaniel B. Gabriel	2nd Place
	Ryan Lester Malaya	2nd Place
	Lorenzo Isaac Reyes	3rd place
	Kurt Stevens Robles	3rd place
High School	Jessica Dawn Yusi	3rd place
	BREAD- DECORATING CONTEST	
	Louie Dumo	1st Place
	Joaquin Angliongto	2nd Place
	Zelchi Zarris	
	Juan Pablo Reyes	
	Raphael Lorenzo Vega	3rd Place
MASCOT-DESIGNING CONTEST		
Champion	Homer Serzen Tiomico	
1st	Adrian Adviento	
2nd	Jason Fuertez	
3rd	Roman Bernard Luna	

A DECADE OF NEU- SPED SERVICE

By Teacher LIEZEL A. VARGAS

In celebration of 10 years of SPED service in NEU, let us turn back the hands of time through this newsletter. SPED Program in the Elementary level began in 2001 with twelve pupils under the leadership of Dr. Josefina Malibiran and Bro. Orlando Cabigting, the same year that the teacher training in SPED (BEED major in SPED) was offered in college. The DepEd granted the SPED Program permit to operate in August 2003 at the same year it received the full support of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* administration. Three rooms served as resource rooms for the growing number of pupils (39) taught by three pioneer teachers. Dr. Josefina Malibiran became the first SPED Directress. Enrollment grew to 75 in SY 2004-2005 with seven teachers. Pupil – teacher ratio was set at 10:1. Bro. Orlando Cabigting became the next SPED Director. Teacher Ester Parlade was designated SPED Coordinator. The Program received full recognition from the government in March 2005. The SPED Program in the High School level started in SY 2005-2006 with one teacher. Additional teachers were hired later both in the Elementary and High School. Teacher-aides were also hired to assist. The SPED curriculum was developed and implemented in SY 2006-2007 when activity plans were introduced. The SPED Progress Report was improvised and the Developmental Program and Curriculum-Based Assessment were initiated. Teacher Weena Villanueva became the SPED Coordinator. Various activities and contests were

May 26- June 6 Two-week Orientation Program for NEU Inclusive Program. Dr. Josefina Malibiran was Directress, with 3 faculty members (Prof. Ester Parlade, Prof. Weena Villanueva and Dr. Liezel Vargas) with Bro. Orlando Cabigting as the assistant regular church worker, Prof. J. Espinas as Staff, 2 Occupational Therapist and 39 students, 3 rooms in elementary level. June 16 Seminar on Using Montessori Materials Aug. 27 Release of Government Permit to operate SPED Program granted by DepEd. Aug. 28 Field Trip at Ninoy Aquino Park Oct. 27-29 Dr. Malibiran presented NEU Sped in the 4th national Conference on Mental Retardation in Baguio City. Dec. 9 Approved official Sped Logo Dec. 18 1st SPED Sportsfest and Year End Celebration at Elem. MPH 	Jan. 19 Lecture on Relationship of Learning Problems and Class Performance to Sensory Integration Jan. 26 Field Trip at Wild Life Feb. 22 1st Symposium "Including the Excluded" an awareness seminar on SPED, by Dr. Edilberto Dizon March 2 Granting of Certificate of Recognition status of NEU SPED Inclusive Program Apr-May June 1st Remedial Summer Class June 7 Faculty, 5 teacher aides and 82 total number of students June 26 Opening of High School Program Sept. Organizing of Parent Support Group 1st implementation of SPED Curriculum- Based Assessment Plan basis as Progress Report Card Transition Room and other furniture and facilities was given Nov. 19 1st time NEU Sped joined the Special Phil. Olympics at Amoranto Stadium. 6 students participated and won in the different events. 	Jan. 23 First Joint Field Trip of Regular and (30) SPED students Feb. 16-27 Day Camp and SPED Month Celebration Feb. 11-28 SPED Month Litmus; March 16, 2007-SPED 4th Recognition June 12 10 Faculty and 3 Teacher aides with total of Elem 86, HS -39. Re-appointment of Prof. F. Javier as consultant and Prof. W. Villanueva as coordinator July 6 Free Lecture Seminar on Shadow Teaching by Dr. Edilberto Dizon Aug. 6 1st Organization of Parent Support Group (PSG) affiliated with Autism Society of Philippines known as Diliman Chapter Sept. 6 Buwan ng Wika Celebration at U-Hall; Oct. 12- UN Celebration held at U-Hall Sept. 18 Proposed adaptation of Progress Report Card of the Regular Education (Form 18) for SWSN (elem.); Dec. 2 Bro. Eliezer Ortiz was appointed as 3rd Director Dec. 4 Presentation of Implementing Guidelines to university Admin. Dec.14 Family Olympics Elem Quadrangle Dec. 18 Dr. Liezel Vargas was appointed as coordinator 
--	---	--

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

June 14 7 teachers, 7 rooms with 75 students (72 Elem and 3 HS) June 21 First SPED General Assembly and anointing of oil to children with special needs officiated by Bro. Alberto V. Cruz at AVR HS. Aug. 11 Bro. Orlando Cabigting was appointed as Assistant Director Aug. 25 Field Trip at Ninoy Aquino Park Sept. 3 Dr. Orlando Cabigting was appointed as Director Sept. 9 "THE PLAnet" Net 25 feature segment NEU Special Education Program Sept. 11 Joint project of SGS and SPED for the Auditory -Oral Development of Profound Hearing Impairment Children Workshop Seminar Sept. 22 Prof. Ester Parlade was appointed as Coordinator of the program Nov. 16 Approval of Sign Language Program under SPED Dec. 8 1st Family Olympics held in Building 2 Elementary Quadrangle 	Jan. Opening of Transition Program for Pre-vocational training Feb.17 SPED Developmental Program introduces Progress Card and curriculum -based assessment (Curriculum A,B and C) Feb.17 Lecture Seminar -The Role of Occupational Therapy by Jerome M. Le-an OTRP, OTR March 3 Family Day camp at the Quadrangle: March 26- Recognition Day held at MPH Elem. April 4 Elem. Graduation at the Tabernacle .14 students in Prep and 7 from Grade 6 April 5 HS Graduation (2 students graduated and both received special awards April 26-May 26 SPED Sports Clinic (Badminton and Table Tennis) held at College MPH May 23 Summer Class Educational Field Trip on SM Fairview May 27 Joint Project of NEU, Childfind & UP on SPED Natn'l Conference "Instructional Scheme & Modifications for Successful Mainstreaming of Children with Special-Needs" at UP NISMED. June 2006 Prof. Weena Villanueva was appointed as program coordinator Aug. 18 Seminar on Early detection on AD/HD by Dr. Jaqueline O. Navarro M.D. Sept. 1 Buwan ng Wika Celebration held at MPH elementary Oct. 17 1st time Sped activity held in University Hall UN Celebration Nov. 6-8 6 students represented and won in the Special Olympics Natn'l Game NCR North Table Tennis held at Ultra Pasig City Dec. 15 Family Olympics at Elem. Quadrangle
---	---



held to widen the experiences of special learners who numbered more than a hundred. Prof. Fredeswina Javier was appointed as SPED Consultant. There were changes in leadership in SY 2008-2011 with Bro. Eliezer SG. Ortiz as the SPED Director and Teachers Liezel Vargas and Uelrina Llana as Coordinators in Elementary and High School, respectively. Four additional teachers and two teacher-aides were also hired that year. The SPED Program continued to provide intervention programs and activities geared toward the development of its clients. The school year of 2009-2010 was the year of pioneer undertakings in the SPED high school program. These were: the IEP format along with the modified grading system; the modification of examinations; the sports high school SPED intramural activity entitled "*Laro ng Lahi*"; and the "*High School SPED Exhibit and Trade Fair*".

"First time-undertakings" continued onto school year of 2010- 2011. One of these was the informal venture of SPED Program in the Post-Secondary education (the areas were the College, major in Business Management and Non-Formal course in TSDC basic culinary). Another major project was the production of "SPED Musical". This presentation was a repertoire of Broadway music in which the pieces were mostly selected from Walt Disney movie sound track albums. The show was successfully performed (through songs and dances) by selected students with exceptionalities, parent, and teachers both from the SPED elementary and high school program at the NEU University

Feb. 15 Day Camp at La Mesa Dam EcoPark Feb. 19 Seminar on "<i>Pagtutulungan ng mga Guro Tungo sa Matagumpay na Pangangalaga ng mga Kabataang Natatangi</i>" by Dr. E. Dizon June 2 appointed coordinators: Dr. Liezel A. Vargas Elem. and Prof. Uelrina Llana for High School level. Total number of students 129 (Elem .84 and HS, 45). July 4 SPED Seminar on Reflexology and First Aid for CSEN; and Shadow Teaching Orientation July 23-24 In celebration of National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Month Sped Program held a Film showing of ALYANA at University Hall Sept. 1 SPED Awareness Campaign ABA Seminar attended by regular teachers and Parents held in AVR HS. 	Jan. 17-24 14th National Autism Consciousness Week Celebration Jan. 21 7 students joined and won the QUIZ A contest held in DepEd Feb. 3-5 3 SPED Faculty attended the Internat'l Autism Conferenc March 22 7th Recognition Program June No of student 114 (72 elem. and 42 HS) -14 Faculty and 6 Teacher aide July 19 Seminar on "First Aid & Common Illness Remedies for Children with Special Needs" by Dr. Enrico Montemayor at U-Hall Aug. 15 Approved revised edition of report card (Form-138) Sept. 24 Seminar on "ABA and other Techniques in Teaching Special Learners" Dec. 9 1st SPED Musical Show held at University Hall Dec. 10 Seminar on "Home Intervention Program for Special Learners" 	Jan 25 - March 2 Independent Living Skill Training Program for Multi-Level and Transition Class Feb. 1 Prof. Penelope P. Sandoval appointed as Director and Dr. Liezel Vargas as Officer in charge March 16 National Competition -On the spot painting held at DENR Social Hall Visayas Avenue. 2 students won the event 1st Place HS category and 2nd Place for Elem. March 22 9th Recognition. Guest Speaker Bro. Lyndon A. Aguirre Dean of CEM March 24 Q.C. Special Olympics 2012 at Amoranto Sports Complex 10 students won the different category Swimming, Badminton and Track and Field events. June DR. Edilberto Dizon was appointed as Consultant and assisted by Regular church worker Bro. Ed Lumbao - 14 Teachers , 6 Teacher aide/ HS 39 elem 83 July 1 Presentation of Revised Implementing Guidelines Handbook July 30 Sped Seminar for Nutrition Month and National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Month Celebration Sept. 13 Approved SPED Revised Handbook and SPED brochure Sept. 21 SPED Seminar on Proper Hygiene & Sex Education for CSEN by Prof. Lutze Sol Vidal and Prof. May T. Cabutihan Sept. 27 Approval of SPED Newsletter (Students, Parents and Educators Digest) Oct. 27 13th National Conference by Dr. Edilberto Dizon Nov. 16 NEU Sped Program was presented Dec. 7 The Sped Seminar on Behavior Management Home and School Collaboration by Bro. Glenn Langit Dec. 8 3rd SPED Musical "Grease" Dec. 18 Faculty and Staff Team Building at Vista Real Q.C. 
--	--	--

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012- 2013

Jan. 18-25 13th National Autism Consciousness Week Celebration Jan. 18-19 Angels Walk for Autism and Colors of Autism Exhibit. 4 of our sped students joined the exhibit in SM North Edsa Feb. 17 Seminar "Early Detection of Autism/AD/HD and Healthy Tips for Special Children" by Dr. Noemi Tanglo Salazar Feb. 2-25 SPED Litmus (Writing, Coloring, Spelling, Pasta-making, Painting Contest, Art Workshop and Solo singing contest) March 20 6th Recognition Day June No. of students-113 (70) elem, (43) HS / 14 Faculty and 6 teacher aides Aug. 24 SPED Exhibit held at HS Student center Oct. 17 Faculty attended the 10th National Conference in SPED held at UP Film Institute Oct. 24-25 3 SPED Faculty delegate attended the 1st Southeast Asian Conference on Autism held at Convention Center Pasay City. Oct. 23 Seminar on "Role of NEU-TSDC in SPED" by Prof. Er Petil Jr. held at Moot Court	Jan. 16-23 15th Nat'l Autism Consciousness Week Celebration Feb. 22 SPED Exhibit and Trade Fair at HS student center Feb. 24 SPED Olympics and Day Camp held at Quezon City Memorial Circle March 22 8th Recognition. Speaker Prof. Penelope P. Sandoval April 2 Sped CAN ROCK at Robinson Galleria July 15 54 students benefit on I.D. Card for Person With Disabilities (PWD), issued by Quezon City Hall Aug. 5 Papaya Tree- Planting of SPED students Sept. 22-23 NEU Olympics at University Gym Sept. 30 Sped Seminar on "Effectiveness of Rood's Approach for Adult and Pediatric Cases" by Dr. Florence V. Rosal at AVR High School Dec. 8 2nd Musical Show "Bond of the Bands"	Jan. 20-27 Students and Faculty joined the 17th National Autism Consciousness Week; Feb 12-Family Day Camp at Q.C. Circle Feb. 21, 1st Issue of NEU- SPED Newsletter. Bro Ed Lumbao as the Editor-in-Chief while Dr. Edilberto Dizon and Prof. Penelope Sandoval were the newsletter consultants. Feb. 21-23 Prof. Penelope Sandoval presented NEU SPED in "International Conference on the Inclusive Educ." Lipa Batangas Convention Center March 14 Inauguration of two Mobile Rooms by Bro. Eduardo V. Manalo April 1 Pasugo April issue on NEU – SPED Program; April 3 10th Recognition Day Guest Speaker Dr. Nilo L. Rosas May 30 SPED Faculty and Staff Development at La Mesa Dam Q.C. July 15 Bro. Ed H. Lumbao was appointed Director, Bro. Glenn Ford Langit as consultant and Dr. Liezel Vargas as Coordinator w/ 12 Faculty, 6 Teacher Aide, 137 total number of Students from Preschool to High school level July 19 SPED Seminar on Preview of Sensory Diet for children and adult with special needs resource speaker Dr. Florence Rosal July 30 Revised Implementing Guidelines Handbook was approved Sept. 10 NEU Olympics Oct. 30 2nd Issue of NEU- SPED Newsletter. Marie Jane Gozo as the Editor-in-Chief while Dr. Edilberto I. Dizon and Bro. Ed Lumbao are the newsletter consultants.
--	---	--



Hall on December 9, 2010. Three months later, selected students from our program performed for the first time in the SPED *Can Rock* at the Robinson's Galleria on April, 2011 upon the invitation of the UP SPED Council. Moreover, other areas of the program were given priority. The faculty professional development was intensified through frequent attendance of teachers to district and regional conferences. Furthermore, the membership of mentors in various SPED organization/associations was increased.

The NEU SPED program placement curriculum offering was also improved. One of these was the provision of independent living skills to students. The undertakings such as actual learning experience in using public transportation, performing marketing, household chores, basic cooking or baking, and gardening skills. Likewise the SPED Musical "Bond of the Bands", was presented at the University Hall on December 8, 2011.

A month after, Brother Eliezer SG. Ortiz left the program for a new administrative duty at NEU General Santos City, as school Principal. He *passed the torch* unto Professor Penelope "Penny" Sandoval on February 1, 2012. She was one of the dedicated pioneer professors in the College of Education when the Special Education course was first formalized in 2007. It was during her entry when the 5-year SPED Program plan was crafted, Dr. Liezel Vargas was appointed as OIC NEU-Sped Directress and Dr. Edilberto Dizon became SPED consultant. It is no doubt

doubt that with God's guidance and the combined effort of significant persons that It was during her entry when the 5- year SPED Program plan was crafted, Dr. Liezel Vargas was appointed as OIC Sped Directress and Dr. Edilberto Dizon became SPED consultant. It is no doubt that with God's guidance and the combined effort of significant persons that makes up the program, the legacy will continue under her term.

The New Era University SPED Program is an inclusive education program for *children with intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, autism, attention deficit /hyperactivity disorder, and emotional and behavioral disorders*. Anchored on the philosophy of normalization, the children enrolled in the program are given the opportunity to receive education and training, participate in all activities, and be graded alongside their regular counterparts in the regular class.

Children with special needs are assigned to classes with their age mates and with provision of pull-out and assistance of an educational coach. The Program ensures the yearly progression of pupils based on a curriculum that considers both the learning style, pace, and capacity of each pupil.

Ensuring ample developmental advancement in academics and training in activities of daily living and or independence training, the Program aims to facilitate the transition of special children to independent living and employability. **□**

Former NEU-SPED Directors' Perspectives On Special Education (Part 1)

By Teacher MARIE JANE G. GOZO

As an added feature to this year's highlight "**A Decade of NEU- SPED Service**", we have reserved a column for our past Directors to share with us their personal reflections during the time that they have been with us in the program. Their respective thoughts hope to complete the colorful array of NEU SPED Program meaningful events, of which we are so fortunate to capture through this humble paper. Let us start with Bro. Orlando Cabigting.



Bro. ORLANDO CABIGTING
(NEU-SPED DIRECTOR from 2004-2007.
He now serves as the Dean in College of
Arts and Sciences, NEU-Main)

"The idea of putting up a special education program at NEU started when I was taking my master's degree at UP Dili-

man in 1999. Though a little bit hesitant in pursuing it, I stood by the Church Administration's foresight. It really happened! The University President at that time was Dr. Virgen R. Hernandez who has a grandson with AD/HD. She approached Dr. Josie Malibiran, Psychology Program Chair and at the same time teaching at UP SPED Area, to conceptualize SPED program for NEU.

I had also a classmate in M.A. who is a sister in the Church, Sis. Fredes Javier, who had been requesting then from the Church Administration to help the brethren who have children with special needs for she herself has a son with autism. Indeed, divine providence through the Church Administration made SPED at NEU a reality.

At first there were some misgivings on the part of the NEU

Community especially from the parents of regular pupils, the teachers and administrators. But we hurdled all the obstacles by conducting orientation to all stakeholders and by offering a crash-course for elementary faculty. We introduced the rudiments of SPED to all parents, nannies, regular teachers, administrators, staff, canteeners, and security guards. Thanks God, through fervent prayers and by applying the principle of mainstreaming, and thanks to Dr. Ed Dizon, my adviser, little by little the NEU community was able to see the value of the program.

We had the first assembly then entitled **'Including the Excluded'** which served as the turning point for NEU to imbibe the spirit of **"becoming"** (as Dr. Dizon puts it, if you cannot extend help to others, you cease to "become", or be purposeful in your life) Simultaneously, the BEED program and the Master's degree for SPED were offered at NEU so we had no problem recruiting teacher aides and practicumers.

Thus, the program became self-sustaining. From barely 12 pupils, it ballooned to more than 100 after three years. As time passed by, we have been seeing the improvement of our children. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, but with perseverance, diligence, and faith in God, these children will finally reach the main goal of our crusade; **normalization**. Though the work is tedious, the emotional and spiritual fulfillment is truly immeasurable.

More power to the SPED family!" □



Bro. ELIEZER SG. ORTIZ

(NEU-SPED DIRECTOR from Dec.2007– Feb. 2012. He now serves as the School Principal in NEU-GSC Branch)

"When my designation as a SPED Director became official in December 2007, I honestly admit that there had been hesitation if I could do it well. Although my Master's degree is directly relevant to this kind of responsibility, educational attainment wise, still, I worried that I didn't know

enough... The hard adjustment also took a toll on me as I also served as an assistant NEU High School Principal and a doctorate student at the same time, while placing a premium on my duties as a Minister. Later on, I concentrated on NEU– Special

Education Program. Three things became my threshold of strength to appease my fears in this novel task.

*First, our **God Almighty**. Through heartfelt prayers, the operational plans of the program had been realized, (mostly pioneering projects). Further, the support of our Church and school administration; our consultant, Sister Penelope P. Sandoval; Dr. Edilberto Dizon; NEU-SPED family; and other significant persons, who have given so much selflessly.*

*The second source of my strength— **our students** in the program. There were challenges. I noticed that while the movement to include students with disabilities has been mostly encouraging, there have been some difficulties too. Dealing with significant persons who seemed to be indifferent to these students in their rooms had been one of the most challenging hindrance to our successful inclusion.*

Nonetheless, full inclusion was not always a suitable education placement for many students whose education plan calls for special instruction. I observed that the Resource Room Model worked (where students spend most of their days in regular classes but are tutored into the resource room for specialized instruction). I supported this model to be utilized in teaching approaches. It gives the students chances to be with peers for socialization purposes and chances for lesson modification by SPED teachers.

Our paraprofessionals and the functional involvement of special education, with the cooperation of classroom teachers can make the difference between successful and less successful inclusion experiences for each child with exceptionality as well as for their non-disabled peers. Seeing them connect with their peers or communicate in some ways, or learn some skills, have some tools, that would help them inside and outside the school was rewarding enough for the toils we did as education providers.

*And the third source in intensifying my courage has been this belief: **Leaders like me may come and go, but the legacy will remain and will continue to influence each child's education in the program... Let it be a legacy the school and Church Administration hope for, in line with the Vision and Mission of the NEU SPED Program. Build this in the best of your effort... treat each day as your last term, because there's no room for regret tomorrow.*** □

Editor's Note:

The second part of this article (Former NEU– SPED Directors' Perspectives on Special Education) will be featured on the next issue of our newsletter.



Reflections: Graduation, Inclusive Education and Children and Youth with Special Needs

By Teacher PENELOPE P. SANDOVAL



Teacher Penny congratulates one of our NEU-SPED graduates during the Preschool Commencement Exercise. Photo by Marie Jane G. Gozo

On April 3 and 4, 2013, preschool, grade school and high school commencement exercises were held as we witnessed our special students received their certificates with their regular peers. I watched them with so much pride as they went upstage, shook hands with the school officials, and smiled while their pictures were

taken. Sense of belonging and being “normalized” were again exemplified not only in the New Era University classrooms, when our students are mainstreamed/included in the regular classrooms and provided with similar and equal opportunities as their regular counterparts but as well as momentous occasions such as during graduation. The NEU SPED program is one of the pioneers of inclusive education in the Philippines, in our belief that special learners must be placed with their peers regardless of their exceptionalities and degree of functioning. Regular teachers, students, parents and different office personnel have become accustomed to their presence, welcomed and supported them. SPED teachers, parents, supporters and advocates of Inclusive Education have indeed come a long way, however, there are still so much to be accomplished.

We will continue dreaming and working until we achieved our goals of providing special students not only schools which will accept them with open arms, recognize their gifts and appreciate diversity but as well as “barrier-free” communities where they can have access to and enjoy leisure and recreation, travel, and even employment commensurate with their talents and skills. Then, we can declare we have succeeded in implementing the inclusive principle/philosophy for children and youth special education needs. ▢

Raining Ants

Raining ants

Is it me?

With my 5 senses

Hearing the splash

As I sit in my hammock

Smelling the drops of rain

Stopping time in the clock

Watching the sun as it turns red

And then orange

Things never change

Black and then red

Raining ants

Lying in the hammock

As if it's my bed

Head stay still

There is no king of the hill

There is no king of the world

Its an ordinary me

As my head stays still

Watching clouds go by

There I sigh

It's raining ants.

-JUAN AMADO S. CLETO

Guro Ko

Nakaupo, nakaupo ako, nakaupo ako sa upuan, hinihintay, hinihintay, hinihintay ang orasan; Tingin sa Oras, Ako ay parang nangungupas, tingin sa notebook, maraming pahinang tastas.

Hintay ng Guro, naghihintay ako ng Guro

Habang ang isang kaklase, bumubulwak, bungangang punong-puno

Isa kong kaklaseng nakasalamin, umingles sa Inglesero.

Orasan, Orasan, bumibilis ang kamay; Bawat oras, bawat minuto, balat naming lutong luto

Bawat galaw ng kamay, tingin ako sa kaklase, siya ang hari ng sablay;

Sabay kaming sabay napatingin naisip kung sinong...Magaling.

Guro ko, Guro ko, sa'n ka na, guro ko, tumutubo na ang pakpak, sa likod ko, guro ko;

Lilipad, lilipad, lilipad na ako sa langit,

Sa'n ka na, Sa'n ka na, ako ay naiinip, upuan ko'y naliligo na sa pawis,

Guro ko, Guro ko, nagkakagulo na, sa'n ka na, sa'n ka na, o guro ko

Ang klase kong Sardius: heto ang simula, bawat galaw, bawat araw, siguradong may tula,

heto ang pagtugon; Heto naroroon, heto ang simula, ang klaseng tumutula.

-JUAN AMADO S. CLETO (an alumnus of the NEU SPED Program)





Handog

Sa umpisa'y lito ako,
Paano kaya ako sa'yo ay gagabay?
Hinuha ko, mahirap ang tagumpay,
Sa tulad mo, at tulad ko-
Na hindi pa magkaugnay.

Hindi kita makilala,
Madalas hindi maunawaan;
Lungkot nadarama,
Tungkulin ,hirap gampanan.

Isinama kita sa panalangin,
Nawa ako'y Kaniyang dinggin;
Katangiang kailangan ko,

mangyaring ipagkaloob sa akin;

Panalangi'y dininig.
Oh anong bait Niya,
Unti-unti kang nagkahugis,
Ugnayan ay nag-umpisa;
Bibig ayaw mangusap-
Sa ibang paraan hinanap.

Sa Mata-
May likot kung may takot,
May kislap kung may tuwa;

Sa Kamay-
Mahigpit iyong kapit,
Kapag tila mundo mo ay masikip;
Anong likot naman kung igalaw,
kung may ibig "isigaw"
Sa iyong mga iginuguhit,
aking iniintinding pilit;
Iyong saloobin,
pang-unawa ang kapalit.

Sa Paa-
Lakad anong bilis,

Lundag walang humpay, sa kapaligirang
makulay.

Sa tinapay na alok mo,
Dama ko ang pag-alala mo;
Sa ngiti at halakhak mo,
Napawi na ang pagod ko.

Ngayon, kung ika'y minamasdan,
Galak ka sa puso ng karamihan;
Maliit man sa iba ang iyong tagumpay,
Sa akin, at sa pamilya mo,
Karangalan itong tunay.

Binago mo ako,
hindi ako ang bumago sa iyo;
Loob ko'y pinababa mo,
Hinahon ko'y pinaigting mo.

Ngayo'y alam ko na kung sino ka,
Akin na nga kitang kilala...
HANDOG ka ngang tunay,
Sa akin... at sa kanila.

JESSICA G. RENA
Coach , NEU-SPED Gr. 1 level



Isang Dekada Na

Isa kang nilikha na mayroon ding
karapatan;
Mag-aral katulad ng iba bilang
mamamayan.
Maaari din kaya na dito sa ating
paaralan?

Kaalama'y linangin, hubugin –tulad ng
karaniwan.
Nagtipon yaring mabubuting kalooban,
Inihanay ang edukasyon na siya mong
kailangan;
Isinamo sa Ama na makapangyarihan,
Ang adhikaing ito, nawa'y magam-
panan.

Maraming pagsubok ang mga di-
naanan,
'pagkat hindi madali -na kanila kang
maunawaan;
Sa kabila nito, di nasiraan ng loob mga
kaagapay mo;
Ipinagpatuloy itong tungkulin, at pana-
langin para sa iyo.

Sa paglipas ng bawat taon ay biyaya ang
hatid Niya,

Matagumpay na nairaraos
Itong edukasyon, salamat sa Kaniya;
Sa paaralang ito, lahat ng bawat makasal-
amuha,
Ligaya ang hatid 'pagkat ramdam mo na
ika'y kaisa.

Parang kahapon lang, ahh.. isang dekada na
pala,
Mga mumunting ambag sa iyong pag-aaral,
-ngayo'y umunlad na;
Patuloy pa nawa ang pagtulong una na ng
Ama,
Maging kalakasan namin kahit
ilang dekada pa.

MARIE JANE G. GOZO
NEU SPED Teacher



God Gave Me You

By ELVIE LASQUITE



The Lasquite Family

God gave me you....to show me what's real, there's more to life than just how I feel ... these are the lyrics of our favorite song dedicated to my Nielsen.

I got married at age 33 to a civil engineer who is a Navy Officer with a thought that I would have a bright child in the future. I gave birth at age of 37, and my dream came true because I would always love to have a son as my first born. But to my dismay, this was the beginning of something that I didn't expect to happen. As the doctors examined my child, they asked some questions and bluntly told me that my son has Down Syndrome.

I cried helplessly and began to feel guilty. I would have regretted to have late pregnancy but this didn't stop me to love this very precious child.

At first, denial came, post marital blues sipped in and my husband consoled me, and with a prayer that if God would put us into this situation, He would also help us go through with it.

With the endless support from his pediatrician, we managed to survive his medical needs. When he was about 3 months old, he had heart surgery, and then later, an eye surgery. His tonsils are 3 times larger than the normal size and all his sinuses are under-developed making him suffer from headaches every now and then. As of today, he is taking medications for his thyroid

"and all that I'm worth is right before my eyes. Now that I live for and I didn't know why. Now I do ...'cause God gave me you"

problems. All of these are anatomical defects which a child with Down Syndrome tends to have. As they grow old, more defects of this kind would be manifested.

Since my Nielsen needs so much caring and attention, we tried to give him the best that he could get. We decided to enroll him in Kumon at age 4 because he could hardly utter a word, but in a month's time, I heard him reading a book by Dr. Zeuss.

Miracles do happen indeed. We constantly have devotional prayers for him to be blessed and be a faithful servant of our God. But again, trials tested our undying faith. I was diagnosed to have breast cancer and undergone mastectomy. Fearing that I would not have enough time for my son, I decided to resign from my teaching profession and I would tell myself... "If I would be given few remaining years of my life, I would rather spend those years with my son Nielsen."

Since then, I looked for a school that would appreciate and accept children of his kind. Then I thought that no school would give him much caring and acceptance than this school which caters his special needs.

...and all that I'm worth is right before my eyes. Now that I live for and I didn't know why. Now I do ...cause God gave me you (Nielsen). □

About the author:

Mrs. Elvie Lasquite wrote this article on June 2013 to inspire other parents who are undergoing the same situation. Parents, according to her, should not be depressed but be grateful instead to our God Almighty for the gift of life and unconditional love He always give.

Coordinating Teacher: Diana J. Veninoso

Explaining Autism to My Son

By NH DE LA CRUZ

My son Damian was diagnosed with autism in 2004 when he was 3 ½ years old. For years, he had occupational and speech therapy sessions (once or twice a week). Aside from his sessions with professionals, he also had therapy sessions with his Nanay and Tatay at home. On top of this, he was going to regular school.

When he was in Grade II in a previous school, he had speech therapy inside the campus, every Friday at 1:00pm. The sessions coincided with a school subject so he was being pulled out of class for his weekly session with a therapist. Diligent that he is in complying with school work (however hard some subjects were for him in second grade), he asked in his inarticulate way then why he needed to have therapy when his classmates don't have to.

It was then I started explaining autism to him. I told him he has autism and his classmates don't have the condition.

Of course, his next question was "What is autism, Nanay?"

It was a big challenge for me—explaining autism to my son with autism. Of course, explaining the technicalities of Pervasive Development Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified or PDD-NOS could only add to the confusion. So I explained his condition in points that he could understand.

I told him: children with autism have difficulties in some or many things that are easier in other children. I told him about not having a tolerance for a longer eye contact with other people, about difficulties in making friends, about insisting on having the same route when walking around our village (only clockwise or counterclockwise), about preferring only a specific brand of juice, about tantrums, about having difficulties in gripping a pencil, and a lot more. Of course I explained these things not in one seating and setting. And I also explained about difficulties in speaking and articulation, where his need for a speech therapy comes in.

I also told him: children with autism can also accomplish many things easier than other children with no autism find difficulties with. I told my son about his strengths and about his discipline. These were too abstract for him. He was crunching his forehead and there was a virtual questionmark hovering over his head.

So I told him about kids that we both know who find it difficult to get up early for school (my son wakes up at 5:30 am everyday); about kids who spend long time tinkering with food and who only prefer junk food (my son eats ampalaya and other vegetables); about kids who don't want to do homework (my son wants to finish doing his homework before going to bed); about children who spend 8-10 hours a day watching TV, playing on the computer or using the

*I also told my son,
"Children with autism
can also accomplish
many things easier
than other children
with no autism find
difficulties with".*



IPad (my son complies with his schedule at home in which he could only use the computer 1.5 hours, 4 days a week only); and a lot more.

The thing is, I told him, "Anak, you and Nanay and Tatay could translate your rigidities to discipline, and this is a good thing."

Explaining autism to Damian becomes easier when there is an incident I could use. When he was nine years old, we had neighbors with kids that he could play with. The problem was, he could only join in *habulan* in which the rule is simple to grasp—be fast and don't get caught. He couldn't join *patintero* because the mechanics and rules are too complex for him to understand. So he just watched the kids play without him. In one of these instances, he stood up, went inside the house and took his snowman sculpture that he made with a little help from his Nanay and Tatay. He showed it to the kids and they were staring at the snowman in awe. Damian was bombarded with "Did you make that?" In which my son replied, smiling: "Yes. Help ako Nanay and Tatay ko."

We talked about that incident before going to bed. I pointed out to my son, that yes, at nine years old he has difficulties in socialization and grasping *patintero* rules. But he could make an artwork such as Mr. Snowman which his playmates said they couldn't do. There are many things he could do. I told him not be disheartened with difficulties and limitations. Nanay and Tatay, Titos and Titas, Lolos and Lolas are always ready to help him. □

About the author:

Mrs. NH. De La Cruz, who also writes *Social Studies Journals for Elementary and High School Students* in a publishing company, shares her experience as a parent through this article. She aims to encourage awareness in the exceptionalities of children more importantly, in bringing out their strength.

Coordinating Teacher: Diana J. Veninoso

Educating CWSN Through Digital Talking Books

By JOSEPHINE PALOMARES



A pupil utilizing one of our e-learning materials

The Autism Society Philippines-Diliman Chapter gave a short lecture on Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Special

Education faculty of New Era University last 05 July 2013, in celebration of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week. Former Parents and Teacher President (SPED-PTA) Josephine Palomares gave the lecture to around 18 teachers of the SPED Department, using the CD *“Educating Children with Disabilities using the Digital Talking Books”*.

Talking Books.” The CD is a project of ASP funded by Australian Aid. It teaches the three basic rights of the child via learning stories using the DAISY format that runs on AMIS platform. ASP hopes that more and more children with disabilities will learn their basic rights through the help of their teachers. The NEU-SPED Family were very receptive and recognized the relevance of utilizing Daisy to teach other lessons to children with special needs (CWSN). □

SPED Awareness in NEU Lipa Batangas

By Teacher LIEZEL A. VARGAS



Dr. Liezel A. Vargas (2nd row, 8th from left), with the administrators, faculty and staff of NEU-Lipa Batangas Branch

On August 7, 2013 the university administrator requested Dr. Liezel A. Vargas to conduct a seminar-workshop (two topics) entitled *“Handling Children and Youth with Special Educational Needs (CYSEN) in the Inclusive Education”* and *“New Era*

University Special Education Program: One of the Pioneers of Inclusive Education in the Philippines” in Lipa Batangas branch. The focus of this professional development seminar-workshop was to increase the knowledge of educators by helping them understand and integrate current curriculum K-12 adaptation in daily practices, understand and manage CYSEN,

and provide effective instruction and assessment. The roles of administrators, regular teachers and staff in inclusive practices were also discussed. The help and full support of the University administration and the Principal of NEU-Lipa Batangas branch Bro. Duquena, contributed to the success in this undertaking. □

SPED Awareness... From page 5

flowers to the faculty and staff members for the learnings and assistance they have given to our students. The next department that was given a similar SPED Awareness activity was the school's Security Forces. The topics were represented by Bro. Ed H. Lumbao. The activity also served as a meeting with the

school's security head officer in terms of our students' safety and welfare. □

Editor's Note:

To give way for our Special Feature– *“A Decade of NEU– SPED Service”*, our columns namely **Class Room Scene**, **Student' Express**, **In Person**, and **Smile A While**, will resume publication in the next issue of our newsletter.

In behalf of NEU-SPED Family, we sincerely thank our School and Church Administration; Dr. Edilberto Dizon; and former NEU– SPED Leaders (Sister Penelope P. Sandoval, Bro. Eleazer SG. Ortiz, and Bro. Orlando Cabigting) – for their selfless support.