Last February 16, 2008, the HCHS School City Organization held the Elementary sports fest at the Preschool Gym. Indeed, it was a success. Teams of different colors had prepared for the battle. Everyone was excited about what’s going to happen that day: which team will earn the most gold? Games, sports, and competitions of different kinds took place—cheerdancing, street ball, basketball, tug-of-war, volleyball, board games, obstacle races, and badminton.

The theme of the event can be found in the book of 1Timothy 4:8, “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” The students had fun throughout the event. Problems were minimal and were immediately settled by the SCO and scouts.

The event started with the opening ceremony prepared by the SCOs and scouts. After the students had settled, the cheer dance competition began. The cheer dance however was not as good as expected; the teams needed more practice and polishing.

After the cheerdance competition, the street ball and basketball events followed. The players were excited about the game and though most of them are amateurs, they played the games very well. On the first half of the game, one of the Phoenix’s players had cramps. Despite of this, the Phoenix used their height advantage to defeat their opponents. In the last quarter, the Phoenix team changed their strategy and sent all the bench players to play. The Phoenix won the basketball event, with team member Jeffrey Siybauco as the Most Valuable Player of the season.

The Volleyball game lasted 75 minutes, from 12:55pm to 2:15pm. It was a fight between the Cavaliers and Phoenix again, a test of who’s better and stronger. Both teams looked nervous and excited at the same time because of service errors and outsides. Coaches and trainers of both teams felt the tension as the players were damped and hustled while the crowds cheered for their team. The Cavaliers finally won the match with Deseree Cheng as the Most Valuable Player.

The sportsfest ended with the awarding ceremony. The grade 4 team won the cheerdance competition and the best team was awarded to the grade 5. The overall champion, which won most of the games and the best in costume, was awarded to the grade 6 team, while the grade 3 team won the theme interpretation event. The event ended with the grade 5 team cleaning up the gym as a prize for being the best team.
Seniors’ Retreat 08
By Michael Go / Senior C

Last January 25-27, 2008, the Seniors Retreat, one of the highlights in the life of a Hope student, was held at Kuhala Bay, Cardona, Rizal. It was a three-day activity that aimed to change and bring people to Christ. The theme for this year was a little different as it was focused more on peer-relationships. Despite my nervousness, people around were very friendly. The only “issue” was whether a student looked “Chinese” or not, because if you are a Chinese, the other students would go crazy over you. They would ask us to translate Chinese words into tagalog, vice-versa, and crazy over you. They would ask us to translate Chinese words into tagalog, vice-versa, and

Reflections on Boys and Girls Week 2007
By Jaqueline Pe / Senior C

It was a typical school day when I was told to see the supervisor of the English Department, Mrs. Belle Abad. According to her, I was chosen to represent the school for the Boys and Girls Week 2007, a project initiated by the city government of Manila. I was told to compile all my certificates and attend an interview for the screening.

On the day of the interview, I was 30 minutes late and so I became very nervous. But as my turn came, my English communication skills were put to test. Questions on my leadership experiences as a leader were asked but I felt confident given the training at Hope. In the end, I walked out from the interview room with a big smile! Whew!

We were 98 students with 4 Filipino-Chinese students, including myself. Ten students came from the private schools and most of the students came from public schools.

The day started with a session with Mayor Alfredo Lim and other city officials. Despite my nervousness, people around were very friendly. The only “issue” was whether a student looked “Chinese” or not, because if you are a Chinese, the other students would go crazy over you. They would ask us to translate Chinese words into tagalog, vice-versa, and exclain in awe, “Wow naman!”

The Boys and Girl’s Week wasn’t all about meeting people. The whole week taught me the importance to be fluent in English and Chinese, as well as in Filipino. Leadership means nothing if we lack the skill or ability to communicate with others.

Projects Initiated by the Department of Student Affairs:

- CAUGHT IN THE ACT - Teachers and administrators honor students who are “caught in the act” of doing good.
- D GROUPS - D group stands for discipleship group. This is a group of men/women (maximum of 10) who commit to meet regularly (around once a week) at an agreed venue for Bible study sessions and mutual encouragement. Forms can be obtained from the DSA Office.
- SEE YOU AT THE POLE - Students meet at the school flagpole to pray for their school, friends, teachers, government and nation.
- EARLY BIRDS - Students with no tardy record for a grading period are honored.
- INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING - for the preschool, elementary and high school students.
- ONCE A MONTH CLASS GUIDANCE - For the preschool, elementary and high school students. Topic: 8 study skills.
- MORNING PRAISE & PRAYER - The Guidance and Counseling Office leads the Grades 1 and 2 students every morning in praising and praying to our God.
- Tie-up with St. Teodora School Tutorial Center

Asian Parliamentary Debaters into the Octofinals
By Michael Go / Senior C

Last September 22-23, 2007, the Children’s Museum and Library, Inc. (CMLI) Asian Parliamentary Debate Tournament was held at Lourdes School of Quezon City. Our school sent three teams. One out of the three teams qualified for the octofinals—HCHS team B, but lost to Claret School of Quezon City during the octofinals.

Even though this was the first time that HCHS joined the Asian Parliament debate, our debaters proved to be competitive. On the first round of the debate, all three teams lost to their opponents. With this, the debaters were warmed-up and ready for another debate. On the second match, the HCHS team C came to blow with the HCHS team A, while the HCHS team B was matched against the UPIS (University of the Philippines Integrated School) team B. HCHS team C won the debate against the HCHS team A, but the HCHS team B lost to UPIS team A. Alas, in the final round, the HCHS team A and C both lost to their opponents while the HCHS team B clashed against the UPIS team A. After an intense and close match, the HCHS team B won and was given entry to the octofinals.

In the octofinals, the HCHS team B debated with the CSQC (Clarlet School of Quezon City) team C. The motion of the debate was Exploitation of Antarctica. HCHS team B had the affirmative side and discussed on the advantages and necessities of the exploitation of Antarctica. After an intense debate, HCHS team B lost to CSQC team C. The HCHS Team A members were Euryk Valdez, Emil Cheng, and Lawrence Lopez. Team B members were Michael Go, Aaron Cheng, and Mary Ann Wong. Team C members were Cherie Tan, Darell Teng, and King Choi.

2007 December Fest
Sherina Lo / Senior B

The Classroom Decorating Contest, Annual Christmas Program, White Gift Drive, and the Christmas Card Drive were part of the school’s activities during the month-long celebration of Christ’s birth. One activity was for students to decorate their classroom with creative and colorful Christmas decors for the classroom decorating contest. On December 21, 2007, it was announced that the school would celebrate a Christmas party within the campus. This was the first time we had this event in four years!

Each class was given the task of preparing its own class party and program, and for once, we students wouldn’t have to wear our school uniform! Students prepared their food with great pleasure, having a sumptuous feast in their minds. Some spiced up their Christmas program with song numbers, while some even entertained the class through dance. Everyone had a great time participating in various games, and expressing friendship and goodwill by exchanging gifts.

Heartwarming Christmas cards were showered to school faculty and staff. Thanks to the annual Christmas card drive of the Boy Scouts. It was a fun-filled day with laughter and joy. Everybody contributed in making this once-a-year event truly unforgettable. Each moment spent together made a lasting mark in every person’s heart; memories were shared; bonds became stronger. This event made it possible for us to impart the true essence of Christ’s birth and it will always be remembered as one of our favorite Christmas events in school!
By Jacquiline Pe / Senior C

Experiencing the February Blast!

Through the years, three major events have always been anticipated by the students. These are: the Battle of the Bands, Mr. and Ms. Hope High School Division, and Mr. and Ms. Hope Elementary Division.

Unlike before, this year brought about a “blast” in the month of February, bringing together these three separate events into a single program. All preparations, from decorations down to the screening of contestants, were undertaken by the Hope Student Council. After days of careful screening, 7 pairs of contestants were chosen for the Mr. and Ms. Hope high school division finals, and 5 pairs for the elementary division. Six bands made it to the second season of Battle of the Bands which took place last February 23, 2008.

The 3-part event was held at the Hope Theatre Hall from 9am to 2pm, and were judged by the same group of people, namely Mr. Joel Pedro, Ms. Melanie Lim, Mr. Nathaniel Abad, and Ms. Jelyn Chiong. The emcees were Mr. Joshua Ong, Ms. Charito Chua, Mr. Kingtel Choi and Ms. Jacqueline Pe. Changes were made on the Mr. and Ms Hope pageant procedures to make it fit into the time limit. The pageant program was reduced from a two-round screening to a one-round competition. In both divisions, the sports attire modelling was omitted, while the talent portion was reduced to 2.5 minutes instead of the usual 3. Battle of the Bands contestants were given 7 minutes to perform 2-3 songs at most.

In spite of the changes, the finalists were able to showcase their talents in different areas. But what stood out the most were the winners of their respective events:

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: "A Kiss from Ire”
VOCALIST: Jilson Seckler Tiu
RHYTHM GUITARS/VOCALISTS: Dharyl Tan
LEAD GUITARS: Thomas George Tan
BASS: John Keiser So
DRUMS: Franco Javier
KEYBOARDS: Mark Oliver Burgos
BEST VOCALIST: Jilson Seckler Tiu
BEST GUITARIST: Thomas George Tan
BEST DRUMMER: Vans Louie Padulle

MR. & MS. HOPE (HS):
& Marc Jason Ng (sophomore)
& Nicole Quing-Quing (sophomore)

MR. & MS. HOPE (ELEM):
& Philip Hainih (Grade 6)
& Jennivee Chua (Grade 5)

MMTTLBA Cheerdance Competition

MMTTLBA Cheerdance Competition

By Charito Chua / Senior C

Last February 16, the Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association held its annual Cheerdance competition at Uno High School gymnasium. This is the time when schools participating in this annual basketball league vie to win the title “Best Cheerleading Squad of MMTTLBA”.

The seats began to fill up as the competition was about to start. Some of the spectators were in eager anticipation for the performance of their own teams, while some were there to simply enjoy a good cheerleading competition. The audience had different guesses on which team would be the champion. Their anxiety rose even higher when the drums started to beat and the announcer called all the cheerleading captains. After stating the criteria, list of deductions, and panel of judges, the competition started.

It started off with Saint Stephen’s High School. Their cheerleaders looked very similar, because more than their cheering uniform, they also had similar haircuts and hair bands, which made them look like clones. But it really helped their routine since they used mirror effects. Next, came Hope Christian High School. We were a relatively fresh squad about to compete in an interschool competition—and it was very apparent to the participants as well.

Saint Jude Catholic School—champion for two consecutive years; Uno High School with their superb skills and choreography, or Hope Christian High School with their fresh-made squad. Surely the panel of judges had a hard time deciding which team deserved the championship title.

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Saint Jude Catholic School—champion for two consecutive years; Uno High School with their superb skills and choreography, or Hope Christian High School with their fresh-made squad. Surely the panel of judges had a hard time deciding which team deserved the championship title. The event went wild when the judges finally announced that the cheerleading champions were Saint Jude Catholic School Cheerleading Squad. They truly deserved to win the MMTTLBA Cheerleading Competition, this being their third straight championship. It had been a wonderful event not only for the winners but for the rest of the participants as well.

Seniors Farewell Program

By Cherie Lynn Tan / Senior D

Last February 22, 2008, the Juniors presented a Junior-Senior Farewell Program to show their gratitude to the seniors. The HCHS community, particularly the high school students, teachers, and administrators witnessed the much-awaited Junior-Senior Farewell Program.

In line with the tradition, the juniors performed a skit while the seniors sang a farewell song. The batch presidents of the juniors and seniors delivered their respective speeches as the senior president passed on the title to the seniors. The Seniors Chinese Department also joined the event with songs and declamations. Of course, the event would never be complete without the presentation of the Last Will and Testament.

HCHS Student Council Election

By Angeline Lim / Senior A

Another school year has yet to end. Another batch has yet to leave. Another set of officers of the Student Council has yet to be replaced. Last February 26, 2007, the annual election for the new set of Student Council officers was held in the Audio Visual Room of the High School Building. Candidates for the Student Council were chosen carefully by the teachers and supervisors based on the student’s grades and performance, meaning there must not be any grade below 80 for both English and Chinese.

On election day, the candidates visited every room and introduced themselves to the students and teachers. They weren’t given much chance to campaign due to their busy schedules. After the short campaign, high school students were called by class, as well as teachers and staff, to cast their votes. Here is the results of the election:

HCHS Newly Elected SCOs

MAYOR: Franchesca Chua
VICE MAYOR: Christina Shiena Uy
SECRETARY: Dorothy Minette Abella
TREASURER: Alexis Mervin Sy

Public Welfare Committee Chairperson: Anvry Young
Education Committee Chairperson: Samantha Gaerlan
Project Committee Chairperson: Stephanie Jane Xu
Health Committee Chairperson: Young, hazel Anne
Religious Committee Chairperson: Charmaine Joy Zhang
Athletic Committee Chairperson: Ngo, Lester Lloyd Venz

The Winners

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: "A Kiss from Ire”
VOCALIST: Jilson Seckler Tiu
RHYTHM GUITARS/VOCALISTS: Dharyl Tan
LEAD GUITARS: Thomas George Tan
BASS: John Keiser So
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MR. & MS. HOPE (HS):
& Marc Jason Ng (sophomore)
& Nicole Quing-Quing (sophomore)

MR. & MS. HOPE (ELEM):
& Philip Hainih (Grade 6)
& Jennivee Chua (Grade 5)
Moving Forward

Editor's Desk

Michael Go / Senior C

These past few months since August have been tedious enough not only for the students but also for the teachers. Recent happenings such as the UN Day, the annual high school and elementary Sports Festival, HCHS Foundation Day, the incoming accreditation of our school, the Christmas White Gift Fund Drive, the Christmas Fun Day, Seniors' Retreat, and the February Blast would be the crux of our newspaper.

On top of all these, our school was chosen by the ACSC-AAI to be accredited for Level 3. We are proud to say that Grace Christian College and our school were the schools chosen and invited this year by the ACSC-AAI for the accreditation. This accreditation means a lot to our school to move forward in achieving excellence in all aspects. In the coming months, the ACSC-AAI will come and see if our school is ready to have its own curriculum.

Ayusin Natin!

Mary Ann Wong / Senior C

Problema sa basura, bakit hindi natin bigyang-pansin? Bilang isang komunidad, ano ang ating maaraing maibahagi sa lumalalang krisis at problema sa basura?


Ang ating paaralan ay nagpatupad dati ng waste segregation o ang paghihiwalay ng basurang nabubulok sa di nabubulok.


Erratum

The Hope Clarion would like to express our sincerest apologies for the errors made in the previous issue. The names Christina Wong and Julia Tan were interchanged.

As Christians residing in this dark and disillusioned world, we are nothing but small wisps of light—delicate entities that can be put out by a small zephyr of temptation and misguidedness. We need a beacon of light that can shine amidst the darkness and can provide direction to guide us.

Hope Christian High School is a school that has been basking in the light of God’s will for nearly a century—a school that has been constantly showered with the blessings of God; a school that, by God’s example, has been a means of guiding those who enter her open gates with eagerness to learn. Her mission and her vision show her mindset in instilling Christian values to her students. For 61 years, Hope Christian High School has been striving for excellence for God’s glory. She has helped her students realize their potentials and secure their futures. Having endured numerous tests and trials proves the fact that the school has continually fulfilled her responsibility in nurturing and fostering virtues for her students and teachers. Simply put, Hope Christian High School is an institution that has withstood the test of time.

As I spend my last year with my Alma Mater, I will prove to myself that I am worthy of carrying her name. I pray that my school will continue to aim high for the glory of God and that my school will bring out the best of each student.

May Hope Christian High School be a second home to my fellow students and also a mentor of their lives forever and ever!
The Year’s Ups and Downs: Good and Bad

By Mary Ann Wong / Senior C

For some students, school year 2007-2008 was a blissful, prosperous year. It is giving us good grades and the time to enjoy the camaraderie of our friends. But there are also unpleasant events or changes that happened. We may agree, disagree, add, or subtract from this list, but we have a whole new year to look forward to! Let’s learn from our mistakes and improve in what we’re good at.

A new acting principal was appointed. Ms. Rongquillo, our computer teacher, left.

The construction of the new high school building has finally started.

Old computers in our computer laboratories were replaced by new ones!

The school helped cut down the expenses of the students by helping them financially.

Uniforms on Saturday classes!

The school intramurals has been revived after a 3-year absence.

The “See-you-at-the-Pole” was launched to urge students and faculty to pray for each other, the school, and the nation.

We had a late Christmas break.

The school Christmas Program showcased the talents of the Hope students.

Mr. Young, our principal for five years, left the school.

The search for Mr. and Ms. Hope pushed through after last year’s comeback.

The construction of the new building was disturbing our class hours for the first three months of the school year.

Some annual school activities were not carried out.

Permits, consents, and even small concerns, had to pass through several processes and often resulted in delayed action.

Our sportsfest proved successful; the trophies and medals given were great!

Too much focus on school work has spoiled the student’s interest in studying.

The sportsfest venue was small compared to the number of students.

After 4 years, the school allowed the students to have a class Christmas party.

The Christmas program lasted 3 hours!

A Witness of God’s Faithfulness Through the Year

By Marc Jason Ng / Senior B

Truly, the Lord’s faithfulness is unwavering. It has proven itself time and time again against all odds. Throughout the entire debate season, our debate team was like a ship, stranded even with its numerous cargos, in an unforgiving storm. But the Lord’s promise came through for us. Let me recount my life before I set out into that enlightening journey.

Countless people had testified before me that numerous miracles had been happening right in front of my eyes; yet, I still wanted a taste of the real deal! After all, I was but a person who persisted in the belief that seeing is believing. Before I joined the competition, I prayed to the Lord to see His glory. I wanted to do something meaningful in my last year at Hope, both for Him and for the school.

My doubt solidified into amazement as my prayer was answered in the most unlikely of all ways, joining the Debate team. We were a shaky team back then. Each had not yet gotten accustomed to working with the other and we barely had faith in ourselves to win the first round. It was wrong of me, who was placed among the group leaders, to put my trust in God! Who’s going to stop you?

Got a clue?

It is a test. It is known in many names. You may know it as APSA, PAPOCS, NCAE, and CSAT and maybe in some other clever acronym by another education related group but students simply see it as that test that just comes and goes. These tests are basically Standardized Aptitude Tests or mock college tests. Truthfully, it’s a way to see the capabilities of students in a large scale, ranking them, and putting them up with each other. One setback is that these things are sometimes unreliable. Rather than matching knowledge with knowledge, those with more mental stamina sometimes outwit their smarter peers and gain higher results.

Students look forward to this for different sets of reasons. Some are curious to know what they’re capable of—they see it as an opportunity to be able to apply what they know, and to prepare themselves for entrance exams. Another group looks forward to it because it’s a break from the monotony of schoolwork—with all its social benefits. These kinds of tests can be traced back from USA where these are implemented in universities in the northeastern states. Now the entire world follows suit with different groups carrying a variant of their own.

Not Just Shading Circles

By Lawrence Margello R. Lopez / Senior A

Thinking Outside the Box

By Allan Jerome Yu / Senior D

How can you maximize all of your capabilities using only your mind? Everyone has a capability to do whatever he/she wants. A person could have the ability to do something as simple as singing or to dance gracefully. In other cases, that person, whoever he/she is, has yet to discover that gift. Afterwards, nurturing that specific skill is a must. No matter how skilled a person may be, he/she has yet to discover that skill. Being intelligent means having a general mental capability to reason, solve problems, think abstractly, learn and understand new material, and profit from past experience. Even if we have brains, but if we don’t use it then what’s the point of having brains? Many people continue to think that they can only perform tasks up to their limitations, but in reality, they can perform even better than that. It doesn’t take a genius to know that people need to persevere and strive hard in order to achieve their dreams. Use it—a test to your endurance, stamina and mental power. These tests are a way to prove yourself, not just an excuse to forget and relax. It’s ok to feel tense and a bit shaky while going through with it.

Thinking Outside the Box

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SEVEN MONTHS with our Hope students and I have come to this conclusion: children and teenagers everywhere are the same! Whether we find them in UP or Ateneo or in a far-flung school in a small barrio, students and children are really the same!

Love, understanding, a listening ear, a compassionate heart, a firm but gentle hand of discipline...no matter where children and teenagers are, each of them and all of them need these in order to grow and develop as they were meant to be. The heart and the mind of the child need grace, mercy and blessings not only from the adults tasked to take care of them but most importantly from Heavenly Creator they come from.

Seven months in Hope and I have countless stories to tell about my encounters with the students. Encounters that not only enriched my life but, I hope, enriched their lives, too.

Let me begin by sharing with you our struggles with haircuts and heeled-shoes! All schools have policies on the required hair length of boys and the allowed heel height for girl's shoes. Oh! The struggles we have on these!

"Its just not cool to have short hair! My friends will laugh at me! I'm short! I need to wear higher heels M'am!" Good arguments. But for every encounter with a student, I explained that this is not about their hair nor their shoe...its about obedience to authority and respect for the rules. It is about having a heart that is soft and courageous enough to follow what is right. We talk to the students about Romans 13:1-2 which states "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

We talk to students about allowing God to work in their hearts so that they will be able to obey. With such encounters, I continue to receive confirmation that God does exist! Since, more often than not, our Hope students eventually decide to do what is right. In this particular shoe and hair struggle, students end up walking the right and narrow path...eventually.

Questions, questions...why...how...how come...they are just full of questions! Along the hallway, in front of bulletin boards, in comfort rooms, in the lunch area...students are just bursting with the desire to figure things out, to understand the what, how and why of things! They sense when a person is sincerely interested in what they feel and think and they are just so eager to express who they are!

For every encounter with a student, I explained that this is not about their hair nor their shoe...its about obedience to authority and respect for the rules.

Tell us about your educational background.

I had my elementary and secondary education at HCHS and graduated salutatorian in 1957. From 1958 to 1965, I taught at Hope in various grades while studying in the afternoon. I obtained the A.B. (English) in 1960, BSE (Education) in 1962 and MA (Guidance & Psychology) with high honors in 1965. In 1965-1966, I was appointed Assistant to the Principal in the elementary school. I left Hope to teach in college (FEU) from 1966-1967.

In September of 1967, I was awarded a scholarship to study at the University of Minnesota. I obtained the Specialist in Education in 1969. I went on to E.D.D and finished all my course works and comprehensive exams except the dissertation. I came back to the PI to do my dissertation but was curtailed by Martial Law.

You have been teaching for quite some time, how did you acquire your passion for teaching?

Yes, I am passionate about teaching. As a matter of fact, 2008 is my 50th anniversary in teaching. I started teaching preparatory classes with 70 students (2 teachers) for an 80-peso monthly salary. Some of my former students (Batch ‘69) are still around and are very active in the Alumni Association.

I already knew I was going to be a teacher when I was in the 4th grade. My motto in my graduation yearbook was "Educated to Serve" and I have been fulfilling that legacy ever since. I enjoy teaching very much. If I were given another life, I will still choose teaching. I have taught all levels from prep school to graduate school both here and abroad, that includes Chinese, Filipino, American, Iranian, Vietnamese, and all other kinds of students, be he/she gifted, special, or challenged. I believe that all students can learn. Teaching is not only a job but also a vocation. You acquire the knowledge, skills, techniques and experience when you deal with your students. You must have the passion, dedication, and commitment to the profession. The reward is not financial but an inner satisfaction.

What were your contributions to HCHS as an alumna?

I am forever indebted to my Alma Mater for my secondary education and for the experience I had working in that school. She had given me all the tools to succeed in my further education and my salvation. My relationship with my Savior started when I was a student at Hope and He has led my life ever since.

I served Hope as a teacher from 1958 to 1965, and as assistant principal from 1965 to 1966. Whenever I am in the Philippines, I always visit my Alma Mater and speak to the students and served as consultant.

Last year, I donated $1000 to the Building Fund and assisted in our 50th class reunion and the school’s ESL Program. The program has improved through the enrichment that materials were brought from the States.

How do you compare Hope students in the past and the present?

This is just my observation: In the 50’s, 60’s and even 70’s, the school had rules that were very strict. Dress codes, behavior standards, and discipline were strictly enforced. Demerits were carried out. Erring students were expelled. Teachers adhered to the policies at all times. High standards were expected.

Students today have more leeways and opportunities. With modern technologies and trends—computers, power point, etc., and more choices, the basics have been neglected. Students now can do hip hop, more sports, and were even allowed to have Prom Nights and dances.

The most important thing is that this school is still a Christian school. Students must always remember that they are ambassadors for Christ, that the beauty of Jesus is in them and can be seen by the outside world. The school still upholds the motto “TRUTH and LIFE.”
By Allan Jerome Yu / Senior C

Last October 27, 2007 in Baguio City, Jaquiline Love-Angel, the practicability speaker and the team captain, Charito Chua, the necessity speaker, Marc Jason Ng, the affirmative speaker, and Allan Jerome Yu, the team captain of the HCHS Oregon-Oxford debate team, went head to head with the CSA Makati debate team for the Championship Cup. Our debate team defended the affirmative side of the motion “Resolved that the Procurement Code be Revised” against the opposing side, which stunned the audience and left them speechless. Each debater presented his own stand based on well-researched material that showed the audience and left them speechless. Each debater relentlessly debated on the fields of practicability, necessity, and the beneficiality of the Procurement Code. In the end, CSA Makati claimed the championship title, while our school settled for the runner-up position. The same thing happened five years ago, where CSA Makati prevailed over HCHS in the championship round. History may have repeated itself, but that didn’t stop the HCHS debate team from striving harder. And even if the team didn’t bag the first place, the school is still proud that our debaters made it to the championship round.

Here’s an excerpt of the interview conducted with the debate team after the championship.

What was your most memorable experience during the months-long competition?

**Jackie:** Being in SM Baguio for the first time was memorable. Also, during the competition, the team mates gave me emotional support by cheering for me and by being there for me. Literally, they travelled all the way to Baguio just to encourage me. Also, I will never forget the story of Jackie’s search for love, which I am pleased to say that she has found him.

**Charito:** I will never forget the social event organized by CMLI, where the team mates gathered together for all the delegates. We weren’t prepared for it because we were still getting over our defeat in the championship. So we crashed the party wearing only our pajamas! But of course, the party only lasted for five minutes. We felt so out of place.

**MJ:** The trip to Baguio was memorable. I’ve never seen the city before and the place was nice. It was chilly in the morning and freezing at night. Just the way I like it.

**Allan:** Being in SM Baguio was memorable. I’ve never been there before, the place was nice. We felt so out of place.

Aside from missing classes, what other challenges did you encounter?

**Jackie:** Preparation for the competition was really challenging. We had to read a huge pile of research, stay up late, work under pressure, and put almost a month of research into a seven-minute speech. Writing the speeches was equally difficult. We had to brainstorm to decide what we should put into paper.

**Charito:** I had emotional breakdowns once in a while due to overwhelming responsibilities. I tend to cry whenever I can’t give all the time and attention to something because I have to stretch my limits.

**MJ:** Lack of sleep, I had trouble concentrating because I slept late most of the time. Going through the ‘feeds’ is challenging as well. I appreciated the effort that the students put into them, but it was quite disappointing when you don’t find what you’re looking for or end up using only 50% of the info you’ve researched.

**Allan:** It has to be communicating with other team mates. I’m the only one in the debate team who has a Globe cellphone account while the rest of them have Sun Cellular. So we couldn’t communicate directly because of the network difference. One time, we even had to communicate through Charito. She was holding the phone in one hand while the other hand was holding a cellphone. That experience was really funny but awkward.

How do you feel being silver medallists?

**Jackie:** Being silver medallists didn’t actually matter to me or to the team. We gained more than just a silver medal. We gained faith, friendship, and experience. Nothing, not even a silver medal, can make us feel like we’re losers.

**Charito:** It’s great to win something. The medal may not be gold, or a really shiny cup, but silver is good for me.

**MJ:** I will never forget the social event organized by CMLI, where the team mates gathered together for all the delegates. We weren’t prepared for it because we were still getting over our defeat in the championship. So we crashed the party wearing only our pajamas! But of course, the party only lasted for five minutes. We felt so out of place.

Any advice for aspiring debaters?

**Jackie:** In a competition, there has to be a winner and there has to be a loser. In this case, we were the latter. But we still did our best and came this far in the competition. I just feel satisfied with our team’s accomplishment.

**Charito:** Always remember that debating is not just arguing, but is fighting for what you really stand for. Use it properly because everything could be solved by merely debating. The real battle is in this world, and we must fight with all our might for what is right in order for them to see the light of Truth. Go debaters!
Time flies swiftly. Exactly one year ago from this time, the School Board of trustees earnestly requested me to accept the task to be the Acting Principal for one year. Out of my personal submission to our Heavenly Father’s will and out of pure love for my Alma Mater, fearfully and prayerfully, I accepted this difficult responsibility.

Thank God! Under His Divine leading, the seemingly strenuous year has come to pass. Come to think of my experience this school year! I have indeed tasted the bittersweet of life! My heart was filled with joy whenever there are some improvements along the way! However, when parents complained, my heart sank with sadness. Hope Christian High School has indeed become a part of my life, and her rise and fall would deeply affect me, too. Now I could comprehend deeply what Apostle Paul wrote in II Corinthians 11:26-29: “...I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at the sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food... Besides everything else, I face the daily pressure concerning Hope Christian High School. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?” Praise the Lord! All these shall come to pass. I am always comforted by these lines from the hymns: “Give of Your Best to the Master” and “Fully Surrender”. These songs spur me bravely even as I prepare to meet our Lord by saying, “O Lord, I have given You my best and may Your name be praised.”

This year, I have noticed evidently that our students have become more respectful than before. Whenever they meet elderly people, they would greet them politely. As for the rest, such as interest in learning the Chinese language, speaking both Mandarin and English well, etc., we still need improvements. I hope that in the coming school year, we would all strive for excellence in all aspects, to bring honor to God and goodwill to men.

God bless Hope Christian High School!
恭喜！
嘉稔社2008年
嘉稔社优秀毕业生

第一名
施纯发  13 大功
中四年级甲组  2 忠

第二名
陈金凯  3 大功
中四年级甲组  1 小功

第三名
许荣明  4 大功
中四年级乙组  1 小功

第四名
林慧华  6 大功
中四年级乙组  4 忠

第四名
白美仁  5 大功
中四年级甲组  1 小功

回顾担任嘉南中学代校长的一年
吴健美校长

时间过得真快，回想去年的现在，当时在办公室内，我写信邀请我担任校长之职，期望一年。当时我为了自己，也为了学生的利益，我怀着战战兢兢的心情，义不容辞地扛起了这重大的责任。

感谢主！在主引领下，这一年的总是过去了。但这年的回忆，我总是会感到无比的喜悦。在学校的某一方面有所进步时，或是何等的欣慰，而家长们有所投诉时，我的心便会感到不安。总之，嘉南已成为我生命中的一部分，我的失败与得意是息息相关的。使我们深深体会到圣洁的保罗在哥林多前书12章26至27节所说的经验：「就是那流血的，流愤的，与刀剑而死的。」

感谢主！这一切将会成为过去。

唯一让我难忘的是你常唱的诗歌——「以你最好的献与主」、「完全的奉献」这些诗歌时，我能够很坦然地回应主：主啊！我已经尽我所能将那给付你，愿你笑纳。

这年来，我感到最明显进步的事，便是学生们的改变，他们更有礼貌了，无论大小学生，遇人长辈时，都会问安问好，这是值得夸奖的。至于其他的如：喜好学习中文，学习讲话，英语等等，都有进步。希望下一年，大家更同心协力地追求进步，以达到神所预定的目标。

愿神祝福嘉南！
Tech News
By Gamaliel Clamor

Gen X Fishbowl
Want to own a cooler aquarium? Then this gadget is for you! It's like a virtual pet or Tamagochi except that within the USB-cable Fishbowl, you're taking care of a REAL fish.

The gadget comes with a software and a USB Cable which connects to your computer. The software then allows you to make bubbles, change the water temperature, or even monitor the filter device in the fish tank. It can also feed your fish if you're busy or lazy. And there's more. There's a monitor in the fish tank so you won't have to look at the bowl itself. But the bad news is you still have to clean the fish tank to feed your little one.

The USB-cable Fishbowl is currently available in South Korea and sells for about 53 US dollars or about only Php2,491 Pesos.

Brica View Art 1000
This is another all-in-one gadget out in the US market, but this time it's like a Swiss army knife because it's very small and portable and can fit into any pocket. It doesn't really perform a thousand uses like its name says but it can do six different functions.

The Brica View Art 1000 is a camera, camcorder, MP3 Player, FM radio, voice recorder, E-book (Electronic book) reader, a webcam, and a DVR (Digital Video Recorder). The gadget has a 2.5 inch LCD screen, supports different kinds of media files, has a 512 MB onboard memory, and a 2 GB Secure Digital memory card for extra storage. Also, the camera function has a 4 mega pixel resolution.

The Brica View Art 1000 sells for 265 dollars or about 12,455 Pesos.

Source: www.Softpedia.com

Laughter
By Nathaniel Jan Tan

Laughter is an outward expression of accepting positive social interactions. Whenever people laugh, the brain activates a chemical known as endorphins (en-dör-fins) that makes them feel happy and positive. Through laughter, people interact with each other in a positive and comfortable manner. They say laughter is the best medicine.....well, it really is. Medical studies have shown that laughter keeps the body fit and healthy, increases the life expectancy of people and improves their well-being. Here are some of the many beneficial effects of laughter:

• helps protect the heart
• lowers the blood sugar, thus preventing illnesses like diabetes
• regulates blood flow
• increases oxygen in blood, which boosts the immune system of the body
• reduces anxiety
• strengthens the abdominal, facial, respiratory and leg muscles
• relieves stress
• burns 700 worth of calories

Don't let sadness and sorrows get the best out of your life; learn to laugh and be happy about life and the things around you!

Funny “Oops!” Stories
By Allan Jerome Yu and Ralph Lau

One summer day, the sister of my crush gave me a picture. I was so happy that I jumped all over the room. But didn’t notice that my crush was entering the room and I jumped over his picture and fell on his face! looked at the picture and smiled at him: OMG?

- Crazy_love_darling

Last time while my family was on vacation, my sister and I went to an open area to play where there were many pigeons. The plan was for me to scare the pigeons while my sister will take pictures of it. But I tripped suddenly while doing so and my sister took a picture of my fall instead. What’s even more embarrassing is that the picture was developed and my friends got a glimpse of it!

-Klutz

After arriving early at school, I suddenly had the urge to go to the comfort room after which I proceeded to my classroom only to find out that I wasn’t in my classroom and the students stared at me! And that wasn’t enough. The next day during Chinese class, I left my bag in the classroom next door and I forgot that I left it there! I even stood during class just to ask if anyone saw my bag! Everyone was laughing at me and I felt mortified.

- A senior student

After getting dressed up and ready for the day, I immediately got out of my house and went to my school to meet some friends. What I wasn’t aware of was that a pair of socks with a floral design was hanging out from my back pocket! Now my friends know what kind of socks I wear...

- Careless boy

One time during our class’s plastic bottle drive, our teacher asked some of our classmates to bring some empty sacks. I was one of the students assigned to bring a sack. But because I wasn’t paying attention to what she said, I didn’t know that she was saying “sacks”, instead, I heard her saying “socks”. And the next day, my teacher was collecting the sacks and I gave her my unused socks in front of the whole class and they all laughed at me!

-Crazy_socks

My friend and I were chasing each other and I suddenly tripped and did a split in front of students!

- CCSPCM

My classmate was showing me a video clip in his cell phone. I watched the video with interest. And at the end of the video, a weird monster-like thing popped out and I suddenly screamed in a high-pitched tone like a girl would! How embarrassing!

- High pitched screaming student

Once in a while I have bad colds and my nose usually gets stuffed up. So I go to the drugstore to buy a solution for my nose. When I took it out of its box, I placed it right on the countertop. I removed my glasses and I took the small bottle and squeezed a bit into my nose. I then coughed up the solution because it smelled awful. When I checked the bottle in my hand, it wasn’t the nose solution that I took; it was an eye care solution!

- An old guy

My mother and I were waiting at the airport arrival area to fetch my dad. After a while, my mom told me that my dad is there and I should go to him as fast as I could. I did what she told me, and guess what? I ran in the wrong direction and I hugged the wrong man because I thought he was my dad! I was really embarrassed!

- Run_and_Hug

FEATURES       STORIES
Like a Sloth
By Allan Jerome Yu

Up in the top of very high trees,
There lives a sloth which clings with great ease.
All day long it remains inert,
Not having any work to exert.

Twenty four hours, seven days a week,
Most of the time it just eats and sleeps.
So what is the sloth’s purpose on Earth?
Does it only sit and watch the dirt?

This animal from the order Xenarthra
May still be shrouded in perplexing enigma.
We still need much to learn from the sloth,
A lesson requiring a lot of thought.

That lesson is diligence without a doubt,
We should all work hard and not idle about.
Don’t be a sloth doing nothing all day,
Get on your feet and just work away!

Broken Smile
By Gaimee Margery Chua

Sometimes I wonder how it would be
If you had truly loved me
I didn’t know where I went wrong
But as far as I know gave you my all.

You came into my life
And gave me that smile
And now you’re gone
I am left with this broken smile.

Now, I am shattered and in pain
I don’t know how to begin my life without you
All I know is that I need to make you believe
That everything is okay.

So I’m going to smile
To make you think I’m happy.
I’m going to laugh
So you don’t see me cry
Even if I’m dying inside
With my pride and a smile on my face.

Wings To Fly
By Gaimee Margery Chua

How can I always lend a hand
But ignore the cries within myself
It is my pleasure to bring you a smile
But my emptiness still sits up on the shelf.

My heart will constantly bleed
But I will never let it be shown on my face
Only the tears that fall down my cheek
Will give you a glimpse, a shadow, a trace.

I suffocate when I try to breathe
The chains you gave won’t leave my body
I have dreams, and needs, and wants
My body is numb, I think maybe you should know.

I struggle with my demons each day
You feed them while you gradually watch me die
Please let me be and please set me free
I want to smile as I gaze up at the sky.

I want the moon to brighten the night
I want the clouds to pass me by
I want the stars to lead me to heaven
And I want wings to life me and soar.

Disease of your Affection
By Gaimee Margery Chua

Don’t lie to make me happy
I do not need a tainted charm
your false feelings
bring emotional destruction

I am scared of loneliness
our love no longer true
but can I stand on my own
without leaning on you

Disease of your affection
penetrating me
your beauty like a virus
attacking viciously

Not to worry, I’ll be all right
I’ll make it through the day
but the minute tomorrow approach
I’ll have the courage to walk away.

Confusion
By Gaimee Margery Chua

So many questions
so little time
occasionally I ask
Am I losing my mind?
So many decisions
I know I can’t make
So much criticism
I simply can’t take
I can’t please everybody
Though I will always try
Sometimes I get discouraged
But I don’t know why
I hate all the pressures
That are brought upon me
Too many decision
Then I’d rather there be
I just can’t stand it
Don’t know what to do
To feel what I feel
If only you knew
I’m not looking for sympathy!

Broken Smile
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If you had truly loved me
I didn’t know where I went wrong
But as far as I know gave you my all.

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And gave me that smile
And now you’re gone
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Not to worry, I’ll be all right
I’ll make it through the day
but the minute tomorrow approach
I’ll have the courage to walk away.

Simula pagkabata’y hindi nabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mag-ama na maging malapit sa isa’t isa.

Lumaki siya ng limang taon sa pangangalaga ng kanyang pinakamamahal na lola dahil madalas ang pag-aaway ng kanyang mga magulang. May pagkakataon na pinagbubuhayan siya ng kamay ng kanyang ina.

Kahit na ganito ang kalagayan ng kanyang pamilya, nananatiling matatag si July sa kabila ng lahat ng pinagdaanan. Sa murang edad ay malawak na ang pananaw niya sa buhay. Ang mga pagsubok na dumating ay naging laban sa kanyang pagkatao’t karakter.
我喜欢的小动物

施少婷

中四甲组

我以前从没养过小动物，因为我怕它们咬我。

有一天，我和朋友们一起去公园玩。

突然，我看到了一只小狗，它正躺在草地上。我走过去，轻轻地拍了拍它的头。小狗朝我转过头来，吐着舌头，冲我摇尾巴。

我忍不住笑了起来，然后决定带它回家。小狗一路跟随着我，好像在说：“我就是你的新伙伴了！”

我给它取名叫“小宝”，并给它买了食物和玩具。小宝很快就成了我的好朋友。

有一次，我们一起去公园。小宝在草地上跑来跑去，开心极了。我也跟着它一起玩，感觉自己也年轻了许多。

现在，我明白了，原来养小动物并不难，反而可以让我感受到快乐和温暖。我也会继续照顾小宝，让它在我身边快乐地成长。

老师，谢谢您教我懂得了爱护小动物的重要。我会努力学习，将来成为一名有爱心的人。

谢谢您，老师！
时光荏苒，眼看又是一年毕业，今年毕业季，突然发现，当年参加完毕业典礼，取得毕业证，离开母校的日子，不知不觉已经过去了若干年。

在离开母校的时刻，回想起在母校的时光，心里充满了留恋之情。

母校的一砖一瓦，是那样亲切。母校的一草一木，是那样熟悉。

那熟悉的教室，熟悉的操场，熟悉的图书馆，熟悉的宿舍，一切都那样亲切。

时光荏苒，不经意间，岁月如梭。

虽然母校不再，但母校的回忆，却永远留在我们的心中。

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