

Empowering the next generation of storytellers: DepEd Agusan del Norte holds campus journalism tilt in Santiago

F.M. Dizon, F.D. Comandante

In an age where information is readily available at our fingertips, it is easy to take for granted the importance of journalistic integrity. However, for over 5,000 young writers who recently gathered in the Municipality of Santiago for the Agusan del Norte Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC), journalism is a critical tool for making a positive impact in society.

The conference, which was held on February 9-10, 2023, marked the first face-to-face DSPC in two years, after a long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the rainy weather, the excitement of the students could be felt as they competed in various individual and team categories.

"For many of the participants, the event was an opportunity to showcase their writing skills and compete against other talented young writers from different schools. However, the conference was more than just a competition - it was a celebration of the power of journalism to make a positive impact in society," said Education Supervisor and journalism coordinator Fe Dizon.

The theme of the conference, *"Pagpapahayag ng Pangkampus: Makabuluhang Sandata sa Pagsupil ng Suliraning Panlipunan at Kaakibat sa Pagbangon ng Sambayanan,"* emphasized the importance of accurate and responsible reporting in addressing social issues and contributing to the country's recovery.

As Agusan del Norte Representative Dale Corvera, the keynote speaker of the conference, noted in his speech, "journalism is a powerful tool that can shape public opinion. As campus journalists, you have the responsibility to report the truth and contribute to building a better society."

Corvera, who was also a campus journalist during his college days at Southwestern University, shared his own experiences and encouraged the young writers to build up the determination to arm themselves with the knowledge and skills to



From Left to Right. Jiva Javier, PSDS of Santiago, SB Nestor Monteclaro, SDS Lorenzo O. Macasocol, CESO VI, ASDS Love Emma B. Sudario, Richard A. Apresto, judge of Radio Broadcasting and TV Broadcasting and Jack Alingasa, judge in Photojournalism.

One of the speaker-judges Mike Ariel Plaza, a Communications educator from Butuan City, said that he looks forward to how the DSPC would inspire participants to pursue a career in journalism.

"I hope to be seeing more students whose eyes are open to the power of journalism to make a positive impact in society. I wish that this would instill in them the want and passion to become journalists so that they can help bring about change and tell the stories that matter," he added.

At the awarding ceremony, the overall winners were announced, with Magallanes National High School taking home the championship trophy for the secondary level, followed by Buenavista National High School in second place and Kitcharao National High School in third place. For the elementary level, the championship trophy went to Buenavista I District, with Magallanes District and North Kitcharao District taking second and third place, respectively.

"This event was not just a competition, but a testament to the power of journalism to inspire and educate the next generation. We are proud of all the participants and hope that they will continue to hone their craft and make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond," said ASDS Love Emma Sudario.

Indeed, as the participants returned to their respective schools and communities, they carried with them not only the skills and knowledge they gained from the conference but also a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to using journalism as a tool for positive change.

In a world where information is king, the role of journalism in shaping our society has never been more important, and these young writers are ready to take up the challenge.

DepEd-AgNor distributes ICT equipment to schools

Junel M. Anino



Teachers pose after receiving tablets for their learners.

As part of the Division of Agusan del Norte's Learning Recovery and Continuity Plan and its flagship program Abante AgNorte, the Division through the Learning Resource Management System Section headed by Junaline J. Mores, the OIC-LR Manager, who spearheaded the procurement and distribution ICT equipment such as television, tablets, printer and desktop computers with built-in learning resource database for teachers and learners' use during implementation of face-to-face learning. The project is funded through Basic Education- Learning Continuity Plan under Flexible Learning Options and Special Education Fund respectively.

In furtherance to the Division's goal to strengthen ICT integration in the delivery of basic education, a total of 930 televisions, 907 printers, 801 tablets and 540 external drives were equitably distributed to 22 Districts as the central drop-off points of the recipient schools. This ICT equipment will be used in the delivery of instruction as well as development and production of learning resources both print and non-print. The aforementioned ICT equipment are only additional to the previously procured tablets and printers used in printing modules and weekly learning activity sheets which are now available in schools.

Moreover, fourteen (14) desktop computers were also provided to select functional school libraries for use of student and teachers funded through Special Education Fund (SEF).

The Division of Agusan del Norte with the dynamic leadership of Dr. Lorenzo O. Macasocol, CESO VI,

ensures maximum utilization of the procured equipment by the end-users. School heads are directed to set guidelines on the use of the equipment and establish criteria in the selection of qualified recipient learners.

According to District Supervisors, this initiative was highly appreciated by learners, parents and teachers and they look forward to more project like this.

AgNor LRMS personnel advanced to the 4th NSWC Awarding and Recognition Rites

Junaline Mores

Since inception of the National Storybook Writing Competition (NSWC), the Learning Resource Management System Section of DepEd- Agusan del Norte has never been offtrack in producing winners in a highly coveted event for story book writers and illustrators of the Department of Education.

In this season, two (2) personnel from LRMS were invited to attend the prestigious awarding ceremony held in Tanza, Cavite last February 17-19, 2022. The Division LR Manager, Junaline Mores and Division Librarian, Junel M. Anino were awarded in the Grade 4 category – Grade 6 as top 5 finalist. Moreover, one (1) of the three (3) Division entries to the National for Category 1 also made up to the ReadEx. This means that their storybook was exhibited in the National awarding and be included in the National Treasury of Storybooks.

The LRMS office personnel has exerted tremendous efforts from conducting series of orientations, follow-ups as well as in the finalization and printing of the reading materials. Mrs. Junaline Mores, LR Manager, led the planning of activities as well as setting the calendar of activities to ensure timely submission of outputs to the region and to the national. Below are the strategies and activities conducted.

- Crafting of Division Memorandum for 4th NSWC
- Orientation and provision of TA to potential writers
- Develop timeline of activities
- Assign credible judges for Screening of Manuscripts
- Provide TA to the winning manuscripts
- Assign manuscripts to the Division finest illustrators
- Establish writer-illustrator collaboration
- Constant review and follow-up of outputs
- Facilitate the printing of Finalized Storybooks

With the strategies being implemented by the Office, 3 storybooks in Category 1 won the Regional Screening and consequently forwarded to the Central Office for National-level Judging.

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2023 DAM unites AgNor sports enthusiasts in Buenavista

Junel M. Anino



Sports development among youth has always been the target of the government to veer them from having bad habits and develop in them their potential in sports. One of the programs of the Department of Education that is geared to promote responsible sportsmanship and sports development among learners is “Palarong Pambansa”.

In preparation for that national sports competition, the Division conducted its Division Meet last March 12-15, 2023 at Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. The prime objective of the event is to select best athletes who will represent Agusan del Norte Athletic Association (ADELNAA) delegation in regional level sports competition.

This year's Division Meet is themed “*Instilling great values, creating opportunities and optimizing potentials through sports*” which underscores development of inner strengths for learners to be *Batang Matatag para sa Matatag na Bayan*.

The opening ceremony was well-attended by no less than the Provincial Gov. Hon. Maria Angelica Rosedell M. Amante, municipal mayors, sangguniang bayan members, schools' division of Agusan del Norte personnel headed by SDS Lorenzo O. Macasocol, athletes and coaches of 23 sports events. The opening program is highlighted by saludo contests and grand fireworks display.

The results of this year's DAM are the following:

Elementary Division:

Champion: Nasipit AA
1st Runner-up: Buenavista AA
2nd Runner-up: Las Nieves AA

Secondary Division:

Champion: Buenavista AA.
1st Runner-up: Nasipit AA
2nd Runner-up: Las Nieves AA

OVERALL:

Champion: Buenavista AA
1st Runner-up: Nasipit AA
2nd Runner-up: Las Nieves AA

Minor Awards:

Best in Saludo: Las Nieves AA
Best in Uniform: Santiago AA
Most Clean Quarter: Jabonga AA

During closing ceremony, the Provincial Governor Hon. Maria Angelica Rosedell M. Amante gave 100, 000 cash prize for each winning delegation of minor awards.

CID-LRMS trains Division Illustrators on digitization of LRs

Junaline J. Mores

Quality learning resources are indispensable tools to support instructional delivery. Developing and producing quality learning resources entails adherence to certain standards and guidelines set by Bureau of Learning Resources.

Last January 14, 2023, the Division of Agusan del Norte through the Learning Resource Management System (LRMS) Section, conducted training-workshop on Digitization of Learning Resources to Division Illustrators. The objectives of the activity are: (1) orient illustrators on the LR technical specifications; (2) capacitate illustrators on different digital software for drawing (3) develop and produce quality assured digitized storybooks. The activity was participated by twenty-seven (27) teachers and three (3) LRMS personnel.

Curriculum Implementation Division Chief, Dr. Rayfrocinia T. Abao, graced the opening ceremonies. In her message, she emphasized the value of digitized LRs as tools for learning. The activity forms part of the Division's drive to intensify ICT-integration in the delivery of instruction which is also one of the activities that supports the Flagship Program Abante Agusan del Norte. At the end of her message, she thanked the LR personnel for coming up with the activity which is highly relevant in the implementation of LR Recovery Plan.



CID-ALS initiates distribution of school supplies to learners

N.R. Verdon, M. Castillo

Reaching the most marginalized is one of the dimensions of the Basic Education-Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) of the Division of Agusan del Norte. This dimension highlights provision of relevant meaningful services to underserved groups.

In support to the realization of the Agusan del Norte's BE-LCP particularly on the aforementioned dimensions, the personnel from Alternative Learning System Section of the Curriculum Implementation Division traverse the road going to Lawan-lawan NHS in Lawan-lawan, Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte to distribute school supplies to learners. They were accompanied by Mrs. Bernadeth Moreno, PSDS of Buenavista IV, and Mr. Danilo Bajao, PSDS of Las Nieves III District some of the select teachers served as volunteers.

According to Nilo Verdon, the Division ALS Coordinator, this project will ripple to schools in far flung areas to somehow provide them their school necessities. Since, the mantra is "No Children Will be Left Behind", the office will continuously initiate activities that reach learners who are in low economic status and those who belong to marginalized groups.

Mr. Verdon also emphasized to the recipients that the government has many programs related poverty alleviations, conflict resolutions and others. He also made mention that the government can provide scholarship grants to deserving learners.

With the activity conducted, learners were immensely happy and were inspired to continue reaching their dreams and ambitions in life.



National Arts Month converges local talents

Rebecca T. Montante

The 2023 National Arts Month converges the local talents from 22 district of Agusan del Norte Division to vie for Pintahusay and Sineliksik competition held at Magallanes National High, Magallanes, Agusan del Norte, March 1, 2023.

This year's theme, "*Ani ng Sining, Bunga ng Galing*" the celebration aims to immerse Filipinos in diverse cultural expressions and celebrate the bountiful harvest from the Filipino imagination. It emphasizes the importance of arts and culture to national leadership (<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph>).

As stipulated in Presidential Proclamation No. 683, s. 1991 declared February of every year as National Arts Month to celebrate the artistic excellence and pay tribute to the uniqueness and diversity of the Filipino heritage and culture. The theme "galing" refers to excellence in the arts as both a source of bounty despite challenging times, and a product of the passion of Filipino artists and cultural workers. In celebrating National Arts Month in 2023, "galing" alludes to artistic excellence as well as underscoring the capacity of the arts to heal, rebuild, and restore in a post-pandemic setting.

The contest as part of the celebration highlights the Agusan del Norte Division local talents from 22 districts of both elementary and secondary

schools. The competition embodies artistic and intellectual expression of learners in the field of visual art, Pintahusay and learners' gift in the making of short videos for Sineliksik. The contest opens power of the mind. It brings delight and inspires creativity of learners.

The National Arts Month is an avenue of showcasing artistic talents of learners. Agusan del Norte Division is bestowed and gifted of local artists and talented learners.

According to the CID Chief as she conveys on her message during the Opening Program, she says that "there is only one best artist, of all the artists, truly there is only one...the only Maker of the Universe...our God". Indeed, arts and culture are something that we should really fan the flames throughout the years and for all the years to come," The concluding statement, of Dr. Rayfrocina T. Abao, as she closes her Opening Remarks.

The Champion for Pintahusay (Secondary) is student from Jagupit National High School of Santiago District while in (Elementary) is from Simbalan CES of Buenavista IV District. For Sineliksik, the Champion trophy is awarded to Durian National High School of Las Nieves 3 District.

Congratulations to all winners of this year's National Arts Month.

Celebrating excellence in education: Agusan del Norte division hosts 2nd regional expanded management committee conference

F.M. Dizon, G. Ando, A.G. Remonte

The halls of Water Gate Hotel in Butuan City were filled with excitement and anticipation as education leaders from twelve divisions of Department of Education (DepEd) Caraga Region gathered for the second Regional Expanded Management Committee Conference on February 20-21, 2023.

The event, hosted by the Agusan del Norte Division, was a resounding success; thanks to the meticulous planning of Superintendent Lorenzo Macasocol and his team.

"We need to plan everything," said Macasocol, reflecting on the attention to detail required to manage the guests, food, venue, and other aspects of the conference. Committees were carefully selected to ensure that all activities and tasks were completed with excellence, guaranteeing a memorable experience for all participants.

The conference was attended by all schools division superintendents, assistant schools division superintendents,

curriculum implementation division chiefs, and schools governance and operations division chiefs.

Regional Director Ma. Gemma Ledesma and Assistant Regional Director Atty. Fiel Almendra with all the chiefs of the functional divisions of the regional office also took part in the event.

In her message to the attendees, Agusan del Norte Governor Ma. Angelica Rosedell Amante shared a childhood memory of mispronouncing "stapler" as "istapler," emphasizing the vital role of teachers in shaping children's education.

During the breaks, the attendees had the opportunity to interact with each other, exchange ideas, and make new connections. The atmosphere was electric with enthusiasm as everyone was excited to learn from one another and work towards a common goal of improving education in the region.

After a day of insightful presentations and lively discussions, the attendees were treated to an evening of music and dance by the talented performers of Agusan del Norte through a socials night. The jovial atmosphere was further elevated by the presence of the Agusan Sounds, a group sponsored by Governor Amante.

The two-day conference culminated in messages of thanks and gratitude from participants who left with the desire to return to Agusan del Norte for more delightful experiences. The successful hosting of the Agusan del Norte Division was a testament to the commitment and hard work of Superintendent Macasocol and Assistant Superintendent Love Emma B. Sudario and their team.



The second Regional Expanded Management Committee Conference was not only an opportunity to share knowledge and best practices but also to showcase the warmth and hospitality of the people of Agusan del Norte. It was a gathering that highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and excellence in education, and the attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm for their work.

As Superintendent Macasocol aptly put it, "We need to plan everything, but we also need to work together and be open to new ideas and approaches. Only then can we achieve true excellence in education."



Pin it! Win it!

Grace Ann D. Bagcat



For story writer enthusiasts, an invitation to the 4th National Storybook Writing Competition (NSWC) Awarding serves as ticket and a step closer to their dream of becoming the champion story teller.

One of our Education Program Supervisors and LR Manager Mrs. Junaline J. Mores had already received her invitation to the NSWC Awarding. Everyone celebrated the said milestone, however, we are still hoping and rooting that one of our colleagues will make it to the national finals.

It was Friday afternoon of January 13, 2023, invitations were gradually sent to those top five entries per category in the 4th NSWC Awarding. To our dismay, one of our colleagues in the Curriculum Implementation Division, a dynamic and imaginative librarian hoped to be one of the top five, had missed to receive an invitation on that day after many times of checking his email. After losing hope and feeling down, he was surprise to have finally received the most awaited invite to the awarding of the 4th NSWC on the afternoon of January 14, 2023. A prestigious avenue celebrating the writer's prowess of imagination.

Before his story submission, I was privilege to read the manuscript. While reading the story, I imagine myself on the shoe of that young boy curiously asking his grandmother what that hole below the house is all about. I even imagine myself hiding in that hole myself when war broke out, because I myself also heard that story coming from the mouth of my grandmothers and grandfathers. The story he wrote was about "Paksol" or foxhole, where our fellow Filipino used to hide during World War for them to keep safe.

On the 18th of February 2023, the most awaited 4TH NSWC Awarding was held at Tanza, Cavite of which out of the five entries, two were coming from the Division of Agusan del Norte, Caraga Region. Indeed, that awarding placed the name of our librarian to the Hall of Fame of Storybook Writers. His story Paksol, out of many entries all over the country had awarded the Champion of the Category 4- Grade 6 Manuscript Writing of the NSWC.

On his speech during the awarding, he said that since inception of the 4th NSWC he wished to have a category for the Librarian, Project Development Officer, and Supervisor. Indeed, the Bureau of Learning resources had granted his wish. He also said that as librarian he hoped and wished to have more books to be included in the Learning Resources of our schools Para sa Bata, Para sa Bayan.

Kudos to our National Champ, our librarian- **JUNEL M. ANINO** for the job well done. Indeed, you pinned it and won it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Encouraging all teachers to write manuscripts of "Kuwento ng Bayan Ko" in preparation for 5th National Storybook Writing Competition 😊

- Junaline J. Mores

To all winning coaches of DSPC 2023, please start training your journalists for the upcoming RSPC. 😊

- Fe M. Dizon

Reminding all ALS implementers to prepare the participants for the upcoming Abante AgNorte Baranggayan comes April 28, 2023

- Nilo R. Verdon

All Math Enthusiasts are encouraged to take part on the International Day of Mathematics on March 14, 2023.

- Lilibeth S. Apat

Call for nomination for Bulawanong Sulo applicants. Deadline of Submission of documents shall be on March 24, 2023. Refer to DM 98 s., 2023

- Dr. Rayfrocina Abao

Contributors are welcome to join the SIDLAK Newsletter. Just email your article to: junel.anino@deped.gov.ph

- Editor-in-Chief