We, the editors and staff of The Ridge, commit ourselves to the highest level of professional journalistic ethics. We promote among our fellow students a love for noble ideals and a desire to overcome personal egoism.

We foster an awareness of social problems and encourage fraternity in keeping with the school’s family spirit. We love the truth thus we report with facts, without judging intentions, upholding the legitimate diversity of opinions in a calm way, without resorting to personal attacks. We seek the truth, love it and humbly tell it.

Editor-in-Chief
Josef Singson

Assistant Editor-in-Chief
Enrico Grio

Managing Editor
Joshua Vera

Contributors
Jake Cureg
Edward San Agustin
Leon Son
Gio Goseco
Sang Jeun Lee
Johnason Wei
Martin Consing
Carlos Villanueva
Sam Villaroman
Paolo Abalos
Onch Adizon
Joel Hernandez
Raffy Fermin
Raj Chua
Gian Balangue
Meeko Rustia
Gino Guevara
Enrico Grio

Photographers
Wilson dela Cruz
Martin Consing
Ryan Enriquez

Moderator
Benjie Fortunato

Design & Printing
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Southridge
Private School for Boys
Hillsborough Subdivision, West Service Road
City of Muntinlupa, Metro Manila
Telephone 843-0506 to 07, 807-7719 to 21
Fax 842-1454

BUILDING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, INFORMING MEN OF INTEGRITY

Readers will notice a new motto just under the masthead—the masthead is the title block identifying the paper on the upper part of the front page—and that motto reads “building the academic community, informing Men of Integrity.” This is the first time we’ve included it and this is to underline the role of The Ridge in the school, reminding us of who we are and telling you of what we should be doing. We hope that this will help reader’s critical eye in understanding the contents and appreciate the direction of our journalistic endeavors.

We’ve included a feature on the great undertaking Father’s Day 2013: I AM YOUR FATHER, The Year of Faith and a whole variety of curricular and co-curricular activities. We’re recommending for you to read the timely book and film reviews inside—like you we enjoy these worthwhile pleasures and their contribution to building the Southridge student as a Man of Integrity.

In the realm of sports left our basketball varsity placed second runner up in the APSAM competition and the juniors basketball team runners up in the PAYA league; our football varsity emerged as grand champions in the RIFA tournament. Also bringing prestige to the school was the Southridge Vocal Ensemble and The Podium, both did very well in numerous regional and national competitions.

With all the active and hands-on ways on which our academic community is built upon, balance is necessary for every Southridge Admiral. Though some might want to work under pressure—being a Man of Integrity includes planning and preparation. It is the deliberate continuous effort to improve and stretch beyond comfort zones that forms the foundation of success. Strictly speaking only Man can fail at his task and life project. Animals and plants, well, we can’t really apply the concepts of success and winning to them. Let’s practice the Southridge motto: Viriliter Agite!
Southridge Admirals places 3rd in APSAM Academic Race

Last February 21, 2013, the Association of Private School Administrators of Muntinlupa (APSAM) held the 2nd Annual APSAM Academic Race, a quiz bee style academic competition open to private schools in Muntinlupa. The Southridge contingent, composed of Ryan Jacob, Renz Salindong, Gian Balangue, Josh Vera, Enrico Grio, and Jake Cureg, led by Mr. Eugene Salazar, was selected to uphold the school’s reputation of academic excellence.

As it was Southridge’s first time to participate in this competition, the entire team was in the dark as to what to expect, considering that the competition covered several subjects, namely English, Filipino, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Armed with nothing but stock knowledge the team was taking a knife to the proverbial gunfight, but they were determined to win.

Come competition day itself, Southridge started strong, putting in top marks for every subject and beating eleven other schools for a first place finish in the preliminary round. Having secured a spot in the finals against the two Montessoris and PAREF SOUTHRIDGE, it seemed like victory would be within easy reach. They breezed through English and Social Studies, and thought that it was practically in the bag. However, the next subject was Filipino, not exactly one of their strong points. And sure enough, they got decimated, ending up in last place for the subject. Brought back to the reality that the competition was far from over, the Southridge Admirals turned serious and vowed to do better in the remaining subjects, Math and Science. However, they continued to be overwhelmed by all the questions and sheer time pressure, and thus ended up in the middle of the pack in both subjects.

After the last question was answered, the judges gave announced a short break before announcing the winners. Feeling dejected at their downfall, they packed up and made ready to leave, convinced that they had lost. Unexpectedly, a judge ran up to the mike and exclaimed, “Wait! The winners have not yet been determined! There is a three-way tie for first place between the two Montessoris and... PAREF SOUTHRIDGE!” Apparently, their top scores in English and Social Studies were enough to put them at par with the leaders. Suddenly, the entire team started shouting and jumping around, struggling to contain the joy of being given one last chance at victory.

After being told to calm down by the judges, the Admirals prepared for the tiebreaker: Sudden Death. Just one question per subject, and getting a question wrong meant that the team would be eliminated. It would go on like this until only one team was left standing.

Question after question came, each one answered correctly by all three teams, none wanting to relinquish victory. It seemed like it would go on forever until, finally, the very last question the judges. And it was at this very last moment that they slipped up, miscalculating and choosing the wrong answer. Just like that, they were eliminated, ending up in third place. Despite this, cries of victory echoed out from the Southridge camp, everyone proud of what they had achieved. The Southridge Admirals went in blind, yet came within inches of victory. That day, they may have walked home with medals made of bronze, but after all they had been through, those might as well be gold.
For the first time in Southridge history, Spirit week was introduced to hype up the students for the 2013 Father's Day celebration. First of all, many of you may look at the two words and wonder what it exactly is. Spirit week started during the year 1952 where it was called Friendship Week. The primary goal of Friendship Week was to welcome students and to maintain a friendly environment. During the 1970s, Friendship Week was renamed to Spirit Week and the concept of dressing up for the different days was established. Now, Spirit week is celebrated among all American schools including International Schools here in the Philippines.

The first day of Spirit Week was Dress like your Dad day. Typically the students came in loafers, slacks, and a polo shirt. Some students came in suits but a couple of others raised the bar by dressing up as an ABS-CBN reporter and another one in a nurse/care giver outfit. The second day saw students dressed in their Future/Dream Jobs. Amusing costumes included a soutane – wanting to be a priest – and a manual laborer/carpenter. At this point everyone had gotten into the spirit, including the teachers who had initially seemed skeptical.

Fictional Character Day had the best impact as students came in different wacky and exquisite costumes. Javert and a young French revolutionary from Les Miserables walked in the corridors, the complete set of Teletubies attracted admiration, and characters from The Simpsons drew stares of envy. Day Four was Twin Day. The teachers saw the unlikely twins and scratched their heads in amused disbelief at their students’ creativity and chutzpah. The fifth and final day was House Colors Day which is the most important theme throughout the whole week because this theme commemorated the school spirit so everyone dressed up in their favourite shades of green, Helm House and blue, Vinta House.

Looking back some of my friends actually said, “Spirit Week? How was that even approved?” What was an unlikely activity made a mark in Southridge history and I’m sure the future batches will want to continue what our batch started. We proved the saying – Hey, it’s more fun in PAREF Southridge!

Spirit week started during the year 1952 where it was called Friendship Week. The primary goal of Friendship Week was to welcome students and to maintain a friendly environment. During the 1970s, Friendship Week was renamed to Spirit Week and the concept of dressing up for the different days was established. Now, Spirit week is celebrated among all American schools including International Schools here in the Philippines.
After a few years of hiatus, the Southridge High School Christmas Play triumphantly returned on December 20, 2012. Produced by Martin Consing, directed by Claudio Lopa and Gio Goseco, and written by Jairus Paul, the play starred Franklin Stewart as Mr. Hopkins, a grinch like character who takes over Santa Claus duties. The clever script made use of various characters from different Plautus play and melded them all into a coherent story.

The redemption of the main character reveals his motivation for hating Christmas—it’s also is birthday but no one seemed to know or care! Suddenly, the whole cast appears, greeting him a happy birthday. Santa then explains that no one ever forgot his birthday; it is just that Mr. Hopkins seemed so unsociable that the rest of the polar citizens were afraid of approaching him. Mr. Hopkins learned his lesson and everyone cheers to a happy ending.

Fourteen days of grueling rehearsals and logistics brought joy and reinforced the Christmas spirit in the Southridge community. Unsuitably titled, Not Another Christmas Play, the Senior classes’ dramedy was received with glee and applause. They had successfully brought back the beloved Christmas Play.
An interview with Mr. Antonio “Chito” Flores

SANG JEUN LEE

On the occasion of his 60th birthday, The Ridge sat down with Mr. Chito Flores and Mr. Nonong Sese. The following are excerpts from the candid and revealing interview.

How did you become a teacher?

Even before coming to Southridge, I was already teaching Catechism to some kids from the public schools in urban poor areas. I also mentoring some high school students, including some Southridge guys. Thus the task of being an educator preceded my formal teaching career. I never thought I’d be a teacher because I was then quite happy working for Philippine Air Lines.

But why did you decide to teach in Southridge?

As hinted earlier, it wasn’t part of plans—growing up I wanted to be a best instrument to achieve a perfect gentleman ready to face the world to contribute.

Why did you decide to teach in Southridge?

Mr. Nonong Sese

When was the first time you taught students?

I started teaching in 1975 a year after graduation in University of Santo Tomas (UST) where I finished AB Philosophy and through the years I took units in graduate school, MA in Religious education, again at the UST. Here in SR I started if I’m not mistaken in 1994. I taught Philosophy and eventually taught Religion, up to the present day. All in all I will complete my 19th year in SR at the end of this school year.

How was your whole SR experience?

It was challenging. It required great adjustment since high school students are very different from college students. In college you meet your students only during class hours. In Southridge you are with your students every day. But looking back at those 19 years of teaching in SR I was able to adjust to the system and the environment. I was here also that I experienced a great challenge to my FAITH as a Catholic and Christian. (and I still do today). There were and there are still many problems but these only serve as a catalyst to deepen my religious experience.

What will you do after you retire from Southridge?

There are actually no definite plans yet. If given the chance to continue my services here I will continue teaching as a consultant. Anyway after almost 37 years of teaching I think it is time to give my family quality time and do some other things that would make me happy like writing a book or even buy a small parcel of land where I can do some gardening or farming. That is, if my health permits it. I also want to do some travelling (if I win the LOTTO) haha!

Do you have anything to say to your students as a religion teacher and a mentor?

Value your education. Your education here is the foundation of a fulfilling career, something you will see four or five years after you leave.

Be thankful to your Parents and Teachers. Listen to their wisdom and experience. They have been there and they know better.

Exercise your personal freedom responsibly. Remember that you are not the only one affected whenever you do good or bad things.

Live as though God is always at your side.

Surely, you would have choices to teach in other schools. What made you decide to teach in SR?

I believed in the Philosophy of Education of Southridge its vision and mission. It becomes more challenging to be involved in education and formation of souls and personalities of well-to-do children. Southridge has all the potential to give holistic education needed by her students. The School-Home collaboration is the best instrument to achieve a perfect gentleman ready to face the world to contribute to the improvement of society at large.
The Southridge Choir – composed of a mix of Day School and Afternoon School Southridge students, established in 2010 and conducted by the talented, Mr. Adrian Bagayaua, made its debut performance in the first 3rd Year PQF of 2010. Though not being able to impress the audience right away, the choir sets its goals high and continued to prepare for its new future following the very famous motto: “We don’t stop when we’re tired, we stop when we’re done”.

For three years now the Southridge Vocal Ensemble (SVE) has been representing PAREF Southridge School in various out of school performances and competitions such as the “Musikapella” and “Voices in Harmony” choral competitions, two of the more prestigious choral competitions in Metro Manila. Facing tough competitors such as the Woodrose Choral and BosChoral, an underdog and newbie choral group such as the SVE wouldn’t be expected to land top fifteen in such a huge competition but under the leadership of Mr. Bagayaua and with the help of each year’s Choir Commander, the SVE was able to place twelfth place in its first “Musikapella” competition (2010) and in 2012, placed sixth. Moreover they won 2nd in the SM Christmas Choral Competition held in SM Bicutan. For that they received a karaoke machine, and P10,000 in gift certificates.

When the choir doesn’t practice to compete, they practice to serve. Aside from being a competing choir, the SVE lends their angelic voices and talent to the First Friday Masses held in Southridge, offering each opportunity to praise our Lord. During the Advent season, the choir practices Christmas carols that they also share outside the Southridge community. The choir heads to places like as St. Luke’s Hospital, Enchanted Kingdom, SM Malls, Vivere Hotel, and Acacia Hotel, singing in the various lobbies and spreading Christmas cheer.

To the public, the SVE is known for its talent, comedic-styled song choice and performances, and “gwapo” members. What the audience sees in a performance is a result of hard work and practice. During the lunch break, the SVE gathers up in the small choir room to vocalize and practice pieces. This compensates for the lack of afternoon practices that the choir has agreed not to have due to the mix up of schedules with the Afternoon School students and Day School students. Aside from the daily lunch practices, Saturday morning practices are required from each of the members so that they are able to maximize their practicing time.

As a core member of the SVE being part of the choir since it was established and as the present day Choir Commander, I’ve experienced some hard times and really good times in choir. There were some days when I’d just think to myself “Is it really worth it?” All of the work, effort, practice, and sacrifice placed into perfecting a piece only to get scolded at the end of the practice schedule. Some of the greatest members to have contributed to the choir have fallen due to this. Is all of this—The limelight, the performing, the sense of satisfaction, the passion, the Southridge name—worth it? The school year’s about to end, for me my last, and I’m happy to say that I’ve never regretted, in my three years of being a part of the SVE surrounded by the best group of fun, awesome, and talented people, joining the choir.
As we are about to finally close the curtains on a truly memorable school year, one last chapter remains to be written – a chapter that ultimately culminated the year-long war between the Houses of Helm and Vinta, a chapter that celebrated gratitude to our very own fathers, a chapter that holds the Southridge banner up high, a chapter otherwise known as Fathers Day.

Fathers Day is the annual school fair organized by members of the High School Student Council and the Graduating Batch. Held this year on February 2, 2013, Fathers Day proved to be a very successful event as the entire Southridge family composed of families, teachers, alumni and staff all participated for their respective houses in this year’s theme and sports games.

At the start of the school year there is excited speculation as to what would be the year’s Fathers Day theme. In years past, Southridge ventured into the cultures of distinct countries, championing Japan, China, Greece and even, South Africa which hosted the World Cup – all these have been inspirations for annual Fathers Day.

More recently however, since coining the Admirals name, Southridge used the backdrops of the seven seas in the Day of the D’Admiral, and also utilized the scenery of warfare in last year’s very own Operation D’day.

This year’s Student Council selected Star Wars as the corresponding theme because of the oft quoted Darth Vader statement “I am your father!” They felt that such an ideal both filial piety and competitiveness, and so “I Am Your Father” was born.

In the weeks leading up to February 2, the entire Student Council along with respective members of each committee worked tirelessly for the success of Fathers Day, organizing the program schedule, logistics and also contacted potential sponsors for the said event.

Similarly, the Senior batch with the assistance of the Juniors decorated the entire school in order to fully create the futuristic feel necessary for the theme’s pathos. In the days leading to the event, students slept over in-campus to decorate the school with lights and 3D replicas of famous characters. They even had the Death Star at the corner of the football field and a couple of X-Wing fighter ships.
As the stage preparations began to finish, as the food concessionaires began to enter and set shop, and as the decorations finally came to a close, Fathers Day looked to be ready for the public. Families began lining up and entered the campus on that breezy Saturday to attend the 8:00 AM Holy Mass and then waited for the annual morning parade at 10:00 AM. Helm Captain James Greenheart and Vinta Captain Charles Bluebeard marched into the fields to represent their respective houses and batches in the heat of the new day. Fr. Frank Aniban, School Chaplain, led the Opening Prayers and Mr. Joey Magatona, Executive Director, welcomed the crowd of families, friends, and students.

Helm and Vinta gathered to begin the traditional tug of war that went down to the wire and was finally won by the Vinta fathers. The Jabba the Hut dog eating contest and Chewbacca penalty shootout were held in the covered courts to great acclaim. Families and students alike were treated to a variety of food and non-food booths throughout the campus with the famous ones being the inflatables located by the field, the duel of the fates jousting booth by the sand court and the horror booth in the main lobby. In the covered courts too were the matches between varsity and alumni in basketball and futsal.

Student bands displayed their singing talents on the great stage. A surprise performance by Razorback brought the crowd and audience to their feet.

The true highlight of Fathers Day however came as soon as the sun had set, the Fathers Day night parade. Each batch presented a skit and dance given the sci-fi themes assigned to them. The panel of judges awarded the Grade 3, Grade 6, and Year IV levels as the best in both costume and dance, a fitting climax in a competition showcasing the innovations of the Southridge Admiral.

At 7:00 PM, the organizing committee declared Vinta as the overall winner for Fathers Day 2013 based on games won, attendance, and points garnered. was soon culminated by the announcement of the winner between Helm and Vinta. From there the fiery performances of Twin Lobster, Pitik, and Kiwan punctuated the night air and made it all a truly memorable day. And we’re more than certain that the next one will only get better. Cheers!
The Robotics Club

Though the Robotics Club was established four years ago, it had largely been inactive for the last two years. Under the Mr. Sylv Amorsolo, this year the Robotics Club worked on significant projects for and under the school’s banner. When the HS Student Council stressed on the importance of clubs and extracurricular activities back in June 2012, a number of students thought it would be a good time to revive the defunct Robotics Club.

Over the summer break of 2012, a few of my batch mates and I had been invited to attend seminars about robotic Engineering. These seminars were to teach us programming and other basic elements of the field. Unfortunately, none of us had been engaged in similar activities for a maximum of eight inches in width, length, and height. The robot should be as striker or goalkeeper in a miniature football game. The specifications allowed a few select members were challenged to the public. This project was very successful and caught a lot of attention from the public.

The Robotics club offers to teach students engineering in a more basic form. It deals with understanding the process of how things work and how things are made, specifically how machinery and robotics work. It might have felt like I had started the year skydiving into the field and science of robotics, an adventure to which I was ill-prepared. At the end of it all, I’m leaving with a whole arsenal of knowledge of basic engineering. If you are interested in knowing how machines works and how to create things like a remote controlled door opener for the “lazy ones”, for the interested, for hopeful future engineers—Robotics Club is for you.

Roe vs. Wade Revived

On January 22, 1973, Norma McCorvey was successful in her campaign to abolish the anti-abortion laws in Texas. Through the course of the next three decades, many other States started to open up debates that concluded in similar outcomes. Her simple problem carried on to change the perspectives and actions related to abortion in the majority of the United States.

Fast forward to 1998. Norma was sitting outside the operating room of the abortion clinic she worked at when her eyes came upon a fetal development poster. She stared at the fetus, with its small feet and perfect eyes, and had a sudden realization that that fetus is in fact human. She confessed, “I felt crushed” under the truth of this realization, I had to face up to the awful reality. Abortion wasn’t about ‘products of conception.’ It wasn’t about ‘missed periods.’ It was about children being killed in their mother’s wombs. All those years I was wrong. Signing that affidavit, I was wrong. Working in an abortion clinic, I was wrong. No more of this first trimester, second trimester, third trimester stuff. Abortion—at any point—was wrong. It was so clear. Painfully clear.”

Norma McCorvey is now a 100% Pro-Life baptized Catholic who has dedicated the rest of her life to overturning her Roe vs. Wade case. It may seem impossible, but I guess her conscience got to her to the point that she could not just stand by and watch as innocent, defenseless infants are killed.

It is a basic principle that the members of a society are the ones responsible for confronting and fixing their society’s problems. Because of this, I think it is important for us students here in Southbridge to at least have a basic idea about landmark cases such as Roe vs. Wade, and form our personal thinking regarding issues that flow out of such cases.

I believe that we will Filipinos will face this and other related issues sooner than later. The passage of the RH Law last December 28, 2012 on the Feast of the Holy Innocents preage the proposals to make abortion on demand available in our country. What’s important for now is our awareness that there are landmark cases from the past that can influence our society’s own path to our future, and that of our children.

Let us challenge ourselves to understand these issues, and prepare to make a stand. To make a stand, we first need to think and to understand. Think about it: widespread abortion on demand has actually a very short history, just forty years. Together we can spend the next forty years to overturn it and protect the life of the unborn children.
PNoy’s Report Card

President Benigno Aquino III has been running the country for almost three years now. He has faced a variety of issues from endemic corruption to the implementation of the K-12 system. He has negotiated with the MILF and even gave a P1,000,000 loan to Greece. Despite all these achievements people have continued “noyoning,” a manufactured term describing his lazy efforts in office.

During his first SONA, PNoy made two promises, the first, to reduce corruption and the second, to boost the growth of the Philippine economy. On these fronts he has run after tax evaders, investigated anomalous expenditures and prosecuted cases against officials associated with the Macapagal administration. He has let investigations into the usage of calamity funds and the alleged over-importation of rice, a sad affair that has led to reports of rotting rice in government warehouses.

Many of these cases have not been fully resolved so it’s difficult to tel whether his crusade has been successful. There are other issues that need urgent attention such as the Sabah claim of the Datuk of Sulu and tax evasion of big businessmen.

His promise of setting up a Truth Commission fell on deaf ears as the Supreme Court dismissed it as unconstitutional. Yet inspire of all these economic growth in the past three years is undeniably palpable. Whether or not this is due to PNoy is a debatable issue but many credit the President for the country’s economic rise.

Whether or not this is due to PNoy is a debatable issue but many credit the President for the country’s economic rise. In 2010 the GDP growth rate was around 7.63%, higher than any growth percentile since 1980, and although the following year the growth was only 3.72%, the current administration still seems to average a growth of 5.98% which is commendably positive, given that the highest registered growth of the country occurred way back in 1988 at 6.75%. The exchange value, the loan to Greece and the development of new venues for tourism bode well for PNoy’s promises.

His support for the RH Law has qualified him as an anti-Life advocate and many are wondering if he will extend the same support for abortion, divorce, and same-sex marriage, following the trend of a hedonistic culture.

This writer has mixed opinions about PNoy’s ability to lead the country successfully and yet, as the 2013 election looms and he serves the remaining years in his term, I ask: Who will lead us next?

Deep Trouble in Tubbataha Reef

At 2:25 AM on January 17, 2013, USS Guardian, a minesweeper of the U.S. Navy, ran aground on the Tubbataha Reef. The ship was transitng the Sulu Sea after it came from a port visit in Subic Bay, Zambales. In a little while hazardous materials such as oil and waste water began to leak from the damaged vessel.

The grounding affects the UNESCO world heritage site in two detrimental important dimensions: negative environmental impact and adverse tourism access.

More than a thousand marine species inhabit the reef; a good many are found in the endangered species list. Colorful coral walls cover more than two-thirds of the area and the waters around popular among sports divers. At least four thousand square meters of coral reef have been damaged during the collision of the ship onto the atoll.

Access to the reef is limited to a small three months window in the summer for divers to enjoy and study the area during the rest of the year. The grounding therefore also affects the tourist influx and livelihood of Filipinos in the neighboring islands.

The callous treatment before and after the incident continues to illustrate the US view of our national sovereignty. Reports have surfaced that Tubbataha Reef Marine Rangers had contacted the ship before the grounding and warned that it had entered protected waters. The lack of a proper response from the other side resulted to this sad event.

The US government has promised to pay for the damages, but it still cannot offer an explanation why its ship was sailing on prohibited territory. Also, the captain and crew of the ship were whisked away to Saelo, Japan after the grounding to avoid legal responsibility from the Philippine government.

By not following these protection laws, the crew disregarded the country’s sovereignty over its own waters. It disregarded the right of the country to its territory. If these people could disrespect the rights of a whole country, then what else is stopping them from disrespecting the rights of the citizens of the Philippines? Who now can protect us?

The Philippines now has every right to demand the ship to be taken out of the reef immediately. If the United States is truly the protector of human rights then it might as well consider respecting the rights of a country, a whole body of people. The Filipino people deserve an apology, though it did not physically affect them, their sense of security back. The Filipino people deserve to have their rights protected just like every other citizen of any country.

Praying for the Pope

On February 11, 2013 Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation as Supreme Pastor of the Roman Catholic Church effective at 8:00 PM, February 28, 2013. He cited “advanced age” as the basis for such a decision given that one must have strength in both mind and body to lead his great flock. Benedict called his choice “a decision of great importance for the life of the church.” He also said that he would still be serving the Holy Church of God through a life of dedicated prayer.

The 265th successor of St. Peter, Vicar of Christ, shocked a world accustomed to popes who held onto their positions until death overtook them. He is the first Pope to step down since Pope Gregory XII, who resigned in 1415, almost 600 years ago.

We must continue praying for Benedict XVI, keeping in mind what he has done for the Catholic Church. We fondly remember that he canonized the second Filipino saint, St. Pedro Calungsod and he proclaimed the Year of Faith that we now live. Though some people may think that his resignation was out of selfishness, I think that his decision of resigning as Pope was out of humility because he knew he was incapable of heading the Church.

Cardinals from the different parts of the world are now in Rome to elect the successor of Benedict XVI. A Vatican spokesman announced that the new Pope could be in place before March 15.

We must also pray for the new succeeding Pope, whoever he may be. Let us pray for a Pope who can guide us, a Pope who can continue the dialogue with our separated Christian brothers, the reforms begun by John Paul II and continued by Benedict XVI, and the enriching deposit of Faith brought by Benedict XVI himself. As for me I am sure that whoever he will be the new Pope will have been chosen by the Holy Spirit to lead the Church in this modern era.
Passion withstands Adversity

The rush of adrenaline invigorates your senses immediately after scoring a basket for your team. Next thing you know, bodies fly through all directions, scurrying to get a hold of their man, set up their defense, and get ready for the counter-attack. Time slows down as if you’re in your own world, with your eyes glued to the deceiving ball-handling of your man with the orange. The relentless onslaught of both teams going at it doesn’t stop, leaving you continuously perceiving and gauging for your breath while keeping up with your man. Exhausted, bruised from the physicality, and your feet burnt out, you continue until the final buzzer goes off. This is the game of Basketball.

I believe the challenge of breaking the defense with set plays employed by your coach and finding enough space to have opportunities to score is very interesting, especially for the competitively-driven individual. The NBA had a big imprint on my childhood. I’m proud to say that I am a big basketball enthusiast and not half bad playing the game to begin with. The intensity of the in-game situations got me so hooked into the competitively-driven individual. The NBA had a big imprint on my childhood. Early July, it was the last set of tryouts; I felt pretty good going into the practice.

When the school year had started, all the seniors were cut from the Football team all wanted to win a trophy and we had all agreed that we would do our very best to achieve this goal. With only 7 seniors left in the Football team we knew that it would be a very enduring task to accomplish but we still went on.

The year that I sat out was momentous. It was a blessing in disguise with lessons to be learned. The rush of adrenaline invigorates your senses immediately after scoring a basket for your team. Next thing you know, bodies fly through all directions, scurrying to get a hold of their man, set up their defense, and get ready for the counter-attack. Time slows down as if you’re in your own world, with your eyes glued to the deceiving ball-handling of your man with the orange. The relentless onslaught of both teams going at it doesn’t stop, leaving you continuously perceiving and gauging for your breath while keeping up with your man. Exhausted, bruised from the physicality, and your feet burnt out, you continue until the final buzzer goes off. This is the game of Basketball.

1 The 1st Phase of RIFA was marred by a terrible run of losses and poor performances which saw the team not even qualify for the final four of the league. Having realized the lack of players in the team was a major problem, Coach Nolan had decided to add players from the younger age groups in order to have more options of players to choose from during games.

2 The 2nd Phase of RIFA was also not exactly the best set of performances that the Candidates Football team could have done having a record of one win, four draws, and one loss. This would total to an amount of 7 points out of six games and it came as a huge shock when Coach Nolan had attended the RIFA meeting and he was informed that the Candidates team had made it into the semi-finals having gathered enough points.

3 The RIFA meeting and he was informed that the Candidates team had made it into the semi-finals having gathered enough points. Our semi-final game was against Clarlet, who beat us 2-0, and we all knew that they were the best in our division. Luckily after 90 minutes of pushing ourselves, we won 4-0 leading us to progress into the finals of RIFA after not having been in a final in a long time.

4 The finals was against Xavier who would prove to be one of the most memorable games in the history of Southridge since it was intense all throughout the game with both sides of supporters cheering their teams on. At 29 minutes into the game, Southridge was awarded with a penalty which was placed perfectly by Nino Herrera to give a 1-0 advantage over Xavier. The rest of the game was quiet until the Xavier had equalized the game with just 2 minutes left in the game from a free-kick taken by Kiko Plaza which found Rocky Plaza at the far end who had coolly volleyed the ball to the bottom right-hand corner of the net. The game was immediately brought to penalties to decide who would win and take the glorious trophy back home. Xavier had chosen to kick first and had missed after converted three penalties straight whereas Southridge had converted every single penalty they had taken. With Xavier one penalty missed, their last kick taken proved to be the decisive moment of how would win. As the ball was struck, Joppy Piedad dove to his left-hand side having anticipated where the player would kick it and stopped the ball from going in.

5 After several years of being in the finals of RIFA, we had finally won a trophy which we worked hard for by completely turning our poor performances at the start of the year to one of the most unforgettable matches Southridge has ever had. It was also an amazing experience playing with every single player in the Candidates Football team and I hope that they continue to strive to excellence with the years to come.
Dear Editor,

As a soon-to-be alumnus, what marvels me most about Southridge is how versatile the School has always been. We participate in so many activities in and out of campus, whether they be the tournaments, outreach projects, feast day celebrations, and student seminars. It’s nice to see how The Ridge always keep us reminded of the endless efforts Southridge shares with her students and contributes to the community outside the school setting.

My hope is for The Ridge to continue doing its job and inform us when we leave in April 2013. Aside from putting the downloadable pdf file online, can you come up with an E-Ridge? In any case The Ridge makes it easier to appreciate what we have and contemplate what we experienced. So props to The Ridge for a well done!

Homer T. Almelor

Dear Editor,

First things first, I would like to congratulate you on another successful edition of our school paper, the Ridge. In your most recent issue, you highlighted “The Spirit of Volunteerism.” This was an interesting perspective on what we experience during typhoons and other calamities. Like what you said I also experienced went online, checking Facebook and Twitter to see not only if classes were suspended but also to know how, where, and when to help. I believe that your description is spot on with what really happened.

As I was reading the article, I felt that Volunteerism was one virtue I would love to have and develop. I felt inspired and as you have said, it shouldn’t just be something that occurs in times of disaster, but we should move to help prevent catastrophes from happening in the first place.

Though volunteerism will be more effective when people come together as a group, it has to start with one person and one decision. A student can make a difference and start to change the world and improve its surroundings. Then as a community, we can work together to make this one person’s goal a reality.

Volunteerism was a key factor in making this year’s Father’s Day quite successful. About two-thirds of the high school stepped up to the occasion. Year V students worked overtime to decorate the Main Building; Year IV classes knelt on the floors to stick foot prints of the various Star Wars characters, and Year III students set up chairs and tables in the field. As the school worked together, we made volunteerism a reality.

At this point I’m thinking of March 23, 2013 – the annual Earthday. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

With this spirit of volunteerism, we can change the Earth and make it a better place.

With this spirit of volunteerism, we can change the Earth and make it a better place.

Nikko Alquiros

Dear Editor,

The Spirit of Volunteerism has definitely touched every Southridge student’s heart. From the last edition: “Spirit of Volunteerism”, the Southridge students have been readily handing themselves out as volunteers to help anyone or group who is in need.

The common assistance given to the affected is what we usually see in people when we see and know that there are people who are in need of assistance, normally form natural disasters. But the average Southridge student has acted on more occasions other than these types of natural disasters that have wrecked havoc among these pitiful people.

This year, we have seen students represent the school against the recent RH Bill in a congress, supporting and fighting hard for the bill not to be passed. Along with Woodrose, many other people have come all the way to the House of Representatives just to support the anti-RH Bill movement.

Along with many other events, Southridge holds its own events as well, and this means more work for the students. There is no other level of work that we can see from the Admirals when it comes to helping out the school in its large scale events. From the Admirals Fun Run to Father’s Day, students have sprung up, volunteered and have been invited to be part of such prestigious groups in High School to assist and make possible many of Southridge’s events. The recent Father’s Day has really brought the students to a charge of hard work as they pass everyday with phone calls, reservations, designs, and so much more, while still having time for their academics.

Ryan Enriquez

If it hasn’t been stated already, The Spirit of Volunteerism is truly shared among the whole Southridge community. In many traditions of Southridge, this not only has been born from the start, but it has grown into a tree of Admirals shedding fruits of charity to anything that comes our way.

Dear Editor,

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Across


2. “The entire Christian life is a response to God’s love for us.” — Benedict XVI

3. The four authentic accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which the Church teaches have been divinely inspired.

4. A general term for ecclesiastical gatherings under hierarchical authority, for the discussion and decision of matters relating to faith, morals, or discipline.

5. It is the official public worship of the Church and is thus distinguished from private devotion.

6. A sensible sign, instituted by Jesus Christ, by which invisible grace and inward sanctification are communicated to the soul.

7. The apostolic letter of the pope declaring the year of faith.

8. The month the year of faith started.

9. “As a gift and response, causes us to know the truth of Christ as Love incarnate and crucified, as full and perfect obedience to the Father’s will and infinite divine mercy towards neighbour.” — Benedict XVI

10. The year of faith started.


12. A successor of the Apostles who has received the fullness of Christ’s priesthood.

13. In the New Testament the word describes any follower of Jesus teaching (Matthew 10:1).

14. “The first day of the Year of Faith, is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.”

15. “The year of faith, is also the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.”

16. “The year of faith, is also the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.”

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Down

1. He is the pope who announced a Year of Faith in 1967 commemorating the 19th century of the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul.

2. The four authentic accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which the Church teaches have been divinely inspired.

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Ryan Enriquez
Southridge Commemoration of the Year of Faith

Living Rosary

This particular event in Southridge is to be taken literally. Every prayer in the rosary was marked by a group of light bulbs strategically positioned in the Football field forming a large complete Rosary. Every mystery was introduced by a short video (taken if I’m not mistaken from the film: “The Passion of Christ”) and a short introduction before the prayers commenced.

Corpus Christi

Larín for Body of Christ, Corpus Christi is a school-wide event celebrated every year with the the students preparing a floral carpet that goes to 4 different locations throughout the school where the Holy Eucharist is honored with almost the same set of prayers that are used in a benediction. This Holy event is one of Southridge’s most valued traditions.

Advent and Lent Recollection

Though mandatory for Freshmen and Sophomores, the two recollections are open to all who wish to attend. The Advent and Lent recollections are a series of meditations and talks which aims to give students a better awareness and appreciation of the season that the Catholic Church is commemorating at present. Advent, the spirit of giving and the birth of Christ. Lent, the spirit of sacrifice (namely fasting and abstinence) and remembering the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Marian Concert

A Marian concert was actually a contest in which a student or group of students submitted and performed an original song that showed their praise and devotion to Our Lady. It is possibly the first of its kind ever done in Southridge.

Requiem Mass.

A special Mass that was offered for the eternal repose of deceased members of the Southridge Family (parents, teachers, students, staff, etc.)

YEAR OF FAITH

1. What is the Year of Faith?

At certain times in the history of the Church, popes have called upon the faithful to dedicate themselves to deepening their understanding of a particular aspect of the faith. In 1967, Pope Paul VI announced a Year of Faith commemorating the 19th centenary of the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul. The 1967 Year of Faith called upon the Church to recall the supreme act of witness by these two saints so that their martyrdom might inspire the present day Church to collectively and individually make a witness by these two saints so that their martyrdom might inspire the present day Church to collectively and individually make a witness by these two saints so that their martyrdom might inspire the present day Church to collectively and individually make a witness by these two saints so that their martyrdom might inspire the present day Church to collectively and individually make a witness by these two saints so that their martyrdom might inspire.

2. Why is the Year of Faith this year?

With his Apostolic Letter of October 11, 2011, Porta fidei, Pope Benedict XVI declared that the Year of Faith will begin on October 11, 2012 and conclude on November 24, 2013. October 11, the first day of the Year of Faith, is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) and also the twelfth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. During the Year of Faith, Catholics are asked to study and reflect on the documents of Vatican II and the catechism so that they may deepen their knowledge of the faith.

3. How does the Year of Faith affect the average Catholic?

Every baptized Catholic is called through baptism to be a disciple of Christ and proclaim the Gospel. The Year of Faith is an opportunity for each and every Catholic to renew their baptismal call by living out the everyday moments of their lives with faith, hope and love. This everyday witness is necessary for proclaiming the Gospel to family, friends, neighbors and society. In order to witness to the Gospel, Catholics must be strengthened through celebrating weekly Sunday Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pastors are encouraged to provide their parishioners with opportunities to deepen their faith during the Year of Faith through retreats, special liturgies, Bible studies, service opportunities and formation sessions on the catechism and sacraments.

4. What are some key resources for the Year of Faith?

Catholics wishing to deepen their faith during the Year of Faith should start by exploring the Evangelization and Catechesis section of the USCCB website. Numerous catechetical resources, prayers and other resources have been prepared for the Year of Faith and the New Evangelization that can be viewed and downloaded for free. Catholics should also consider studying the documents of Vatican II and the catechism. Another resource is the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, which takes the teachings of the catechism and shares them within a uniquely American context and highlights American Catholic saints and role models. Catholics can also talk to their pastors and other parish leaders to learn about what activities and opportunities will be taking place within their communities. Most importantly, Catholics seeking to deepen their faith should pray daily, study Scripture and celebrate weekly Sunday Mass.


Southridge Family (parents, teachers, students, staff, etc.)

Offered for the eternal repose of deceased members of the Southridge Family (parents, teachers, students, staff, etc.)

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YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

YEAR OF FAITH

Celebrating the Year of Faith

You’ve probably heard from your parish priest and you’ve seen the towering tarpaulin hanging on the corner of the Phase 1 building in Southridge that from October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013, the Roman Catholic Church is celebrating the Year of Faith. This special year was proclaimed by the Pope in order for us to know more about our faith. It is a duty for any Christian to grow and share our faith for it is a gift of God which we are called to cultivate and learn more about.

In his Apostolic Letter ‘Porta Fidei,’ Benedict XVI said, “We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith, in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope.”

In line with the ‘Year of Faith’, here are some good suggestions in order to make the most out of it:

Go to mass once a week during the weekday.

This is an easy resolution to live especially in Southridge for there is a daily Holy Mass leaving you enough time to have lunch with your friends later. Better yet, invite friends to attend Mass with you.

Read a part of the Gospel every day.

The gospel contains the life of God and is a great way to learn about our Faith who it came from and how we should live it. The gospel helps us enrich our lives by giving us the words and actions of Christ himself.

Go to confession regularly. Confession is the start for any person who wants to improve his life for the better, because it all starts with being at peace with God through forgiveness of our sins. A good practice of regular confession is at least once a month with or without mortal sin.
Movie Review: Les Misérables

Gian Balangue

One of the most anticipated films of 2012 was adapted from a timeless stage musical that first premiered in London on October 8, 1985 to become the second-longest running stage musical in the world. The stage musical was based on Victor Hugo’s 1862 novel of the same name.

The film boasts a star-studded cast, with Hugh Jackman and Russel Crowe joined on screen by Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Sacha Baron Cohen, and Helena Bonham Carter, among others.

Being a musical film, one of the main criteria for the cast of Les Mis was vocal ability. This was especially important considering the choice made by director Tom Hooper to have them sing live on set during filming, rather than pre-recording and lip-synching songs while filming. This method allowed for the raw feeling and spontaneous acting ability of the cast to bleed into the songs for truly emotional performances.

Hathaway and Jackman each were recently awarded Golden Globe awards for their performances. Hathaway’s rendition of the song “I Dreamed a Dream” is often said to be one of the most powerful and tear-jerking scenes in the film.

As the title implies, Les Mis is indeed one of the most emotionally evocative films I have ever seen. I watched it in the cinema with friends who sobbed throughout much of its 2 hour, 38 minute runtime.

The film carries several complex themes, including justice, redemption, love (both requited and unrequited), defiance, suffering, forgiveness, righteousness, humanity, poverty, opportunism, and, as the national motto of France states: Liberté, égalité, fraternité (liberty, equality, brotherhood). Another tone set in the film is that of the ever-looming possibility of death and downfall. All of these set the stage and screen for the epic monument of film that is Tom Hooper’s Les Misérables.

Needless to say, I loved it, and I’m sure it has served its purpose of expanding the reach of the global phenomenon that began in 1862 and continued in 1985, following up to the present day. It will surely be around for a long time to come, as the song goes, “One day more!”

Book Review: LIFE OF PI

Merko Rustia

The success and buzz of director Ang Lee’s cinematic vision of Yann Martel’s novel, Life of Pi, led me to go seek the novel. I still haven’t seen the movie but I have the book.

A boy recounts the months spent on a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and you’ve got to wonder: how boring is this going to be? Endless seawater, a couple of zoo animals on the boat, and a struggle for survival are all this story seems to tell, yet I must say this was one of the most beautiful and profound books I have ever read.

This is an all new take on the adventure genre. No amount of explanation and certainly much a less a book review can describe the full effect of this singular novel. It requires a direct experience. Unlike other novels, this doesn’t feature a typical hero vs. villain sort of story but rather it offers a fresh take on man’s search for meaning and adventure.

The story focuses on the idea of “belief” and spends many chapters discussing this topic. It discusses God, man, animals, and plants throughout the life of the main character, Pi Patel. The reader is shown Pi’s life and becomes immersed in India’s colourful culture, tradition and philosophy.

Perhaps some will find the build-up to be slow—perhaps even boring—but once the later chapters make one realize the perfect weave and flow of the story.

The idea of belief becomes more and more powerful towards the end. This is especially interesting because belief isn’t even explicitly discussed in the latter portion. One simply discovers in one’s heart the profound connection in Pi’s life to what he has believed. This story could not have been written more perfectly. Good job, Yann Martel.

To go into further detail would be to destroy the book’s humble surprise. For people who truly want a new experience in reading and an escape from the generic adventure story, I demand that you read Life of Pi. Ok, I admit that there were moments when I wanted to just stop reading the book—some parts were just too boring. However, I continued reading—and I do not regret it at all. Life of Pi—read it before you die.

YEAR OF FAITH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Jury Plaga

started working in Southridge in 1990. He finished his Masters Degree in Library Science at the University of Santo Tomas and worked as the school’s Librarian.

Friends portray him as a very hardworking and health conscious colleague. Mr. Rally Ganar described him by saying, “He was a person whom you could share your worries and problems. He was a mentor, not just a friend. He gave sound advice and he was very jolly too.”

Rest in peace Mr. Plaga, you will always be a part of the Southridge community, as a father, a librarian and a friend.
Martin Consing

"...To serve others especially the needy, to have a zest for learning and virtue driven by a personal vision of my role in the community..." We say these words every week, and these are not just empty words. These are a reminder of who we are, a reminder of our duty to God and country; these are the oaths of a Southridge Gentleman, and the actions of Southridge students on the twenty-third of January are a testimony to that oath.

Along the West Service Road, less than twenty minutes’ driving north of Southridge is the small, unassuming barangay of Bagong Silang. Deep in the barangay, past winding roads just large enough to accommodate two cars side by side without a sidewalk, past narrow alleyways and shops and homes of all manner of sizes and shapes the color of age, cement, and metal, is a public elementary school.

Bagong Silang Elementary is not a large school. Even smaller than Southridge’s Phase 1 building in size yet a place of knowledge and learning for hundreds of children, its entrance parking lot wrought by hand rather than machine, the school is not as well-equipped as ours in providing its students with the education they deserve; the funding required to do so is sometimes simply not enough.

That’s when we came into the picture. On January 23, 2013, thirty students from Southridge Batch 2013 and their class advisers conducted an outreach with two hundred students of Bagong Silang Elementary School. The area and its students were no strangers to some of the Southridge students, especially the members of Kaabay, the Southridge and Molave club that conducts weekly tutoring in mathematics, English, and catechism in the elementary school.

For most, though, this would be their first time in the area, and yet they handled the outreach involving hundreds of students with practiced ease. Splitting themselves into groups of five, one per section of sixth grade students ranging from thirty to forty children, I marvelled at the autonomy and creativity by which each group handled their share of the outreach. Walking from room to room, I found one group organizing a talent show, participated in by Southridge and Bagong Silang students alike. A second room would show Southridge students teaching basic algebra. A third room had everyone playing Pinoy Henyo. From 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM, Southridge and Bagong Silang students shared stories, played games, and shared jokes.

Sponsored by Philip Morris International, we distributed over four hundred school kits to these students, but this wasn’t the main thing we did that day. Watching the smiles on these children’s faces, I realized something. This wasn’t just an outreach for us. This wasn’t just about games, jokes, and kwentuhan. This wasn’t just Southridge giving to Bagong Silang. This was us connecting with these kids—this was us becoming a community.

This was what it meant to be a Southridge Admiral.