

## SHOUT TO THE TOP: MIS ELEMENTARY CAMP IGNITES THE COMPETITIVE DRIVE OF STUDENTS, ELEMENTARY AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ALIKE

by Alejandro Encabo



*Elementary students at the gym with their teachers SHS facilitators (Photo credits: Matthieu Casiño)*

At first glance, what the students of Grade 11 thought to be a plain affair — no more than a requirement — wouldn't light a competitive fire in them and bring them closer to their juniors than they could ever expect. The intense, boundless energy of the children in Middle and Upper Elementary only seemed to go down as the sun dipped proved a worthy challenge for their seniors.



On the first day, the children were already jittery and ready to run about, dragging their parents to the gym. Although reluctant at first, the parents gladly joined the games when the time came. They eventually matched the intensity their children brought to cult-classic games like *cup stacking*, *rag races*, *garter relay*, and *over-under* to name a few. A full day of competition for kids and parents alike could only be rewarded by a feast; and feast they did.



*Elementary students and their families eating at the assembly (Photo credits: Matthieu Casiño)*

Soon enough, the children were stuffed, and it was time for the parents to leave. As if revitalized by their parents' absence, the children once again came alive to show off their yells,

cheers, and dances. Although hurriedly rehearsed, they turned up to show joyous and passionate displays of dances that their facilitators have taught them. The activities of the first day had come to an end, and the children were exhausted. Save for a few stragglers, most of the children slept peacefully through the night, with their ‘Ates’ and ‘Kuyas’ keeping a close watch.



*Elementary students at the gym before bedtime (Photo credits: Matthieu Casiño)*

Come daybreak, it was an abrupt and efficient rise, for they had prepared to take a trip outside the school for the next set of games and team-building activities. The Upper Elementary went to Quest Adventure Camp in Teresa, Rizal, while the Middle Elementary students went to Momarco Resort in Tanay, Rizal - two separate trips with different sets of games, but the same energy. The uproar from the sidelines was deafening as the children fought for dominion and victory over their peers. An intense atmosphere prevailed; one even forgot that it was children competing, and as time went on, it was no longer just the children who were invested in victory and valor. The senior facilitators, as well as the teachers, acted as if they were in the heat of battle.

Overall, on land and in water, everyone gave their all and enjoyed themselves. And when the day was over, only soft snores filled the atmosphere. Victory is glamorous but fleeting, and the children showed this. They rested as if they had not vested their entire existence in the success of their team in camping games. The glory of winning was appreciated and savored more by the seniors and the teachers, who gloated playfully every chance they had. Based on the inherent enjoyment of all the parties involved, it can be happily concluded that the MIS

Elementary Camp was an undeniable success that created new, cherishable, and unforgettable memories.



*Grade 12 students who facilitated the camp (Photo credits: Matthieu Casiño)*