



THE BEACON ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2nd quarter of Academic Year 2023-2024!

We start this phase of the school year with the distribution of the 1st quarter report cards and the Parent-Teacher Conferences, scheduled to take place both on campus and online from October 21 to 27, 2023. As outlined in the letter sent to parents and guardians this week, these conferences serve a dual purpose. They not only provide a venue for feedback on our students' academic progress but also serve as an avenue to explore collaborative opportunities that can contribute to the success of those entrusted to our care.

"The concept of 'it takes a village' is a compelling idea, acknowledging that a school has always been more than its physical boundaries. The spirit of dynamic communication and collaboration between students, teachers and families holds a significant place in Beacon Academy's educational philosophy. For, like the discussions around our Harkness tables, we recognize and emphasize the value of creating a safe space where multiple, even diverse perspectives are crucial for the authentic growth and learning of our students.

I therefore encourage our families, teachers and students to engage in active listening and constructive dialogue during this period. Let us reflect on outcomes as launching points for ongoing positive action. Let us maintain our collective support for one another, recognizing the shared responsibility of our learning community.

Mark Vincent Escaler
Head of School
The Beacon Academy

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October 21-27	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 23-27	Halloweek
October 23, Monday	College Visit UBC
October 24, Tuesday	College Visit IE University / SCAD
October 26-27	UpServe Spookygrams
October 29, Sunday	Silver Lining Musical
October 30, Monday	Barangay & SK Elections (No Classes)
October 31, Tuesday	No Class on Campus
November 1, Wednesday	All Saint's Day (No Classes)
November 2, Thursday	All Soul's Day (No Classes)
November 3, Friday	Asynchronous Class Day
November 8, Wednesday	Faculty Professional Development (Early Release)

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

General News:

A Message from Our Head of School

Important Dates in October & November

Beacon MD Medical Mission I Recap

Mental Health Week I Recap

HMCSF Leadership Program I Invitation

Athletics: BA Swim Team & BA Golf

Author Interview: Robin Sebolino

BA Communications Protocols



THE BEACON ACADEMY

BEACON MD MEDICAL MISSION | RECAP

On Saturday, September 30, Beacon MD, the pre-med club of Beacon Academy, joined forces with Zeta Beta Mu Fraternity from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) to participate in a medical mission known as the Construction Workers Solidarity (CWS) Partylist. This humanitarian effort took place in Lipa, Batangas and provided essential medical services to around 600 patients in need of care. Under the supervision of medical experts, club members honed their suturing abilities and conducted circumcisions for male patients aged 10 to 19.

Beacon MD will participate and possibly host more medical missions soon. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to be involved! Here are some reflections from this day:



"Suturing a human being is an incredibly surreal experience. I'm thrilled that our club members had the chance to gain exposure to it while still at a young age. In addition, many of our club members experienced suturing for the first time at this medical mission. A significant milestone, especially when considering the procedure involved suturing on a real human being."

"I'm genuinely proud of the direction in which our club is moving. Despite being a recently established club that I created alongside my co-president, Sophia Hipolito, we've achieved a remarkable amount in the first quarter. I look forward to all the service projects and activities we have planned for the rest of the school year."

- Alexis T. (Founder and Co-President of Beacon MD)

"In joining this medical mission, I knew that this was an experience I never will truly regret. I was able to learn various medical practices such as suturing, using medical equipment, and assisting medical licensed doctors to perform basic surgeries. I was able to experience what it was like going through the procedure of interacting with a patient, asking them if they're okay and if they feel any pain in the process. I hope that this experience will give other people the inspiration to give back to our people in OUR community, because this now gave me even more motivation to continue Medicine as my goal in the future. Experiences like these gave me the realization that helping others and giving service back is something I love doing, and I truly have so much respect for all of our country's doctors to create projects like these for our people. Shoutout to Alexis Tan for being the best Co-Head I've worked with."

- Sophia H. (Founder and Co-President of Beacon MD)

"During the medical mission, I had the opportunity to further refine my skills in surgical procedures like circumcision, having participated in a similar mission previously. I honed my ability to work within a team of dedicated healthcare professionals, learned the importance of a sterile environment, and enhanced my patient care and communication skills. These missions have not only allowed me to provide essential medical services to underserved communities but have also deepened my commitment to improving global healthcare access and the well-being of those in need."

- Sophia T. (Head of External Communications)





THE BEACON ACADEMY

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK | RECAP

In line with World Mental Health Day (October 10), the Internship Group in collaboration with the Counseling Resource Center prepared various activities for Mental Health Week last October 16-18. The theme for this year's Mental Health Week is "Finding support and coming together as one community" as the event aims to put great emphasis on the value of unity and support systems in caring for one's self and one another.

On Monday, October 16, each batch was given a Bingo Card wherein they were challenged to complete tasks/activities as a batch as a way to promote camaraderie among each batch through a healthy sense of competition. The first batch to complete the tasks won 2 boxes of pizza! :) Adastria (Grade 10) won the Batch Bingo by 1 minute against Infinitum (Grade 11), followed by Valesentia (Grade 9) and Himaya (Grade 12). Congratulations to the batch Adastria!

On Tuesday, October 17, while the batch Adastria indulged themselves with pizza as their prize for the Batch Bingo, the other batches bonded over a potluck lunch.

Finally, on Wednesday, October 18, the Internship Group collaborated with other clubs in organizing some destressing activities for the students. These activities were: Mental Health Mafia by Muni-Muni, Griffins Community Collage by Larawan, Griffin Ultimate (Frisbee), Griffin Greens by Environmentalist, and Cookie Decorating by Kitchen Kind. The club heads facilitated the activities as students showed their engagement and active participation in the activities that they signed up for.





THE BEACON ACADEMY

INVITATION TO SIGN UP | HMCSF YOUNG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Learn with Leaders (LWL) is a non-profit organization that provides educational programs and opportunities for middle and high school students to learn from and connect with top-notch faculty, well-known thought leaders, and college students globally. LWL strives to help school students dream bigger by exploring new interests, developing global networks, and taking their ideas, creativity, and passion to the next level.

Harvard Model Congress San Francisco (HMCSF) is one of the best civic engagement conferences under the Harvard Model Congress (HMC). Their mission is to teach, lead, and empower, by gathering students around the world to address some of the most pressing political and civic issues at present.

We are please to share that LWL and HMCSF, will be conducting an in-person program with the following details:

HMCSF Young Leadership Program

A unique and intensive 3-day program on leadership and how to become future change makers.

Location: Beacon Academy Campus in Biñan, Laguna

Dates and Times: January 19, 20 & 21, 2024 (Friday to Sunday) from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day

Requirements: Open to all Grade 6-12 students from various schools

Fee: USD 450 to be paid directly to Learn with Leaders

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP: <https://forms.gle/dkWJQ6cK1bVNfZnH9>

This program is designed for students who want to strengthen their leadership potential and would like to experience immersive learning discussions and mentorship. The program will focus on leadership, problem solving, communication, public speaking, and critical thinking while working toward an “actionable project”. As a participant, you will get the chance to engage in ‘Harvard-style’ classroom experiences taught by current Harvard students themselves. Certificates from Harvard Model Congress San Francisco will be given to students who complete the program.

For BA students who sign-up, you will be excused from your regular classes that will fall on Friday (January 19).

If you would like to know more about the program and meet some of the mentors, you are invited to join the Online Info Session on November 11 (Sat) at 9:00am. Zoom details will follow shortly. Please message our College Counselors: Maricar Pascual (maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph) and Jesu Salvador (jesu.salvador@beaconacademy.ph)

HMCSF YOUNG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM BY HARVARD MODEL CONGRESS SAN FRANCISCO

(AN IN-PERSON PROGRAM)

HOSTED BY

A unique and intensive 3-Day Program on
Leadership and Creating Future Change-makers

PROGRAM DETAILS

January 19th - 21st, 2024

In-person at Beacon Academy

3 Days

Grades 6 - 12

Program Fee: USD 450

Students earn certificate from Harvard Model Congress San Francisco

Disclaimer: The programs are not provided by Harvard or any other university, but by student-run organization.
 HMCSF (https://www.hmcsf.org/) is an independent 501(c)(3) Harvard students-run organization dedicated to inspiring the next generation of civic leaders. Harvard Model Congress San Francisco is not affiliated to Harvard University, but the name Harvard is used with the permission of the University.

For more information: team@learnwithleaders.com, www.learnwithleaders.com



THE BEACON ACADEMY

BA SWIM TEAM PARTICIPATES IN SPEEDO NATIONAL INTER-SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last October 7 and 8, the Beacon Academy Swimming Team had their first competition for this school year held at Xavier School San Juan. Marco M., Rocco V., Mandy L. and Olivia T. competed in various events against different schools in NCR.

Our very own, Mandy L., bagged 5 gold medals and was awarded as the Most Outstanding Swimmer. BA Girls Team brought home the 1st runner-up trophy for the Category 18 years and above. Congratulations, swimmers!



BA GOLF JOINS JGFP TOURNAMENTS

The newly-formed BA Golf group participated in the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines competition.

Members Jaime A., Santi P., Iñigo L. and Niko T. represented the school in the said competition held at Caliraya Springs, Laguna. They are currently ranked #2 out of 15 teams. JGFP runs for five weeks at different venues. Best of luck to our golf group! Go Griffins!





THE BEACON ACADEMY

AUTHOR INTERVIEW: ROBIN SEBOLINO

Congratulations to the Beacon Academy's very own faculty member, Robin Sebolino, on his novel *Vassals of the Valley*. Our Teacher Librarian, Ms. Zarah Gagatiga recently interviewed Mr. Sebolino for her blog; Here is a section of this enlightening conversation.



What inspired or motivated you to write *Vassals of the Valley*?

I'm naturally interested in writing, so there's that sustaining energy that I have. But if we're specifically talking about *Vassals of the Valley*, I'd say it's mainly the historical events in the late 16th century Philippines. I learned this from an online conference called Rethinking Philippine History Slowly hosted by the University of Asia and the Pacific. There were quite a few topics they covered, but I got particularly interested in the period I had mentioned.

So there were the two big events in 1582.

The first is the Cagayan Battles where the Spaniards drove away the Wokuo Pirates settled in the north of Luzon. It made me think of people at the time—how they dressed, how they spoke, and how they thought—especially how they thought as the country entered a period of spiritual and cultural change with the arrival of the Spaniards, mainly priests and missionaries. My main character in the novel was actually a member of the Wokuo pirate band that the Spaniards defeated.

The second is the Manila Synod. There should be more work around this event, scholarly, creative, or whatever. It's because this is the earliest record we have of a discussion on the human rights of the natives. Basically, the Manila Synod was a gathering of Spanish clerics and laypeople. They discussed Spain's right to stay in the Philippine Islands, if it even existed at the time. It condemned the abuses of the natives by the conquistadores. It gave priests an order to deny the Sacraments to the Spaniards if they did not practice restitution. It's an interesting meeting, and the documents are quite revealing of some of the most powerful sentiments at the time.





THE BEACON ACADEMY

AUTHOR INTERVIEW: ROBIN SEBOLINO (continued)

(continued)

Where do you go from here -- after *Vassals of the Valley*?

Vassals of the Valley is part of a saga of Southeast Asian stories.

I'm currently writing *Bells and Incense*. It's a novel about a young man from Samar who goes to Manila to seek adventure and escape problems back home. It's set in the early 17th century when the Dutch Empire was still trying to wrest the Philippines away from Spanish control. This is a bit of a war drama and coming of age story combined.

Then there is *The Governor's Hounds*. It's a character ensemble novel about a family who served Jose Basco y Vargas. He's the Governor General who developed a comprehensive economic plan for the Philippine Islands. He made the agricultural base of the colony strong. He's also the reason the Batanes Islands became part of the colony. In their service to Basco y Vargas, the family will have to learn how live under the pressure of colonial leadership. There's politics in this story. There is also family drama. I imagine there will be more family drama here.

The fourth book is called *Basilica Bakers*. I'm not sure what it's about yet, but it's definitely the story of bakers who lived in Taal when the Basilica of St. Martin of Tours was being constructed. I plan for this to be the most lighthearted of the novels.

So there. I have three more novels to get out for the people to read. I hope they'll be good.

What books shaped your dream in becoming an author?

I'll just give a list because I don't want to influence people too much on what to think of them. Let's just say these novels introduced me to wonderful characters, and the style of their writing is interesting. They are quite consistent in following a decent story structure too. Here are the books:

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

Silence by Shusaku Endo

The Samurai by Shusaku Endo

The Lost World by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Authentic Though Not Exotic by Fernando Zialcita

The last book by Zialcita is not a novel. It's a sociology book. But I think it has influenced me a lot. It gave me a perspective on how to read history and see my identity as a Filipino.

More or less, these are the books. There might be more. I just haven't realized they have made a powerful impact on my writing yet. In fact, more books are coming to mind, but I have to stop writing or the list will just keep growing!

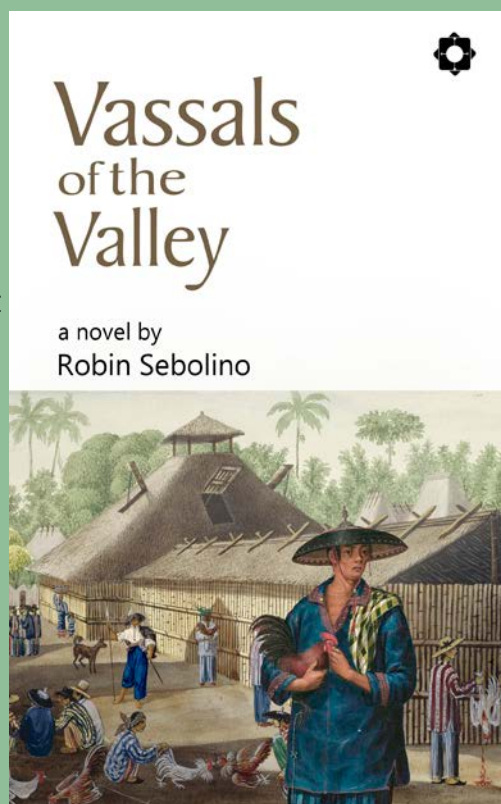
Vassals of the Valley is available on Amazon

(<https://www.amazon.com/Vassals-Valley-Robin-Sebolino-ebook/dp/B0CC5Z34JX>)

You can email Mr. Sebolino at robin.sebolino@beaconacademy.ph

You can read the full interview here

(<https://lovealibarian.blogspot.com/2023/10/author-interview-robin-jason-sebolino-2.html?m=1>)





THE BEACON ACADEMY

Beacon Academy Communications Protocols AY 2023-2024

Matters relating to....	Department / Email
Students Academic, School Life, Learning Support	Faculty Advisers
IB Diploma Programme Senior High School	Iris Morga / DP Coordinator dpcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
IB Middle Years Programme Junior High School	Roy Villegas / MYP Coordinator mypcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
College & Career Counseling	Maricar Pascual / JHS Counselor maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph Jesu Salvador / SHS Counselor jesu.salvador@beaconacademy.ph
Mental Health & Well-Being	Din Mendoza / JHS Counselor din.mendoza@beaconacademy.ph Vian Erasmo / SHS Counselor vian.erasmo@beaconacademy.ph
Curriculum, Exams, & Faculty	Ceci Francisco / Dean of Faculty dof@beaconacademy.ph
Student Conduct, Support, & Activities	Lui Morano / Dean of Students dos@beaconacademy.ph
Health, Safety, & Bus Services	Luvim Encinares / Student Services Asst. studentservices@beaconacademy.ph
School Records	Marnell Lagan / School Registrar registrar@beaconacademy.ph
Finance	Lorna Sabino / Finance Manager finance@beaconacademy.ph
School Leadership & Policy Child Protection Committee Committee on Decorum and Investigation	Mark Escaler / Head of School mark.escaler@beaconacademy.ph Victor Villanueva / Deputy Head of School victor.villanueva@beaconacademy.ph



THE BEACON ACADEMY

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AY 2023-2024



THE BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024

Semester 1 JULY 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
Total No. of Days:							

Semester 2 JANUARY 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5	28	29	30	31			
Total No. of Days: 20							

AUGUST 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5
1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
3	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4	27	28	29	30	31		
Total No. of Days: 19							

FEBRUARY 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9	25	26	27	28	29		
Total No. of days: 21							

SEPTEMBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
5	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Total No. of days: 20							

MARCH 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						
Total No. of days: 17							

OCTOBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				
Total No. of Days: 16							

APRIL 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				
Total No. of days: 20							

NOVEMBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		
Total No. of days: 19							

MAY 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
19	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Total No. of days: 22							

DECEMBER 2023							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
Total No. of days: 10							

JUNE 24							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
Total No. of days: 4							

IMPORTANT DATES

Jun 9 - Jul 4

Jul 5 - Jul 14

Jul 17

Jul 18

Jul 19- Aug 2

Aug 2

Aug 3

Aug 3-4

Aug 21

Aug 28

Sep 25

Oct 9-14

Oct 16

Oct 21 - 27

Oct 30

Nov 1

Nov 2

Nov 8

Nov 27

Dec 8

Dec 16 - Jan 3

Jan 4

Jan 20-26

Jan 29

Feb 3

Feb 10

Feb 25

Feb TBA

Mar 11-12

Mar 13

Mar 28 -31

Apr 1

Apr 9

Apr 10

Apr 24-May 17

Apr TBA

May 1

May TBA

May TBA

Jun 7

Campus Break

BA Summer Program

BA Leadership & Management Returns

BA New Faculty Orientation

All Faculty In-Service

Parent and New Student Orientation

Start of Quarter 1

Foundation Days

Special Non-Working Day: Ninoy Aquino Day

Regular Holiday: National Heroes Day

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 2

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

No Classes: Barangay & SK Elections

Special Non-Working Day: All Saints' Day

Special Non-Working Day: All Souls' Day

Early Release: Faculty Professional Development

No Classes: Bonifacio Day

Special Non-Working Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

No Classes: Christmas/New Year Break

Start of Quarter 3

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

No Classes: Binan Day

Chinese New Year

People Power Anniversary

National Achievement Test (Grade 12)

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 4

No Classes: Holy Week

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan

Eid al-Fitr (TBC)

IB Diploma Examinations 2024

National Achievement Test (Grade 10)

Regular Holiday: Labor Day

National Career Assessment Evaluation (Grade 9 & 10)

Graduation Day; Last Day of School

Number of Class Days in the 1st Quarter: 44 9 Weeks
 Number of Class Days in the 2nd Quarter: 40 9 Weeks
 Number of Class Days in the 3rd Quarter: 47 10 Weeks
 Number of Class Days in the 4th Quarter: 57 13 Weeks
 Total Number of Class Days: **188**