

FRIDAY | AUGUST 29, 2025

THE BEACON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Beacon Academy Community,

I believe, as Master Oogway in Kung Fu Panda once said, that “there are no accidents.” Events do not simply happen at random; they unfold with meaning, often aligning in ways we may not immediately recognize. It is up to us, as Master Shifu’s teacher would remind us, to find significance in these moments and to decipher the meaning behind seemingly intentional occurrences.

Perhaps not on the same scale as the great planetary alignment of March 10, 1982, when all nine planets stood on one side of the sun, but still with a sense of meaningful timing, three important national events have taken place in just the last couple of weeks.

The first is the commemoration of President Sergio Osmeña’s Proclamation No. 35, which established the nationwide celebration of the Filipino language. Since the founding of the Beacon Academy, we have honored this occasion. This year, for the first time, we celebrated it in its rightful month. Staying true to our identity as a Filipino school, we upheld our founders’ vision that Filipino should be taught and learned as a language for both education and social interaction.

The second significant event is the commemoration of Ninoy Aquino’s life and sacrifice on August 21. At the Beacon Academy, this observance begins a series of activities that invite discourse on democracy, freedom, and human rights in modern Philippine history. To mark this, we have been showing films in our common spaces that highlight these themes. We have also tied yellow ribbons to symbolize our appreciation for Ninoy’s return in 1983, a gesture that continues to remind us of his courage and sacrifice.

Finally, this week we celebrate National Heroes Day, a moment to honor not only our named heroes but also the countless unnamed individuals who gave voice and strength to the call for resistance and revolution. It is a time to remember that history is not only shaped by the great figures whose names we recite but also by the ordinary men and women who stood with them. Farmers, workers, students, mothers, and fathers contributed in their own ways to carry the struggle forward. Their sacrifices, though often unseen, gave power to the movements that secured our freedom and dignity as a people.

How, then, might Master Oogway interpret this alignment? I would venture to say he would remind us that our identities are deeply tied to the language we speak, and our language, in turn, shapes our understanding of who we are. When our grasp of language strengthens our sense of self, we become less vulnerable to abuse. And when silence is no longer enough, our voices, through words, shouts, and cries, carry the weight of truth.

History shows us that when we fight for what is right and for our collective identity, we do so alongside both the celebrated and the anonymous. Heroes such as Andres Bonifacio, Jose Rizal, and Benigno Aquino Jr. gave their names and lives to the cause, and all believed that the Filipino is worth dying for. Yet their courage was magnified by the thousands of unnamed Filipinos who stood shoulder to shoulder in moments of struggle. These ordinary citizens, whose names may never appear in our textbooks, carried banners, raised their voices, and filled the streets with a quiet strength that changed the course of our history. Together with the great figures we remember, they remind us that the power of a people united in purpose can be as transformative as the sacrifices of any single hero.

Sincerely,
Vic Villanueva
Deputy Head of School
The Beacon Academy

WHAT’S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

**Letter to the Community:
Deputy Head of School**

Important Dates

**BA Athletics Game
Announcements**

Grade 10 Completion Day

Club Fair 2025

**Author Russell Molina
Visits BA**

**BA Celebrates Ninoy
Aquino Day**

Linggo Ng Wika 2025

**Communications
Protocols**

**BA Calendar
AY 2025-2026**

WWW.BEACONACADEMY.PH



IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, September 3	College Visit Ateneo de Manila University
Thursday, September 4	College Visit University of Queensland
Friday, September 12	College Visit Swiss Education Group
Tuesday, September 16	College Visit University of Technology Sydney
Wednesday, September 17	College Visit University of British Columbia
Wednesday, September 24	College Visit Saint Mary's College

BA ATHLETICS GAME ANNOUNCEMENTS



BA
ATHLETICS

Girls Volleyball

GAME DAY

BA vs CJPS
8/30/2025
9:30 am
@Xavier School San Juan
ps. For spectators, kindly bring any valid ID



BA
ATHLETICS

Boys Volleyball

GAME DAY

BA vs Xavier San Juan B
8/30/2025
11:00 am
@Xavier School San Juan
ps. For spectators, kindly bring any valid ID

HOUSE CAPTAINS CHOSEN FOR AY 2025-2026

Last week students at Beacon Academy cast their votes to elect this year's House Captains for the school's three houses: Minokawa, Kataw, and Diwata. The elections marked the beginning of a new year of spirited inter-house collaboration, leadership, and friendly competition. Congratulations to our newly elected House Captains—we look forward to seeing your leadership in action!



DIWATA

MYP: Vino B.

DP: Rafa T.

KATAW

MYP: Natasha T.

DP: Kazelle A.



MINOKAWA

MYP: Lucy R.

DP: Nico F.

IMPORTANT: SCHEDULE CHANGES (BEGINNING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1)

We wish to inform you of some adjustments to our class schedule. These adjustments are based on recent observations and feedback from both students and teachers and will begin on **Monday, September 1**.

1. First Period Adjustment

- Beginning Monday, September 1, 2025, the first period will begin at 8:10 AM instead of 8:00 AM.
- This adjustment will remain in effect until the end of the First Quarter.

2. Lunch Break Extension (MYP: Grades 7–10)

- The MYP lunch break will be extended from 30 minutes to 45 minutes.
- This has been made possible by slightly reducing the time allocated to Study Hall, Advisory, and Counseling sessions. The extended lunch break will be in effect for the remainder of the academic year.

3. After-School Activities (Grades 7–12)

- To accommodate these adjustments, after-school activities will begin at 3:10 PM (instead of 3:00 PM) from Monday to Thursday.
- Friday dismissal will remain at 3:00 PM.

Please note that there will be no changes to the length of each subject period, and bus departure times from both Magallanes and Rockwell will remain unchanged.

We believe these changes will enhance the learning environment during the first period and provide a more balanced break for our students. We will review these adjustments at the end of the First Quarter and communicate any further updates as necessary.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ensuring the well-being and success of our students.

GRADE 10 STUDENTS CELEBRATED IN FIRST COMPLETION DAY CEREMONY

On Thursday, June 5, the Beacon Academy community gathered in the auditorium to mark a special milestone: the First Completion Day Ceremony for the Grade 10 students. Families, faculty, and staff came together to honor this inaugural batch as they prepare to transition into Senior High School at the Academy.

The school was proud to welcome Mr. Miguel Ochosa as the guest speaker. A Beacon alumnus himself, Mr. Ochosa graduated with a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from Yale-NUS College in Singapore and now works as a strategist for Tech in Asia. In his thoughtful address, he reflected on his own journey—encouraging students to remain curious, grounded, and open to the unexpected turns that shape both growth and character.

As the ceremony concluded, the students stood with pride—ready to embrace the new academic challenges of Senior High School. This first Completion Day marked not only the end of one chapter, but the beginning of another filled with promise, purpose, and the continued spirit of the Beacon learner.



CLUB FAIR 2025: A FULL HOUSE OF STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

On Wednesday, August 20, the Visual Arts Gallery came alive with Club Fair 2025. This year's Club Fair was especially exciting as we reached our maximum limit of 15 active clubs! Several returning groups made a strong showing, including the Environmentalist Club, known for organizing Gubat cleanups in past years, and Sports Media, which continues to serve as our primary documentation team for major athletic events.

We're also welcoming a number of new clubs to the lineup—among them, the Boardgame Club and Writing Club, both of which are open to our younger students in Grades 7 and 8!

Special thanks to Matthew G. (Club Liaison) and Coach Abbi (Club Supervisor) for their hard work in coordinating this event. We're all excited to see what these clubs will accomplish in the year ahead! - **Simon C.**



BA REMEMBERS NINYO AQUINO

In commemoration of Ninoy Aquino Day, the Beacon Academy community came together to reflect on the life and legacy of one of the Philippines' most influential figures. Organized by the Individuals & Societies (I&S) Subject Group, a series of thoughtful displays were set up in the lobby of Building A and the Gallery in Building B, featuring videos and photos of Ninoy Aquino.

These displays connected key moments in Ninoy's life to the IB Learner Profile, highlighting him as a Thinker—through his time as a senator—and as a Risk-Taker, particularly in his decision to return to the Philippines as an opposition leader during a time of political unrest.

Community members were invited to engage with the exhibit by writing reflections on post-it notes, sharing what Ninoy's legacy means to them today. They were also encouraged to take part in a symbolic gesture by tying yellow ribbons around the trees and posts on campus, echoing the national movement that welcomed Ninoy home.

In addition, the library in Building A featured a special display of books and reading materials for those who wanted to explore more about his life and impact.



AUTHOR RUSSELL MOLINA VISITS THE BEACON ACADEMY

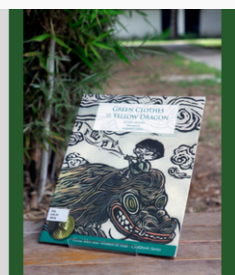
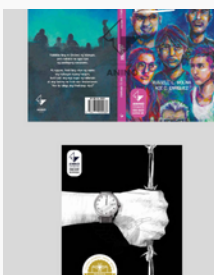
Naging masaya ang pagbisita ng multi-awarded author na si Russell Molina noong Miyerkules, Agosto 28, 2025. Bukas-loob niyang ibinahagi ang iba't ibang aspeto ng mga kuwento sa likod ng kanyang mga aklat, na nagbigay sa amin ng mas malalim na pag-unawa sa puso ng kanyang pagsusulat. Isa sa mga hindi malilimutang bahagi ay ang kuwento ng kanyang pamilya na naging inspirasyon ng librong pambata na Isa sa Kanan, Isa sa Kaliwa, isang sandali na pumukaw ng pagkilala at koneksyon sa aming mga tagapakinig.

Ipinaalala rin niya sa pamamagitan ng kanyang graphic novel na 12:01 na ang Batas Militar ay hindi lamang isang pangyayari, kundi isang ideya. At ang mga ideya ay maaaring balikan, usisain, at pagnilayan. Sa diwang ito, ang kanyang pagbisita ay hindi lamang basta isang author talk. Ito ay naging paanyaya upang mag-isip ng kritikal, magbasa nang may tapang, at hayaang buksan ng mga kuwento ang mga pintuan para sa iba't ibang salinlahi.

English

It was such a joy to welcome multi-awarded author Russell Molina to our library! He generously shared the many layers of stories behind his books, giving us insight into the heart of his writing. One unforgettable highlight was the family story that inspired his children's book *Isa sa Kanan, Isa sa Kaliwa*, a moment that sparked recognition and connection among the audience.

He also reminded us through his graphic novel *12:01* that Martial Law is not just an event, but an idea, and ideas can be remembered, questioned, and reflected on. In that spirit, his visit became more than just an author talk. It was a gentle call to think critically, read courageously, and let stories open doors across generations.



Russel Molina

RUSSELL MOLINA is an award-winning storyteller, graphic fictionist, and Chief Digital Officer of the 7-time "Independent Agency of the Year" winner, Seven A.D. With nearly two decades in advertising, his campaigns for top global brands have earned honors at the New York Advertising Festivals and London International Awards.

As an author, he has published over 30 children's books and graphic stories, winning the Palanca Awards, PBBY prizes, National Book Awards, and a spot on the International Board on Books for Young People Honour List. In 2022, he was honored with UMPIL's Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to Philippine children's literature.

BA CELEBRATES LINGGO NG WIKA 2025

From August 26–29, 2025 the Beacon Academy proudly celebrated Linggo ng Wika 2025 with the theme: *“Paglinang sa Filipino at Katutubong Wika: Makasaysayan sa Pagkakaisa ng Bansa.”*

The week-long celebration highlighted the richness of the Filipino language and culture through a series of meaningful and engaging activities that brought the community together.

On Wednesday, August 27, students came to school in Filipino attire and attended a special talk by award-winning author Mr. Russell Molina, who inspired the audience with stories that honored the power of language and storytelling. The festivities culminated on Friday, August 29, with students proudly wearing their House colors and participating in a vibrant line-up of events, including: Batch cultural presentations (Sayaw, Awit, Bigkas, Drama), MYP & DP Filipino Quiz Bowls, Pakitang-Gilas Talent Showcase, a Pinoy Salu-Salo potluck lunch, featuring traditional favorites, Palarong Filipino 3.0 – an Amazing Race-style competition filled with friendly, traditional Filipino games.

The celebration was a joyful opportunity for the Beacon community to showcase creativity, express cultural pride, and strengthen camaraderie across all batches. Mabuhay ang Wikang Filipino!



Beacon Academy Communications Protocols AY 2025-2026

Matters relating to....	Department / Email
Students Academic, School Life, Learning Support	Faculty Advisers / Homeroom Teachers
IB Diploma Programme Senior High School (G 11-12)	Iris Morga / DP Coordinator dpcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
IB Middle Years Programme Junior High School (G 7-10)	Roy Villegas / MYP Coordinator mypcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
College & Career Counseling	Maricar Pascual / C&C Counselor maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph Chinny Innumerable / C&C Counselor chinny.innumerable@beaconacademy.ph
Mental Health & Well-Being	Din Mendoza / Counselor din.mendoza@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 2025-2026

Semester 1											
JULY 2025											
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: 0											

AUGUST 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
Total No. of Days: 17							

SEPTEMBER 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9	28	29	30				
Total No. of days: 22							

OCTOBER 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
13	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Total No. of Days: 18							

NOVEMBER 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
17	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
Total No. of days: 20							

DECEMBER 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
18		1	2	3	4	5	6
19	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
Total No. of days: 11							

Semester 2							
JANUARY 2026							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Total No. of Days: 19							

FEBRUARY 2026							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Total No. of days: 17							

MARCH 2026							
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
	29	30	31				
Total No. of days: 21							

APRIL 2026							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
16	26	27	28	29	30		
Total No. of days: 17							

Week	MAY 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
17	3	4	5	6	7	8	2
18	10	11	12	13	14	15	9
19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
20	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
Total No. of days: 20							

		JUNE 2026						
Week		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
21			1	2	3	4	5	6
22		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: 9						

Jun 9 - Jul 7
Jul 7 - 18
Jul 17
Jul 18
Jul 21 - Aug 1
Aug 4

Aug 5

Aug 6 - 8

Aug 21

Aug 25

Oct 1 - 7

Oct 8-10

Oct 13

Oct 14

Oct 25

Oct 31

Nov 1

Nov 30

Dec 3

Dec 8

Dec 9-12

Dec 17 - Jan 5