

# The Sunflower has Bloomed

Macy's COLF journey from childhood to young  
adulthood.

By: Macy Abad

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01

# Childhood in COLF

From Ages 2 to 12

And the story begins

I began my schooling in COLF when I was barely 2 years old. Throughout my first year, I was taught how to interact with other children through play. To this day, I continue to value the way I was exposed to play time as a child because it has taught me how to properly interact with other people my age.



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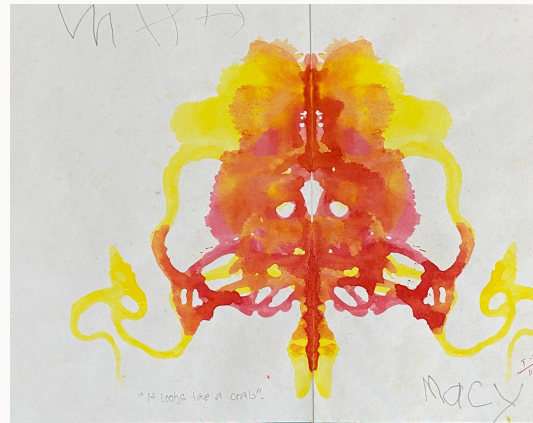
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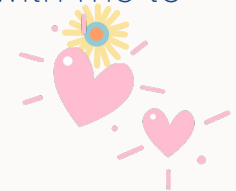
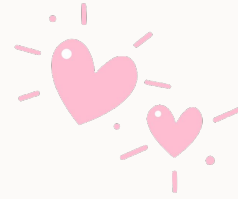
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By the time I was 3 years old, I was learning about arts and crafts in COLF. This allowed me to learn how to express myself in a medium beyond words. The skills I learned in this year have stayed with me to this day.





I left COLF for two years (when I was 4 and 5 years old). Due to my exposure to the curriculum of COLF, I realized that the other 2 schools I had gone to were not for me. I stood out too much in traditional schools, and this is because of the way I chose to see things. I did not simply see lessons as words on paper; I always saw these in images and stories. I was called “weird” in these schools by the teachers, when in reality, I was just a creative thinker.



I came back to COLF when I was 6 years old. Upon coming back, I felt like I was back home. I was allowed to learn in my own way once again. As I began to learn harder concepts (like addition and subtraction in math), I was allowed to learn these in the visual manner that I was accustomed to.



I continued my storytelling and visual manner of learning into Grade 2. I was 7 years old at the time. However, it was during this year that my teachers encouraged me to think of things in a more logical way. This was the start of my years in creating lists and schedules for me to follow. To this day, I still make lists and schedules.





I was Grade 3 when I discovered a hobby that has come to define me as a person. I was 8 years old at the time. I started reading novels in this year, and thus came my deep love for reading. I read increasingly difficult novels as the years went by. At present, I am reading 3 novels at once to test my reading stamina and encourage me to read more.



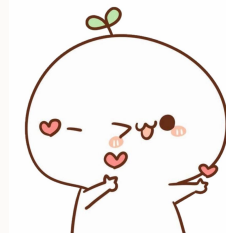
**“I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of any thing than of a book! -- When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.”**  
— Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

I was in Grade 4 when I came to love writing. I was 9 years old at the time. It was during this year that we had more writer’s workshop tasks, and thus I discovered that I loved to write. It was in this year that I vowed to write a novella. At present, I am working on a novella that I hope to have other people read when I finish it.





Upon reaching Grade 5, I started to learn how to take down notes. I was 10 years old at the time. This helped me improve my organizational skills as a whole. The skills I learned in this year are ones that I have kept with me until today. To this day, I still keep a notebook close by just in case I suddenly get the urge to write something down.



In Grade 6, I established my current pace of learning. I was 11 years old at the time. This was fueled by the fact that we were graduating elementary school that year. I saw my grades go up, and also saw myself become more engaged in learning. While I have never considered myself an outstanding student, I do consider myself a competent one. When I go off to college, I hope to cultivate that hunger to learn even more.



**“It isn't what we say or think  
that defines us, but what we do.”  
— Jane Austen, Sense and  
Sensibility**



Grade 7 was the year I grew the most as a person. I was 12 years old at the time. I made new friends, discovered myself as a person, and established myself as a learner. I finally found my rhythm as a student, and my grades became more stable. It was in this year that I made a promise to myself to enjoy learning and accept all opportunities to study and improve myself.

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# My Teen Years in COLF

From Ages 13 to 16

And the journey continues



“There is no rule on how to write. Sometimes it comes easily and perfectly: sometimes it’s like drilling rock and then blasting it out with charges.” ~ Ernest Hemingway



Grade 8 was, by far, the most memorable year for me in my teen years. I was 13 years old at the time. I was sent to a writing competition and made it into the regionals. While I did not advance to the nationals, I considered this confirmation that I could, indeed, write well. My confidence in my writing grew, but not to a point where I became arrogant about it. To this day, I consider this one of my most notable and memorable achievements.



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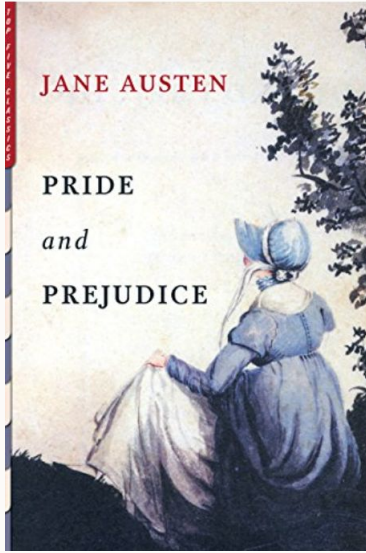
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Grade 9 presented the most growth for me as a student in my teen years. I was 14 years old at the time. I started reading classics and writing novellas, and this cultivated my creativity as a person and as a learner. I attribute my current writing style and skills to this year when I went out of my comfort zone and got into harder forms of literature. This jump from young adult fiction to classics is easily one of the most noteworthy achievements in my life.

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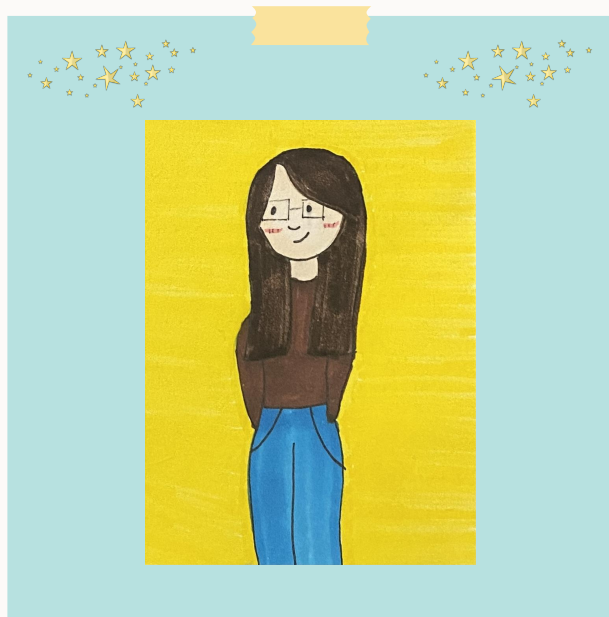
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“Every child is an artist;  
the problem is staying an  
artist when you grow up”  
– Pablo Picasso



Grade 10 pushed me to my limits as a learner. I was encouraged to learn better because senior high school was fast approaching, but I also wanted to expand my horizons as an individual. I went to music conferences and started to paint religiously as well. The person I am today was established during this year. I consider Grade 10 to have been my defining year as both a student and person.

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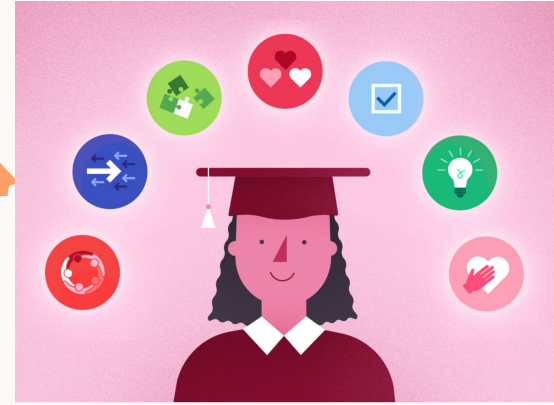
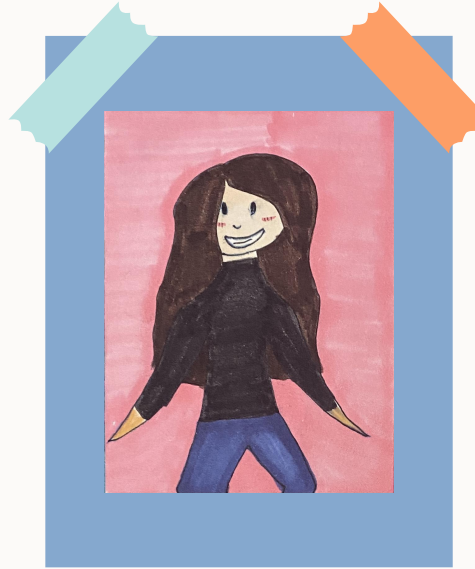
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# My Young Adult Years in COLF

Ages 17 and 18

And here comes the bloom

There was a complete change in me when I came into Grade 11. I was 16 years old at the time. I had a renewed motivation to do well in school. I knew that what I did in this year would affect my college career, and thus I worked hard to get good grades and positively influence my college application recommendations.



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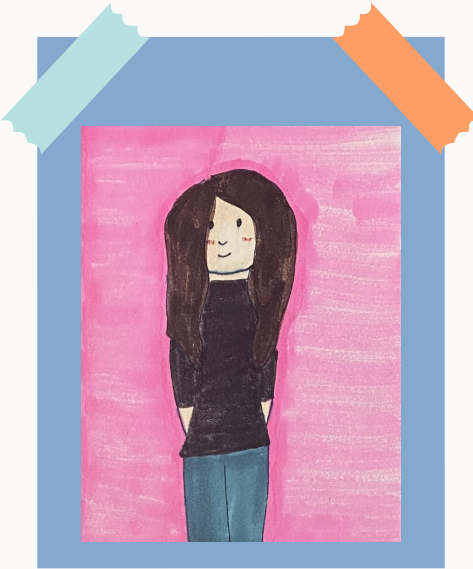
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Grade 12 has been a series of ups and downs for me. On one hand, I'm still learning and studying. Thus, I am better off than many other students. On the other, I just really miss my friends, classmates, and teachers. Adjusting to a life in lockdown and quarantine has not been easy, and thus it deserves an entire section to itself in this story.



“When the next pandemic comes, as it surely will someday, perhaps we will be ready to meet it. If we are not, the outcome will be very, very, very dreadful.”

— Albert Marrin, *Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918*

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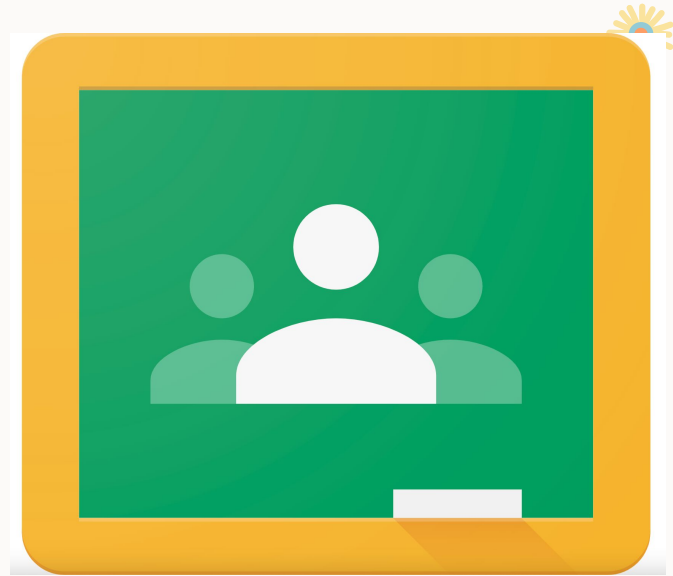


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# Life in Lockdown

My 18th Year

COLF comes into my home



As students of COLF, we have long called it our second home. However, the pandemic made us literally welcome COLF into our homes. We had to learn how to use Zoom and Google Classroom, and thus virtual classes began.





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“This pandemic has magnified every existing inequality in our society – like systemic racism, gender inequality, and poverty.” – Melinda Gates

Learning from home has not been easy. I miss the classroom dearly. For me, what makes school fun to begin with are the moments that I spend with classmates and teachers. However, the pandemic has limited these interactions to my screen. Despite my hopes that we will return to school soon, the current situation in the Philippines is not giving me much hope that this will come true.





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One of the beauties of being in COLF, however, is that everyone is easy to contact. As such, even if we're all stuck at home and cannot see each other physically, it is very easy to reach out to one another on social media. I have maintained friendships and cultivated others. These have allowed me to stay sane throughout the lockdown.



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# On To the Next Chapter

From Today and Beyond

And the story ends here.





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As of today, I have been accepted into 4 colleges; UST, DLSU, ADMU and UA&P. I am still awaiting the announcement of UP, but I am secure and sure to go off to college. I do not know yet what the world has in store for me, but I am excited to find out.



The End

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# ◀ About the Author ▶



Macy is part of the Music Production Strand under the Arts and Design Track. She might be specializing in music, but she has an avid love for literature and the arts. She hopes to one day make a contribution to the world that proves that she really just wants to help improve people's lives to the best of her abilities.

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