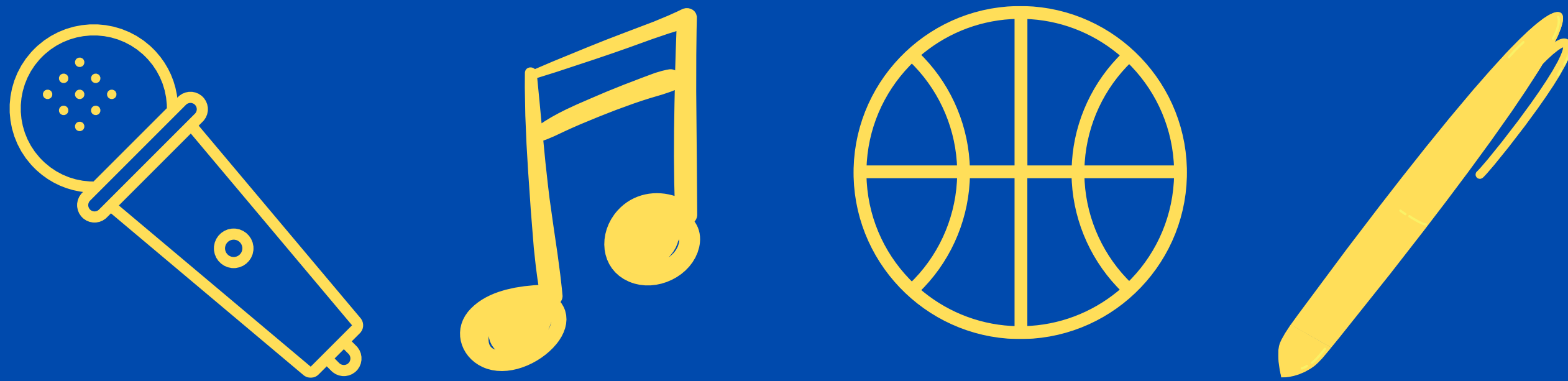


THE DIFFERENT SIDES OF ME



EXPLORING MYSELF THROUGH COLF

BY: NICCOLO PEÑA

INTRODUCTION

HI THERE! MY NAME IS NICCOLO DANTE PEÑA. YOU CAN CALL ME “NICCO” OR “PEÑA” OR “NICS”. I AM A GRADE 12 HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HUMSS) STUDENT AND MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS GRADUATING BATCH OF 2021.

I HAVE BEEN STUDYING IN THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS FOUNDATION FOR 12 YEARS, SO I CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT I GREW UP HERE. OVER THE PAST DECADE, COLF’S CURRICULUM HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT SKILLS, TALENTS, AND LESSONS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED ME TO BECOME THE PERSON I AM TODAY. BEFORE I LEAVE FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER OF MY LIFE, I WILL BE SHOWING THE DIFFERENT SKILLS AND LESSONS THAT COLF TAUGHT ME IN ORDER TO BECOME THE BEST PERSON THAT I CAN POSSIBLY BE.



(C) T. FE RIVERA

I. THE STUDENT



LEARNING HOW TO WRITE

AS A STUDENT, I ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL STUDIES. I WOULD SAY THAT MY FAVORITE TASK/ACTIVITY WAS "WRITER'S WORKSHOP", WHERE WE WOULD BE GIVEN A PROMPT OR A TOPIC THEN WE WOULD MAKE A POEM, ESSAY, OR STORY ABOUT THAT TOPIC.

I ALSO CREDIT COLF FOR TEACHING ME HOW TO WRITE IN FILIPINO. I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST AT WRITING (AND SPEAKING) FILIPINO, BUT IT WAS A FULFILLING EXPERIENCE LEARNING OUR NATIONAL LANGUAGE AND PUTTING IT TO GOOD USE.



A POEM FROM ENGLISH CLASS:

"Lonely Light"

By: *Niccolo Pena*

Lonely Light in the sky of the dark,
Bright as it can be in its month-long arc,
It outshines the stars wandering around,
And guides all those going homebound.

Its dazzling light stands out in the night,
But many remiss its presence in daylight.

It is there, always there waiting in the wings,
But is overshadowed by the sun and the daylight it brings.

The poor lonely light is much overlooked,
It is only deeply sought when people are hiding in a nook.

They only seek its light in the realm of dark skies,
But is completely forgotten right after sunrise.

Lonely light, a lonely friend that provides,
A lonely friend who is giving, one who can turn the tides.
A lonely friend whom one ignores when the day is bright,
A lonely friend who in the dark will be your only light...

A POEM FROM FILIPINO CLASS

Darating

Darating ang kasayahan
Sa kabila ng kasalukuyang dalamhati
Sa kabila ng pagod at takot na dala ng epidemya

Darating ang kasaganahan
Sa kabila ng gutom at pag-aagaw
Sa kabila ng kayamanan at pinagkukunan na kanilang pinagsasarili

Darating ang kapayapaan
Sa kabila ng kalupitan at karahasan
Sa kabila ng paglabag sa ating mga karapatan bilang miyembro ng lipunan

Darating ang kalayaan
Sa kabila ng paghihigpit
Sa kabila ng pilit na paghihigpit sa ating pagsamo at pagpuna sa pang-aabuso ng mga pinuno

Darating ang mabuting kinabukasan
Sa kabila ng magulo at matinding kasalukuyan
Sa kabila ng kawalan ng pag-asa para sa pag-ahon ng ating bansa

ENJOYING MATH PROJECTS (BUT NOT THE MATH!)



(C) T. FE RIVERA

EVEN THOUGH MATHEMATICS WAS NEVER MY STRENGTH, I LIKED COLF'S MATH PROJECTS BECAUSE THEY WERE OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY OUR MATH LEARNINGS IN CREATIVE MANNERS. THE MOST NOTABLE MATH PROJECT FOR ME WAS REALLY THE HOUSE PROJECT IN GRADE 10. EVEN IF IT REQUIRED MANY COMPUTATIONS, MEASUREMENTS, AND CUTTING PIECES, THE FINAL PRODUCT WAS VERY MUCH SOMETHING I WAS PROUD OF.

Community of Learners Foundation

A BETTER LIFE ABROAD?

A STUDY ON WHY SOME STUDENTS
OF COLF WANT TO MOVE TO
OTHER COUNTRIES

Niccolo Peña

Submitted to: Zach Pagkalinawan
April 28, 2020

LEARNING "ACADEMIC LANGUAGE"

LEARNING HOW TO DO GOOD RESEARCH WAS ONE OF THE MOST STRESSFUL AND TIME-CONSUMING TASKS IN RESEARCH. HOWEVER, IT WAS ALSO ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL TOOLS AND SKILLS THAT ONE CAN POSSESS FOR ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL, AND PERSONAL NEEDS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE RESEARCH WORKS I HAVE MADE IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**THE LAND OF BROKEN PROMISE:
THE MARAWI WAR**

Niccolo Peña

Community of Learners Foundation

Submitted to: May Bastes

October 21, 2019

**A BETTER LIFE
ABROAD?:
FINDINGS SO FAR...**

BY: Niccolo Pena

II. THE ATHLETE



JOINING THE VARSITY TEAM



COLF BASKETBALL



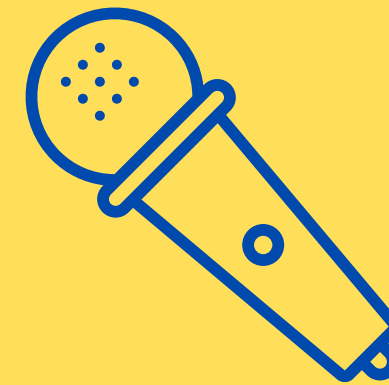
JOINING THE SCHOOL'S VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM WAS QUITE THE EXPERIENCE. I PLAYED THE SMALL FORWARD & POWER FORWARD POSITIONS BECAUSE I WAS ONE OF THE TALLER AND BULKIER PLAYERS ON THE TEAM. I WAS NOT A "GOOD" PLAYER AND I RECALL HAVING ONLY SCORED 8 POINTS AT MOST IN ONE GAME. I ALSO REMEMBER DURING GRADE 6 WHEN THE ELEMENTARY TEAM WENT 0 FOR 8 IN ALL SEASON GAMES!

BEING PART OF A TEAM

HOWEVER, WHAT TRANSCENDED ALL THE WINS, LOSSES, FORFEITURES, AND ARDUOUS TRAINING SESSIONS WAS BEING PART OF A TEAM. THE BOND BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM WAS TRULY BEYOND JUST BASKETBALL, AND IT SHOWED WHEN THE TEAM WON THEIR FIRST GAME IN A FEW YEARS. EVEN WHEN I LOST MY PASSION FOR BASKETBALL, I STILL KEPT PLAYING BECAUSE OF THE GENUINE BOND I HAD WITH THE REST OF THE TEAM.



III. THE PERFORMER



THE SINGER/SONGWRITER

MUSIC IS ONE OF MY PASSIONS IN LIFE. I ENJOY SINGING, PLAYING INSTRUMENTS, AND WRITING SONGS. ONE OF MY EARLIEST MEMORIES OF SINGING IN COLF WAS WHEN I WAS IN GRADE 3 WHEN I WAS THE LEAD SINGER IN THE SONG "THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE". I ALSO REMEMBER WHEN I JOINED THE "UPPER SCHOOL IDOL" SINGING CONTEST WHERE I SANG "CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE" BY ELVIS PRESLEY.



SINGING WITH MY SISTER (2016)



(C) ELLA RIVERA

ONE OF MY FONDEST MEMORIES IN COLF WAS DURING MY FIRST PERFORMANCE IN THE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL "ACOUSTIC NIGHT". I SANG A DUET WITH MY OLDER SISTER, STEFFI, WHO WAS ALSO A PERFORMER AND GRADUATE OF COLF. CONSIDERING IT WAS MY FIRST TIME PERFORMING IN A HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AND IT WAS MY SISTER'S LAST PERFORMANCE, IT FELT A LOT LIKE A "PASSING OF THE TORCH" MOMENT. IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT WHEN MY OLDER SISTER INTRODUCED ME NOT JUST "STEFFI'S BROTHER", BUT A SINGER AND PERFORMER IN MY OWN RIGHT.

WRITING & PERFORMING MY FIRST SONG



(C) VIANCKA CO



IN 2018, I WROTE MY FIRST SONG AND PERFORMED IT IN COLF'S ACOUSTIC NIGHT IN THE SAME YEAR. THE SONG WAS TITLED "BALISA" MEANING "ANXIOUS" IN ENGLISH. I WAS INITIALLY NERVOUS NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS MY FIRST TIME PERFORMING AN ORIGINAL SONG, BUT BECAUSE I WAS SINGING ABOUT A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. NONETHELESS, I WALKED UP ON STAGE AND SANG THE SONG. IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PERFECT, BUT THIS EXPERIENCE REMINDED ME THAT SONGWRITING WAS A NEW WAY TO EXPRESS MY THOUGHTS & FEELINGS.

THE DANCER

I WAS INTRODUCED TO PARTNER DANCING IN GRADE 6. IT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE BECAUSE UP TO THAT POINT, I ONLY KNEW HOW TO DANCE SOLO. HOWEVER, AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF PRACTICE AND SEVERAL CLASS PERFORMANCES, I STARTED GETTING USED TO DANCING WITH A FEMALE PARTNER.



IN GRADE 8, I WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOL BALLROOM DANCE TEAM. I WAS ABLE TO LEARN HOW TO DANCE THE CHA-CHA, JIVE, RUMBA, SAMBA, AND MANY OTHER LATIN AND HIP-HOP DANCES. PREPARING FOR AND PERFORMING IN PROGRAMS WAS A BIT STRESSFUL, BUT IT WAS A FUN EXPERIENCE BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH. PARTICIPATING IN THE YEAR-END DANCE OLYMPIAD WAS ALSO A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE A YEAR'S WORTH OF SWEAT AND TEARS. I REMEMBER WINNING TWO FIRST-PLACE TROPHIES IN MY FIRST YEAR ON THE DANCE TEAM. THAT WAS A MAJOR SURPRISE BECAUSE I STILL CONSIDERED MYSELF A NOVICE IN DANCE AT THE TIME.

ACTING IN PLAYS

MY FIRST "PLAY"

AS A MEMBER OF THE PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE, I PARTICIPATED IN MANY PLAYS AND PRODUCTIONS OVER THE YEARS. THE FIRST SMALL PLAY THAT I WAS A PART OF WAS IN GRADE 2, WHERE I PLAYED "KAMATIS" IN THE STORY "ALAMAT NG AMPALAYA".



ACTING IN PLAYS

PLAYING LINK IN "HAIRSPRAY"



IN GRADE 9, I WAS ASSIGNED TO PLAY A CHARACTER NAMED "LINK" IN THE POPULAR AND BELOVED MUSICAL "HAIRSPRAY". IT WAS BOTH A FUN AND TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE AT THE SAME TIME. IT WAS FUN BECAUSE I WAS PLAYING A LEAD ROLE IN ONE OF MY PERSONAL FAVORITE MUSICALS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS NERVE-WRACKING BECAUSE I WAS PORTRAYING A SUAVE AND FLIRTATIOUS CHARACTER – A ROLE THAT I WAS NOT SURE I WOULD PLAY VERY WELL. HOWEVER, IT DID BECOME ONE OF MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES IN HIGH SCHOOL.

IV. THE PERSON



LEARNING HOW TO WORK WITH DIFFERENT

PEOPLE

GROWING UP IN A NON-SECTARIAN SCHOOL LIKE COLF GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT AND WORK WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE. IT WAS TRULY A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE DISCOVERING PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT BELIEFS, THOUGHT PROCESSES, STRENGTHS, AND LEARNING STYLES. MOREOVER, IT WAS A SATISFYING EXPERIENCE TO FIND OUT THAT I CAN STILL BE FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE DESPITE OUR VARIOUS DIFFERENCES.



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EXPERIENCES I HAD IN COLF WAS GROWING UP WITH PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. IT WAS A HUMBLING AND FULFILLING EXPERIENCE BECAUSE I LEARNED TO ACCEPT PEOPLE NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITIES, BUT WHO THEY ARE AS PEOPLE AND WHAT THEY CAN DO IN SPITE OF THEM.

LEARNING HOW TO HELP OTHERS



GROWING UP IN COLF GAVE ME NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED. THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL, MY CLASS AND I PARTICIPATED IN MANY HSSAP REACH-OUT PROGRAMS. WE WOULD HOLD SMALL PRESENTATIONS, PLAY GAMES, AND INTERACT WITH PEOPLE IN ORPHANAGES AND ELDERLY HOMES. IT WAS GREAT EXPOSURE AND INSPIRED ME TO HELP OTHERS EVEN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

BEING YOURSELF

LASTLY, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS I LEARNED FROM COLF WAS ABOUT BEING MYSELF. THE SCHOOL'S MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE DEVELOP MANY FACETS OF MYSELF: A STUDENT, MUSICIAN, DANCER, ATHLETE, TROLL, AND A FRIEND. NOT ONCE DID I FEEL LIKE I HAD TO SACRIFICE A PART OF MYSELF TO BECOME ANOTHER PERSON. AND I THANK MY TEACHERS AND SCHOOLMATES FOR MAKING ME AND LETTING ME BE WHO I AM.

SAYING GOODBYE

PARTING GIFT TO THE COLF FAMILY

HERE IS AN EXCERPT FROM A SONG I WROTE CALLED "PANGALAWANG TAHANAN":

**NAGPAPAALAM NA KAMI,
SALAMAT SA BAWAT ARAW NI DI MO KAMI PINABAYAANG
SANDALI
KAHIT KAILAN**

**O SALAMAT SA INYO SA MGA ARAL
MULA SA PAGSULAT NG TITIK, SA AGHAM AT MATEMATIKS
AT SA MABUTING PAGKATAO**

SIGNING OFF



AFTER 12 YEARS IN COLF, IT IS NOW TIME FOR ME TO SAY GOODBYE. THANK YOU TO MY TEACHERS FOR TEACHING ME EVERYTHING NOT ONLY IN ACADEMICS BUT IN HOW TO BE A GOOD PERSON. THANK YOU TO THE ATES AND KUYAS WHO PREPARED MY MEALS EACH DAY AND BROUGHT ME HOME FROM SCHOOL. THANK YOU TO MY CLASSMATES AND SCHOOLMATES FOR MAKING HIGH SCHOOL A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. I WILL CHERISH ALL THE LESSONS, MEMORIES AND STORIES I HAVE LEARNED FROM THIS SCHOOL.

THIS IS NICCO, SAYING GOODBYE...

