THE BEST MOTIVATORS
by: ANNE MARIE R. SEÑORA
T-III, Magsaysay Integrated School

A motivator is something that provides a reason or stimulus to do something. This can also be a person who promotes interest or enthusiasm for something (Oxford Living Dictionaries, 2017). Giving ample consideration to that definition, we, teachers, often relate students’ motivation to learn to the different materials and technologies we use in teaching. Indeed, creating instructional materials (IMs) has been one of the most difficult challenges for teachers. These IMs should be creative, motivating, relevant, and varied. With the advent of technology, this task became somehow easier since use of computers or laptops and LCD projectors seeped in. However, not all teachers are good in making these IMs. Besides, there would always be uncontrollable situations like for instance, power interruption, lack of time, lots of other more important matters to attend to, and the likes. With the absence of our IMs, does that mean that we can no longer teach effectively and efficiently? In this sense, the most useful advice that I could offer as a teacher is for us to think and believe that we, teachers, are still the best motivators.

I am not stating that IMs aren’t useful and needed in the teaching-learning process. What I wanted to point out is that regardless of how many and how grand our IMs are, the most important factor that could motivate students with a longer effect is the teacher. IMs could incite students into action during a particular lesson but a motivating teacher could inspire students to be excited about learning for a lifetime. The impact of IMs is temporary but a teacher’s impression is long lasting.

Germane to the abovementioned thoughts, we sometimes commit the mistake of giving too much focus and attention to the materials and strategies that we are going to employ in our
discussion. I, at times, also had this notion that creating impressive IMs and memorizing the lesson that I’ll teach could make me look more prepared, more efficient, and more effective as a teacher. That’s why occasionally, if my IM’s aren’t ready, I also lose the confidence to teach. But not long after, I’ve realized that even with the absence of IMs and differentiated strategies, I can still be a good teacher. Passion and confidence in teaching are the keys. That was when I concluded that teachers are still the best motivators for students. Besides, IMs are used only inside the school but a teacher’s role extends beyond that.

As students’ best motivators, we, teachers should not just teach but inspire, not just motivate but touch lives. We should be responsible for more than just their academic enrichment. We should be their motivator both inside and outside the classroom. Educators are able to affect virtually every aspect of students’ lives, teaching them the important life lessons that will help them succeed beyond term papers and standardized tests (Teach, 2017).

References:
