



HONEY BADGER HERALD

DOMUSCHOLA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE

ACADEMIC HEAD

MR. BOB DARWISH
SR. ACADEMIC HEAD, GSG



Dear DIS Community,

As we progress through the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the GSG Academic Team, to share some forward-looking plans and to acknowledge several important milestones for the DIS community.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to be rolling out a series of academic masterclasses for all IGCSE and IBDP students across GSG schools, including DIS. These masterclasses are designed to strengthen examination readiness and to ensure consistency in high-quality academic support across our network. They will focus on helping students understand how to approach different examination papers, unpack command terms, structure effective responses, manage time under exam conditions, and demonstrate their learning with confidence and clarity.

Importantly, these masterclasses will also address the wider aspects of examination preparation. Students will be guided on how to prepare effectively over time, develop positive study habits, and manage examination pressure and anxiety. At GSG, we strongly believe that student success is underpinned not only by academic rigour, but also by well-being, resilience, and a confident mindset. These initiatives are intended to support students holistically as they work towards their external assessments.

I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to the DIS leadership team, teachers, staff, students, and community on the successful completion of the IB 5-Year Programme Evaluation. The glowing report is a strong affirmation of the quality of teaching and learning, the effectiveness of leadership, and the school's commitment to the IB philosophy. This achievement reflects sustained effort, collaboration, and a shared focus on continuous improvement, and it is a significant accomplishment of which the entire community should be very proud.

As we look forward, it is also a pleasure to acknowledge an important milestone for DIS. In February, the school will celebrate its 26th Foundation Day. This anniversary marks more than the passage of time; it represents the school's growth, resilience, and positive impact over the years, as well as the strong partnership between students, teachers, staff, families, and leadership. DIS continues to play an important role within the GSG network, and we look forward to celebrating this occasion with the school community.

At this point in the academic calendar, I would also like to extend my very best wishes to the DP2 students as they prepare for their upcoming mock examinations and, shortly after, the final IBDP examinations in May. These assessments represent a significant milestone and the culmination of sustained effort, commitment, and growth over the course of the Diploma Programme. The mock examinations provide an important opportunity for reflection and consolidation, and we are confident that students will approach them with focus and determination.

To parents and families, thank you for your continued trust and support. Your role in encouraging balance, perseverance, and confidence at home is invaluable, particularly during examination periods. To the DIS leadership team, teachers, and staff, I would like to express my appreciation for your professionalism and dedication in supporting students and maintaining high academic standards.

As part of the wider GSG community, we remain committed to continuous improvement, shared best practice, and ensuring that every student is well prepared for success — academically, personally, and beyond school.

Regards,

Bob Darwish

Senior Academic Head
Global Schools Group

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Feature:
 - Christmas Party Primary School
 - Christmas Party Secondary School
 - Music Recital and Grade 8 Art Exhibition
 - "Handog Ngiti Para Kina Lolo at Lola" (Outreach Program)
 - Sharing Smiles: A Gift-Giving Activity (Outreach Program)
 - DIS Staff Christmas Party
 - Philippine Schools Debate Championship (PSDC) 2025
 - Grade 8 Parent & Child Activity
 - Secondary PTC
 - Open House
 - Passion into Action
 - Grade 5 Trip to Pure Oceans
 - IB Visit: IB Program Evaluation
 - A Tour-rific Evaluation in Domuschola
 - Second ScholaMUN
 - Club Fair
 - Media Representation of Neurodiversity



Christmas Party

PRIMARY SCHOOL













Music Recital and Grade 8 Art Exhibition

The Secondary School Music Recital last semester was a vibrant celebration of student talent, creativity, and collaboration. Learners from Grades 6 to 10, together with our school clubs, took the stage to perform a diverse repertoire—from body percussion and musical soundtracks to original compositions, remixes, and classical pieces. The program featured energetic ensemble numbers, instrumental showcases, and vocal performances that highlighted the range of musical experiences students engaged in throughout the semester.



Among the highlights were Grade 8's original composition "One Step at a Time," the engaging looping and remix performances, and the dynamic band presentations that demonstrated students' skills in both traditional and contemporary music forms. The recital concluded with a heartfelt community singing segment, where performers and audience members came together in a shared musical moment, capturing the spirit of unity and celebration that defined the event.





Following the recital, guests were welcomed to the opening of the Grade 8 Art Exhibition, "Nocturnum: Garden of Dreams and Growth." Students toured parents, teachers, and peers through their curated displays, sharing the inspirations and personal meanings behind their works. Centered on themes of dreams, identity, and personal growth, the exhibition showcased how students see themselves evolving as learners, individuals, and members of the community. The showcase served as a meaningful culmination of their artistic journey and a powerful reflection of student voice expressed through the arts.





“HANDOG NGITI PARA KINA LOLO AT LOLA” OUTREACH PROGRAM





“SHARING SMILES: A GIFT-GIVING ACTIVITY”

OUTREACH PROGRAM








Domuschola Takes the National Debate Stage at

PSDC 2025



The 2025 Philippine Schools Debate Championships (PSDC) was held from December 4 to 7, 2025 at the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. PSDC is the flagship national debate tournament for high school students, organized by the Ateneo Debate Society—one of the country's premier debate institutions. This year's tournament gathered some of the nation's best young debaters for a series of highly competitive rounds that tested teamwork, persuasive speaking, and the ability to rapidly analyze complex issues.

Selected members of the Domuschola Debate Club proudly represented the school at this prestigious event, showcasing the critical thinking and debating skills they have honed through dedicated training and preparation. In the weeks leading up to the tournament, the delegation was trained by Mr. Joseph Asis, a seasoned debater from the University of the Philippines Diliman's UP Debate Society, whose guidance greatly contributed to the team's growth and confidence.

Throughout the competition, the Domuschola debaters engaged with peers from schools across the Philippines, including Ateneo de Naga University, Xavier University, PAREF Southridge, Bannister Academy, and many others. This exposure provided valuable learning experiences and fostered meaningful exchanges with fellow young debaters nationwide.



PSDC 2025 cont....



PSDC 2025 cont....

Over the four-day tournament, one Domuschola team—DIS DA (Joaquin Deada and Zachy Ali)—finished within the Top 1–50 teams. Meanwhile, the rest of the delegation—DIS SS (Santiago Santos and Aidan Sebastian), DIS GC (Rocio Garcia and Clara Carrion), DIS AJ (Ethan Arquiza and Gabby Javier), and DIS PR (Krishaa Pataliya and Zara Ruiz)—placed within the Top 51–100 teams. These results are especially commendable, as this marked the team’s first time competing in a national tournament of this scale.



The Domuschola Debate Club’s performance at PSDC 2025 reflects their dedication, hard work, and potential for even greater achievements in the future. We are incredibly proud of our debaters and their accomplishments. Here’s to more championships and competitions ahead—more power to the Domuschola Debate Club.



Grade 8
**PARENT &
CHILD**
ACTIVITY

The Grade 8 Parent-Child activity held on January 14, 2026, was a beautiful way to kick off the year, focusing on a goal we all value: bridging the communication gap between generations. The Grade 8 community gathered to strengthen the bonds between parents and students. It was an afternoon dedicated to understanding, empathy, and most importantly, creating a safer space for communication.



The parents had a session with Mr. Francis Lee who provided valuable information about adolescent developmental and emotional growth. He offered practical, compassionate tips for navigating the often-complex landscape of communicating with teenagers.



Meanwhile, the Grade 8 students had a session with Ms. Cristina Baretto. They explored why talking to parents can feel difficult at times and learned healthy, constructive ways to express their feelings and needs.



The highlight of the activity was the guided communication activity. As parents and students reunited to put their new tools into practice, the atmosphere transformed. It was truly heartwarming to witness conversations deepen, as students found their voices and parents listened with care and love.



We recognize that social and emotional well-being are the foundations of academic excellence. Thank you, Grade 8 families, for your invaluable role in making our school community a supportive place for every student.







Alyssa Nalus | Grade 5B

GRADE 5 STUDENT-LED ASSEMBLY


On January 14, 2026, the Grade 5 students of Domuschola International School held a student-led assembly in the Music and Movement Room for other PYP students and teachers.

During the assembly, they showcased what they learned in their second and third units about passion and social entrepreneurship. The program started with a video to engage the audience. After watching the video, the audience shared their thoughts. The hosts of the program, Soo Yeon Boo, Advika Nair, and Sahar Vijayakumar, then explained what social entrepreneurship is. This was followed by an activity where the audience connected the characteristics of a social entrepreneur.





Passion into action cont...



Next, the IB Learner Profile Attributes activity was introduced and answered easily and immediately by the audience. After this, the Grade 5 students shared individually how their passions can turn into a social enterprise. To conclude the assembly, the audience was invited to stand and recite a pledge about exploring passions and creating positive change in the world. This assembly was truly inspiring and helpful for students who want to make a difference.

Plastics Picked, Waves of Happiness Continue: *Grade 5 Trip to Pure Oceans*

Alyssa Villacin | Grade 5B



Mabini, Batangas - On January 20, 2026, Domuschola International School's Grade 5 students woke up extra early to leave for Batangas for their field trip to Pure Oceans, a social enterprise that aims to create a plastic-free ocean, held at Planet Dive Resort.

The day began with a warm welcome from Pia Ocampo, the founder of Pure Oceans. She explained what Pure Oceans does as a social enterprise and gave the students an overview of the day's activities, which included shoreline clean-up, segregating plastics, and plushie sewing. The morning was filled with laughter, excitement, splashes, and fun conversations with teachers, friends, and the social entrepreneurs from Pure Oceans.

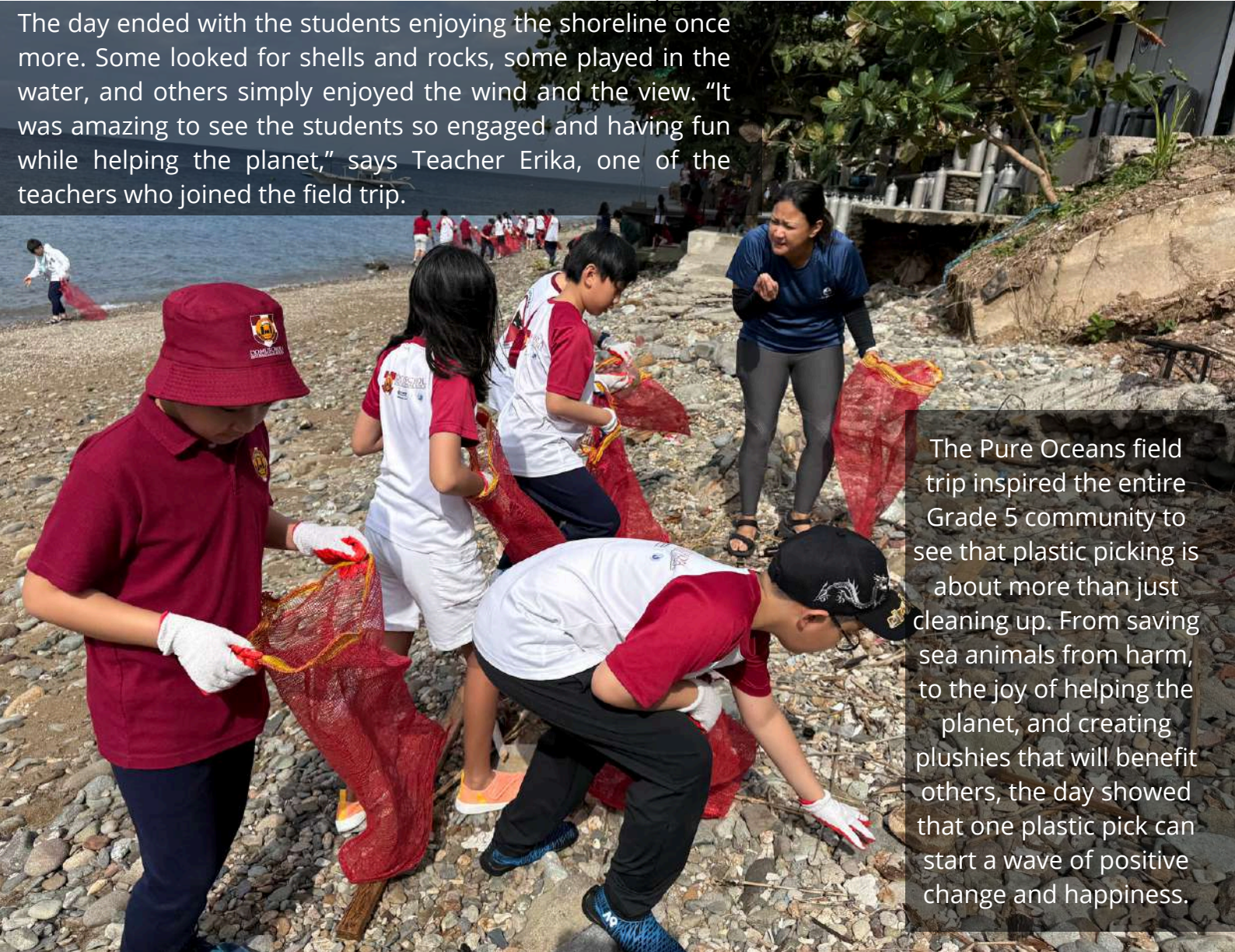




During the plastic-picking activity, every piece of plastic collected brought smiles—not just to the people who would benefit from the recycled materials, but to the students themselves. Each find motivated them to look for more. After collecting, the students segregated the plastics into different categories such as hard plastics, soft plastics, cans, glasses, etc.

The last activity of the day was creating plushies from recycled plastics collected from the shorelines. This task was both challenging and exciting, as the students learned how to sew while turning what would have been waste into something useful. The Grade 5 students were amazed to learn that the strips of plastic used in the plushies were cut by hand, one strip at a time, which surprised and impressed every student and

The day ended with the students enjoying the shoreline once more. Some looked for shells and rocks, some played in the water, and others simply enjoyed the wind and the view. “It was amazing to see the students so engaged and having fun while helping the planet,” says Teacher Erika, one of the teachers who joined the field trip.



The Pure Oceans field trip inspired the entire Grade 5 community to see that plastic picking is about more than just cleaning up. From saving sea animals from harm, to the joy of helping the planet, and creating plushies that will benefit others, the day showed that one plastic pick can start a wave of positive change and happiness.



IB VISIT IB PROGRAM EVALUATION





A TOUR-RIFIC EVALUATION IN DOMUSCHOLA!

Gael Baculi | Grade 5B

On January 14, 2026, students, Maia and Gael Baculi from Grade 5 toured the IB evaluators, Ms. Rachna and Ms. Mida, around Domuschola International School.

They toured the first and second floors of the school while talking about the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and the activities they do. The students were also asked questions about the PYP, such as how computers are commonly used in class and what has changed since they started studying at Domuschola. The school was evaluated to see how well it continues to implement the International Baccalaureate framework in classes.



The school will be given constructive feedback, including what they are doing well and what they can improve. According to Ms. Gina Delizo, PYP coordinator, "The evaluation was like a check-up to make sure the school is healthy as an IB school."

It was a truly enjoyable and informative tour, which was quite memorable for both the evaluators and the students.



The DIS Model United Nations (DIS MUN) held the 2nd ScholaMUN last January 17-18, 2026 at Domuschola International School, drawing 170 students from 32 schools inside and outside Metro Manila.



Second SCHOLAMUN

RECAP





Following the theme “Balancing technological progress while preserving human identity”, delegates used their debate and diplomatic skills to propose solutions to topics, ranging from integrating new technologies to protect and preserve designated World Heritage Sites to promoting the use of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities (PWD) in public areas. Imagination was also everywhere to be seen in this conference, as there was also a committee dedicated to Star Wars’ Battle of Coruscant, and a committee dubbed International Pop Artists’ Convention debated about combatting defamation and identity theft stemming from the misuse of deepfake technology.

The end of the conference saw commendations being awarded towards the exemplary delegates from each committee. The delegation from Assumption College-San Lorenzo were awarded the most, with eight delegates getting recognized. Other schools getting multiple delegates with commendations include Xavier School San Juan, De La Salle University-Manila Senior High School, and Ateneo De Manila University.

See you in the next ScholaMUN!





Last January 28-29 2026, the DIS Student Council held the Secondary Schools' Club Fair, aimed at promoting participation for clubs under the Secondary Department. The first Club Fair day was held in the Music and Movement Room, while the Secondary School Foyer hosted the second day.



The participating clubs were the Research Club, the DIS Debate Club, the Badgers Band Club, the DIS Model United Nations Club, the World Scholars' Society, and the Visual Artist Club. Each booth showcased what makes their club unique. The DIS MUN Club had merchandise from the recently concluded 2nd ScholaMUN as giveaways, as well as asking interested students their stand about issues ranging from the mundane to the relevant.

The DIS Debate Club polled students about which Filipino dish is superior: sinigang or adobo. The World Scholars' Society displayed their alpacas as a souvenir from their competitions and travels around the world as part of their journey from the Regionals to the Globals. The Visual Artist Club held a survey using different colorful pens about which medium they would like to learn more about. Finally, both the Research Club and the Badgers Band Club also drew interested people during the two days of the fair.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF NEURODIVERSITY



The mass media plays a powerful role in shaping how society perceives neurodiverse individuals, as well as how these individuals can leverage their skills to succeed not only academically, but also in other fields such as the arts, sports, and sciences.

In blogs by Medical Marketing and Media (2025) and London Breeze (2025) discussing neurodivergent people and their representation in the media, it was noted that the experiences of neurodiverse individuals are often overlooked, toned down, and/or poorly unrepresented.

The media frequently relies on persistent myths, misconceptions, and stereotypes rather than portraying fully developed, authentic characters.



For example, neurodiverse individuals are “limited” or “dangerous”. People with Autism are often depicted as “socially inept geniuses” or “nonverbal and dependent” (McPherson, 2025), while individuals with ADHD are “lazy”, “careless”, or “lacking willpower” (Tartakovsky, 2021).

As members of an international school community committed to the IB Learner Profile attributes, it is important that we reflect about how neurodiversity is portrayed in the media, as the media has the power to either strengthen stereotypes or further build inclusion and empathy.

When portrayals are authentic, they help students, teachers, and families see neurodiverse individuals as individuals with unique strengths, challenges, and contributions.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF NEURODIVERSITY In the Philippines...

Awareness and understanding of neurodiversity are still very limited. Many people only learn about neurodivergence if someone in their family is affected or oftentimes from stereotypical representations on Filipino television. Sadly, this lack of understanding can lead to discrimination.

In December 2020, a painful incident happened at a resort in Mactan involving a six-year-old child with autism. The child was happily squealing, but resort staff reportedly asked the mother to stop her child from making noise. When the mother raised her concern, the resort's resident manager responded in writing, accusing her of lying about her child's condition and saying that "uncontrollable shouting is not a symptom of autism." He even claimed he searched online and concluded that the behavior was due to poor discipline. This response deeply upset many parents of autistic children across the country. Because of these misunderstandings, many neurodivergent individuals and their families continue to face daily challenges—not only in public spaces, but also in schools, workplaces, and community settings.



However, there are organizations and establishments like malls that bridge the gap between neurodiverse myths and stereotypes and media representation and inclusivity, while also advocating for and empowering neurodiverse individuals.

Programs such as **Autism-OK**, which aims to call for the changes needed to build an autism-inclusive society, and **MR. DIY's pioneering store internship program for neurodiverse interns**, which highlights interns' unique skills such as their focus on routine and attention to detail, exemplify these efforts.

These initiatives build **awareness**, **acceptance**, **support**, and **admiration** not just for people with autism, but for the broader neurodiverse community. They encourage society to recognize the unique strengths of neurodiverse individuals, reflect and challenge long-standing labels, biases, and stereotypes, shift cultural narratives, and open more opportunities for meaningful understanding, inclusion, and connection.



WE DID IT!

Domuschola International School
has successfully passed the IB Evaluation

No Matters to be Addressed!

Feedback and suggestions from
the IB Evaluators will be shared soon.



02-13 FEB

- IB MOCK EXAM DP2

17 FEB

- CHINESE NEW YEAR (HOLIDAY | NO CLASSES)

19-20 FEB

- YEARBOOK PHOTOSHOOT FOR ALL STUDENTS

21 FEB

- FOUNDATION DAY

23 FEB

- NO CLASSES (REST DAY)

25 FEB

- FACULTY IN SERVICE (NO CLASSES / DLO)

26 FEB - 11 MAR

- IGCSE MOCK EXAM - GRADE 10

27 FEB

- GRADE 6 EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP

EVENTS

YEARBOOK PHOTOSHOOT SCHEDULE

S.Y. 2025-2026

February 19, 2026 (Thursday)	
Time	Grade Level and Section
7:30-9:30 am	Grade 5A and 5B
9:30-10:15 am	Grade 10A
10:15-11:10 am	Grade 3A and 3B
11:10-12:05 pm	Grade 7A and 7B
12:05 am-1:05 pm	LUNCH BREAK
1:05-2:00 pm	Grade 9A and 9B
2:00-2:55 pm	Grade 11A and 11B <i>*Grade 11 students will be dismissed late</i>

February 20, 2026 (Friday)	
Time	Grade Level and Section
7:30-8:20 am	Grade 1A and 1B
8:20-9:05 am	Kinder
9:05 -9:40 am	N/PK
9:40-10:25 am	Grade 2A
10:25-11:10 am	Grade 4A
11:10 am-12:10 pm	LUNCH BREAK
12:10-12:55 pm	Grade 6A
12:55-1:40 pm	Grade 8A
1:40-3:40 pm	Grade 12A <i>*Grade 12 students will be dismissed late</i>



 **gco**

please handle with care

Let us know if your child needs extra love, care & support.

bit.ly/gco_cares



 **gco**

COUNSELING REFERRAL

For counseling or consultation referral:

https://bit.ly/gco_referral



Admissions & Marketing

REFERRAL PROGRAM



DOMUSCHOLA
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Cambridge Assessment
International Education
Cambridge International School



GET ₱15,000.00 INCENTIVE
FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL
NEW STUDENT REFERRAL

The referred student shall enjoy a
₱10,000.00 discount credit
that can be deducted from any
applicable school fees.

- Open to all parents and guardians of currently enrolled students
- Contact the Admissions and Marketing Office for the referral program

+63927-651-5669

admissions@domuschola.edu.ph



JOIN US IN GROWING THE DIS COMMUNITY!

Share your happy school experiences with your family and friends.

We are still welcoming transferees for selected grade levels
for S.Y. 2025-2026

For more inquiries, please email us at admissions@domuschola.edu.ph.

Thank you, DIS parents, for your contribution to the growth of the
Domuschola community!

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

For any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the following:

Administration

hrexec.dismnl@globalschools.com

Registrar

ed.duque@globalschools.com

Finance

finance@globalschools.com

Admissions

adm.dismnl@globalschools.com

Infirmary

infirmary.dismnl@globalschools.com

Academics

ea.dismnl@globalschools.com

Upper Primary Level Coordinator (Grade 3 - 5)

cdrypyp.dismnl@globalschools.com

Lower Primary Level Coordinator (NPK - Grade 2)

estriel.bernardo@globalschools.com

Secondary Coordinator

cdrsec.dismnl@globalschools.com

Cambridge Coordinator

lailani.ordinado@globalschools.com

DP Coordinator

cdribdp@globalschools.com

Guidance (Primary School)

smartbloom1.dismnl@globalschools.com

Guidance (Secondary School)

smartbloom.dismnl@globalschools.com

ASAC

cdr.dismnl@globalschools.com

Learning Resource Center

librarian.dismnl@globalschools.com

School Phone Landline: (02) 8247 5566 | Mobile: 0917-714-2002 (Globe), 0918-947-9002
(Smart) Email: helpdesk.dis.ph@globalschools.com