

Karen Carcamo: Coordinator, German European School

By CARMENCITA H. ACOSTA

How does one speak of an "all-American lady"? Let's try by describing Karen: a pretty blonde with blue eyes, quickly paced yet very feminine, wearing high heels, a smartly cut-casual dress and let's not forget her very own special ingredient... an expert mathematician. She and her two children, Chayse 8 and Antonio 4, came to Manila to follow her beloved Latino-American husband, Erick Carcamo who works for a private company, assigned to its Philippine branch.

Karen Lynn Carcamo, has been teaching and mentoring in mathematics since her graduation at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She is presently the IB diploma programme coordinator at the German School in Manila where she also teaches her IB students (advanced) Mathematics and Theory of Knowledge. This is Karen's first foreign school assignment outside the United States and both she and Erick, together with their kids, have already visited the Philippines' "hot spots" such as wonderful Boracay, Tagaytay, Nasugbu and Cebu - among many others. "Wherever my dear husband wants to go, we go," Karen says. They have taken advantage to living in Southeast Asia and visited places as Hong Kong, Kota Kinabalu, Singapore, Beijing and Shanghai. In sight of the upcoming school holidays, they are planning international trips to new places yet to be discovered by this ambitious family such as Sydney, Australia.

The German European School Manila offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. The aforesaid school is a good choice not only for German speaking families but also for English speaking families searching for their children to be introduced to European education and culture. The school has

over 20 nationalities represented in its student population.

According to our globetrotter Karen, "... the school provides excellent education not only in German but in English as well." The latter follows internationally accepted and renowned standards. "Children are given scope and motivation for their personal development. We want them to feel at home in our school," Karen emphasizes.

The IB diploma program is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily targeting students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. Students learn more than just a simple "body of knowledge". According to Karen, "the students are not only prepared for university but the program also encourages them to ask challenging questions, introduces them to various learning techniques, helps them develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture, and develops their ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures."

Karen further explains: "The IB diploma program is known for its rigorous external assessments. This makes it the most widely recognized entry qualification to universities in different countries around the world such as Europe, the United States of America, and Australia only to name a few." Certain requirements are to be met so that the IB diploma is recognized as fully equivalent to a German "Abitur". We are one of a handful of schools in the world offering this," Karen insists.

She keenly pointed out some of the numerous strengths the IB diploma program have to offer: "Most of our students to date have received the bilingual diploma. Every year, near-

ly 100 percent of our students are enrolled in the full diploma program. And for those who decide not to follow the full diploma, individual subject courses are and can be offered to them." To this, Karen politely added the fact that, "We have highly qualified international teachers who continuously take advantage of professional development opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and keep it up to date in their particular didactic fields."

The German European School Manila is a highly qualified establishment offering high-end, world wide recognized education, in both German and English. A very interesting option for families, whether passing through Manila or permanently residing in it.

The German European School Manila is located at 75 Swaziland Street, Better Living Subdivision, Paranaque City, Metro Manila with telephone no. 63 2 776-1000; email secretariat@gesm.org or visit www.gesm.org



Karen Carcamo

A Promising Twig

By JUANMOS

Contrary to what people think, many writers find it interesting to compose a piece about an artist's life. The reason for this lies not in the eccentric ways and mood swings that the majority would associate with artists, but rather in the incompetence of words to capture such eventful and transcending lives.

His case is definitely true for Australian artist Tony Twigg. The man's works have reached different audiences and impressed many audiences that even the most eloquent words cannot express his life as an artist. A writer, however, can try to do this with his name

this exhibition. Twigg refers to a small leafless branch that may or may not exhibit growth. Next year marks Tony Twigg's two decades of writing and visiting the Philippines, and without a doubt, his colorful career would go through more growth too; it has twiggled in several disciplines during the past years. Twigg is not only about those well-rehearsed and drawings, which he is famous for. The Australian artist has also ventured into film, installation, theatrical practice, as well as collaborating with prominent artists in different countries. The last year has seen Twigg and other