



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NEW YORK
P R E S S R E L A S E

PR-CSC-011- 2018

31 July 2018

Consul General Welcomes Paaralan sa Konsulado Students to their Home



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal and Mrs. Marilou Cristobal welcome Paaralan sa Konsulado (PSK) students during the luncheon that they hosted on 21 July 2018 at the Philippine Center. (PCGNY Photo)

NEW YORK, 21 July 2018 – The students of 20th Paaralan sa Konsulado (PSK), together with their volunteer teachers from the Association of Filipino Teachers in America (AFTA) and AFTA summer interns were the guests to a formal luncheon hosted by Consul General Claro S. Cristobal and Madam Marilou Cristobal, as part of the PSK's special feature class. The luncheon was a mockup Independence Day celebration, which the children attended in formal national dress.

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Claro Cristobal assured the children that the Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) is their home, underlining that, like their parents, the Consulate is where they can come when they need someone to trust, where they will feel safe and where they will always belong.

“Once a Filipino, always a Filipino, that a Filipino belongs to all other Filipinos, we are just one big family living together in one home,” said the Consul General.

The luncheon was preceded by special classes on Table Manners and Etiquette by volunteers, Ms. Ave Pimo and Ella Hugo. A brief story on Philippine cuisine was given by Ms. Maria Roldan, manager of Max's Restaurant who also prepared the lunch for the children.

Each year, the Philippine Consulate invites resource speakers to present feature classes simultaneously for all three groups of PSK students. This year, the consulate invited teachers to give lessons on Philippine Heritage Sites, the Life and Works of Dr. Jose Rizal, Philippine Cuisine and Philippine Fabrics.

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The students showed significant interest and curiosity on the presentation on eight Philippine heritage and tourism sites prepared by the Department of Tourism in New York. Consul Arman R. Talbo and Cultural Officer Olive Osias-Magpile took the children on a virtual trip around the Philippines.

Ms. Olive Abarquez, a Rizal Youth leader and alumna of the National Rizal Youth Leadership Institute, shared with the students stories and values of national hero, Jose Rizal and encouraged them to be the little Rizals in their community. Following the talk, the Knights of Rizal-NY Chapter, through Consul Talbo, handed copies of *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* to the 15 eldest students.

On their last Saturday, PSK students were given a docent tour of the *Hibla ng Lahing Filipino* Traveling Exhibition by the curatorial team of the National Museum. Students expressed amazement at the tedious processes involved in the making of piña seda cloth. The docent tour included interactions with the Kalibo, Aklan weavers and Lumban, Laguna embroiderers and students were invited to touch the fiber, weave and embroider. An embroidery workshop was given to the older students as well. END



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal assures the Paaralan sa Konsulado students that the Philippine Consulate General New York will be their home, where the heart is and where they belong.



Consul Arman R. Talbo handed “Noli Me Tangere” and “El Filibusterismo” copies to the Group 3 PSK students following the talk about Jose Rizal during the Paaralan sa Konsulado on 14 July 2018.



Paaralan sa Konsulado students listen to Ms. Let dela Cruz, piña-seda weaver from Kalibo, Aklan, on how to use the Tanhaga (Aklan foot loom) to weave the fiber and turn it into fabric.



National Museum Assistant Director Ana Maria Theresa Labrador (Right Photo) introduces the PSK children to embroidery. The Embroidery Workshop was held for the Group 3 Paaralan sa Konsulado students (Left photo).



Paaralan sa Konsulado students were given a docent tour of the Hibla ng Lahing Filipino Traveling Exhibit by the National Museum curatorial team at the Lobby Gallery of the Philippine Center on 28 July 2018. (All photos by PCGNY)

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