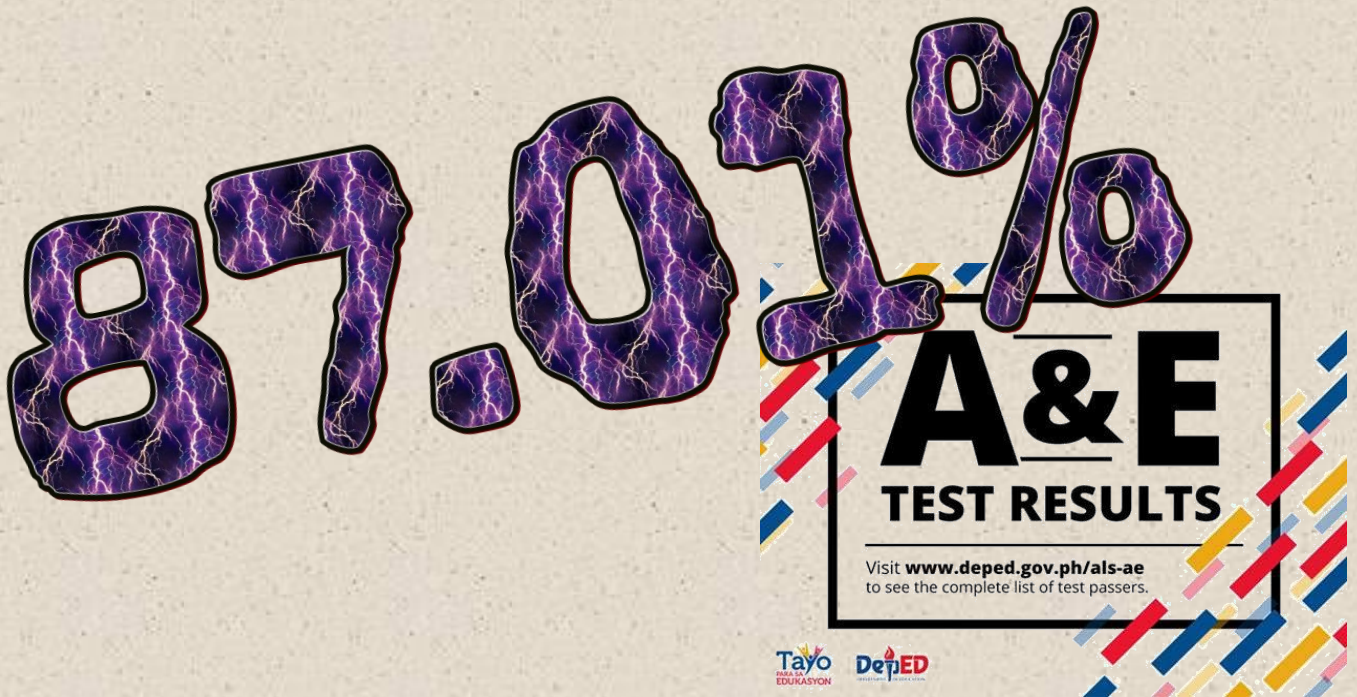


PUSO SA PUSO EDUKASYON, INC.

NEWSLETTER

April – June 2016. Issue No. 8

In keeping with our commitment to provide **quality basic education**..



**2015-2016 Alternative Learning System Accreditation and
Equivalency Examination Overall Passing Rate!**

Contributors: Joceline Basconcillo, Edwin Guevarra, Rodelyn Asturias, Jeremie Cruz, Mylene Ballaran, Darren Ilarina, Lucita Lachica and Jennifer Basconcillo



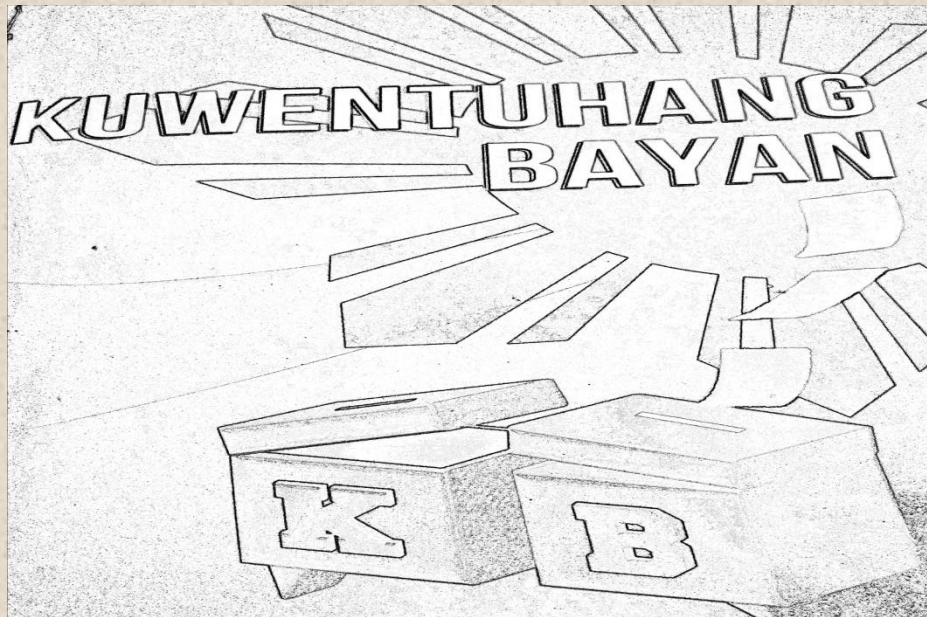
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“Kuwentuhang Bayan: Voter’s Education Seminar”

(April 02, 2016)



In anticipation of the 2016 national elections, the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB) through its *Kuwentuhang Bayan* program and facilitated by Ateneo De Manila University-Political Science students conducted an educational session on youth and the community for an honest election. It intends to empower voters by creating avenues for story-telling and action planning. The activity held at Payatas Youth Center with selected ALSA-BUHAY learners at age of 18 and above and who are registered voters became the participants of this activity. It started at exactly 9:00am to 1:00pm.

The participants were divided into two groups to aid better understanding and to maximize the limited time allotted for the session. Preliminary activities took place at the start of the session and afterwards, the main topic was had been discussed to them. The facilitators introduced the program – “Kuwentuhang Bayan” followed by factors to become an engaged citizen to have an engaging nation and lastly, things to look up towards and beyond 2016 elections. In the process of Kuwentuhang Bayan, facilitators assisted in drawing out the issues from the community and developing political agenda. After the series of talk, discussion, and explanation, the participants cited the top 5 issues in the community that need to address. Through group participation, they presented the issues such as malnutrition, increasing number of out of school youth, crimes, and housing and relocation. They also presented some necessary steps to address these issues. At the end of the sessions, participants expressed their commitment pledge to adhere to a clean, honest, accurate, meaningful, and peaceful election.

This activity is truly useful in guiding and working with the community especially educating the younger generations in fighting for a better Philippines. It is also an action-based approach that tends to discern the day-to-day, local, and national issues concerning our socio-political state. This highlighted the importance of informed and conscientious voting.

Photos:



Ateneo student orienting the learners about the flow of the program



Learners and facilitator during their group sharing



Learners writing down their inputs



Micaela and John Mark reporting the results of their group discussion



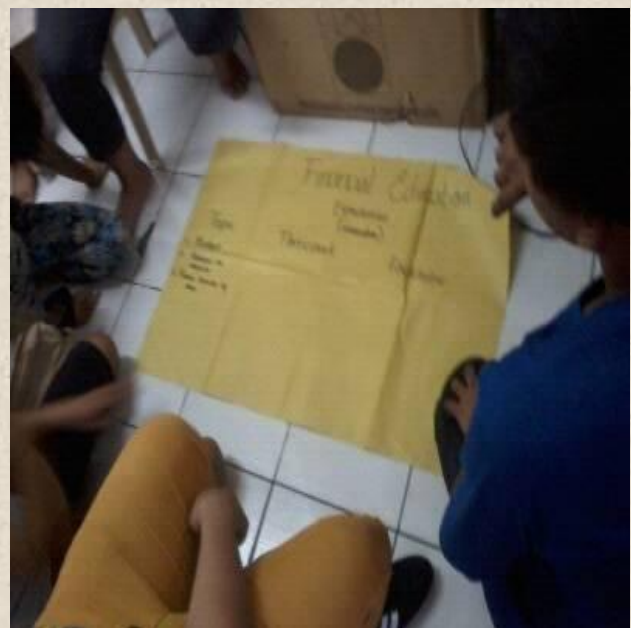
Learners stating their pledges to be part of clean and honest election



Livelihood Activity: Financial Education
(April 6 and 13, 2016)



Last April 6 and 13, 2016, 6th batch learners undergone workshop on Financial Education that was facilitated by Lucita Lachica, Livelihood Coordinator at ALSABUHAY Parola center. This is a two part sessions whereas, the first part focused on expectation checking and then, followed by lectures on savings and budgeting.



Some of the group activities taken during the sessions.



Monthly Mass for April 2016 (April 15, 2016)



According to Psalm 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight". In line with this word, we gathered our learners who would take the examination to celebrate a mass. It was held at Puso sa Puso Livelihood Parola Center last April 15, 2016, two days before the Accreditation and Equivalency Test at around 9:00am. The celebrant was Fr. Francis Teo Kean Seng from the Missionary Community of St. Paul, the Apostles.

The homily was centered on the 1st reading; Fr. Francis emphasized the life of Saul, an earnest persecutor of Christians, his personal encounter with God, and his conversion. Fr. Francis related the gospel to the life of the learners. He further advised them to do their best during the examination day. He emphasized that passing the exam can be a positive turning point of their lives.

In the end of the mass, Father Francis prayed the test takers and blessed them.





Final Coaching 2016
(April 15, 2016)



In preparation for the upcoming Accreditation and Equivalency Test, learners of ALSA-BUHAY Payatas center undergone series of intensive reviews and enhancement to achieve one goal: 100% passing rate!

On April 15, 2016 marks the Final Coaching day of the 3rd batch learners under the said center. Various activities took place on that day including a Thanksgiving Mass in the morning facilitated by Fr. John Castillo, FDP, parish priest of Mother of Divine Providence Parish in Payatas, Quezon City. At the end of the mass, Fr. John blessed all the learners including their test kits.

In the afternoon session, the main activity occurred. It was attended by elementary and secondary third batch learners and some guests. We started with the novena prayer which is also the conclusion of our 9-day series of prayer and reflection. This spiritual exertion brought tremendous motivation and inspiration to the learners. Thereafter, the final Focused Group Discussion (FGD) took place. In this activity, learners had the chance to express and share their sentiments, previous experiences, reflections, realizations, and plans for their futures. Most of them got emotional and some generated humour among the participants. The staff and volunteers also expressed their good luck wishes and their innermost hopes for all the learners and their endeavours in their lives. Finally, a powerful prayer was lead by their former teacher, Ms. Carolyn Maches who enkindled strong feeling of hopes and aspiration to the learners.

The activity transpired a humble story of beginnings and endings and most importantly, the highlights in between. It drew so much emotion as we traced the roots and envision an exhilarating life in the near future. It was indeed the end of this chapter of their lives but at the same time, prelude of a new chapter of many more opportunities and challenges outside the center. We hope for the best and we claim 100%.

Photos:



Fr. John spearheaded the mass, and blessed the learners for their success



Some of the learners were given special awards



Ms. Carolyn led a powerful prayer for the learners



We claim it, a 100% passing rate!





Accreditation and Equivalency Test 2016 (April 17, 2016)



The Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency (ALS A&E) Test, formerly known as the Non-formal Education A&E Test of the Department of Education is a paper and pencil test designed to measure the competencies of those who have neither attended nor finished elementary or secondary education in the formal school system.

Last April 17, 2016, the much-awaited examination took place in different schools and testing centers in the National Capital Region (NCR). Learners of ALSA-BUHAY Program in both Payatas and Parola sites underwent this final assessment. A total of 77 learners from our institution participated in this activity comprising 38 learners from Payatas and 39 learners from Parola that belongs to Elementary and Secondary levels. The testing center for all NGOs in Quezon City betided at Placido del Mundo Elementary School while Parola learners were designated to different schools such as Apolinario Mabini Elementary School, Victorino Mapa High School, Ramon Magsaysay High School, and Padre Mariano Gomez Elementary School. The examination lasted for four hours from 8:00am to 12:00 noon.

The finality had come. Whatever the results, we are grateful for all the blessings that the institution provided and of course, the blessings from above. We bestow back much glory to God from our heart with love and pure intention.



On our way to the testing center!



Proctor distributing answer sheets and test papers



Learners filling up required information in their test papers



Learners taking the A&E test



Group photo after the exam



Livelihood Activity: Skills Training for Parents
(April 20, 2016)



The Father Jordan's Parent Group of gate 17 went through a skills training last April 20, 2016 conducted at the house of the president of the said group. They started with their first product which was a detergent powder. As the group trying to diversify their skills, they were taught also in making dishwashing liquid and fabric conditioner. The activity was facilitated by Mrs. Lucita Lachica, Livelihood Coordinator.



Parents starting to learn the skills in making fabric conditioner and dishwashing liquid



“Child Protection Policy”

(April 23, 2016)



A formation for learners and parents entitled “**Child Protection Policy**” which was conducted by Sis. Adel Abamo of SPCC and it was attended by 41 participants from parents and learners.

It was started by an opening prayer led by Sis. Adel Abamo and followed by a recap of previous sessions which was given to the participants.

The session started through a video presentation which shows the role of mother to her children, and Sis Adel gave some questions if what are the implications of the video to themselves, and also what are those things that they don't like in the video. What are the traits of a mother that should not be done to their children?

The participants were divided into three groups according to their category: 10-13 years old and below 13 years old and above (teenagers) , and parents. The guide questions for the group sharing were the following: What agreement did you came up in your family and with your children, and give some examples that you apply in your family. Which rules are not followed and what are the values enunciate in the agreement?

Sis. Adel emphasized about the value of communication which is the important factor to be considered in Child Protection Policy. She explained well if what is “Child Protection Policy” and the basis of it. It simply stated that it protects children, the organization and the staff , and prevents abuse from happening and minimizes the severity of abuse. They have also shared about the Pusong Pusong Child Protection Policy for the learners.

The activity ended up with a closing prayer led by Rosalinda Zapanta.

Photos from Learners' and Parents' Formation



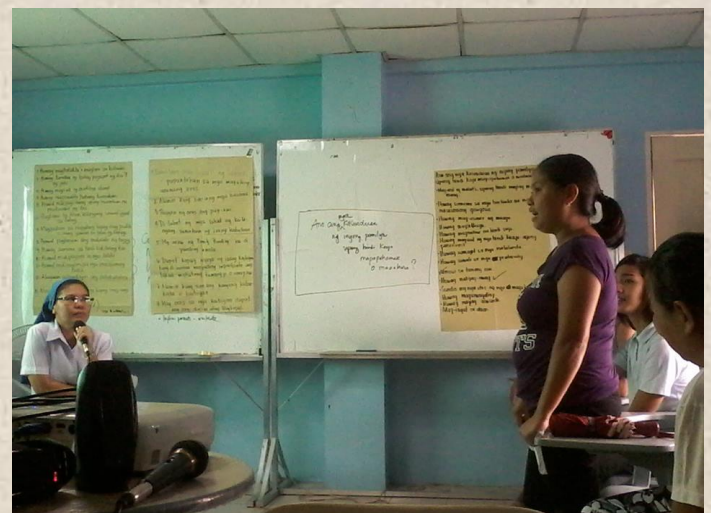
Sr. Adel led the prayer as the initial activity of formation



Sr. Adel is stating about the Child Protection Policy



Ms. Joceline is facilitating the children for the around activity



One of the participants is sharing her insights about the topic that they have been discussed in the group



“Inspirational Talk”
(April 15&27, 2016)



An inspirational talk took place in ALSA-BUHAY Parola and Payatas center last April 15, 2016 and April 27, 2016 respectively. The guest speaker was retired Honorable Judge Pedro Santiago, This has been possible with the effort of brothers of St. Paul the Apostles headed by Fr. Francis Teo. It was attended by learners of ALSA-BUHAY program under elementary and secondary level.

The talk started with the humble story of hardship, hopes, and dreams of a little boy who grew in a challenging community of Tondo, Manila. Judge Santiago shared his experiences and struggles being raised in a poor family. He told everyone that poverty should never be the hindrance but a source of inspiration to achieve our life goals. He added also how education is very important tool with some sort of life strategies to make our dreams realize and become tangible. “There is no perfect life. It can only be sustained by a prayer.” These were the words that uttered to him as he emphasized the value of faith and prayers. He stressed also that our learners are fortunate enough that they have this support system that our foundation continuously providing to them and the spiritual aspects given by different spiritual groups.

During the question and answer portion, Judge Santiago mostly asked and shared about his professional experiences. Although he was given such power almost like what God can do in judging other people, he still managed to humble himself, think, act, and feel like those small people in our society. He explained law is about life. We should understand life in order to provide justice especially to those who are being oppressed. “Being a judge is a very fulfilling job because you can equalize the rich and the poor” he added.

Finally, he gave good reasons that justice system in our country is still obtainable and can be serve to everyone especially to the poor. He concluded the talk with three pieces of advice to our learners: to study, to strive harder, and to always pray.

Photos:



Participants in Parola center listening to Judge Santiago



During the inspirational sharing in Payatas center



Group photo together with Judge Santiago and Fr. Francis



Values Formation: I am Blessed

(April 30, 2016)



Last April 30, 2016, staff and ALSA-BUHAY learners gathered at Puso sa Puso Livelihood Center at 10:00 in the morning for the values formation entitled “**I am Blessed**”. It was facilitated by Sr Mila P. Singap, FLP, and with the assistance of the ALSA BUHAY Parola staff.

The formation began with “Most heart touching Video” presentation which shows that we are blessed in every situation we had, comparing to the life of the less fortunate people in the video. Learners and Instructional Managers shared the values they learned and related it to their personal life and experiences. Thereafter, learners had a workshop where they wrote things that they may consider blessings in their own life and then, shared it in the big group. Finally, Sr. Mila gave her message where she emphasized the saying “count your blessings not your problems”. She also encouraged the learners to be more determined and enthusiastic in achieving their dreams.



Sharing of blessings in life



Community Mapping Keeps On (May 5, 6, 12, & 13, 2016)

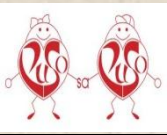


To increase the number of our learners and maximize the benefits of our institution in the community of Payatas, another information and dissemination campaign has been conducted. With the efforts of 4th batch learners and staff, they were able to mapped areas such as in Payatas A, B, and C including San Pedro Street, St. Mary Street, Lower Everlasting, Abris, Lower Jasmine, Bansalangan, Golden Shower, Molave Street and extension, Urban, Bulacan Street, Bicol Street, Pampanga Street, Forest Street, Morning Star, Dahlia Street, Campo, Champaca Street, and Gravel Pit.

A house to house strategy was used to look for possible beneficiaries of our program. In addition, we posted announcement posters in some key areas in Payatas. We also handed out flyers for people to better understand the program and ease the communication for any queries. With these efforts, we were able to have an additional 36 new enrollees in the ALSA-BUHAY Program comprising BLP, elementary, and secondary learners for this month.

Photos during community mapping:





Hey Child!
GO GROW GLOW
(May 11, 2016)



"Every child is a gift from God." Last May 11, 2016 (Wednesday) the annual Recognition day of Eskwelahan ng Buhay (Home Based Tutorial Program) was organized by the International volunteers (Rafael Werner, Salvatorian brothers and the brothers from the Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle). The event was held at covered court of Barangay 17, Tondo Manila. It was made possible with the help and support of Chairman Lasala of Barangay 17, Tondo, Chairman Willie Masakayan of Baranagay 275, Zone 25, Binondo area and Chairman Parce of Barangay 20 of Tondo Area.

In this activity, we were able to witness the kids receiving their certificates proved that they gradually finished the one year Home based tutorial program. A total of one hundred sixty (160) attendees had witnessed the recognition ceremony of Eskwelahan ng Buhay under the program of Pusong Buhay Edukasyon Inc. These include the 72 Eskwelahan beneficiaries, 23 from Gate 1; 28 kids from Gate 17 Tondo, Manila, and 21 in Gate 54 and 56 Parola Compound Binondo area parents, guest and volunteers.

The program was divided into two parts: First, the celebration of Eucharistic Mass and second, the program proper.

The Eucharistic Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Wilson Catabay, SDS with the Co-celebrant Rev. Fr. Steven Ochieng, MCSPA.

The main program was started at 10:00 in the morning. The opening prayer was led by Rafael Werner followed by Br. Paul Vincent Galgo, SDS by giving the opening remarks. As part of the program, kids from three respective areas prepared short presentation headed by volunteer teachers Rafael Werner and Br. Paul Vincent Galgo, SDS, and followed by the awarding of medals and certificates with the presence of Sr. Mila P. Singap, FLP, Fr. Rev. Wilson Catabay, SDS, and Fr. Steven Ochieng, MCSPA. The closing remarks were given by Sr. Mila P. Singap followed by the closing prayer headed by Br. Anthony Odhiambo, MCSPA.



The learners from Eskwelahan ng Buhay in Gate 54 and 56



Fr. Wilson Catabay, SDS, Sr. Mila P. Singap, FLP and Fr. Steven Ochieng, MCSPA





Recognition Day of Kids Handled by Salvatorian Brothers (May 11, 2016)



Last May 11 (Wednesday), kids handled by Salvatorian brothers underwent recognition ceremony at ALSA-BUHAY Payatas Center. It happened in the afternoon and attended by 18 children and 10 parents.

ALSA-BUHAY Staff and Salvatorian Brothers work hand in hand to organize the recognition activity of the kids. The program started with a prayer lead by Mr. Edwin Guevarra, followed by an opening message given by Br. Chinh. Before the distribution of certificates happened, kids as well as their parents had fun with the different games prepared by the staff. They also participated in the icebreaker activity through dancing and singing.

After the fun games and icebreaker activity, Br. Paul gave an inspirational and thanksgiving message to the learners as well as their parents. As they heard the message, kids and parent also showed their deepest gratitude towards the Salvatorian Brothers who allotted time, patience, knowledge and love to them. The parents said that their children had a great progress in terms of academics. They are also praying that as years go by, Pusong Pusong Edukasyon, Inc. still can able reach out and educate many kids in the community of Payatas.

Photos:





Fire Incident in Payatas

(May 16, 2016)



Eleven houses were razed as fire hits in Payatas B, Quezon City on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 2:00 in the afternoon. This comprised fourteen (14) families which were affected and left homeless burning down their houses made of light materials. After about 30 minutes, the fire was under control because of prompt response of the residence and the barangay.

A total of four (4) past and present beneficiaries of ALSA-BUHAY Program were affected by the incident. The chapel near the community (Sagrada Familia Chapel) became their temporary evacuation center.

Ms. Joceline Basconcillo, RSW, social worker of Payatas Center, immediately contacted the affected families whom are beneficiaries of our foundation as well. An initial assessment and evaluation were conducted to determine the immediate needs or any support that we can provide to them.

Immediate needs of the fire victims include food and water source, cooking materials, medicine, hygiene supplies, blankets, mats and clothing which some of them were provided by the local government, religious groups, private volunteers, and our institution. The Center for Family Movement (CEFAM) which is also one our partner provided clothing and blankets to the victims.

On May 21st, affected families were forced to find temporary shelters since the chapel is also being used for religious purposes. Some of the victims already rented houses within the community and some are starting to fix and build again their respective houses. In line with this, most of the families need construction materials like roof, plywood, concrete materials, etc. The cause of fire is still under investigation.

Photos:



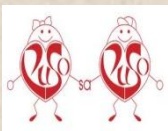
The aftermath of fire disaster



Initial relief of our institution, other partners, and private individuals



Parents of our beneficiaries receiving the relief



Re-orientation of 4th Batch Learners (May 20, 2016)



Due to increase number of new enrollees for 4th batch ALSA-BUHAY Payatas learners, the staff conducted another orientation to all levels – BLP, Elementary, and Secondary class. The orientation was conducted at ALSA-BUHAY Payatas Center from 9:00 in the morning up to 3:00 in the afternoon.

Important topics were given and explained to all learners including the following: History of the Organization including Vision, Mission, and Goals, introduction of staff and organizational structure, the ALS Curriculum and ALSA-BUHAY Program, General Guidelines, and Classroom Management.

On the second part of orientation, learners elected the class officers for their batch that will help the staff in assisting and implementing projects and programs of our institution. The activity ended with a prayer that full of hopes, gratitude, and appreciation.



Joshua Punzalan, president-elect, facilitating the election of the officers



The elected 4th Batch Class Officers



“Lakbay-Aral”
(May 20, 2016)



Lakbay-Aral, a Filipino term literally translated as “learning journey”, is an activity that provides opportunities for exposure visits and experiential learning for students on a myriad of topics or themes. In line with our institution's objective of providing quality education to our beneficiaries, last May 20, 2016, we brought our ALSA-BUHAY learners to the National Museum of the Philippines.

They visited the two building of National Museum with the tour guide. The first building, the National Fine Arts, where learners saw and learned the different collections of arts made by famous Filipino artist such as: easel paintings, sculptures, icons, sketches and mixed media. The 2nd building is the National Anthropologist area where the learners learned and enjoyed the photograph of historical relics used by early Filipinos in their daily living.

After the event, it's observable that the activity conveyed significant experience to our learners. They just not learned, but enjoyed the bonding that they had shared while at the National Museum.



Learners actively listening to their tour guide.



Learners truly enjoyed this learning experience.



Livelihood Activities for the Month of May 2016

Financial Education

The 6th batch of ALSA BUHAY learners Elementary and BLP of Parola compound attended the Financial Education lecture last May 25, 2016 at the livelihood center. They learned the value of money and ways on how they can manage it specifically in the topic of budgeting and saving. Moreover, they also shared their dreams about their family, community and for themselves



Workshop has been executed by the learners with the title;"Mangarap ka, Okey yon"

Skills Training: Pulvuron Making

Last May 25th, 26th, and 30th of 2016, the skills training for Pulvuron Making was given to the 6th batch of Elementary, BLP, parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay coming from the Gate 54 in Parola compound and to the 3rd batch of secondary learners from Payatas; In addition with this we had shown videos of variety of flavors of pulvuron and they learned with little capital they can start their business of sweets.



The preparation of ingredients and materials needed



Cooking and mixing of ingredients

Dishwashing and Fabric Conditioner Making

Last May 27, 2016, 6th batch ALSA-BUHAY secondary learners in Parola Binondo undergone skills training in dishwashing and fabric conditioner making. They were taught the basic skills in making this product and its marketability. As result, majority of the learners become interested to sell the product.



Ma'am Lucy facilitating the formulation and procedure of these products

First Vita-Plus Orientation

Initial orientation of "PANGKALUSUGAN AT PANGKABUHAYAN" was held last May 31, 2016 at the livelihood center for the parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay of Gate 17, Tondo and Gate 54, Binondo. This activity was facilitated by Brother Gerardo Laguartilla and Mr. Jerome Montialto, and organized by Livelihood Coordinator of Puso sa Puso Edukasyon, Inc. In this session, parents learned the nutritional value of vegetables and fruits for the body and how Vita Plus products can help them earn extra money. At the end, we were able to introduce to them the different kind livelihood program by selling herbal juice.



Introduction and lecture proper



“3 Days Trainers’ Training for Religious Group and Lay Partners on Anti-Human Trafficking”

(May 27-29, 2016)



In order to fight the widespread problems on Human Trafficking and modern slavery, the Talitha Kum Philippines organized a 3-day trainers' training on Anti-Human Trafficking in persons. It was headed by Sr. Mary Adeline Abamo, SDS. It happened last May 27-29, 2016 at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center, Lagro, Quezon City. It was attended by 30 participants from religious group and lay partners, and two social workers of Payatas and Parola center under ALSA-BUHAY program. Its objective is to capacitate consecrated and lay people trained and skilled as Anti-Trafficking in Persons facilitators conversant and versed on Anti-Trafficking in Person's and United Nations 4 P's response framework.

The resource speakers are the following: Sr. Adel Abamo, SDS (discussed about Talitha Kum), Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, OP Coordinator (discussed about human trafficking and modern slavery), Ms. Mary Girlie Glen Tupaz, IJM Staff (discussed about the Biblical reflection on Human Trafficking), Ms. Merian Penoso Aldea, SPCC Staff (discussed about the Gender Sensitivity orientation, Violence against Women and Children, Human Trafficking and Spirituality), Atty. Mary Rhauline Lambino – Torres, Special council for Legal Intervention, IJM (discussed about the laws on human trafficking, cybercrime and pornography) Mr. Roman, IJM (discussed about the Networking and Partnership), and Mr. Diro Evangelista, TKP Staff (tackled about Module Making).

Through the workshops, participants gained deeper understanding and become committed advocates against human trafficking. Awareness increased among the religious group, and lay partners. Indeed, participant's become more excited to share the knowledge that they've got in the said activity to their ministry as well as in their community.

According to Pope Francis, “human trafficking is a crime against humanity.” So, as a living church we need to work hand in hand to defend and fight for the vulnerable victims of modern day slavery.

Let us be united to fight trafficking and slavery! End trafficking now!

Other photos:



Sr. Cecilia with the child trafficked survivor



Sr. Nympha Que, MMS gave introduction



Participants during their workshop



Group photo of all participants



“Field Trip at Rizal Park Children’s Playground”

(May 28, 2016)



“It is the child in man that is the source of his uniqueness and creativeness, and the playground is the optimal milieu for the unfolding of his capacities and talents.”

- Eric Hoffer

Last May 28, 2016, International Volunteers of Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle –headed by teacher Anthony and Bryan, along with them are two brothers namely Bro. Stephen and Bro. Eric conducted their field trip for Eskwelahan ng Buhay kids of Gate1, Parola Tondo, Manila. The participants of this activity include 20 kids, 5 parent's leader, together with the staff ALSA BUHAY Parola center.

“Beautiful, Interesting, Educational” Here, the kids can enjoy the swings and slide while the International volunteers can feel like a kid and play like a kid climbing up and down to the Jurassic creatures cast in cement, or clambering in and out the mouth of a hippopotamus, or scamper under the shade of the tall trees inside the Rizal Park Children's Playground. The kids enjoy the ambiance of the environment and they were provided sumptuous food to complete the tour. The activity was ended at around 1:30 in the afternoon by distributing loot bags with school supplies for the 20 kids of ESKWELAHAN NG BUHAY.

This is the initiative of four (4) Brothers of Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle for the kids of Gate 1 to explore their mind and ideas in terms of what they had encountered inside the Rizal Park Children's Playground. Indeed, this is another unforgettable experience of them together with the Brothers that might never fade in their mind until they become older. Truly a marvelous day!



Distribution of foods for the kids of ESKWELAHAN NG BUHAY



Loot Bags distribution



Kids and the brothers happily playing at the park



Holy Mass for the Month of May 2016
(May 27&31, 2016)



"The Lord comes to judge the earth"

Two separate holy mass has been conducted to both centers of Parola and Payatas of our institution. Fr. Roland Jaluag, Parish Priest of Kristong Hari headed the mass in Payatas last May 27, 2016 at exactly 1:00 in the afternoon while Fr. Meanwhile in Parola center, Fr. Ricky Masgo, Guest Priest at Binondo Church was there mass celebrant last May 31, 2016. Both masses has been participated by staff, volunteers, and BLP, elementary, and secondary learners.

The homily in Payatas centered with these words: joy, encounter, sharing, unity and silence. If we were able to nourish God in our life, it will boost the joy in our heart. If we make good things, we can have our personal encounter with God and these include sharing and unity. And more importantly, in order to find God, we should put ourselves in silence and peace.

On the other hand, Fr. Masgo encouraged the mass participants to give more time with our family. To those who are with their family must treasure the moment while they are still together. And for those who are apart with their family must make a way to visit and be with them.

Photos:





“Brigada Eskwela 2016”
(June 9, 2016)



The Department of Education aims to unite communities for the purpose of ensuring a better future for the next generation. This basically starts with an environment conducive for learners, staff, and other personnel of one institution. This year, DepEd continues to ensure this goal With the theme: “Tayo Para sa Paaralang Ligas, Maayos, at Handa Mula Kindergarten Hanggang Senior High School” (All of us for safe and proper schools, and ready from Kindergarten to Senior High School).

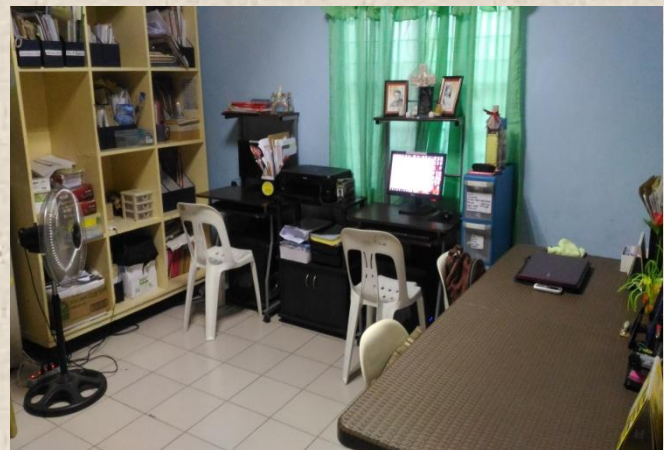
To take part of the said activity and as an educational stakeholder, ALSA-BUHAY Payatas staff and learners, by the virtue of bayanihan (cooperation), joined this event in preparing and cleaning our center for better educational experience. A total of 40 learners from all level took their part and contributed time, effort, and resources in this school maintenance activity.

In addition to the goal of this clean-up drive, it was very observable that the learners enjoyed the task. Although it was a physically demanding duty, they took this time as a form of small bonding experience.

Being their second home, we can now make it certain that their learning environment is safe, clean, and beneficial for its purpose.



Learners and staff helping each other in this clean-up drive



After our tiring but fun "Brigada Eskwela" project



Seminar on Child Protection and Teen Sexuality (June 9, 2016)



On June 9, Thursday, an awareness seminar was held at the Livelihood Center of Parola gathering 40 learners from 6th Batch conducted by Sr. Adel Abamo, SDS.

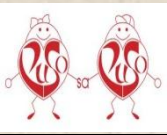
Two mainstream topics were established during the seminar: Child Protection Policy and Teen Sexuality and Relationship. Child Protection Policy comes as awareness about rights of a child having boundaries, limitations and corresponding responsibilities on each of it. While Teen Sexuality and Relationship focuses on gender equality and propagation towards teenage pregnancy and abuses.

With the help of Theresa, an Austrian volunteer of SPCC together with the staff of Pusong Pusong, the Seminar was successfully raised and the goals were achieved which is to instill awareness and awaken the learners from unmindful doings.

The closing prayer was led by the one of the participants from Secondary level and the seminar has ended peacefully with understandings and clarifications in the mind.

Photos during the group activity "Listing the rules of the House and community"





Strategic Planning and Review

(June 11-13, 2016)



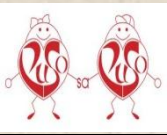
“A plan is a list of actions arranged in whatever sequence is thought likely to achieve an objective.” John Argenti

In order to provide a sustainable working environment, staff of Payatas and Parola centers collaborated in reviewing the strategic plan previously made and planning for new programs and activities that can improve the institution's missions in general. The activity took place at a rest house in Tali Beach Subdivision, Nasugbu, Batangas which the accommodation was provided for free by the Liao's family.

Over the weekend, staff discussed the program as a whole based on the data collated from previous years. They identified also interventions and activities that attest effectiveness and efficiency in the program, and those that didn't take place. Some of those interventions were being modified in order to adjust to the institution's need and funder's requirements. All of the planned tasks for the 3-day sessions were accomplished.

It was indeed a fruitful preparation for the upcoming events of our foundation. For all the efforts, we are looking forward for better results for our beneficiaries.





“The Cry of the Earth is the Cry of the Poor”
(June 17, 2016)



The Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action (CBCP-NASSA) organized a Faith-based Forum for the Developmental and Ecological Agenda held last June 17, 2016 at Pope Pius Catholic Center in UN Avenue, Manila from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Forum intends to provide a venue for the Church to interface and coordinate with leaders of national organizations and partners from the development and ecological sectors, reflecting together on Laudato Si and bring the sectors' pressing concerns and issues in a development and ecological agenda to the new administration for action. All of the discussion will be aligned and based on Laudato Si. More than 70 participants coming from different dioceses, private organization, people's organization, community representatives, NGOs and other sectors took part in this timely discussion. Two representatives from our institution joined the forum including Mr. Jeremie Cruz and Mrs. Mylene Ballaran, both Instructional Managers designated in Payatas and Parola center respectively.

Six sectors/advocacies presented their respective agendas to the participants. These sectors were divided in to two agendas namely Developmental Agenda and Ecological Agenda. The developmental agendas include Farmers, Fisher folks, and Rural Poor, representative from Indigenous People, and lastly, the Labor and Urban Poor sector. On the other hand, ecological agenda include discussion about Climate Justice, Mining and Extractives, and CMDRR and Community Resilience.

After the presentation, participants were grouped into six to take part on the process and reflection of the presented plans for each sector. During the group workshop, each group chose the three priority agendas, designed activities under it, and expressed their commitments in order to materialize these plans.

The activity ended with a commitment signing and a press conference.



Abp. Rolando J. Tria Tirona, OCD, DD, National Director, CBCP-NASSA , giving his welcome remarks



One of the presenter – Mr. Ian Rivera, PMCJ under Climate Justice sectoral agenda



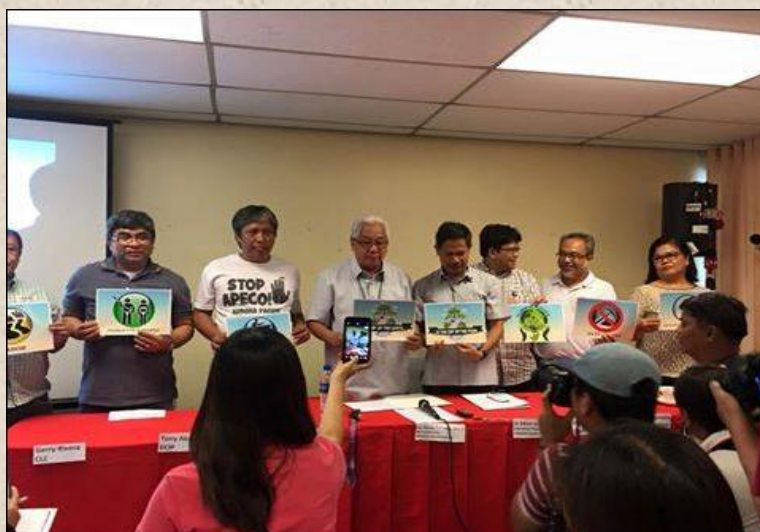
Group activity discussing the priorities for each agenda



Ms. Mylene and Mr. Jeremie, representatives from our institution who joined the forum



Tree of commitments filled by all participants



Press conference after the forum



Human Trafficking Session

(June 17&23, 2016)



The economic condition of the country is one factor for which Philippines was known as the largest migrant countries in the world. On this large migrant population comprise illegal migrants and most of them become victims of human trafficking. The alarming increase of victims of human trafficking brought awareness that each person is responsible to educate new generation.

On June 17 and 23, Puso sa Puso staff for both centers conducted a one day advocacy session regarding human trafficking. It was facilitated by Ms. Joceline Basconcillo RSW, and Mr. Edwin Guevarra one of the Instructional Managers in Payatas center while Ms. Jennifer Basconcillo, RSW, headed the talk in Parola center. The main focused of the said activity is to generate greater awareness on human trafficking.

In Payatas, 64 learners attended the said session. Mr. Edwin Guevarra started the session with the question, what comes in their mind when they heard the word human trafficking? It was followed by presentation of a short film entitled "Red Leaves Fallen". The film shows the story of many young girls who trafficked every day as a result of poverty. Sexual abuse and exploitation of children is a crime on the rise in this particular video. The second part of the session was facilitated by Ms. Joceline Basconcillo, RSW. She discussed furthermore about human trafficking; its components (act, means, and purpose), trend situations and acts of human trafficking, existing law to fight human trafficking, and the interventions given for those victims of human trafficking.

On the other hand, in Parola Livelihood center, the session started with a brief orientation about the rules and regulations of our institution headed by Mr. Darren Illarina, Instructional Manager. Thereafter, the session proper was conducted by Ms. Jennifer. PowerPoint presentations were gathered and documentary videos were witnessed by the learners.

After the session, participants gained more awareness about human trafficking. It also "Break the Silence" and provide a comprehensive challenge to everybody to become more observant especially for the protection of children against this horrific crime.

Other Photos:



Learners actively engaging in the session



Short film viewing about human trafficking

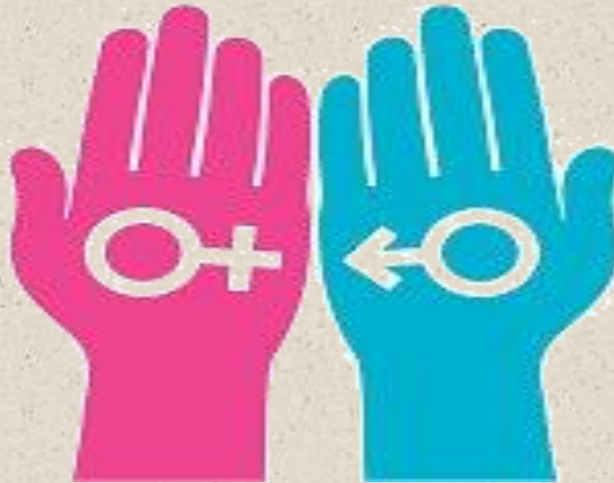


On-going session at Parola Livelihood Center



“Teen Sexuality and Relationship”

(June 17, 2016)



A formation for learners entitled **“Teen Sexuality and Relationship”** which was conducted by Ms. Merian P. Aldea and attended by 37 learners both from elementary and secondary level occurred at ALSA-BUHAY Payatas center.

It was started by an opening prayer led by Faye Callo, secondary learner, and followed by a question and answer by the participants and learners if what are the changes happened to them as a teenager. The session then continued with a video presentation entitled “Hunking” and asked the learners if what they have understood in the said video.

Ms. Merian emphasized about the definition of sexuality and it's relationship which emphasized the acronym R.S.T.P which means respect, sacrifices, trust, and patience. She also stated that getting into relationship gives more self-esteem to every individual.

The activity ended up with a closing prayer led by the speaker.

Photos:



Ms. Merian P. Aldea, speaker of formation, is asking if what the changes of a teenager are



A video presentation showed by Ms Merian to the learners.



Learners were seriously listening to the speaker



Group picture of ALS learners with the speaker, Ms. Merian.



Dental Mission 2016

(June 20-29, 2016)



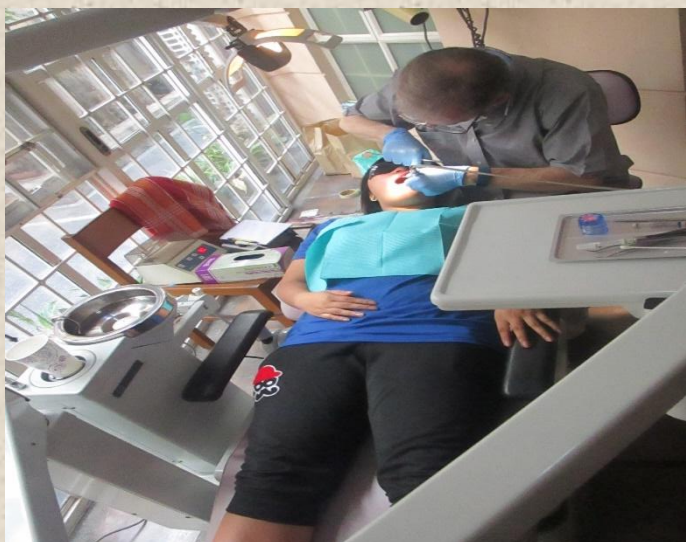
On June 20-29, 2016, Dental Mission for Payatas ALSA-BUHAY learners occurred. It was held in 11th St., New Manila. Dr. Tony and Dr. Aron, international dentist volunteer, spearheaded the said activity. The learners with signed waivers were being fetched by the Social Worker from Payatas to New Manila and assisted them in the said activity. Snacks and initial medicines like pain reliever and antibiotic were being provided by the organization. In God's provision, 58 learners received free dental services.

In the first week of Dental Mission (June 20-24), Doctor Tony accommodated 40 learners including 5 college scholars of Puso sa Puso Edukasyon, Inc. The learners were given the following services: cleaning, filling and tooth extraction. After the dental services, the dentist gave free toothbrush and toothpaste to the learners.

In the second week of Dental Mission (June 27-29), Doctor Aron Mooathy accommodated 18 learners. He was able to give free dental services to the learners and afterwards he was able to teach the learners on how to properly brush their teeth. He also provided free toothbrush and toothpaste to the learners.

Before the dentist went back to their respective places, the learners expressed their gratitude towards them through giving simple books containing thank you messages and handmade bracelets. The learners are very grateful for the wonderful results on their teeth. Accordingly, they can now able to smile confidently without any hesitations.

Photos during the two-week long dental mission:





“Metro-Wide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill”

(June 22, 2016)



Earthquake is one of the disasters that cause people's injury or even worst, death. It cannot be detected of when and where it might happen. Earthquake as understood by being a natural phenomena is caused by the constant movements of the earth's crustal plates and due to climate change too.

Last June 22, 2016 the ALSA BUHAY learners participated the simultaneous Metro-Wide Earthquake Drill at around 9:00 A.M. The drill started with the alarm where the learners from Basic Literacy Program to Elementary together with their instructional managers Mr. Darren M. Ilarina and Ms. Mylene Ballaran, followed strictly the important things to remember during an earthquake. These were the Ducking, Covering and Holding, Watching out for falling objects, and Keeping calm and avoiding panic. Before the actual drills, Ms. Mylene Ballaran undertook an orientation about six phases of earthquake drill during the activity.

As Ron Staley(Earthquake Preparedness Program Coordinator Pajaro Valley Unified School District Watsonville. CA) said, "I think drills are one of the most important parts of an earthquake plan. They allow you to see how well things operate and to correct any problems. When an earthquake happens it is too late to discover that parts of your plan may not work."

After the activity, students were given time to further discussing their experiences and asking questions regarding earthquake-related incidents. It is expected that students are now aware of immediate responses to take whenever earthquake occurs.



Ms. Mylene Ballaran, an instructional manager undertook an orientation about six phases of Earthquake drill.



The ALSA Buhay learners' together with an instructional manager Sir. Darren M. Ilarina performed Duck, Cover and Hold- in which everybody gets under a desk or table for 60 seconds and holds on to it.



ALSA Buhay learners fall in line to evacuate in a safe routes and safe area away from buildings, fences, walls, electricity poles, and trees.



“Thanksgiving Mass for June 2016”
(June 24 & 30, 2016)



Turning back, last April 15, 2016 we held an Intentional mass for our A@E Test taker learners. Now, another mass again was held at Puso sa Puso Livelihood Parola Center, but this time the intention was to thank God, and to celebrate the result of the test. Finally, we achieved greatest number of passers, 34 out of 39 examiners which is equivalent to 87.17%. The mass started at 11:00 am headed by our mass celebrant, Fr. Joseph Okurut , FLP and Dn. Joseph Mainga, FLP from Franciscans of our Lady of the poor. The attendees were 6th batch learners and 5th batch passers.

The homily was centered in the life of the learners; Fr. Joseph asked the aspiration and dreams of everyone. He mentioned that to achieve this dreams they must study hard and be full of faith to God. For the staff, he emphasized that strong collaboration and hard work are need to attain success. Fr. Joseph also blessed Mr. Bryan Gler, one of the Instructional Manager in Parola for this is his last day in our institution.

Meanwhile in Payatas, the holy mass was conducted at Sagrada Familia Chapel to accommodate the growing number of learners. Fr. John Castillo, Parish Priest of Mother of Divine Parish Providence in Payatas headed the mass last June 24, 2016 at 10:00 in the morning. The homily centered with the life of St. John the Baptist as it was also the day of his birth as one of the holiest and greatest men in biblical history.

Joining our mass were the members of Marriage Encounter Group under Diocese of Novaliches. Afterwards, they provided delicious snacks and distributed school supplies for all learners. We are very thankful for these blessings!

Photos:



The Parola Choir singing an offertory song.



Mark Christian Casauay, one of the secondary passer reading the prayer of the faithful.



Distribution of school supplies and snacks



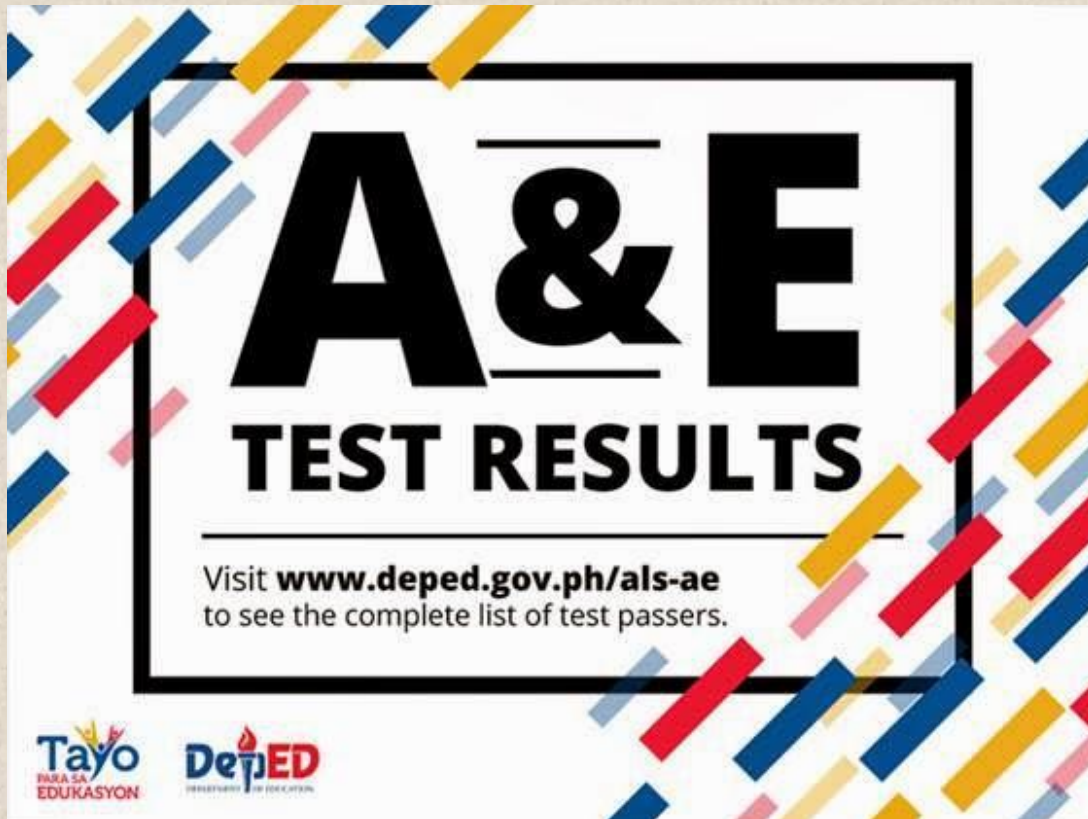
Marriage Encounter Group with Puso staff



Group photo with the learners



“ALS Accreditation and Equivalency Examination Results 2016”
(June 29, 2016)



Wednesday – June 29, 2016, the much-awaited result of 2015-2016 Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency examination result was released by the Department of Education – Bureau of Alternative Learning System (DepEd-BALS) through their official website. The said exam was given last April 17, 2016 at the National capital Region (NCR) and taken nationwide by other regions on the same month.

We are very pleased to share the results for both centers of our institution. In Payatas, a total of 33 learners successfully passed the exam out of 38 learners who took the exam. This comprises 2 learners from elementary level and 31 learners from secondary level. On the other hand, in Parola center, a total of 34 learners successfully passed the exam out of 39 learners who took the exam. This comprises 4 learners from elementary level and 30 learners from secondary level. Overall, we achieved an 87.01% passing rate or equivalent to 67 passers out of 77 learners who took the exam.

Here's the full list of passers from both centers:

Parola Center

ELEMENTARY

1. Dolorito, Arvie
2. Ebarle, Mayril
3. Gloria, Ramsy
4. Roa, Stephanie

SECONDARY

1. Abuela, Mary Joy
2. Bello, Niel
3. Cainta , Joan
4. Calixtro, Rose ann
5. Codilla, Bambie
6. Cortez , Aibeen
7. Delo Santos, Nancy
8. Gambalan, June Carlo
9. Grana, Sergio
10. Mallari , Samantha
11. Marvella, Ma. Dolores
12. Mendaño, Julie Anne
13. Murallos, Claudia
14. Navarrosa, Michael
15. Ordaveza, Jason
16. Ortega, Joselito
17. Quiban, Paulo
18. Rodel, Errol
19. Sandagan, Analuna
20. Tantay, Jerecho
21. Tarrayo, Romnick
22. Verzosa, Edgardo
23. Villorente, Alexis
24. Vuelga, Maria Liwanag
25. Duran, Arvin
26. Casuay, Mark Christian
27. Galang, Jenifer
28. Sombilon, Mary Ann
29. Saso, Aileen
30. Sosobrado, Angel

Payatas Center

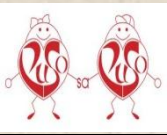
ELEMENTARY

1. Gerongco, Angel Boy
2. Muedan, Joana-Mari

SECONDARY

1. Arabit, Kynitte
2. Martinez, Marjorie
3. Aswer, Joan
4. Balbastro, Kin Casie
5. Cababat, Carlos
6. Dador, Jay Patrick
7. Gabon, Jocelyn
8. Mayormita, Willie
9. Ramos, Niño
10. Sapnu, Honey Camille
11. Sapnu, John Cris
12. Sapno, Ma. Theresita
13. Sarmiento, Jan Person
14. Sorio, Sanitta
15. Sumalabe, Lobella
16. Tumlos, Joana Marie
17. Sinag, Gary
18. Dancel, Nicko
19. Terana, Christian
20. Retardo, Jayson
21. Piang, Rosemarie
22. Balanay, Daniela
23. Layos, Glenda
24. Almendralejo , Thara Angel
25. Acuin, John Mark
26. Bonife, Dianna Marie
27. Dealca, Vincent
28. Dela Cruz, Jahdiel Anne
29. Muedan, Marione Micaela
30. Pardillo, Daryl
31. Aswer, Jaymark

Congratulations! To God be the Glory!



“Environmental Forum for ALSA-BUHAY Learners”
(June 30, 2016)



The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) celebrated the Environment Month this June. in relation with this, we gathered our learners in another awareness program held last June 30, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Pusong Buhay Livelihood Center. Ms. Mylene E. Ballaran, one of Parola Instructional Manager talked about the forum they attended last June 17, 2016, organized by CBCP NASA/ Caritas Internationalist. The attendees were the 6th Batch learners and some of the passers of 5th Batch.

Laudato Si, the encyclical of Pope Francis was discussed and how it is related to the Developmental Agenda of the Farmers, Fisheries, Indigenous People, Labor and Urban Poor, as well as how it relates to the Ecological Agenda of the Climate Justice Advocates , Alyansa Tigil Mina and CMDRR and Community Resilience Group, in the present administration. Present situation of the coal-fired power plants and mining in the Philippines were also discussed and how it affects climate, people and environment.

After the discussion, different feelings and reaction were given by the learners, mostly felt sadness and disappointment to the present situation of our country. However, most of them are positive to make an action in our own community that will help in saving our Mother Earth. Therefore, we came up with an activity as an outcome of this formation; we will be having a clean-up drive on July 04, 2016.

Photos:



The discussion proper



Selected learners shared their reactions after the video presentation about mining and coal fired power plants in our country.



Learners' workshop: asking them to prepare a proposal activity which can be done in our area.