



STEPPING STONE

Center For Excellence In Special Education

MAKATI CAMPUS: 7419 Bernardino St., Brgy. Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
SUCAT CAMPUS: 8001 Del Carmen St., St. Rita Village, Brgy. BF Homes, Sucat, Parañaque City
Telephone: +632 216.7232/ 899.8383 | Email: newsletter@steppingstone.ph

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FOR THE KIDS (FTK) 2018

ALOHA: BEYOND THE HORIZON

“Have Fun with the Kids and you will Feel Special”

By: Teacher Phebedonnivia Lea D. Balusdan

MESSAGE BOARD



Rodrigo Segura
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De La Salle (DLSU) has been a long live partner of **Stepping Stone**. Every year, DLSU holds their annual *for-the-kids (FTK)* programs.

Our students join other schools and actively participate winning medals and just having fun. Our teachers attend to pre-FTK meetings to ensure all goes well.

Thank you **Center for Social Concern and Action** for making this event happen every year.



The Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA) headed by **Mr. Jon Alcazar, Student Formation Coordinator**, and its volunteer arm, the *Lasallian Outreach and Volunteer Effort (LOVE)* of *De La Salle University (DLSU)* celebrated its 29th year of **For The Kids (FTK)** with the theme *Aloha: Beyond the Horizon*.

Over the past 28 years, the *FTK* has been part of the *Lasallian* tradition of serving kids with special needs. *DLSU-FTK* is a specialized mini-Olympics

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participated by *Children with Special Needs (CSN)* from various partner center in the Metropolis. **Center for Excellence in Special Education (Stepping Stone) Foundation Inc.** , was one of the 35 schools and centers which participated in this event. The organizers of this event conducted two (2) center meetings as orientation for all the 35 center coordinators. **Stepping Stone** was represented by teacher *Lea Balusdan*.

This event aims to provide a fun and learning experience to children from 5-12 years old with varied physical, emotional and intellectual difficulties. For the year 2018, the Lasallian community is expecting 530 kids from different centers to participate, play, learn and have fun with their *“Ate-Kuya Volunteers”*.

The event was held on January 21, 2018 at the *Henry Sy Sr. Hall Grounds, De La Salle University, Manila*. **Stepping Stone** has been part of this event for the past 8 years, with different students and teachers. For this year, 13 participants from **Stepping Stone** who were able attend. Six (6) students from **Early Intervention** class namely, *Eunice , Mikko, Ruth, Sophia, Johniel Rhenz* and *Elaisha*, together with another seven (7) students from **Functional Academics** class namely, *Nathan, Crae Joy, John Brian, Jarmel, Lorraine, Maverick* and *Yuan* . All thirteen (13) students were with their respective namely, teachers *March Aive , Karla , Angelica* and *Phebedonnivia Lea* .

The event started with a mass with one of the teachers from **Stepping Stone**, teacher *March Aive*, participating in the mass thru the reading the second reading. Afterwards, all the participants together with their parents/guardians were instructed to wait for their *“Ates and Kuyas”* to pick them up.

The **FTK** games conducted were *bowling, ringtoss, basketball, soccer,* and *relays* (with sub-category). All of our kids were very compliant and active with all the games, as a result each of them received 3 gold medals.

For the parents’ activity, the organizers prepared film viewing for them while waiting for

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their kids. Free snacks (am and pm) and lunch was provided for the kids. In the afternoon, they had a short program, which was again participated by our kids from **Stepping Stone**. They had their dance number with the songs, *“I Like to Move It”* and *“What Makes you Beautiful”*. As the only center who presented their talent, they showed the best performance which entertained everyone in the hall. The **Lasallian** volunteers ended the event with a short awarding ceremony to all centers who were able to participate in this joyous and successful event.

The aim of this event was achieved. The **Lasallian** community were able to bring awareness to children with special needs by engaging them with different activities which they enjoyed.

As a SPED teacher, this kind of event is a heart-warming one. We are very thankful to the **Lasallian** community for making our kids more special. This event was indeed memorable and joyful. Our students from **Stepping Stone** are always looking forward to out-of-school events like this, because through these events, our kids will feel that they are not different. This helps them boost their confidence and social skills.

We teachers are looking forward to more events which will make our kids laugh, play and most of all have fun with what they are doing.





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