



# 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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## “Kung Hei Fat Choi!” – a Chinese New Year Celebration at Stepping Stone

By: Teacher March Aive F. Estember

### MESSAGE BOARD



Alvin Clark Teng  
Trustee

It has been a very eventful week with the celebration of the Year of the Dog under the **Chinese Calendar**. This is a significant change from the last two years (2017) Rooster and (2016) Monkey which have brought some disharmony and impulsiveness.

The Year of the Dog promises to be a year of prosperity especially to those who are proactive, work hard and communicate well.

A camping activity and an in-house debut also added to a full week. While we celebrate all these, let us remember we have so much to be thankful for in life.

Alvin Clark Teng  
Manager  
Mabuhay Educational Center, Inc.



**Chinese New Year** is one of the most important celebration among the Chinese Communities not only in China but all over the world. It has had influence on the lunar new year celebrations of its geographic neighbors.

It is a time to gather and celebrate the unity and togetherness of the family as they face the new beginning of a year. **The Chinese New Year** beginning in 2018 is the year of the Dog.

To showcase the Filipino’s best known traits for being very accommodating and respectful to every culture and tradition, students from the

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**Early Intervention (EI), Functional Academics (FA) and Teen Adults (TA) of Stepping Stone Foundation (Makati Branch) conducted an activity last February 15, 2018 in celebration of Chinese New Year 2018.**

The activity started with daily routines of the kids, the circle time and was followed by games. After that, students proceeded to the TA room for the cooking activity. Students were taught and guided on how to prepare and cook “**Tikoy**”, a Chinese traditional food made of sticky rice, milk and etc.

**Teacher Sofia** facilitated the morning session where she discussed the safety in food preparation especially in cooking, demonstrated how to prepare and cook the tikoy. In this way, our young learners were be educated in the precautions of preparing food, using the knife and other sharp materials and most during the cooking time.

Students were very interested and observed properly during the preparation time. Each of them participated well during the activity. They were very careful in slicing the tikoy using a sharp knife. Others showed good maneuver of the fork in beating the eggs and they were delighted from dipping the tikoy on a egg mixture before frying it on the pan. They patiently waited till the tikoy turned brown and set it aside. The most awaited part of the activity was to taste their own cooked tikoy which everybody shared, enjoyed and loved it.

Same activity was also conducted in the afternoon which was facilitated by **Teacher March** from **Early Intervention Class**.





# Stepping Stone's Camping Adventures

By: *Muhamad Velly Ibrahim -UST-AEISEC Exchange Participant*  
& *Teacher Karla Gracia Merza*



This school year, one of the programs of **Stepping Stone** was the Camping Activity. The pupils wore very adorable camping clothes with matching accessories like bag packs and water bottles. Through various activities, the pupils learned the joy and relevance of being physically active.

First, the pupils had to go through an **“obstacle course”** wherein they had to crawl, open a door lock and climb up and down a chair.

Second was the **Shadow Puppet**. Shadow puppet is the art of forming various shapes and figures using your hands and fingers on a dark room using a light. Teacher March formed various shadow puppet animals. Afterwards, the pupils tried to guess what kind of animal it was. The pupils were very amazed and enthusiastic about the activity. After that, the pupils themselves tried to form a shadow puppet.

Third was the **“dart activity”**. The pupils tried to pop balloons using the darts. They were very excited every time they managed to pop a balloon.



Last activity was the nap time while in the background was the sound of crickets so that they could really feel that they were outside.

Here at **Stepping Stone**, they make sure that the pupils are nurtured not only mentally, but physically as well.



# My Sweet 18th Birthday

By: Mandukhai Munkhbat (Ona) - UST-AEISEC Exchange Participant  
& Teacher Lea Balusdan



It was a very memorable and unforgettable day. Actually, my birthday was on February 3 (Saturday), but **Stepping Stone** family surprised me on February 5 (Monday). I was overwhelmed by the surprise that I couldn't imagine.

On Friday, they told me that I had to wear my traditional costume because they wanted to introduce Mongolian traditional costume to students. They told me *“don't forget it, it's very important”*. Finally, on Monday I knew that it was a ceremonial dress for celebration.

I went to the Teen Adult (TA) room to introduce my traditional costume and I was surprised that everyone was there and sang a birthday song for me.

I felt like I was dreaming. I made my joyful wish and blew the candles.

The most impressive thing was the so-called *“debut”* which is traditionally celebrated by Filipino girls. In this debut, 18 boys must give flowers and candles to the birthday celebrant.

Thank you everyone for the surprise and gifts. Thank you for letting me experience the traditional Filipino debut.

Dear **Stepping Stone** family, I will remember what you did for me, until the end.



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**For inquiries, you may call:**  
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