



**Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines  
NEW YORK**

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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8 July 2019

### **21<sup>st</sup> Paaralan sa Konsulado Underway in New York**



**Consul General Claro S. Cristobal and Mrs. Marilou Cristobal welcome the PSK students to the Independence Day Reception Simulation at the Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center on 6 July 2019.**

6 July 2019, New York - Forty Fil-Am kids and teens aged 6-17 are enrolled in the 21<sup>st</sup> Paaralan sa Konsulado (PSK) which commenced on 29 June 2019 at the Philippine Center.

PSK is a flagship project of the Philippine Consulate General in New York in partnership with the Association of the Filipino-American Teachers of America Inc. (AFTA). The project is geared towards the enhancement of cultural awareness and identity of young Fil-Ams by offering classes that provide deeper understanding of their Filipino roots and heritage.

The PSK is an annual summer program and this year, it is being held for five consecutive Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. from 29 June to 28 July 2019.

During the program, the students will have the opportunity to connect with their Philippine culture in all of its various forms and explore and improve their creativity and ingenuity

through classes in conversational Filipino, Philippine history and geography, Filipino heroes, dance, music, arts, clothing, cuisine and indigenous games. Filipino values and traditions are shared through their activities and interactions with the teachers and volunteers, expert resource speakers, and among the students themselves. Every year, the courses are curated and new modules are added to the traditional set of classes of the PSK as a way of making the learning sessions more current and practical.

During the opening day of the Paaralan, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal underlined four significant reasons in continuing the Paaralan sa Konsulado. He said it is a testament that the Consulate believe in education particularly in teaching the children who never know from birth the land of their heritage; it serves as a driving force for young generation to stay connected with Filipino community and its Filipino values; it opens a window for cultural exchange; and it provides an opportunity for the Consulate to get to know the children and for them to link with the Consulate.

In one of the classes, Consul Arman R. Talbo walked the young students through Philippine history and introduced Filipino heroes like Rizal, Bonifacio, Tandang Sora and Gabriela Silang. He likewise discussed with them ways of honoring and displaying the Philippine flag and what the colors and symbols represent.

On the second Saturday, Consul General Claro S. Cristobal hosted the Experiential Independence Day Luncheon where students and teachers came in their Filipiniana attire. Plated Filipino dishes were served in a simulated Independence Day reception setting. The children were able to put into practice the interesting and new lessons taught by Ambassador Cecilia Rehong who was invited to teach Table Manners and Etiquette as well as formal setting of the table prior to the lunch.

The day was also highlighted by the briefing on Drugs Resistance Education or “Iwas Droga” by the highest ranking Fil-Am in the New York Police Department (NYPD) and now criminal and family lawyer Ed Carrasco pointing out the immediate and long-term adverse effects of illegal and misused legal drugs. Detective Eugene Canapi, another Fil-Am in the NYPD who came in his uniform assured the children that policemen can be depended upon for help and assistance. He encouraged the young Fil-Ams to explore careers in law enforcement when they grow up. He distributed NYPD caps to all the inspired students.

In the afternoon, PSK students and parents also travelled to the Philippines through a simulation trip to the six Philippine heritage sites presented by PDOT Representative Luz Navarro. The day's session was capped by playing indigenous games like luksong tinik, patintero, sungka, holen, hand clapping, Chinese garter, and sangkayaw.

PSK will offer interesting subjects and activities for the remaining Saturdays including Life of Jose Rizal, Filipino modern heroes, Philippine Festivals, and Tuklas Talino, an essay writing contest about the Philippines. Specific module on Anti-Bullying and Post Arrival Orientation Seminar (PAOS) for newly-arrived Filipino children to help them navigate the school system and New York as their new home are also in the curriculum. END



**Consul General Cristobal and Mrs. Cristobal with the students and teachers after the Independence Day Lunch simulation.**



**Consul General Claro S. Cristobal treats the students, teachers and volunteers to a luncheon as part of the Paaralan sa Konsulado's Experiential Independence Day Reception on 6 July 2019.**



**Ambassador Cecile B. Rebong teaches Table Manners and Etiquette and Formal Table Setting to the students (as well as their parents) during the plenary session of the Paaralan sa Konsulado on 6 July 2019.**



**Atty. Ed Carrasco, former NYPD Captain, speaks about Drug Abuse and Resistance Education to Paaralan sa Konsulado students on 6 July 2019.**



**Detective Eugene Canapi of the NYPD explains to the students that police officers help and not only arrest people.**



**Consul Arman R. Talbo walks the Group 3 students through the history of the Philippines from Pre-Spanish to Post War.**



**Mr. Marcelo Inot, President of the Association of Filipino Teachers in America (AFTA) introduces the teachers who volunteers their time and talent for the Paaralan sa Konsulado.**



**Group 1 PSK students are being taught Conversational Filipino by Teacher Nellie and Teacher Rolit.**



**Teacher briefs the PSK students on the house rules of the Paaralan and the Philippine Center.**



**Group 2 PSK students enjoy the Conversational Filipino classes.**



**PSK Students enjoy the Philippine Indigenous games.**