



FAIRPLAY FOR ALL FOUNDATION

a level playing field on and off the pitch

Newsletter

January - February 2016



An Amazing Start to 2016!



There's so much to be thankful for this 2016! The picture on the left features the Gratitude Galaxy, a mural inside the Fairplay Center that reminds us all to take the time to express gratitude. Everyday, the kids reflect and write on a "star" what or who they are thankful for or what made them happy that day. They then post the star on the wall. This simple activity has made the kids more aware of what's happening, their feelings, and more focused on the positive. #happylang (stay happy)

It's been a really busy and successful start to the New Year in Payatas as we have already achieved so much. The leveling of the land in Amlac has been accomplished (see right), the Fairplay Cafe has been renovated (see last page), and the backyard to the Fairplay Center has been achieved too (see right).

With the first cycle of modules accomplished in the Fairplay Center, we're now running at full operations with the Center, thanks to the generous support of our main partner in this project: the Silver Star Century Group.

And with many plans ahead for the year we thought it the best time to share what Fairplay hopes to achieve in 2016:

- Finish the purchase of the 1,120m² lot in AMLAC. This will create the Payatas Sports Center, where we can train with Payatas FC, open more sports clubs, and host leagues and tournaments to generate income to pay for it all.

- The Fairplay Center will become registered with the Department of Education to officially be the first Democratic School in the Philippines.
- With the renovations almost complete, the Fairplay Cafe should soon be catering outside of Payatas to generate income and promote healthier lifestyles, creating jobs for local mothers.

- Three pieces of research:
 - 1) How effective is sponsoring children in State schools?
 - 2) How much are our kids in the Fairplay Center learning in comparison to those in the nearby State schools?
 - 3) How much does it cost to ignore a child living on the streets or in the slums?

- 2016 sustainability target: 10% of our income to be raised through our social enterprises to kickstart our major sustainability goals. Next year 20% will come from these social enterprises.



The next quarter of land in Amlac is acquired with the help of Mr. Miguel Garcia of DTSI.

Renovation of the old drop-in center to make way for the Fairplay Cafe begins.

The new season of the Metro Manila Futsal League kicks off.

A new modular cycle offering various classes during the day and evening classes greets the Fairplay Center kids.

Levelling of the Fairplay Center backyard is completed and kids can now maximize the use of the space:



New Year, New Cycle, Fresh Start

The start of the year has been full of remarkable changes and development in the Fairplay Center. In terms of the renovation, the backyard is now levelled and is currently in demand for football trainings, team buildings and other physical games. We have also extended the walls vertically with a net to better facilitate activities that make use of balls, Frisbees and other game equipment. It is amazing that the facilities are now improved and ready for the activities set for the rest of the year! A huge thank you to the Silver Star Century Group whose partnership helped transform a building into a happier and more creative learning environment.

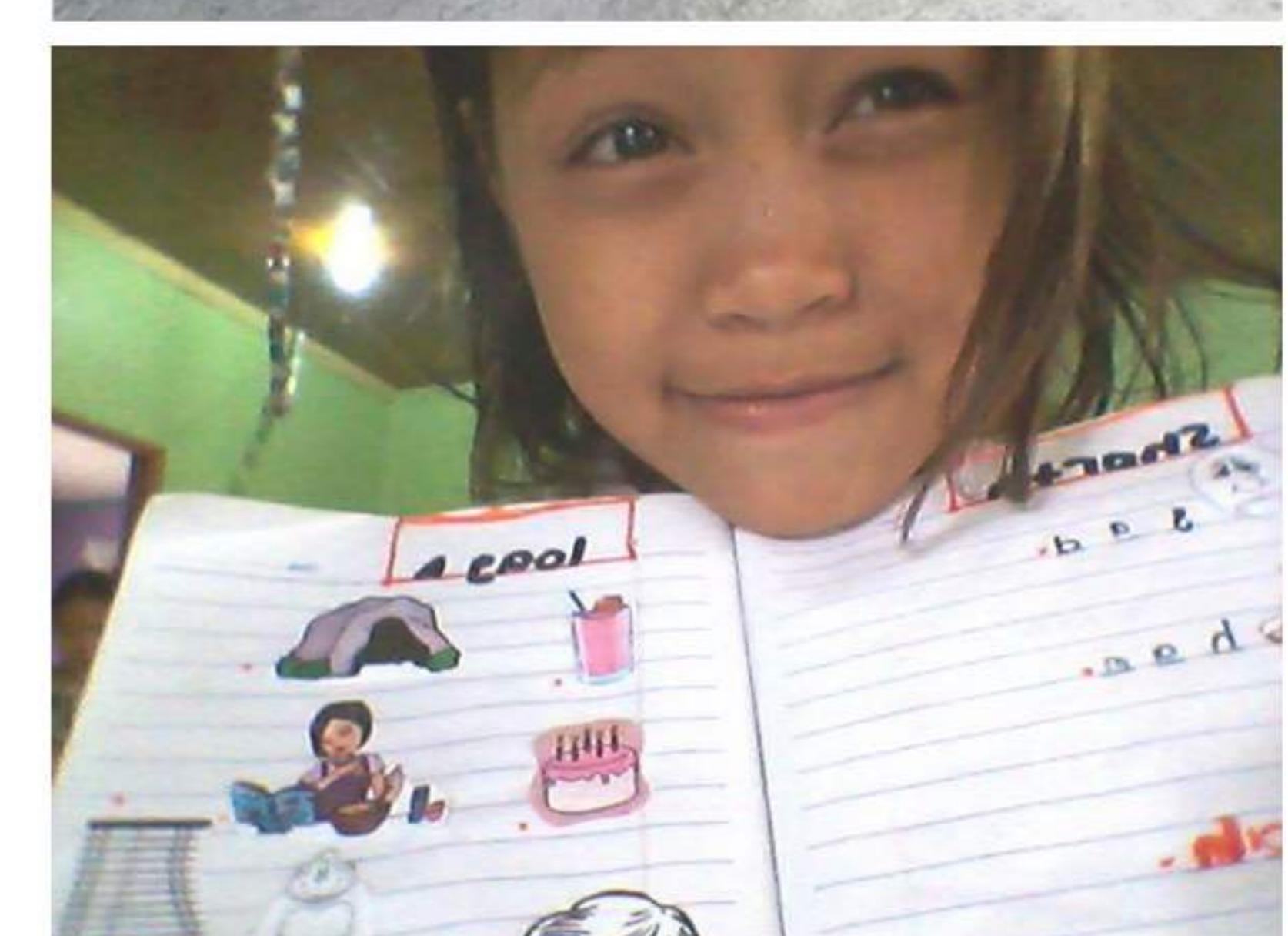
We successfully concluded our first modular classes last February 19. During the cycle which started last January 18, our Kinder kids learned how to take care of their body, how to listen and share, and how to confidently sing and dance. Older kids, 9-14 years of age on the other hand, took modular classes on Literacy, Math, Science, Art and Humanities. The kids enhanced their EQ skills too, as these modules aimed at harnessing their personal and social skills alongside cognitive development. EQ based lessons have been integrated into the program this year to address needs and to better contribute to children's overall well-being. As observed over the cycle, these kids were able to identify their strengths and weaknesses with ease, to overcome personal learning struggles and to confidently open themselves to new learning experiences. The whole cycle was exciting and came to an end quickly for us. Powwow Day topped off the cycle as the kids and teachers met to assess, with emphasis on effort, the learning and teaching that took place. The kids and teachers were able to receive feedback from each other to ensure mutual effort, happiness and constant improvement.

The evening classes have been as eventful and as heavily attended. About 15 – 20 kids regularly spend their night in the Center. Every Monday the Dance Club practice their moves in spirit of teamwork. Tuesday is booked for Philosopher's Tea -- an evening for young philosophers to learn to think critically for themselves. Every Wednesday is Youth Group's time to bond, chill or brainstorm about interesting plans to pursue together. Thursday is Art Club for budding artists to practice and explore skills. And Friday is reserved for personal and social development in EQ Class. These evening programs have proven to be very promising. The enthusiasm for learning is overwhelming.

Indeed, all above are fantastic developments but the most marvellous thing is the addition of new full time kids. From 5 last year, we now have a total of 9 scholars. Now, a bigger team shares in happiness, learning and unique experiences! The regular meetings of staff and scholars have been wonderful--More stories and ideas on how to run the center or their own learning are shared. Just recently, the scholars and the staff had a Teambuilding Day. It showed how the trust and bond is certainly getting stronger! To this, we are deeply pleased as this goes straight to the heart of our vision. --

Photos (top-bottom):

- 1) Bigger Canvass, Bigger Challenge: Justine of Art Club transferring his doodle art design from paper to the studio wall (18 Feb 2016).
- 2) Balancing Act: Dapny preparing her group's way in the Acid River Game during the Teambuilding Day (26 Feb 2016).
- 3) Happy and Proud: Jessie borrowed her teacher's phone to take this selfie with her work in English Class (17 Feb 2016).



FACES OF PAYATAS

Jessie is 10 years old. She dropped out of school in second grade and despite two years in school the only thing she could read or write was her first name. She dropped out of school to help her family earn a living by sorting trash, cleaning plastic and selling reusable items. She also looked after three of her younger siblings; there are eight of them in all and this is not an uncommon story for families mired in poverty. Families in poverty often have to specialise their children, with the eldest or most promising child going to school as the hope of the family, and others working to support the family's basic needs and the costs of school (Murakami, 2011).



When Jessie first came by the Center she was very shy and uninvolved. She came by mostly to eat rather than to learn, as she was always hungry and is stunted in her growth - she's as tall as many 7 year olds. She was initially resistant to study and didn't join in many activities. As a failing student in public school, she had taken those lessons to heart.

With the opportunity and freedom of choice that the Center offers, Jessie pursued learning at her own pace. Initially this remained very slow, as school and learning to her were full of negative experiences. However given space, and people trusting her and caring for her, she followed her interests and joined in drawing, guitar, photography, dance, and more. With an environment encouraging effort, not grades, she gradually relearned the joy of education.

Jessie has grown to enjoy learning again, to drive her own education. She can read and write and continues to progress as she joins in many classes. She is currently pushing herself to learn English, a challenge for the kids but a challenge Jessie particularly enjoys. She feels that learning English will help her communicate with other people, especially visitors and volunteers. As part of the community, Jessie plays her part in cleaning the Center and endorsing solutions or new rules to improve the Center during Community meetings. Jessie's confidence and self-esteem have grown remarkably, and she contributes to making the Center a happier, more effective learning environment. --

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Become part of the team with regular donations of P1,000 (£15) a month to support one of our projects. This stable income makes a big difference.

One off donations can be given from anywhere around the globe. Visit www.justgiving.com/FairplayForAllFoundation

Invite someone from FFA to speak about the project.

Organise a fundraising event at your school, workplace, church, community, or other group.

Volunteer with us.

Fairplay On and Off... Your Plate

A major part of our work in Payatas is fighting malnourishment in the community. This is what the new Fairplay Café is for. By offering healthier, tastier and more affordable alternatives to junk food and soft drinks, the Café serves as the forefront of our nutrition program.

What first started as our humble Baon Store in 2013 has now progressed into a small dine-in eatery capable of accommodating as many as 25-30 kids in one sitting. It will continue to evolve and within the next month become a full-fledged vegetarian cafeteria catering to the community. We have William Hill to thank for facilitating this development. Through the company's help, we've been able to expand the kitchen facility and turn the former study room of the drop-in center into a dining area.

"It's more beautiful now compared to before," Nanay Vicky, one of the kitchen staff, comments. "Before, the place was small and narrow. Now, it is wider; there is more space. It's a big change."

Apart from the renovation of the old drop-in center, we have also added new members of the Fairplay family to run the Café. We now have four kitchen *nanays* (mothers) who help nurture the kids by cooking nutritious and delicious meals and snacks. They offer fruit shakes, an assortment of rice cakes, muffins, *turon* (banana wrapped in lumpia wrapper), and a variety of snacks and vegetarian dishes.

"The food is delicious," according to Althea, 12. "After playing football, we eat here and always finish everything because we are hungry."

Jhimwell, 11, shares similar sentiments. "The food they [*nanays*] cook is very nice--the eggs, the vegetables. The shake is delicious and there are different flavors. It's really good to eat inside."

This year is indeed proving to be the most exciting in the history of the Fairplay Café. --



Humble beginnings. A glimpse of the old Baon Store.



Humble beginnings. A narrow hallway serving as the kitchen.



New and Improved. Ate Rowena (foreground) and Nanay Vicky (background) in the newly renovated kitchen, which opens into the dining area of the Fairplay Café.



New and Improved. The kids enjoying their meal in the Fairplay Café after a football game. There is now a large opening between the dining area and the kitchen to facilitate efficient serving of food and to widen a previously cramped kitchen space.



Payatas FC Girls take part in the Pinay in Action Football Fiesta



Last February 13 and 14, the Payatas FC Girls participated in the Pinay in Action Football Fiesta in Taguig City. It was a fun-filled, exciting weekend with the 13U and 16U emerging as champions in their respective age groups. Meanwhile, in the Open Play the girls reached the semi-finals before gracefully bowing out of the competition.

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