

## **PINTA ART EXHIBIT FIRES UP FILIPINO SPIRITS IN A CULTURAL JOURNEY**

by Ivanna Madriaga and Chriszel Joy Garcia

The preschool faculty grasped the occasional opportunity of upholding nationalism to the Filipino community of PSD in the awakening colors of the PINTA art exhibit, irradiating the theme “Pamilya, Pintura, Kultura, Handog sa Paaralang Sinta” for the week of Linggo ng Wika this August 26 through 30 on the preschool grounds.

The language of our country is always celebrated and commemorated in the annual Buwan ng Wika and as manifested inside the hallways and rooms of the preschool department, pupils traversed around the colorful culture that the mother country bestows.

Vivid banderitas and the traditional strings of the Rondalla club welcomed the school heads fifteen minutes before the eighth hour. Instrumental songs, including “Ako ay May Lobo,” “Lubi-lubi,” and “Paru-parong Bukid” aroused the ethnic enlightenment of the authorities as the Principal, the Board of Trustees Chairman and the Treasurer, along with the Vice Principals of the various departments entered the facility.

Before everything else, an opening prayer was led by Teacher Apphia A. Laroa. The patriotic opening remarks by Dr. Nida H. Garcia subsequently followed. She reveals that not only is the exhibit aimed to rejoice and grace the Buwan ng Wika, but also to feature the exceptional skillfulness of the PSDians whose hearts wholeheartedly contributed to the nature of the Filipino virtuosity. It also serves as a masterpiece from which the students can acquire motivation to appreciate their roots even more, being a Filipino.

Welcoming the young generation, Dr. Acosta, the school principal, emphasized the value of recognizing the Philippines with many hues that the display had illuminated since the experience is distinct for the children studying abroad compared to those back home.

Accordingly, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was commended and admirable smiles were perceived among the pictorials. The first hallway presents the “Pamana ng Lahi: Kultura at Tradisyon” where the various treasures, instruments, garments, food, accessories, and dances of our culture and traditions were shown. Itik-itik and Subli are among the dances that not much of us know of, and they were showcased meticulously. Civet coffee is the most expensive coffee and it was proudly presented amid the salted eggs, dried mangoes, and other native products the country offers. Should the youth be familiar with kudyapi and luntang? They are just two of the Philippine instruments exhibited along with the kulintang, which is prominent in the country’s traditional music. Intricate designs of the Filipiniana were exposed, showing Filipino skill in each fabric.

In the second hallway came forth the landmarks of the Philippine wonders. Starting from the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal and the Taal Volcano to the astonishment of the Chocolate Hills and Banaue Rice Terraces, Filipinos were awed in the beauty and attributes these landforms offer, even in pictures. While in the home-away-from-home tour, Liam Mahinay, Rhianna Jamil Elle, and Denise Nicole Tanyg were all in Barongs and Filipinianas who performed poems about the country’s marvels and also of nationalism.

Moving into the room filled with history, all the presidents from Emilio Aguinaldo to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte were given significance for molding the Philippines into what it is today. Heroes were also dedicated distinction, including Andres Bonifacio, Francisco Baltazar, and Apolinario Mabini. Since then, feminism was already brought out by Gabriela Silang, who led a revolution even after her husband, Diego Silang, passed away.

Finally, the highlight of the whole art exhibit were the paintings that depicted many forms of tales behind the mix of tints and shades. The third and fourth hallway were all occupied with astounding colors. Revealing the theme of PINTA, Dr. Garcia mentions, among others: “Ang PINTA ay larawan ng isang **pamilyang** pinatatag ng tunay na pagsinta. Ang PINTA ay **pintura**, iba’t ibang kulay na pinaghalo-halo, saka dinalisay, at **kultura** ng mahal kong bayan, ugat ng lahi ko at pagkakilanlan.”

“Kandungan” by Rossana T. Perreras disclosed intimate ties within the Filipino families. Featuring creations from Rogsh Emmanuel Garcia, “Mukha,” “Dampa,” and “Tanglaw,” as well as from Anna Marie T. Jumalon, “Pugad,” and “OFW,” these artworks were just a few of the applauded illustrations exhibited. “Hulma” by the Arts connoisseur, Camille Balela, Maria Angelica D. Dela Cruz’s “Ugnayan” and “Bukang Liwayway” of Khujak were among the most vibrant and stunning canvases the exhibit unveiled.

Mr. Jereggy R. Gregorio states, “Ito’y napapanahon, at isang paraan upang imulat at buhayin ang diwang makabansa ng mga kabataang nasa ibayong dagat, para maramdaman at ipagmalaki and pagka-Pilipino.” The administrator and overseer of the exhibit, who was also the organizer of the whole concept, Ms. Mary Grace A. Singson shares, “Ang exhibit na ito ay nabuo base sa konseptong pamilyang Pinoy, ang pinaka-naging simbolo ng pagiging Pilipino. Mula sa bayanihan, ito rin ay nabuo sa tulongan at pagtangkilik ng mga guro, magulang, at mag-aaral na buong-loob na ibinigay ang kanilang mga kontribusyon. Sa huli, ako nga’y nalulumbay sa naging kalabasan ng pagtanghal na ito at kung nasiyahan o namangha kayo, mas lalo na ako, bilang tagapangasiwa.” The book of PINTA ended with a page full of beams and smiles with all the pictorials, and was all marked in the hearts of the Filipinos with pride, dignity, and character.