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To: Susan susan.boucher@afflip.com

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July 2022 Newsletter

latest news and updates

Dear Susan

Welcome to the mid-year Newsletter. My thanks to Communications Coordinator Liz Wilson and to those who have contributed to it, including Loch Mitchell (Scholarships), Pat Maloney (Outdoor Learning) and Trevor Tiller (Health and Nutrition). The Outdoor Learning and Health and Nutrition projects featured in this issue have been funded by SMEC Australia. This organization previously partnered with AFFLIP in 2016 are we are most grateful for their support once again.

On the **corporate partnership** front I am pleased to inform you that FINSTRO has generously donated a further \$30,000 across a range of AFFLIP programs for this financial year, which is in addition to their \$25,000 donation in 2021. Haigh's Chocolates will continue their sponsorship of 30 scholars, and My Care Solution sponsor a further 10 children. The Magic Libraries Foundation (MLF), based in Geneva, supported our Guided Reading program last year with a \$20,000 donation. AFFLIP is fortunate to have this level of financial support from likeminded groups. Moreover, we greatly appreciate the continuing role that Green Partners play in

greatly appreciate the continuing role that Oregon Partners play in supporting treasurer Steve Southwood, and AFFLIP's financial management.

The planning for our **annual fundraiser** on November 4th, which was unfortunately postponed in February due to COVID10, is well advanced, and we look forward to welcoming a bumper crowd for our 10th-year celebration at the National Wine Centre. Guy Wilson and the events team have the evening well in hand, which will feature an outstanding entertainer in Brian Lorenz. Once again, we are indebted to the NWC for their generous support as our event sponsor.

Alastair Douglas
AFFLIP Chair

An Update from Talomo

DepED District Supervisor Marilyn Marcelo has made a huge contribution to AFFLIP over our past 10 years. She is an outstanding leader who continues to instigate impressive things with her colleagues in the Talomo schools. I asked her to provide an update for our AFFLIP members regarding the current situation and the challenges facing schools as full face to face learning resumes for students this year.

Marilyn responded:

“The fifteen Talomo District schools started the progression back to face to face learning in March 2022. Some schools started on the 2nd week while others on the 3rd and 4th week depending on the readiness of the schools based on the School Safety Assessment Tool (SSAT).

40 to 50 percent of learners attended classes daily from Monday to Friday depending upon the contextualized class program adopted by the school. Some had allowed the learners attending face to

face classes to be in school for four days and then home-based activity for one day.

It was very challenging for the teachers to ensure mastery of learning competencies during this time. However, through the contextualized Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) developed by the school, all strategies necessary to ensure learning continuity were employed. In addition, the schools implemented distance learning programs that would address the learning gaps especially to those not given parental consent to attend face to face classes.

Moreover, the teachers also made Weekly Learning Plans that fitted the learning needs of children while they attended face to face classes or when they were engaged in home-based activities. Learners who did not meet the expectations in one or two learning areas were recommended to attend remedial classes while those who got a 75-79 average in any learning area participated in Enrichment Classes or the End-of-School Year Classes.

All schools are expected to open classes on August 22, 2022. We expect all children to be in school then. However, DepEd allows Blended Learning up to the end of October and by November 2, all learners should be attending the full implementation of face to face classes. Likewise, all teachers are reporting to school for eight hours a day for five days.

The major challenges that may be faced by the schools in the start of classes are: ensuring health safety of learners; readiness of learners for the face to face classes, tardiness of learners (change of body clock), absenteeism (learners with flu symptoms will not be allowed to attend classes); learning gaps/ not mastered competencies; reading difficulty; not mastered numeracy skills and mental health related issues.”

Marilyn Marcelo, District Supervisor of the Talomo A District

As you can see, there are certainly many challenges ahead for the Talomo educators but there is a very strong sense of purpose and

commitment within the group, and we look forward to supporting them as much as we can on that journey.

In summary, we are excited that Talomo students will return to full face to face learning in 2022, that our sponsors continue to generously support AFFLIP's range of activities, and that our volunteer AFFLIP Board members continue to run our learning programs, and administration and finance portfolios, so very capably.

Scholarships for School Year 2022-23

To all of our new and continuing sponsors who support the AFFLIP scholarship program - our heartfelt thanks.

In the school year just concluded (2021-22), AFFLIP funded 230 scholarships for Grade 4,5 and 6 scholars, spread across our 15 schools in the Talomo district. In the upcoming school year that number will increase again and, based on the strong commitment from our existing sponsors to date, we will most likely sponsor upwards of 270 scholars. Two years ago we sponsored 141 scholars so you can see how the trend is going.

This significant increase is due in no small way, to several new sponsors coming on board, notably major companies such as Finstro and Haigh's Chocolates, as well as several new individual and family donors. Finstro aim to double their support next year to sponsor 80 scholars. Fantastic! Together with our large number of loyal, continuing sponsors, we are already in great shape to support more scholars than last year. But, as always we would like to support even more!

As we all understand, the schooling situation in the Philippines has remained tough this year because of Covid-19 restrictions, with only limited classroom teaching possible since January 2022. Schools have been transitioning back to the classroom and we expect that to continue once the new school year commences on

22 August.

Once again, our scholarship funds will be used to provide all scholars with school related supplies and uniforms as well as payments for Boy/Girl Scouts and other fees and activities.

We will soon be advising all sponsors of the final results for this year. Soon after we will advise our continuing and new sponsors of their scholar details for the 2022-23 school year. If you would like to know more about the scholarship program, or about how to become a sponsor, check out the website afflip.com.

Thanks again to all those generous supporters of the scholarship program.

Loch Mitchell
Scholarship Coordinator

SMEC Foundation Supports AFFLIP Projects

The SMEC Foundation has supported AFFLIP projects in the Philippines in 2016 and again in 2022. This partnership has provided significant support to AFFLIP's Health and Nutrition, and Outdoor Learning flagship programs targeting 21,000 children across fifteen schools in the Talomo District of Davao City in the southern Philippines.

Philip Wilcox, Phillip San Jose and AFFLIP Chair Alastair Douglas, finalised a package of initiatives to be funded through the SMEC Foundation partnership, following consultation with AFFLIP Board members and portfolio coordinators, our colleagues in Talomo and the SMEC leadership team.

\$7,500 has been allocated to Outdoor Learning projects and \$12,200 to a variety of Health and Nutrition projects which have now been completed.

Outdoor Learning Program



The SMEC Foundation has funded the establishment of 15 projects. Schools submitted proposals which were accepted following a review process. Thirteen schools chose heavy duty outdoor furniture projects and two schools' opted for structures for promoting outdoor play. Talomo parents, teachers, and community members provided the labour to implement all projects as their contribution.

Health and Nutrition Program

The Health and Nutrition program supports all schools with the provision of gardening equipment, basic first aid supplies and the promotion of first aid training. AFFLIP focused initially on vegetable gardens and fish farming and has more recently also supported major projects in aquaponics, hydroponics, elevated greenhouses, plant nurseries and wicking beds; all of which have been designed to intensify food production and increase output to supplement the feeding programs of all schools. The SMEC Foundation has been a significant partner with this program with a \$16,000 donation in 2016 and another for \$12,200 in 2021.





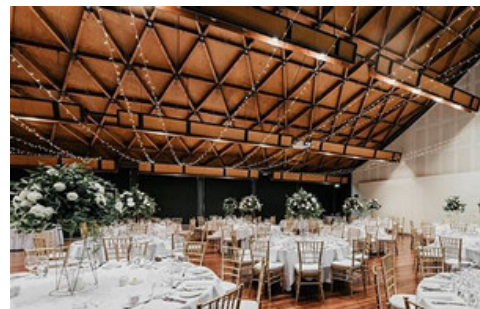
Thank you SMEC Foundation, your continuing partnership with AFFLIP could not have come at a better time given the significant challenges associated with COVID 19 for the Philippines, its people, and our learning programs.

AFFLIP Ten Year Celebration

AFFLIP is ten years old in 2022!

Join Us On

Friday, 4th November 2022 at The National Wine Centre



The AFFLIP 10 Year Anniversary Dinner will be held at The National Wine Centre, corner of Hackney Road and North Terrace Adelaide. Its unique surroundings, nestled in the heart of the Botanic Gardens make it the perfect location for such a celebration. We sincerely hope that you can join us to mark this significant milestone for AFFLIP.



Interested in supporting

Interested in supporting

AFFLIP's work?

We would love to hear from you.



Click on the link below if you want to learn more about AFFLIP's work.

Contact Us

Alastair Douglas AFFLIP Chair
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