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- [Dr Jovito S. Francisco Elementary School wins best reading program implementation](#)
- [A heads-up for Scholarship Sponsors](#)

## **Dr Jovito S. Francisco Elementary School wins best reading program implementation**

The AFFLIP Board recently received news that Dr Jovito S. Francisco Elementary School won the district competition for the best implementation of a plan to improve reading. The school has called its plan 'Jovito CARES' (Come and Read Every day with a Smile). Under the leadership of the principal, Mr Allan Rivera, and with excellent support from his staff, the school has planned and implemented a scheme to improve children's reading, which is already showing results. Children have become more inclined to read as they utilize the different reading materials and venues provided for them to enjoy.

AFFLIP has played a significant part in the development of the reading programs in Talomo schools. Many books were shipped and distributed, including multiple copies of brand new Big Books kindly donated by ERA publications here in Adelaide. AFFLIP has also donated money for big book stands to be made locally so that teachers, particularly in the lower grades, can enjoy a book with the whole class, then focus on learning items within the text. Laminators have also been

provided to every school so that teachers can laminate materials used to support their reading programs, ensuring much longer shelf life.



Virgie Bubutan with her class celebrating Australia Day outside the Reading House

In October 2018 the Division Reading Focal Person, Mrs Evangeline Vicencio led a delegation of Talomo educators to Adelaide. The group included Mrs Aida Placencia, co-ordinator of the literacy group in Talomo. Together with Max Greenwood and Lyn Wilkinson they worked on a plan for reading improvement to be implemented across all fifteen elementary schools in the district. Good progress has been made on this two year plan, with many teachers attending workshops exploring the nine essential elements of reading.

Teachers from Dr Jovito S. Francisco school who attended in-service were Richelle May T. Formarejo, Girlie Oro and Glenda T. Dumayas, who are grades I, 3 and 5 teachers respectively. The essential elements of reading helped enhance their understanding about how to teach the art of reading. At the school level all of these essentials have been implemented during reading activities and are already practiced. The school highlights the involvement of the principal in the program for achieving motivation and purpose. In this strategy, learners who have difficulty in reading visit the principal in his office. Children have been motivated

to read for they were accommodated by a welcoming and kind principal. They were praised for their reading performance and they were given rewards for visiting and reading with him. This activity promoted a bond of friendship and camaraderie between the child and the principal.

Aside from this strategy, there are activities at the classroom level to enhance reading during the reading period, scheduled every day and implemented by all grade levels. This is called “Brigada Every Child a Reader”. Some of the activities include reading with peers, drop everything and read, making book reports, and individual instruction wherein the teacher partners with the class’s bottom 2 readers. These are peer reading sessions.

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A parent helping out at the Reading Wall.

The first thing which strikes a visitor to JSF school is the Reading House, a physical structure where children can read quietly, read to a teacher, or enjoy reading time with friends. Money for this structure was donated by the parents through their general PTA. The structure was built by one of the supportive parents in the school. During children’s lunch time or after dismissal, they are free to visit the reading house which is also adjacent to the reading wall and park. This is when they can enjoy reading with a ‘big brother/sister’ or with volunteer parents who support reading when they are available at the said venue.

The AFFLIP Board congratulates the school community on achieving first place in the competition, and looks forward to hearing about further developments in reading and literacy.

Zaida C. Saranilla and Lyn Wilkinson

## **A heads-up for Scholarship Sponsors**

Final achievement results for the 2019-20 school year will be sent to scholarship sponsors in the next few days, so please keep an eye out for that. AFFLIP is proud of what these young people are achieving with your generous help.

If your sponsorship finished at the end of the 2019-20 school year, together with the scholarship report we will be asking for your continued assistance with this outstanding program.



The AFFLIP Clubbers Camp for Scholars, August 2019.



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