

POSTCARD FROM MAYOYAO



A few games ... because learning should be fun!



Collaborating on story development

April 2018

We have just completed the first 2-week workshop for this visit. We had only 22 teachers from Kinder and Grade 1 attending as there have been several funerals and weddings in this past few weeks, meaning people have family obligations to attend and assist with arrangements. We are encouraging previous participants who were unable to attend this workshop to come along to our second workshop in May so that they don't miss out on what we're doing.

Despite the fewer numbers, the teachers enjoyed making materials to use in their classrooms and were busy collaborating together to write more stories in their own language. We try to include some games and activities to make the learning fun as well as being learning tasks that they can use in the classroom with their students.

One of my favourite aspects of the workshop is having time to sit and collaborate with the teachers. We spend a great deal of time talking through ideas and ways of using books in class. I continue to learn more about their culture and ways of storytelling. They have a wonderful way of incorporating cultural themes of respect, honour and hard work into their texts as lessons for their students to learn as they are reading.

The success of these workshops is due in large part to Carmen and Ray, who not only help us in all that we have to do, but are also our cultural and language consultants in the project. Carmen, who is an elder in the community, has a tremendous ability to understand and re-echo my teaching into the local language, and connects the learning with local examples.

We look forward to the next workshop which begins on 30 April. In the meantime, we will have a few days to enjoy the local town Fiesta which celebrates the culture and customs of the Mayoyao people.

Blessings,
Christine



Carmen at work editing texts in the local Mayoyao language



Madam Jennylyn (left) the principal at the school where we hold the workshops and Madam Anita, the DepEd representative who initiated the project



Our amazing Kindergarten and Grade 1 Teachers