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August 2, 2012

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Our organization, the Filipino Community Alliance, (FCA)(501c3), has organized an academic component for students in the community during our 3rd Pista Pilipino Heritage Celebration. An Essay Writing Contest Event is open to all students of Filipino Heritage, 9th-12th grade, who currently reside or attend a public, private or a home school site in Pierce, Kitsap or Thurston County. Our Vision is to “Lead, educate and advocate for the Filipino American community” and our Mission is “With one voice, the Filipino Community Alliance will provide networking opportunities, cultural programs, and access to resources that benefit the community.”

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This year our 3rd Pista Pilipino Heritage Celebration will be taking place during the month of October. On January 17, 2012, our Governor, Christine Gregoire, signed a Proclamation, declaring October 2012 as Filipino American History Month. This year is the 425 anniversary of the presence of Filipinos in the United States. This is a significant time to study the advancement of Filipino Americans in the history of Washington and the United States.

The essay writing theme this year is: **“THE FILIPINO SPIRIT – JOURNEY TO AMERICA”**

The OSPI state writing rubric will be used for scoring final entries. Students must submit a typed essay with the minimum of 1500 words and maximum of 2000 words prior to Monday, October 1, 2012. Complete details of the essay requirements are attached to this letter. Recognition of the all students who participated and displays of their essays will be highlighted at the **Asian Pacific Cultural Center**, 4851 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409. The award winners will be announced during an afternoon program, which will take place at the world renowned **Museum of Glass**, 1801 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA 98402 -3217 A total of \$1,000 plus in cash prizes and benefits, widely disseminated display of the winning essays and public recognition avenues are being offered to the successful writers. Certificate of Participation will be given to every entrant who submits an essay. All applicants may include their participation in this writing event as they submit their college credentials page for honors/awards received.

October is Filipino-American History Month. Filipinos and corporate sponsors across Puget Sound area will be putting on a special community, family and student day. All students, not just those participating applicants for the Essay Writing Contest are encouraged to come, listen, and learn. A community wide presentation for all students and their families will be shared during the **3rd Annual Pista Pilipino on Saturday, October 27, 2012** highlighting the Filipino culture, history, dance/vocal performances, and community resources.

BOARD MEMBERS –AT-LARGE

DR. JEANIE ESPANTO

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We ask for your sponsorship of this Essay Writing Contest event. If you have further questions, please leave a message at 253-921-5788 or email to zencs@comcast.net

Sincerely,

ZENAIDA CRISOSTOMO SLEMP
Retired Principal
Chairperson, FCA Youth Programs
Chairperson, 2012 Pista Pilipino Essay Writing Contest