

Principal's Bulletin
2008-2009 Series #4
June 27, 2008

Dear Students, Parents, Alumni, and Friends:

This is already the fourth week of school, one month is almost over! Somehow, everybody has adjusted fully to school environment – students are freely mingling with each other, and the faculty balancing the classroom atmosphere after a little tilt in the beginning with new students, and changes in their curriculum. Somehow, the faculty (and I believe, the parents, too!) are now steady on their seats, watching closely over the school while Sir Fau is on vacation.

It has been a challenge for all of us to manage the school for the past two weeks without Sir Fau. We had problems but nothing unmanageable. There was strict monitoring of students who share their lockers together, to split or else their privilege for a locker will be forfeited; students who were late, not in uniform, uniforms not tucked in, no ID's were given the consequences.

The only major concern was the report from our dorm master, Mr. Gluardo Butic, that some non-SMS students harassed the dormers sometime last week. Although the attention of the police have been called, for them make rounds regularly around the Mission compound, especially at night, we ask the parents, **WHETHER THEY ARE SMS PARENTS OR NOT**, to please do our part in monitoring our children. Those who threw stones at the dorm and shouted at our kids were identified and they were found to be drunk. Juvenile delinquency is a problem in our community and all of us should be concerned.

We had our second school mass this morning and Fr. Balitog re-emphasized our theme for this quarter, which is **RESPECT**. While we focus on Health, Hygiene and Nutrition (HHN) this year, we maintain our original themes on Respect, Responsibility, Service and Identity. We educate our kids by telling them that a sound body has a sound mind.

Faculty Corner

We re-open this corner for the faculty to share their “discoveries” and experiences while working at SMS and living in Sagada. Most especially, for them to share their philosophy of education.

Kristine Centeno is our newbie in the faculty. She teaches English 1, Computer 2, and Public Speaking Elective 3 and 4.

Contrasts

Every morning I wake up to the chirping of the birds and the fresh cold pine scented breeze---a sharp contrast from the heat and noise of Manila. Don't get me wrong. Manila's an awesome place, I miss it dearly but nothing compares to the serenity and peace of Sagada or perhaps it must be me getting old.

So here I am a one month resident of what I call Sagada, Illinois--home of the Sagada bulls. I am constantly adjusting to a lot of things--chasing cows off school property proved to be one event that told me “Welcome to Sagada!”

I hear bull frogs (which explains the name Sagada bulls) croaking everywhere at night, I see all sorts of flying insects on our doorstep, landmines everywhere--the kind that make good fertilizers! Also, I enjoy the fog that descends the valley I see so clearly from my balcony. I can get used to this-- I tell myself everyday.

I go to SM almost every day for food--that's Sagada Market, in case you're wondering. The veggies are cheap, but the grocery items like canned goods and milk makes me want to go vegan. But it really is just a matter of trade-offs. While Manila offers loads of more affordable pre packed meat and pre packed everything--the veggie prices are ridiculous! 25 pesos for 2 pieces of green bell pepper! I get a kilo for 10 pesos here!

Night life? I've been to three wakes in my first two weeks. I sing "Shine Jesus Shine" to comfort the family of the departed. Just a few Saturdays ago I was in Makati spending lots of money to keep my time occupied! How's that for a contrast?

Before taking this teaching post in SMS, I was a corporate trainer in Manila, before that I was teaching English to graduating college students in Baguio. I was so used to dealing with people who were close to my age or even older than me. So just imagine how I must have felt when I stepped into a room with students wandering everywhere--during the class!

My life and work here in Sagada bears a lot of contrast to my life a month ago. I realize however that getting used to it is a matter of choice. The key to feeling at home in any place is to choose to feel at home.

Changes are not always easy but right now, I choose to embrace Sagada and make the most out of my stay in here. Besides, someone has to keep the cows off school property.

Krishtine Centeno
English Department

Announcements:

SCHOOL DANCE - The first school-sponsored dance will be held tonight at the theater from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. This dance is also an acquaintance party for old and new students. The school will provide pancit, sandwiches and juice for snack. Students are asked to invite their parents to the dance. Parents will witness the first part of the programme, which is the induction of class officers, class presentations, and to join us for snack, after which they proceed to the AVR for film viewing while waiting for the dance to end so they can bring their children home.

Parents, please help us monitor your children tonight. They should all be home by 9:15 pm at the latest. Students, please remember the school rules imposed during night activities.

GARDEN CLUB - Students who were punished this week for violations should be in school tomorrow morning for the 3-hour work for the Garden Club. Those who did not report last weekend are also asked to come.

TUTORIALS – Math tutorials will continue tomorrow under Mrs. Mary Bangcawayan on campus. Students who need tutorials but are also punished for violations should **PRIORITIZE** the tutorials over the Garden Club. Your required hours for the Garden Club will be counted and you will be asked to work for it some other time, maybe during the semester break.

NCAE / UPCAT REVIEW – All senior students are required to attend the Saturday review for NCAE and UPCAT. For tomorrow, June 28, review for Filipino is scheduled care of Ms. Menchu Dawagan and Mr. Mike Benter. Review starts from 8:00 – 11:00 am.

Until then,

Leones B. Gonsoden
Teacher-in-Charge