

Principal's Bulletin
2008-2009 Series #12
August 22, 2008

Dear Students, Parents, Alumni, and Friends:

We are now at the end of the 2nd week of the 2nd Quarter. Time just seems to fly so fast, as if we just had finished quarter exams. Probably, this is the effect of the many class disruptions that happens in August. As you are already aware, Wednesday, August 20, was declared a typhoon day, and rightfully so, because the winds and rain battered Sagada. To make up for the day, we are using this Saturday, August 23, as the make-up day. We all also use this time to prepare for our Pista sa Santa Marya on Monday, August 25, which is also a national holiday. Let us all pray for good weather for this day!

The following are the scheduled activities for the Pista:

7:45 a.m.	Assembly in Daongan; Kinder kids will assemble in front of George's Inn
8:00	Santa Cruzan (parade to the Church)
8:30 – 10:00	School Mass (Kinder will watch a movie in the theater)
10:00 – 10:45	Cultural Presentations in the Quadrangle
10:45 – 11:30	Quiz Bee in the School Theater
11:30 – 1:00	Lechon Lunch at the Gymnasium
1:00 – 3:00	Lowland games at various venues, mainly in the Quadrangle

There will be a HS PTA meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday, August 23 in the school theater. The main agenda is the Pista – how parents can help in the preparations, tasks, and responsibilities for the food sale. Pista is the only annual fund-raising activity for both the HS PTA and the Kinder PTA. For the high school, net proceeds will be used for the purchase of cement and aggregates for the gym cistern.

Thanks to several donors, mainly from the Board of Trustees, we will have seven lechons for sale. **Everyone is asked to bring their own cooked rice and their own utensils.** (Of course, kamayan is suitable for the occasion.) Cooked rice will also be available **for sale** at the school canteen for those who forget to bring their own. The Kindergarten parents will host their usual pot luck lunch for the kinder children and their families at the picnic area below Stapleton Hall. Everyone is invited to buy a serving of lechon, and once everyone is served, the remaining lechon can be sold by the kilo for home consumption. The price per kilo will be determined at the PTA meeting tomorrow. Other “goodies” like diniguan, “kakanin”, and drinks will also be sold by the Kinder parents. Please invite your friends and family. The occasion is open to all.

Another item of the agenda is one of special concern to everyone. I had received a report from the Sagada Police that fraternity recruitment is on the rise in Sagada. These fraternities are based in Bontoc, Trinidad, and Baguio, and it is confirmed that they have established contacts with local students. So far, two students (not from SMS) have been identified as alleged bonafide members. Please be warned, that the Department of Education Code governing all schools prohibits membership in fraternities and members of fraternities will be expelled from school, private or public and will not be eligible to transfer to any educational institution without express approval by the Department itself, through the Secretary of Education.

A tell-tale sign of membership in these fraternities are slash marks on the left arm—either an “x” or a series of lateral slashes done by a blade. So far, fourteen 2nd Year and eight 1st year SNHS students have been identified through these slash marks. Last Tuesday, during a surprise inspection, I discovered that six of our SMS students (all girls belonging to 1st and 2nd year) had similar markings. Although we have ascertained that these are simply “copycats” or “katuwaan-related,” we all should remain vigilant to prevent fraternities from infiltrating Sagada. Fraternities can cause irreparable damage to our children and our community, as they have done so in Bontoc, Trinidad, and Baguio. How parents and the community can prevent this menace from affecting our town will be discussed on Saturday.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 27	National Career Assessment Exam (administered in school)
Friday, September 5	Intramurals (Battle of the Dap-ays!)

I hope to see you all this Saturday!

Dennis Gomowad Faustino
Principal