

Saint Mary's School of Sagada
PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN, 2009-2010 SERIES #6
July 10, 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Alumni and Friends:

The past six weeks have been full of challenges for both the students and the teachers. The challenge may be in the form of adjusting to a new environment, more complicated subjects, staying focused on one's studies, beating deadlines for assigned tasks, new responsibilities, etc. Some welcomed these demanding situations with enthusiasm while others complained first before putting their hands into it. As we overcome difficulties, things become easier for us. We learn from our experiences. We become stronger and we get inspired in our studies/work. As we move on, we will eventually see that these are opportunities for growth.

This week, we welcomed a new student in the person of Erin Pangog Baniaga, 13 years old, from New Jersey. She is the daughter of SMS alumni Jane Pangog and Edwin Baniaga, who are both members of class 1984. Erin will stay with us for two or three weeks while the family is on vacation. She attends all the classes of 1-B except Filipino. Erin, we hope that you will enjoy your stay with SMS.

Review sessions and sport drills are conducted by the teachers and some volunteers. For this year we are blessed to have Engr. Patrick Cerilo, of Sagada Municipal Engineer's Office, as the coach for Math IV prospective contestants. He started the review last Monday. He also teaches technical drafting to some fourth year students for two hours a week as part of the Art and Design elective. Practices for basketball and volleyball are under the expertise of Mr. Daniel Ambasing, our Sports Director. Mr. Myke Benter supervises practices in table tennis.

Parents, please be reminded to notify the school in case your child cannot come due to sickness, family emergencies, etc. You can send a letter or call/text the following numbers: 09287880077 (Kym Ledesma) or 09182526834 (Kent Sinkey). Parental notice will serve as our basis in giving the students make-up activities. Please remind your child also to be responsible in approaching his/her subject teachers for the assessments he/she missed.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The parent-teacher-student conference (PTS) is scheduled next week. This is a venue for us to know how our children are doing in school and how they can further develop their potentials. The administration together with the teachers will be happy to meet you parents. Please feel free to come. During the conference, the student is the focus. Each student will formulate his/her plan of action based on the comments given by the teachers, and this will be closely monitored at home by the parents and in school by the teachers. The plan will also serve as the basis of the second quarter conference. The PTS will be conducted after classes in the afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30. Below is the schedule:

- July 13 (Monday)-1st year students
- July 14 (Tuesday) – 2nd year students
- July 15 (Wednesday) – 3rd year students
- July 16 (Thursday) – 4th and 5th year students
- July 25 (Saturday) – students from out-of-town only

July 24 is slated for the second school dance, which is sponsored by the PTA. The first dance will be parent-child dance (mother-son or father-daughter). Parents are encouraged to attend. Maybe some of you haven't danced with your children yet. This is your chance especially that kids are growing fast. After the first dance, the parents will play the gongs in the quadrangle or will have a meeting in the library. The following day, July 25 (Saturday) will be the PTA YCAP together with the students. The males will prepare the area for the gym cistern and stage while the females will work in the orchard. Parents and students are then asked to bring necessary digging or cutting tools.

The review for NCAE and college entrance examinations, which started last June 12, will continue tomorrow (Saturday, July 11 from 8:0 am – 11:00 am). Tomorrow's session will be on reading comprehension to be conducted by Mr. Melvin Magsanoc and Ms. Arlyn Agbasil. All fourth year students are mandated to join.

FACULTY CORNER

Below is the reflection of Ms. Corazon Tallocoy-Deligen, a math teacher. She had been with the school year for five years. Ma'am Cora hails from Fedilisan and is married to Randy Deligen, an SMS alumnus, from Demang. They have four kids, three boys and a girl.

Six weeks of school has passed and each passing day is a challenge and struggle for everyone. There are instances when we tend to do things because we want to, we are forced to, we want to test something, to be different from the rest or just to attract attention from others, and not considering the effects on others. We often forget that these things are coupled with respect and responsibility. There are even times when we feel like we are carrying a heavy load on our shoulders, maybe because of our failures. We are reprimanded because of something we have done or said, we did not get what we want, or because of hurt feelings. There are also times when we ask questions like: "Why is this happening to me?", "Why me, not...", and the worst thing is, "Has God forsaken me?"

Because of our pessimism, sometimes we want to give up or turn our backs. But thinking it over, there are reasons for everything. Maybe, these serve as reminders, as wake-up calls or as go-signals for us to move on or to take time and reflect. These experiences are a part of adjustment, growing up, and learning - to make us stronger and better persons.

Instead, let us be thankful because we are given a BIG HEART to forgive, to CARE, to LOVE and to be LOVED. As a family, let us share the LOVE we have known, even if it means more hurt feelings, heartaches, and headaches. As the GREAT TEACHER said, "LOVE is the greatest gift of all."

Corazon T. Deligen

Till next week. "MATAGO-TAGO TAKO AM-IN."

Nemia N. Lite
Assistant Principal