

Saint Mary's School of Sagada
PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN, 2009-2010 SERIES #7
July 17, 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Alumni and Friends:

This is the seventh week of the first quarter, which is three weeks before the final exams. This week we had the Parent-Teacher-Student Conference for all year levels where the students, with the guidance of their teachers and their parents, formulated their plans of action to address their weaknesses, and improve their grades. I commend the 4th Year and 2-B students, with their advisers Mr. Myke Benter, Ms. Racquel Killy, and Ms. Marjorie Hangdaan, for letting their students write their strengths and weaknesses instead of their teachers. That is an example of student-centered instruction!

PTS conference will continue this afternoon after classes for third year students. They were scheduled last Wednesday but because of no classes, it is rescheduled today.

For parents who were not able to attend the PTS Conference, particularly those from other places, the teachers will accommodate you on July 25 (Saturday) during the PTA-YCAP day.

Excavation at the gym area intended for the stage, shower rooms and cistern started last Tuesday. Thanks to Mr. Davis Dapliyan and Mr. Ray Fiar-od, last year's PTA officers who are coordinating the work. Expenses for fuel will come from the PTA fund generated last year during the "Pista sa Santa Marya". We would like to especially thank Mayor Edward Latawan for donating the use of his back hoe. Thank you and May blessings return to you a hundred fold.

There were no classes last Wednesday, July 15 in celebration of Cordillera day. It was declared as a special (non-working) day in CAR by the President by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1830. Hence, we don't need to pay for it.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

July 24 (Friday) is slated for the second school dance, sponsored by the PTA. It will be held at the school auditorium from 6:00 PM until 9:30 in the evening. We look forward to meeting all parents during this occasion. Parents are to pay fifty pesos (P50) per child for the food. So if there are two siblings, the parents will pay one hundred pesos (P100). The first part of the dance will be the parent-child dance (mother-son or father-daughter), after which the parents may leave the dance hall for another activity organized by the officers.

July 25 (Saturday) will be the PTA YCAP day with the students. The male parents and bigger boys will continue the work in the gym area while the women and girls will work in the orchard. Parents and students are to bring digging or cutting tools.

NCAE review will continue tomorrow for fourth year students on abstract reasoning and manipulative skills. It will be conducted by Mr. Daniel Ambasing and Ms. Geraldine Capsula.

The final exams for the first quarter will be on August 6 – 7 (Thursday and Friday). There will be two exams in the morning and one in the afternoon. Parents, please monitor the study period of your children at home especially their major papers to avoid cramming before the deadlines.

Parents, please be informed to pay tuition fees of your children before the end of the first quarter to avoid surcharges.

FACULTY CORNER

Ms. Janet Eason is our Australian art teacher. She is a certified art educator and a painter at the same time. She taught art in Australia for some years before moving to the Philippines. She was scouted by Sir Fau and she started teaching at SMS last 2005. Below is her reflection.

For ten years now I have been familiar with Sagada. I have lived here for seven of those years. When one is in a place every day, the changes seem to occur so gradually that we may not notice them.

Recently, I was speaking to a Manila-based Filipina who has known Sagada for many more years than I, though she has not visited for at least the last ten years. She commented on the changes that have taken place during this time. I asked her what these changes were.

The first and strongest point she made was how much garbage there is now in the landscape. Echo Valley appalled her, as did her walks along pathways and roads in our town. Trash everywhere!

The second point was how ugly it is all becoming with concrete constructions appearing all over the place. For her, whatever appeal there was that had her come back over and over again, is fast disappearing.

Smoke belching jeepneys, trucks, and buses; households burning rubber and plastics render the air poisonous, where once it was fresh and crisp.

I always said that living in Sagada is like living in Paradise. Will this last? It seems that Joni Mitchell was right when she sang:

“Doesn’t it always seem to go?

That you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone.

Pave Paradise. Put up a parking lot.”

Janet Eason

After two weeks of networking with different agencies in Manila, Sir Fau will finally be here on Monday. Next week, he will share to us the result of his “vacation” through this bulletin.

May God bless us all!

Nemia N. Lite
Assistant Principal