

**Saint Mary's School of Sagada**  
**PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN, 2009-2010 SERIES # 11**  
**August 24, 2009**

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Alumni, and Friends:

The past week has been relatively quiet, though there were still many disruptions. Last Tuesday, seven psychiatrists and psychologists from Baguio General Hospital visited SMS and held consultations with both sections of 1<sup>st</sup> Year, the family of Jim Alacyang, and the two boys who had discovered the slain girl in Tangeb several weeks ago. We are thankful for the time they volunteered to provide closure for the kids regarding the tragic events that impacted the school. On the other hand, I am curious why there was no feedback to me, as Principal, on the status of our children. I am especially disturbed that our very own counselor, who is licensed and qualified, was deliberately excluded from being present during the consultations. In my experience as administrator and as guidance counselor at International School, we (the administration and the guidance staff) were always included on counseling sessions because we are tasked to make the necessary follow up with the kids after these people leave. When the H1N1 crisis hit SMS, the doctors at St. Theodore's and RHU were in continuous contact with me, so I could in turn advise parents, faculty and staff, and students on preventive measures. I wonder if this is SOP (standard operational procedure) in the field of psychology.

Last Wednesday, our fifty-six 4<sup>th</sup> Year students took the National Career Assessment Exam (NCAE), which was administered throughout the schools in the entire country. The test measures the aptitude of the student in preparation for future career choices. The results will be known in January. In appreciation for their extra work to prepare for this exam (which included review sessions on Saturdays and one week last summer), the seniors were given free dress day and the morning off yesterday, August 27.

This afternoon, the SGO (Student Government Organization), under the tutelage of Mr. Mike Benter and Ms. Geraldine Capsula, has organized a variety show in which representatives from the dap-ays will compete in singing, dancing, fashion modeling, and musical "lip-sync." The latter is short for lip synchronization or "singing behind the record." Winners will garner points for their dap-ay. The event is slated from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. I have asked the faculty and the Sagada police to "sweep" the campus after the event to ensure that the kids go home directly after the affair, and that no one is loitering in the Tangeb area and the mission compound. Parents, please be advised.

National Heroes Day will be celebrated on Monday, August 31 and classes will resume on Tuesday, September 1.

Tomorrow, Saturday, August 29, the KASAPI, Koalisyon ng Katutubong Samahan ng Pilipinas, will be hosting the culminating activities on the school quadrangle from 6:00-10:00 p.m. The affair is being coordinated by Giovan Reyes of Sagada. The event is invitational. The SMS involvement is the opening number with the SMS Dance Troupe. The SMS participants should be home no later than 8:30 p.m.

Thanks to SMSSAFF (the alumni and friends in North America), funds have been raised to continue the cistern gym project. The SMS Vice-President for PTA Projects, Mr. Ciano Baldo, is in the process of drawing up the architectural plans and the bill of materials. We will be soon calling upon you the PTA to render service for the project.

This Saturday, SGO and CAT officers, plus dormitorian volunteers and Garden Club members, will secure 50 persimmon trees and a number of "payen" trees from the Dept. of Agriculture nursery by Lake Danum. They will initiate the preparations needed to plant the seedlings in the school orchard. Lunch will be served.

Report Cards are now available for pick-up by parents and guardians. Please take the time to read the comments written by your child's teachers. Please note that the Business Office, the Library, and the Computer Lab will be closed during this three-day weekend.

I join everyone in looking forward to this three-day break. Enjoy!

Dennis Gomowad Faustino  
Principal