

Saint Mary's School of Sagada
PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN, 2009-2010 SERIES # 17
October 9 & 16, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, Alumni, and Friends

It is a relief to have good weather and electricity back after an entire week. As wise men say, sunshine always follows the storm. Classes were cancelled last Wednesday and Thursday (Oct 7 & 8) when typhoon Peping unexpectedly returned to the Cordilleras—the same typhoon that devastated areas in Trinidad and Kayan, causing loss of lives, crops, and property. The subsequent brown-outs, landslides, and road wash-outs also disrupted all of us in Sagada, negatively impacting education, transportation, business. These conditions inevitably led to the loss of communications, potential income, and the postponement of major activities and events. On behalf of the SMS family, we share the grief over the tragedies that hit Trinidad City and Kayan, many of whom were relations or friends of our community. Other than a few felled trees and minor landslides, Sagada only experienced inconveniences, and we thank the Lord for the blessings He has given us.

On a personal note, the aftermath of the storm has re-affirmed my pride and belief in the Filipino people. From the feedback through the news, I am gratified to know that individuals and civic minded groups responded overwhelmingly to the needs of the victims of the first typhoon which affected Metro Manila and the lowlands. I commend the Sagada community for making an instant campaign to collect rice, used clothing, and sayote to send to the typhoon victims of Rizal Province and the neighboring cities in Metro Manila. Luckily, the goods were delivered to the ABS-CBN center in Baguio for eventual transport and distribution to disaster control areas. I also commend the efforts of our “kailian” to organize local manpower to dig-out the remains of the mudslides in Kayan to look for survivors, and help set up a shelter for the victims and provide them with food and clothing. It is gratifying to know that one can rely on your “neighbor” to help in times of emergencies. To all who have helped, thank you and congratulations to our modern heroes!

PAST EVENTS

In addition to our last “banked” day, classes were held on Saturday, October 10, to make-up for the two typhoon days. Barring any future disruptions, our semester break will go on as scheduled, starting Wednesday, October 28 until Tuesday, November 3. Please note that the entire school (including dormitories and offices) will be closed during the break. We again request the Sagada community to avoid using the Stapleton Hall area to gain access to the cemetery. Please use the Rectory road. People from Ambasing, Demang, and Daongan may still use the back paths in Tangeb through the school to gain access to the Rectory Road.

Congratulations to the following: Irish Dalis, 2nd Year, for winning First Place in the Division Science Poster Making competition held last Saturday, October 17. This is her second award this year after winning a similar competition during the Population Commission Art contest held last month. The following are the total results of the Science and Math Festival held last on October 17:

Irish Dalis	Poster Making (2 nd Year)	1 st Place (qualifies for regional competition)
Andrea Manegdeg	Science Quiz Bee (1 st Year)	3 rd Place
Zyne Baybay	Science Quiz Bee (2 nd Year)	1 st place (qualifies for regional competition)
Kate Kollin	Science Quiz Bee (2 nd Year)	3 rd Place
Marciana Hangdaan	Science Quiz Bee (3 rd Year)	2 nd Place
Maverick Alalag	Science Quiz Bee (4 th Year)	2 nd Place
Calde Ambucay	Science Quiz Bee (4 th Year)	3 rd Place
Lloyd Guyon	Math Quiz (1 st Year)	2 nd Place
Langsa Tuguinay	Math Quiz (2 nd Year)	1 st Place (qualifies for regional competition)
Neil Bagano	Math Quiz (3 rd Year)	3 rd Place
Sasha Inso	Math Quiz (4 th Year)	1 st Place (qualifies for regional competition)
Marissa Basiwal	Collage Making (4 th Year)	3 rd Place
Daniel Semon	DaMath (1 st Year)	1 st Place (qualifies for regional competition)
Timothy Forarao	DaMath (2 nd Year)	3 rd Place
Rygar Andawi	DaMath (3 rd Year)	3 rd Place
Ryder Agpad	DaMath (4 th Year)	3 rd Place
Jerry Falanci	Sci-Dama (1 st Year)	3 rd Place
Dexter Cadalig	Sci-Dama (2 nd Year)	3 rd Place
Cyprene Lay-at	Sci-Dama (3 rd Year)	3 rd Place
Guillermo Semon Jr.	Sci-Dama (3 rd Year)	2 nd Place
Vince Lumpanga	Sci-Dama (4 th Year)	2 nd Place

Other participants were Zuriel Docallas, Megonne Degay, Clifford Inso, Esther Sumbad, Lilian Gaong, Ranville Medina and Lizbeth Kollin.

Lizbeth Kollin, on the other hand, topped the Division Super Science Quiz Bee held last October 12. This is the second year in a row that SMS will go to the Regional Competition (CAR) to represent the province in the Super Science Quiz Bee. Joey Rogers (Batch 2009) went last year.

This is also the biggest delegation (29 students, 6 teachers, and 2 parents) SMS has sent to the Math Science Fair in the six years of its incorporation; it is also the first time in many years that we have sent participants in the dama competitions in Science and Math. In this regard, we are looking for coaches from the community for the dama games, as this board game necessitates a combination of strategy (like chess) and knowledge in Math/Science. We appreciate your help to give our students the appropriate training, as we intend to make these dama games part of the dap-ay competitions throughout the school year. With your support, we can improve on our record!

Finally congratulations and thanks to the coaches, whose dedication and long hours have made this fair a fun and competitive experience for our students: Gay Pascual, Nemia Lite, Marjorie Hangdaan, Alma Bagano, Patrick Cerilo, Cora Deligen, and Chesya Epa. Thanks also to Mr. John Padalla and Mr. Mario Aligo for providing transportation and chaperoning our kids.

2nd Quarter exams were administered yesterday and today (October 19 & 20), as the loss of power prevented the school from producing and duplicating exam papers. We would like to thank Pancho and Monette Masferre and Gabriel Botigan for allowing us to use their generators so we can have the exams ready for the rescheduled date. The third quarter thus officially starts tomorrow, October 21. Because of the loss of power, students have been given an extension on submitting final projects which have been placed on the school computers in digital form. Students need to confer with their individual teachers to know the new deadlines. We also hope to get 2nd Quarter grades and grade point averages by Tuesday, October 27, prior to the semester break. The official report cards, however, will not be available until November 9 to allow faculty to place comments on the report cards.

The Sagada Division Meet has been scheduled on October 23-25 (Friday to Sunday). October 23 is being considered a school day, and everyone is expected to join the parade (which will end in Sagada Central School) and cheer for the school teams and players. School uniforms are a must, and attendance will be taken prior to the parade.

The Greco-Roman festival or “Bacchanalia”, which is also the fundraiser for the PTA, has been postponed to a yet undetermined date in November (probably the 3rd week of November). Considering the weather conditions that delayed many events, and the tragedies that required immediate support and attention, it is best to find a much later date for this fundraiser. Please note that the Kindergarten Trick or Treat parade will go on as scheduled starting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27.

The 2nd Quarter Board of Trustees has also been reset to Sunday, November 29, from the original scheduled date of October 30. Hopefully all roads would be cleared by then.

Future Important Dates:

October 24	Math Olympiad in Baguio (SMS will be sending participants)
October 27-29	Division Press Conference in Besao
October 28	Semester Break starts
November 4	Classes Resume

The SLU entrance examination scheduled in Bontoc this Saturday, October 24, is postponed to January 2010. Further details will be given later by the SLU administration.

We are anticipating another typhoon within the next 48 hours. Please take the necessary precautions. We will disseminate any notices of cancellation of classes through the phone tree.

The final principal’s bulletin will be issued on October 27, in time for the semester break. Until then, keep safe.

Dennis Gomowad Faustino
Principal