

**Saint Mary's School of Sagada**  
**PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN, 2009-2010 SERIES # 18**  
**November 6, 2009**

Dear Parents, Students, Alumni, and Friends

We are now back to school after the semester break, and it feels good to see the children back, laughing, cajoling, and resuming the normal routine of studying and learning. I apologize for not having written a bulletin for the last day before the semester break. Two major things had cropped up, and we had to prioritize what needed to be done.

Your children should have brought home a small sheet of paper that indicates the grades for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Due to the inclement weather and disruptions, we had to delay 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter exams, and consequently the report cards. I would like to thank the faculty for rushing the grading of papers and the recording of numerical scores because we wanted the kids to bring home news about their academic standing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, particularly those from out of town. We also wanted to recognize those who achieved honors, prior to the break. We did this during a special assembly on Tuesday, October 27. The official report cards, which include teacher comments will be available for pick up on Monday, November 9. The honors certificates will be also attached to the report cards.

The second major event at school was the field trip of the entire student body to "Science in Motion," a hands-on science and technology exhibit held in Bontoc, sponsored by the Department of Education. The exhibit received wonderful reviews and recommendations when it was held in Baguio, and Dr. Mary Lang-ayan, the DepEd division superintendent, was able to invite the group to Bontoc at reduced rates. The student entrance fee in Baguio was P150; the Bontoc fee was P75. The school spent for 10 jeeps to shuttle the whole student body and faculty last Tuesday, October 27. When asked how they felt about the exhibit, many of the children commented "bitin" which indicates that they enjoyed themselves while learning.

While about 200 SMSers plus adult chaperones trekked to Bontoc, another group of seven students plus advisors Ms. Alma Bagano and Ms. Raquel Killy went to opposite way to Besao to attend the Division Press Conference, held October 26-29. This workshop/competition in journalism is held annually for the student staff of school newspapers, ranging from news writing to photo journalism and broadcasting. Our school paper *The Sagada Postboy* normally wins various prizes and is sent to the regional competition, which will be held this year in Tabuk on December 9-12. Adjudication for school papers have been delayed to the end of November to allow schools to have their papers printed, because of the disruptions caused by the lack of electricity and access to printers in Baguio and other areas affected by the typhoons. Congratulations to the following students who have brought honor to SMS: Kurt Balaso, 1<sup>st</sup> place in Photo Journalism (English); Angel Luke Bagano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in News Writing (English); Langsa Tuguinay, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Feature Writing (English); Nasstasja Montero, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Sports Writing (English); Salome Gomowad, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Copy Reading and Headline Writing (Filipino), and Irish Dalis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cartooning. They will represent the Mountain Province in the Tabuk Press Conference.

Another feather in SMS's cap is Wryneth Mayapit, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Division Consumer Quiz Bee competition held in Bontoc last October 19. This is the first time SMS has ever joined this competition, and Ms. Nemia Lite, the advisor, was proud to comment that the achievement was 90% due to Wryneth and her efforts to independently research and study, and only 10% due to teacher's guidance. Way to go, Wryneth!

Seven students were suspended for gambling in Stapleton Hall last October 27. May I remind everyone—students, dormitorians, parents, and the community—that gambling, regardless of the amount, and whether or not cash is involved, is strictly prohibited. This is not the type of behavior we would like our children to learn while at SMS. I was very gratified to hear that our gym construction workers, to whom the suspendees were assigned during the semester break, reinforced our school philosophy. "Gamitin ninyo an mga kamay para sa trabaho, hindi sa sugal!" The students hauled rocks and dirt, mixed cement, and did other manual labor for three days, thereby delaying their vacation and departure for home.

This is a short bulletin, because it has been a short week. My thanks to the community for respecting our wishes to keep the campus safe, clean, and free from vandalism, during the semester break.

The District Meet is currently being held this weekend. SMS is the venue for girls' volleyball and table tennis.

Until next week,

Dennis Gomowad Faustino  
Principal