

**Saint Mary's School of Sagada**  
**PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN, 2009-2010 SERIES # 19**  
**November 13, 2009**

Dear Parents, Students, Alumni, and Friends

The district meet is over. Our students had a marvelous time competing, socializing, cheering for their peers, and spending money on fish balls, halo-halo, and junk food. The celebratory fiesta atmosphere pervaded the community courts and the mission compound. Our teams did a great job, as evidenced by their strong morale and competitive persistence. None of our teams made it to the championship although the girls' volleyball and boys' basketball made it to the championship round. The girls lost to Antadao NHS, at the deciding 3<sup>rd</sup> set of the game. The outcome of the boys' basketball competition was left undecided. The officials reset the game to Monday afternoon because SMS would have had to play 3 games in one day, and though the championship game was started, it was getting dark and our kids started getting muscle cramps. The game on Monday was also stopped after the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter because it was also getting dark. SMS was behind SNHS 3-4 points but, given the time left, it could have been anybody's game. The officials decided there would no more continuation, and that they would just choose and select their "all stars" for the provincial meet.

I have mixed feelings about the whole affair. On one hand, I felt that to have another game on Tuesday would just prolong the anxiety of students, and it was time to just move on. On the other hand, the decision of the officials to discontinue the extended game has deprived SMS, as a team, from going on to the provincial meet.

As I took over the administration five years ago, I strongly believe that in team sports such as basketball, batted balls, and volleyball, victory can only be achieved by developing teamwork within a team. Strategies in game play, the training of players in implementing strategies, and the coaching and/or planning are what make a team win. I believe that there are talented individuals in any team, but the outcome of working together is the most vital element in achieving success. I also believe, as many teachers do, that the practice of pulling kids out of school for two weeks to a month to prepare for the provincial meet has a negative impact against the prime objectives of any school—first and foremost, the kids are in school to study and learn. Athletes who are pulled out of school eventually experience difficulty in catching up with their school work and suffer a drop in grades and teachers are left to pick up the pieces after the athletic meet.

I also believe that "all star" games (pulling the best from many teams, and making them practice and play together in a very short practice time) is nothing more than entertainment. We have seen this in the professional leagues locally and abroad—in sports like basketball, American football, and baseball. "All star" games are scheduled in the middle of the season as an entertainment treat for sports fans. Even in the Olympics, when Philippine professional basketball stars like Robert Jaworski, are pulled out from the team with which they have been practicing with for years, and joined with other star players from other teams, the resulting delegation is no match with teams from other countries whose members have trained together from the start.

What I suggest, as I have been pushing for the past five years, is that Sagada, as a municipality and a school district, should select their team from all the high schools in the summer or at least in June before school starts. This way, they are trained and ready to work as a team for the provincial meet in November. Their practices can be held regularly during weekends and thus school work is not disrupted. Sagada, by sending a Sagada team, will have the best chances at success when they meet other teams in the province or even in the region. Sagada does it for little league baseball. Why can't something similar be done for other team sports?

My congratulations to all the SMS athletes and coaches who have worked tirelessly for the school! Good luck to the following SMS students who will compete in the provincial meet in the following individual events:

Table Tennis: Renfro Tangilab, Ryder Agpad, Kirk Kollin, Sasha Inso, Charmyn Baldo, Nica Apolinar

Chess: Irina Quilaman

Athletics: Maegonne Degay, Zyan Batnag, Nikki Camtugan, Andrea Manegdeg, Moises Malecдан, Bingo Aligo  
Clark Tenorio

Badminton: Marciana Hangdaan

There is another elimination round in Athletics this coming Saturday, November 14. Other than the ones who have already qualified, more SMS students may make the cut for the provincial meet.

## Other Events and Developments:

The SMSSI Board of Trustees will meet in Baguio on Sunday, November 29. Among the items to be discussed is the financial autonomy of the school for SY 2010-2011. Financial policies governing student development activities (e.g. sending students on athletic meets and academic competitions) will also be discussed.

The proposed fundraiser for the PTA this year (The Greco-Roman Festival) has been cancelled due to two major reasons. The tragedies and disruptions caused by the slew of typhoons, other activities involving the school (athletic meets and academic competitions) have been pushed into November and December, thereby re-scheduling the activity would cause major difficulty in the preparations for the event. Secondly, for the same reasons, our PTA is having a difficult time soliciting for funds because the priority has been placed on helping the victims of the natural disasters. The issue of fundraising this year (to complete the cistern) will be discussed in the next PTA meeting which will be held in December prior to the start of Christmas break.

**Calling all athletic parents:** Mrs. Mabanay Timpac is calling all sports-minded parents to form a parents team to compete with our students during the Cordillera celebrations on December 18. The featured sports are girls' volleyball and boys' basketball. The "gauntlet" has been thrown! Parents, do you accept the challenge?

## Dates of Events involving SMS students:

November 19-21	Regional Science Fair in Bangued, Abra
November 24	Say-awit Competition in Bontoc
November 27-Dec 3	Provincial Athletic Meet in Bauko
Dec 9-12	Regional Press Conference in Tabuk
December 14-16	Service Learning 1 <sup>st</sup> Year, SMS overnight, second night in Pilao 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year, Bangaan overnight, next night in Datacan 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year, Mainit 4 <sup>th</sup> Year, Tambuan
December 18	Foundation Day, SMS Cordillera Day, and Christmas Celebrations
December 19	Christmas Break starts
January 5 (Tuesday)	Classes Resume (Please don't extend your vacation!!!)
January 14-15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Exams

I am very proud of the fact that this school year, we have involved the most number of students to competitions, ranging from athletic events to academic quiz bees, and from cultural events to journalism contests. We have refrained from using the same kids again and again, and we have provided training to those who are not necessarily the best and the brightest. I believe we are on the right track to providing as many learning opportunities to as many individual students in our school. I now call on the parents to give up some time (weekday afternoons and weekends) to share their expertise and support and training our children. Adi tako bokodan di gawis. Parents, share what you know with your own kids! Matagotago nan Santa Malya!

Until next week,

Dennis Gomowad Faustino  
Principal