

January 15, 2010

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:

I want to take this opportunity to express our deep concern and offer up our prayers for the victims of the devastating earthquake that shattered Haiti on Tuesday. It hurts us deeply when we hear that members of our own human family are suffering a great deal. We will continue to pray for the people of Haiti, as we did at our all-school assembly this morning. Please join us in our thoughts and prayers.

The RIS campus was buzzing again this week as students and teachers returned to campus after a long holiday to begin another exciting semester. During the Christmas break, our staff was very busy and worked tirelessly to make upgrades to our existing facilities in various buildings, including the continued renovation plan to our air-conditioning systems to conserve energy. Also, I am sure you must have noticed some design changes in the Griffith Library to incorporate a separate Middle School section. Our team, supported by the Parents Auxiliary, will continue with this renovation and we will have an official opening ceremony soon!

This morning at Assembly, our students joined me in paying tribute to our teachers in recognition of National Teacher's Day, which is celebrated tomorrow in this country. Our teachers are the shapers of our future – a future where respect for human rights creates the possibility for peace and provides the foundation for an all-embracing, cooperative social order based on justice. If we wish for our children to translate the possibility for peace into the reality of a just society, they must possess such essential attributes as truthfulness, compassion, fair-mindedness, humility, and kindness to all people. This is what we teach our students at RIS. Happy Teacher's Day to all our amazing teachers who work so hard to fulfill this goal!



Speaking of great teachers, our administrators have begun the process of hiring new faculty members and administrators who will join the existing highly-qualified team next school year. The search has begun and we are confident we will be successful in our hiring process this year.



This semester is going to be fun and exciting. Many activities have been planned during this term and you will continue to hear more through my weekly letters, the daily bulletins and our RIS website. MS students are ready to go on their Advisement Trips next week, ES and MS Games Day are coming up, and the entire school community will be involved in a February Fun-a-Thon to raise funds for a worthy cause. Exciting plans were shared at the Parents Auxiliary meeting this morning, and you will be hearing more from us soon.

Finally, I want to end this note with more good news. Last week, on behalf of RIS, Father Travis received an award for Outstanding Student Services for our students' involvement in community services to make this world a better place to live. Yes, we continue to work to steer RIS students towards the bright horizon of an ever-changing world environment that we live in. RIS is an awesome place!

Once again, thank you for your continued support. Talk to you next week.

Peace,

Fr.Pattarapong Srivorakul,C.Ss.R.

Head of School