

March 25, 2010

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:

First of all, I want to thank you for coming to our Parent-Teacher Conferences last week to discuss the progress your children are making here at RIS. Children are our community's most precious resource and their education is a matter of fundamental importance. The old proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child," rings true here at RIS where we see that is the collaboration of administrators, teachers, parents, staff and peers that attributes to the success of a child. Thank you for giving us the privilege to assist in the process of raising your child.

There is always something exciting and interesting for students at RIS; in other words, a short, but action-packed week here on campus.

On Tuesday, some very spirited high school students shared their talents on stage in Godbout Hall at the annual High School Talent Show. Wow, amazing talents we have at RIS! I congratulate all those who participated in the show. I know that there are hidden talents within all of us, and given the opportunities to shine encourages all our students to strive to polish those gems lying dormant within.



On Wednesday, Middle School students had a fun morning participating in their annual Sports Day and had a great time trying to stay cool. It is within the context of these types of activities that encourages teamwork and the celebration of success. Thanks to all the parents who came and helped our staff.



On the same day, a group of Interact Rotary Club members took off for Korat province to help build houses for the needy as part of the Habitat for Humanity worldwide project. My hats off to them as they raised nearly 250,000 baht to build two houses in less than four days! One of the students told me of the joy she receives upon seeing the smiling faces of the proud owners when the key is handed over to them. I am very proud of our students who have taken the time to care for others.

While students are not in school on Thursday and Friday, our teachers are. Nearly 70 members of our faculty left for Manila yesterday to attend the East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools (EARCOS) Conference. The theme of the conference is "Living and Learning in the 21st Century," and I am sure our faculty will return with new, innovative ideas to enhance the academic standards at RIS. Those remaining here at RIS are also participating in valuable workshops on campus these two days.

Global warming and climate change are major concerns not only for the RIS community, but for the world at large. This weekend, I would like to request you join your children in observing "Earth Hour" energy-saving campaign. On Saturday, March 27, Bangkok will participate in the biggest global climate awareness campaign, 2010 Earth Hour, from 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm, along with 4,000 cities in 84 countries. Bangkok alone expects to cut its electricity use by 2,000 megawatts – let's join in the cause!

Until next week; have a great weekend.

Peace,

Fr. Pattarapong Srivorakul, C.Ss.R.  
Head of School