

November 20, 2009

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:

Today, people all over the world observe Universal Children's Day. November 20 marks the day on which the UN Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

By this charter, every child on this earth under the age of 18 has the right to education, health care and economic opportunity. This morning Father Travis led our students in a special prayer remembering the children who still do not enjoy these basic rights and the millions of children who go to bed hungry each night.

Universal Children's Day celebrates children just for being themselves. It reminds us that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential. It is a day to listen to children, to marvel at their uniqueness and all they have to offer. Thank you, Father Travis, for reminding our students of the need to care for others in this world and to continually strive for the rights of children everywhere.

This evening a group of students from the elementary section will have a religious retreat on campus to prepare themselves for their First Communion. First Communion is a very important and holy day for Catholic children because they are receiving, for the first time, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We wish them a successful retreat as they embark on the spiritual commitment they are making in their lives.

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Henry Wannyoike, Kenyan Paralympics Gold Medalist and world-record holder of the 5,000 and 10,000 meter running events in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 on our campus today. Not only is Henry amazing because of these achievements, but even more remarkable, Henry is blind.



He addressed our students and staff on behalf of the Bangkok Marathon's theme "Run for the Future," encouraging youth to develop a "can do" attitude and to provide motivation to young minds as they aspire towards their goals and objectives in life. He inspired all of us when relating about his life experiences and his motto, "I have lost my sight, but I have not lost my vision."

A truly inspirational talk and something for all of us to reflect upon. Have a super weekend.

Peace,

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