

October 2, 2009

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:

In recent time, natural disasters caused by climate changes and severe weather conditions have struck at the heart of every one of us. It has disrupted economic activities, and storms have resulted in some of the worst flooding in decades to hit the region. As you must have read in the local newspapers this week, Typhoon Ketsana hit Northeastern provinces, dumping heavy rain and causing severe damage to homes and farmlands.

As a result, last Wednesday, our Middle School advisement trips were postponed due to heavy rain and the threat of Typhoon Ketsana in that area. It was a huge disappointment for our students, but we had to come to this decision after consulting with parents and administrators. We will announce the new dates for the trip soon.

Typhoon Ketsana caused serious damage in the Philippines and Vietnam. Earlier this week, we sent out an appeal to the RIS community members requesting donations for the typhoon victims in the Philippines. Yesterday morning we sent seven large boxes filled with blankets and clothes to the Embassy of the Philippines, Bangkok. This was a quick response from our team, and I want to thank all the friends who came forward to help the people there. If you would like to continue to donate assistance to this country, such as money, medicine or any materials, please send them directly to the Philippines Embassy.

On Tuesday, two young gentlemen from Sweden who are on a world tour doing inspirational talks on the philosophy of studying Math in Manila, Honolulu, Las Vegas and Los Angeles were in Bangkok on invitation of Said Irandoust, president of Asian Institute of Technology. Since 2005, they have held over 570 motivational presentations for almost 29,000 people in 10 countries. They are young and full of fun; and we were fortunate to have them on our campus for half the day motivating our middle and high school students on why math is so important in today's world.



Congratulations to both our Girls and Boys Varsity Volleyball Teams who participated in the BISAC Volleyball Invitational U19 last weekend and became the champions! Great job! Also, our Cross-Country Team ran in Ancient City sponsored by Bangkok Pattana School and also did extremely well! Keep up the great work!

Today we celebrate the Feast of Guardian Angels. I'd like to end with a prayer recited by one of our elementary students this morning at assembly, "Lord, you sent guardian angels to protect us. Guardian angels are protecting RIS. God, please send guardian angels to come and rescue the flood victims from different countries, especially the Philippines. Please send more generous people to help each other." Amen.

Peace,

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