

December 4, 2008

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:



–Tomorrow the entire nation will celebrate our beloved King's 81st birthday. I join our administrators, members of our faculty and staff in wishing His Majesty the King a very happy birthday and I dedicate this weekly letter to our great leader.

Thai people are very fortunate to have such a noble King. We have been spared from war and major disasters, unlike many other nations in this world, due to His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's keen diplomacy and good relations with foreign nations.

While we celebrate our King's birthday, we must also remind ourselves of his message he delivered on his 80th birthday. He called for unity among Thai people. His Majesty said, "If everyone in the country resolves to live in harmony, this will bring benefits and happiness for themselves and the public." He further said, "Our country will have normalcy and stability, which will lead to further progress, as we all wish."



His Majesty's words are wise and each and every one of us must work towards building unity; as the conditions around the world will not improve until we have complete unity, not only among Thai people, but all peoples and races. Here at RIS, we work hard to create an atmosphere of Union of Hearts.

Our King has initiated thousands projects to help the poor and needy during his reign. His 60-year reign can be characterized as a reign of justice and happiness for the rural people. When it comes to education, our King believed in education for all. He campaigned for this mission for several decades. He traveled to every corner of this country to make sure equal opportunity in education is provided to as many people as possible without regard to religion or economic background.

Finally, I want to end my letter by reminding ourselves a quote by former Thai Prime Minister, Anand Panyarachun. He said in a recent speech, "Without His Majesty's guiding hand, we would not be where we are today - a nation which has invariably demonstrated its inner strength, political resilience, social harmony and economic dynamism - a trait which has enabled the Thais to survive many a threat and misfortune in their long history."

We thank our Lord for giving us such a noble and loving King!

Long Live His Majesty the King! Let's celebrate and have a great three-day weekend!

Peace,

Fr. Pattarapong Srivorakul, C.Ss.R.

Head of School