

May 9, 2008

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:



First of all, I would like to thank you for your tremendous support of our 50th Anniversary Closing celebrations Tuesday at Godbout Hall. We had a great turnout from the Parents body and it was wonderful to see so many of you there. Our students and faculty put together outstanding performances to celebrate the occasion. Our chief guests and other VIPs were truly amazed at the talents we have in our school. I am very proud of our students. It was a wonderful way to end our celebration year and I invite all of you to join us in our march forward into the next 50 years of Ruamrudee International School!

The Peace Garden is now officially open. His Excellency, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, was the chief guest at the celebration and on that day he officially opened the Peace Garden and blessed our Peace Pole with the words, "May Peace Prevail Earth," in sixteen different languages. The opening of this Peace Garden is a constant reminder for all of us that we must continue to work towards peace in the world with strong love and kindness for all humanity -- and education is the key that will unlock the doors of ignorance.

You must have heard about the tragedy that took place in Burma. The death toll from the powerful cyclone that struck Burma over the weekend has now risen to 22,500 and more than 41,000 people are still missing. Our hearts are with our neighbors. We pass our condolences to the people of Burma and their bereaved families for the tragic losses and we pray to God to give the people strength to rebuild their lives. Just this morning, our students have started a collection drive requesting medicine, clothing, food items and blankets for the people of Burma. I am sure your children will talk to you regarding this drive, and am confident that the RIS family will rally together to help our neighbors.

Our IB exams are going on now at Godbout Hall. Good luck to all the students! Today the Middle School and RIST students are having their Talent Show programs in the afternoon, which is always a joy to attend! We have mailed your copy of the special edition of the RIS/RIST 50th Anniversary magazine to your homes today. I hope you will enjoy reading this wonderful history of our school and cherish this copy for years to come. Finally, we hope to all of you parents at the Parents' Auxiliary General Meeting next Wednesday, May 14, at 7:30 AM in AD 209.

That's all for this week. Have a great weekend.

Peace,

Fr. Pattarapong Srivorakul, C.Ss.R.

