

PRESS RELEASE

Honor our teachers, says Luistro

In line with the Teachers' Month Campaign and World Teachers' Day Celebration, the Department of Education has started conducting various activities to honor all Filipino teachers nationwide.

Through Department Memorandum 352, series of 2010, DepEd joins the rest of the world in celebrating World Teachers' Day on October 5. The education chief calls on the support of all private and public elementary and secondary schools in giving recognition to Filipino teachers who hold one of the biggest responsibilities in our society – that of molding the mind of future generations of Filipinos.

"October 5 is a day to honor our teachers who play a critical role in guiding our children and in providing them life-long learning," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

To prepare for this special celebration annually, the Teachers Month Campaign (TMC) was established in 2008. It is spearheaded by the TMC Council of Leaders and Steering Committee composed of representatives from key business and academic institutions and private education organizations. Government agencies also support the occasion to contribute to the growth and development of the teaching profession in the country as well as to publicly express recognition and appreciation to teachers and mentors.

With the theme, "My Teacher, My Hero", this year's Teachers' Month Campaign was launched during the Awarding Ceremony of 2010 Metrobank Foundation's Search for Outstanding Teachers on September 3, 2010.

The DepEd chief stresses that it is important to acknowledge the efforts of our modern-day heroes. "Our teachers are the provider of education which is one of the basic rights of our children. And despite facing various obstacles that test their creativity and patience, they steadfastly stand by their commitment to give their mentoring best," emphasized Luistro.

Luistro added that our own version of TMC aims to generate widespread awareness and support for World Teachers' Day.

"This occasion allows us to acknowledge the unique role teachers play in guiding families, strengthening societies and building nations," said Luistro.

TMC will revitalize the image of teaching as a vocation by increasing public awareness on the value of teachers in Philippine society and national development. It will also articulate the accessibility of a career in teaching by outlining available scholarship grants and school subsidy programs. Through this celebration, various chain of establishments also give value added services or discounts to affirm current and retired Filipino teachers.

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As part of the activity, students are encouraged to say “Thank you” to at least one teacher who has made a difference in his/her life. Students can write a letter or send a card.

“Saying “thank you” is just our simple way of giving back to our teachers who have touched our lives in one way or another. If we consider our Overseas Filipino Workers as our modern-day heroes, we should also do the same to our teachers. We should have a “Mother’s Day” type of celebration but in a grander scale,” Luistro said.

All DepEd Divisions shall mobilize the support of the community and commercial establishments in paying tribute to teachers (such as discounts/freebies or special promos for teachers for a particular period during the month leading to October 5).

At 10:05 AM of October 5, 2010, all teachers nationwide shall take a break from their classroom duties to give way for special classroom / school programs. School bells shall be sounded as a signal for synchronized World Teachers’ Day celebration.

All Regional Directors, Schools Division Superintendents and School Heads are encouraged to actively lead all activities for the Teachers’ Month Campaign and the World Teachers’ Day.

For queries, please coordinate with the DepEd-CSCA c/o Executive Director Joey G. Pelaez, at telephone nos.: (02)631-8495 or 636-3603 or thru CSCA website: www.deped-csca.com or e-mail address cscaportal@gmail.com or the Teachers’ Month Campaign Secretariat c/o Metrobank Foundation at telephone no.: (02)898-8898 or e-mail addresses: idlabitad@metrobank.com.ph and jlqivero@metrobank.com.ph.

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