

PRESS RELEASE

Luistro launches writing contest to pay tribute to teachers

The Department of Education has launched the first ever essay writing and poem writing contests in recognition of the very important role teachers play in the lives of students.

As part of the various activities pertinent to the Teachers' Month Campaign and the World Teachers' Day celebration, DepEd through the Center for Students and Co-Curricular Affairs (CSCA), and Smart Communications, collaborate to conduct the First Teachers' Month Campaign and World Teachers' Day nationwide Essay Writing and Poem-Writing Contests.

"Our teachers are the heart and soul of our entire education system. And how best can we pay tribute to their virtues than through essay and poetry writing," DepEd chief Armin Luistro said.

DepEd Memo 373, series of 2010 announces the conduct of the essay-writing and poem-writing contests as part of the various activities nationwide for the Teachers' Month Campaign which will culminate on October 5, 2010 designated by UNESCO as the World Teachers' Day. This year's celebration is inspired by the theme "My Teacher, My Hero".

These contests aim to encourage elementary pupils and high school students to creatively express how much they honor and value their teachers through essays and poems. Both activities are open to elementary pupils and secondary students from both public and private schools nationwide.

"Activities like this are just one of the many ways we can honor our teachers who have inspired us in one way or another to be the persons that we are today," Luistro added.

The guidelines are as follows: each pupil/student/school shall submit only one entry per contest; the essay or poem must be original and previously unpublished; it must be written in English and aligned with the theme, effectively conveying the writer's thoughts on why he/she regards a particular teacher his/her hero; and the essay or poem must be headed by a title.

Specifically for the essay writing contest, all English subject classes shall conduct an essay-writing activity as part of the requirements of the subject utilizing the theme of the celebration. From among the outputs made in all classes, the English Department Heads and Teachers shall select the school's entry.

On the other hand, the poem-writing contest requires that entries must be composed of a maximum of three stanzas with four lines per stanza. If there is more than one entry, the school, through the English Department Head or Teacher shall select among the entries.

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All essays must be e-mailed to essaytmc2010.depedsmart@gmail.com while poems must be e-mailed to poemtmc2010.depedsmart@gmail.com. Deadline of submission of both entries is on September 24, 2010. The essay or poem must be emailed and accompanied with the contestant's basic information (complete name, contact number, home address, grade/year level, name of school, school's contact number, school address, full name of teacher who inspired the essay - along with his/her complete home address, school name and address, contact numbers and state whether the teacher is living or dead).

Also, entries must be accompanied with a signed Certification/Honor Pledge of the School Principal: that the pupil/student is a bonafide pupil/student of the school; that the entry is an original composition of the pupil/student; that it was specifically written for the 2010 Teachers' Month Campaign and World Teachers' Day; that the entry has not been submitted to any other essay-writing competition; that the pupil/student has not received any assistance in composing the essay; and that the entry has been adjudged the winner following an essay-writing activity in all English classes.

The winning entries will be featured in the Smart Schools website (www.smartschools.ph) and in publicity releases in major newspapers nationwide. DepEd and Smart Communications Inc. reserve the right to reprint the winning entry in a future publication. The writer may republish the unedited submission as desired six months after initial publication by the contest organizers. Decision of the judges is final and irrevocable.

Grand prize winners will receive one set desktop computer, one Smart Bro pre-paid plug it and one Talk 'n Text mobile phone for the student while the teacher who inspired the essay will win P3,000 plus a Smart Bro pre-paid plug it and a Talk 'n Text mobile phone.

Two runners-up will receive Smart Bro pre-paid plug it and Talk 'n Text phone for both contests. On the other hand, teachers who are the inspiration of the student winners will receive P2,000 and P1,000, respectively. Teachers will also receive Smart Bro pre-paid plug it and Talk 'n Text phone.

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