



JUL 02 2008

DepED MEMORANDUM
No. 314, s. 2008

2008 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. Pursuant to Republic Act No. 6759 otherwise known as "An Act Declaring August 1 of Each Year as **White Cane Safety Day** in the Philippines and Other Purposes", the theme for this year's celebration is "RIGHTS: Access to Success".

2. The White Cane Safety Day Celebration is the first activity of the Sight Saving Month Celebration in August. This activity aims to:

- a. instill public awareness on the welfare of blind persons;
- b. promote recognition and acceptance of the White Cane as symbol of mobility for blind persons; and
- c. promote and protect the physical, moral and social well-being of blind persons.

3. The Department of Education (DepED) as lead agency of the Inter-Agency Committee for the celebration, has prepared the following activities which will be undertaken on August 1, 2008:

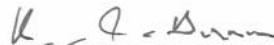
- Distribution of White Canes to selected blind students;
- Launching of the National Vocal Singing Contest and the National Braille Reading and Essay Writing Contests;
- Launching of the Call Center Training for the Blind and DAISY for All;
- Tree Planting; and
- Battle of the Band (Comballa)

4. The aforementioned activities could be conducted at the regional level through the initiative of the regional Special Education Council. Other GOs, NGOs and civic organizations could be tapped for assistance.

5. Other suggested activities for the celebration include:

- a. Sharing information on best practices concerning the education of the visually impaired by inviting blind students or educators as resource persons and other professionals working for the blind;

- b. Inviting ophthalmologists/optometrists to conduct free eye examination and screening to visually impaired students;
 - c. Holding symposia, fora and panel discussion relevant to the prevention and rehabilitation of blindness; and
 - d. Holding Academic Contests, Braille Reading and Writing Contests and other activities which will highlight the talents and skills of the visually impaired students.
6. All SPED centers, public and private schools with special education programs are encouraged to observe this day with appropriate activities.
7. A brief consolidated narrative and pictorial report on the celebration shall be submitted to the SPED Division, Bureau of Elementary Education. For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Mirla R. Olores, Chief, SPED Division, Bureau of Elementary Education, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City at tel. nos. (02) 631-99-93 or (02) 632-1361 local 2054.
8. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

Reference:

DepED Memorandum: No. 281, s. 2008

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION