



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

10 JUL 2013

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **121**, s. 2013

2013 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

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

1. Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 6759, declaring August 1 as White Cane Safety Day, the Department of Education (DepEd) through the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE), Special Education (SPED) Division will celebrate the **2013 White Cane Safety Day** to support the efforts of the present administration in promoting good governance through respect and realization of Human Rights. This year's theme is *Puting Baston: Gabay sa Patuloy na Paglalakbay Tungo sa Maunlad at Marangal na Pamumuhay*.

2. The Activity will commence with the *Sight Saving Month Celebration* in August. It aims to:

- a. stimulate public awareness on the rights and welfare of the blind and low vision persons;
- b. promote recognition and acceptance of the *white cane* as symbol of mobility for blind persons;
- c. strengthen and protect the physical, moral and social well-being of blind persons; and
- d. serve as a vehicle of information on the continuing development of programs being jointly worked as and implemented through Public and Private Partnerships (PPP) for the realization of the rights of the blind and low vision persons.

3. The White Cane Inter-Agency Committee has prepared the following activities that may be conducted on August 1, 2013 and beyond:

- a. Launching of the proposed three to five-year White Cane Safety Day activities;
- b. Distribution of white canes and talking watches to selected blind pupils/students;
- c. Showcasing the talents of blind and low vision pupils/students;
- d. Sharing of information on best practices concerning the education of the visually impaired by inviting blind pupils/students or educators as resource persons and other professionals working for blind and low vision persons;
- e. Inviting ophthalmologists/optometrists to conduct free eye examination and screening to visually impaired pupils/students;
- f. Holding of symposia, fora, workshops, panel discussion and sports, arts and cultural activities relevant to the prevention and rehabilitation of blindness; and
- g. Holding of academic contests in Braille reading and writing, use of abacus, Quiz VI, and other activities such as cultural shows which will highlight the talents, skills and rights of the visually impaired pupils/students.

4. Relevant activities may be conducted at the regional level through the initiative of the Regional Special Education Council (RSEC), and in cooperation with other government organizations (GOs), nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and civic organizations (COs).
5. All Special Education (SPED) centers, public and private schools with SPED programs are encouraged to observe the White Cane Safety Day with appropriate activities. However, activities to be undertaken should not disrupt classes as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled *Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*.
6. A brief narrative and pictorial report on the celebration shall be submitted to **Mr. Romeo M. Mina**, Senior Education Program Specialist, Special Education (SPED) Division-Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE), 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Building, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City at telephone no.: (02) 631-9993.
7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO FSC
Secretary

References:

DepEd Order: (No. 9, s. 2005)
DepEd Memorandum: No. 108, s. 2012

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

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
CONTESTS
SCHOOLS
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0583-June 24, 2013