

Message at the beginning of the school year by Vincenzo Achille Ciccarelli President of the Association Mary Queen of Africa and MD of Kiswila Mineral Co. ltd. and Alfagems co. ltd - January 5th, 2017

At the beginning of a new school year I wish a profitable and successful new school year to all of you, students, parents, teachers, school operators, headmasters and managers.

For all of us a new school year is a “talent” to be invested and all of us are requested to get the greatest profit by it.

We are requested to make better the school in which we operate.

I invite all of you that are in the school to operate a kind of revolution in our schools to aim at excellence: **do not be satisfied of mediocrity, strive for excellence**

- *Students are requested to commit for excellent results*
- *Teachers are requested to improve the effectiveness of their teaching,*
- *Parents are requested to collaborate with teachers to allow their children to have a high quality teaching*
- *Headmasters are requested to be vigilant and a stimulus for a continuous improvement of the school*
- *Managers should be careful in expenditures, knowing that every shilling saved may be used to improve the quality of the teaching*
- *School operators should make their job diligently and proficiently to create the right environment for the challenge we have in front.*

To operate such a “revolution” each of us should be more demanding to himself. If everyone improves himself, the school will improve as a consequence.

I don't want in such an occasion to make a comprehensive lecture about school, its problems and proposed solutions etc., I wish to offer to your thoughts a few keywords that should be kept always in mind during the current school year, aiming at reinforcing weak points of our schools and aiming at an integral education of the person.

Merit. Merit has to be rewarded at every level. A teacher that does effectively his job must receive an incentive and a prize in economic terms. A student more proficient than another on a certain subject must receive a better mark. Merit and solidarity have to be considered two faces of the same coin: the greater the merit the greater the responsibility you have toward the others.

Solidarity. If someone has the possibility to help another, he should do. If you are a student and are more proficient than another on a certain field, you should help him. The advantage, that

you have in respect to others, increases your social responsibility that you have toward them. The advantage that you have is not to be kept jealously for yourself but used for the disadvantaged.

Catholic Identity. Must be reinforced in the following directions:

- Better and direct knowledge of the **Gospel**. To reach this target I suggest that every school is requested to organize weekly meetings to read the Gospel together, comment and share the thoughts of everyone about the read passages. Participation will be free but strongly encouraged and recommended. Open to all people operating in the school, students, teachers, operators etc.
- Solidarity. Internally and externally. Internal solidarity e.g. a student proficient in a subject may teach others in difficulty etc. External solidarity: offer a service to people in need. Every person should feel the need to spend himself for others.

Innovation. Should involve the effort of every person in the school. Innovation is to be looked for reinforcing the use of the following tools, also through dedicated training sessions to allow everyone to use them:

- **Computers.**
- **Internet**

English. English has become today an important key to access the worlds of technology, science and business. A good command of the language is a necessary and urgent objective for all students and teachers.

Science and problem solving. Science is a powerful tool to change the world. In our schools it is taught often in a mnemonic way without giving to students the capacity to use and apply what they learn. Emphasis has to be done on applications and problem solving.

I ask you to keep in mind the above keywords to turn our efforts and “revolution” into a success story.

I repeat them:

Merit, Solidarity, Gospel, Computer, Internet, English, Science

For every problem, suggestion, advise etc. please don't hesitate to contact me. Your contribution to improve the school will be greatly appreciated.

I wish you success for the new school year!

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