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Fun & Adventure in the 2014 Southridge Father-Son G8 Camping
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Head Parent Coordinator

Formative Activities 4 for Parents

ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

- Nov. 2 - 1st Sunday Recollection (Sponsoring Level: Grade 6)
- Nov. 8 – BCD Class for Fathers/2nd PQF of Grades 1, 2 & 3/NPEP Module 5 at Woodrose School
- Nov. 13 - 2nd PQF (Grade 9)/Plenary Session of Middle Childhood Case No. 2 for Grade 3 Parents
- Nov. 14—Mass for the Deceased Members of the Southridge Family/Small Group Discussion of Middle Childhood Case No. 3 for Grade 4 Parents
- Nov. 15 - BCD Class for Fathers/NPEP Module 4 at Southridge School/Confirmation Day/First Holy Communion Seminar
- Nov. 15-16 Grade 5 Father & Son Outing
- Nov. 20 - 3rd Thursday Recollection at Molave Center/2nd PQF (Year III HS)
- Nov. 21 - Plenary Session of Middle Childhood Case No. 3 for Grade 4 Parents/Eucharistic Procession
- Nov. 22—BCD Class for Fathers
- Nov. 23—4th Sunday Recollection (Sponsoring Level: Year V HS)
- Nov. 27—2nd PQF (Year IV HS)
- Nov.29—BCD Class for Fathers/2nd PQF of Grades 5 & 6
- Nov. 29-30 Grade 2 Father & Son Outing

AN ALUMNUS TESTIMONIAL

There is a story that is often told about our national hero – as told by my two siblings who went to this particular school - that when he was marching toward Bagumbayan, he looked over to his former campus and remarked:

“The Ateneo, I spent many happy years there.”

I would like to say the same about Southridge – minus the getting shot at gunpoint part.

Kidding aside, it is true: I spent many happy years here. My entire grade school and high school life, in fact.

I began my journey in Southridge as a grade one student. We were only 19 in the batch. I remember what great fun it was, growing up with all the other boys, both my age and older, and getting taught by some of the best teachers. Good times, in hindsight. All of them happened within these walls, along these same hallways.

And now, some 20 years later, my own sons are walking the corridors of an even better Southridge. It still blows my mind at how fast time flies. One day, I’m riding the school bus that will take me to Southridge. A school that was in the middle of nowhere, along a dusty road, surrounded by a grassless field, with snakes and bugs lurking somewhere along. And the next day, I see my own boys - Joaquin and Gio - wearing better-looking uniforms than I ever did.

But I guess, while you had better uniforms, we had the classes in Latin which, I was told, had only two advantages: to be able to pray in Latin and impress the girls that we were courting then. But it didn’t really work when the girl you were trying to court understood Latin too and knew what you were saying. I did try that once, but she just told me that it wouldn’t work on her because she knew what I had just said. But I guess I had the last laugh because I ended up marrying her anyway.

But seriously, what makes Southridge different and truly great is the character formation.

More than anything, that left a mark on me.

If you think about it, just about any school can boast of academic excellence and how their students are doing well when it comes to college admission or even success in their chosen careers. Just about any school can come up with a curriculum that is comparable to other international schools.
I mean, any school can teach that one plus one equals two or that Pi is 3.1416. That stuff is easy.

But Southridge is not just any school.

YES. Academics mattered in Southridge, but what sets my alma mater apart from every other school is that it made an investment on the character building of each and every student.

I felt that many years ago, and as a father of two young Southridge boys, I see that this is something that my school holds to be so important.

The “Virtue of the Month” is something that I remember very well from my days as a student, and I was very happy to hear my own son talk about it. Each month, we would all be gathered to hear someone speak about a particular virtue, one that we would be encouraged to live out. I sat through these talks all throughout my stay in Southridge, and soon, the encouragement to live it out became second nature to me.

I believe this is something that is truly more important than any academic recognition.

Because what good would all the success and achievements be if one is not grounded on good morals? How credible would that person be, even if he is the world’s richest man, if he were not honest? Or humble? Or have integrity?

The school motto is imperative: “Do things in a manly way,” and how great is it that Southridge boys are taught to be men through living out virtues that constitute being human?

Being human isn’t measured by how much you make or what you have invented. Neither is it measured by fame or topping a board exam.

No. Being human is simply a measure of how much goodness a person has.

At the end of the day, aren’t we just all trying to be good and better people?

This school taught me what it meant to lead a good life.

To me, “do things in a manly way” is choosing that which is innately good in all human beings.

When I graduated from Southridge, we were all given a small token. It was a paperweight with the Southridge logo and an inscription that said – Maneatisnobiscum semper. When translated, it means “Always remain with us”.

When I received it, I looked at it and said that it doesn’t make sense. I already graduated and am off to another chapter in my life. But after all these years I have to come to realize what it really means: that their wish was that all their teachings and years of character formation would remain with me even when I left the halls of Southridge.

And it did remain with me all these years.

So thank you, my alma mater, for teaching me what it really means to “do things in a manly way.”

Thank you to all my teachers, for pushing me, forcing me, and inspiring me, to be the best man that I can ever be.

Thank you for continuing this tradition of instilling all that is important to the young men of the future generation. - Raymond Lacdao (Southridge Batch 1990)
FUN AND ADVENTURE IN THE 2014 SOUTHRIDGE FATHER-SON G8 CAMPING

Our Father Son (G8) Camping was all fun and adventure. As the grade level of the young men progresses, so does the camaraderie of the Southridge dads. Though 6 pairs of regular campers didn't make it to the event, 6 pairs of new and old parents came to join.

Majority of the campers went to the optional picnic lunch on rafts at Lake Pandin, where part of the adventure began. The boys ate food on banana leaves with their hands and enjoyed a sumptuous fare of paco salad, tilapia, inihaw, chicken and shrimps and biko and bananas. At the grotto at the other end of the lake, the boys washed up and drank fresh water from the natural well. Some of the Father and Son pairs took the 10-minute walk up the mountain to catch a glimpse of the twin lake on top of the other mountain. The others went for a quick dip in the lake. On the way back, the rains made the 20-minute walk challenging but fun nonetheless.

Back at the Sanctuario de San Pablo, the games began with camp heads messrs. Nicerio, Santiago and Sacay taking the lead. The games were fun and surprisingly more dads were participative than ever before. Dinner was buffet and the fare was excellent, everyone was satisfied to the hilt. After dinner, the groups stayed together between two casitas to share stories while the boys took ghost walks into the open expanse area with their flashlights.

The following morning, early risers enjoyed coffee and tea. Breakfast buffet was served at 7:30 am, and some dads and sons went to the 6am mass in the nearby church. Soon after the groups went their way homeward bound. - Anthony Villarosa, Grade 8 Head Parent Coordinator
FORMATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR FATHERS AT SOUTHРИDGE SCHOOL

HOLY MASS
- Daily 12 noon Mass at the Chapel of the Holy Family.

RECOLLECTIONS
- 1st and 4th Sunday Recollection for Fathers (Holy Mass for the Families at 11 am)
- 3rd Thursday Recollection (with Benediction) at Molave Study Center

BASIC CATHOLIC DOCTRINE CLASSES
- Every Saturday, 10:15 – 11:00 am at the Academic Office Conference Room, 2nd floor Main Building (for fathers)
- Every 4th Sunday, 8:30—9:10 am (for Afternoon School fathers)
- Every 4th Sunday, 9:15 - 10:45 am (for Afternoon School mothers)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH SCHOOL CHAPLAIN
- By appointment

RETREAT SCHEDULES FOR FATHERS
- Nov. 6-9 (Thurs-Sun) Latag
- Nov. 13-16 (Thurs-Sun) Latag (Young Professionals)
- Nov. 27-30 (Thurs-Sun) Tagaytay Conference Center
- Nov. 28-30 (Fri-Sun) Sangandaan (Open)

RETREAT SCHEDULES FOR MOTHERS AT WOODROSE SCHOOL

THEOLOGY CLASS - every 1st and 2nd Thurs, 9 to 10 am, Function Room

RECOLLECTION - every 3rd Thursday, 9:15 - 11:00 a.m. & every 4th Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

CONFESSION - Monday to Friday except Wednesday, 9 am - 12 noon

For inquiries, you can contact Ms. Leila Larios of the Philippine Foundation at 817-2318 local 201 or 0928-5063688 or email philfoundation@pldstsl.net.

The Parents Formation Office welcomes personal write-ups about parenting principles and experiences. Please email them to mrinawat@southridge.ph