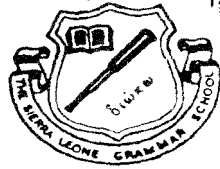


The Sierra Leone Grammar School

Tel: Free 230147

Our Ref:

Your Ref:



(Founded by C.M.S. in 1845)

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20th January, 2009

Dr. Radcliffe Thomas,
President,
Sierra Leone Grammar School Alumni
Association of North America,
Washington D. C. Metro Branch,
U. S. A.

Fellow Regentonian,

Let me start by extending profound thanks to you and the Association for inviting me to deliver the Keynote Address at the Fund-Raising Banquet and Dance held in November 2008. This afforded me the opportunity to talk directly with Regentonians about the future of our Alma Mater and how we can contribute to its successful accomplishment. I met Regentonians whom I had not seen for years or decades and it was a wonderful experience. I commend the Association for arranging visits to a number of schools as a prelude to the possible establishment of linkages. We will continue to work on the contacts which have been made.

I believe that the invitation was also an honour recognising my humble contributions to the development of our Alma Mater. This was further reflected in the plaque and gifts presented to me. I will continue to work earnestly in the interest of our school by providing the leadership to take us forward as we continue to chart our course in the new status. Be assured of my determination to continue serving the school with diligence. I also thank you for inviting my wife to join in the celebrations. She has been a wonderful, supportive and understanding companion as she also heads the Vine Memorial Secondary School for Girls (formerly Roosevelt Secondary School).

I acknowledge the receipt of \$20,150 (twenty thousand one hundred and fifty dollars) as the Association's appropriation to the school. This has been disbursed as indicated in your letter of 5th December 2008.

It was possible for the Staff to receive the Christmas Gift before we proceeded on vacation. All of us were very delighted as it helped us to celebrate a MERRY CHRISTMAS with our families. Members of Staff join me in thanking the Association for its continued consideration of our welfare. We enclose a copy of the distribution schedule.

The amount of \$4,500 (four thousand five hundred dollars) for 15 scholarship holders currently on the programme meant that we have not been able to make any new awards this year. Although I saw Bob, I forgot to discuss his three awards with him. We look forward to the receipt of his remittance.

The Board and Estate Committee were very pleased with the donation of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to improve security in the laboratories before the provision of science materials. Discussions are taking place on the most effective means of tackling this problem.

In discussions with Alex, the possibility of establishing an account into which the Association could pay appropriations directly was raised. It is a suggestion worth considering and I will discuss it with Victor Keith Cole of Rokel Commercial Bank. If such an account is established, it should be kept separate and distinct from the school account.

Further publicity has been given to the draft plan of the proposed classroom block and some comments have been received. We expect a final plan to be ready by mid-February.

On Tuesday, 30th December, visiting members of the Association met the Executive of the Old Boys Union. There was a fruitful exchange of views which centred on the proposed building, improving communications and preparing a "business plan" for the school outlining the direction we want to go. Although there was a sense of urgency, it was recognised that our moves need to be well considered as we are building for posterity.

Our Inter-House Athletics Meeting was won by Secundus. When the points gained in the various inter-house competitions during the term were tallied, Quintus emerged as the leading House. Something similar will be done in the Second and Third Terms so that at the end of the year, we will be able to determine the most successful House. We resumed on 5th January and have enclosed a copy of the Time-Table of Events for the Second Term which shows the dates for the main activities in the 164th anniversary celebrations.

Having visited the USA twice in the last six months and noted your many commitments, I am in a better position to appreciate the time, energy and resources Regentonians are devoting to matters relating to our Alma Mater. Maintaining a high level of interest and commitment is not an easy task. It calls for dedicated leadership and an inspired following. You have been able to provide this and the Association is forging ahead. This has enabled it to contribute significantly to the school's development. We are determined to promote closer cooperation between the school and alumni as they are key stakeholders in the school's development. In this, the Association can be singled out for special mention.

Please extend to other Regentonians in North America our best wishes for a SUCCESSFUL 2009 and our deep appreciation of the efforts they are making to assist the school. With God's grace, our efforts will be crowned with success.

FLOREAT REGENTONIA – GOD BLESS OUR GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Yours sincerely,
SIERRA LASALLE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A. J. Lasite

Principal

Principal