



JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

DATE : January 19, 2016
TO : PARENTS / GUARDIANS OF GRADE 10
FROM : MRS. EVELYN M. MALABUNGA-BUMATAY
Principal
SUBJECT : "Laro sa Baga" and "Luha ng Buwaya"

Peace be upon you through Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

The Grade 10 Filipino teacher, Coordinator, and I apologize sincerely for the novels, "Laro sa Baga" and "Luha ng Buwaya", that were prescribed for the Grade 10 students. I, as the Principal, take full responsibility for their inclusion in the booklist for their "Panunuring Papel" or Critique activity.

Though all the books for the Critique activity are written by noteworthy authors (e.g., Edgardo Reyes, a recipient of Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Short Story in Filipino and Amado V. Hernandez, as National Artist), we failed in considering the nature of the novels that are not age-appropriate and contain controversial subject matter and disturbing elements. We also failed in providing a preview of the content of the particular books. However, the details on the accomplishment of the critique were spelled out in an information sheet distributed to all the students. The sheet also included the rubrics for grading.

We are sorry that some students and parents were disturbed by the dialogues and events depicted in the two novels. The Grade 10 Filipino teacher had discussed them with the students so that they can handle them more appropriately.

Disciplinary measures would be meted on the personnel responsible for their failure to exercise good professional judgment in the selection of reading materials.

To prevent the recurrence of similar case, the following measures are to be taken:

1. There will be more meticulous screening of all reading materials to discern their appropriateness in accordance to JCA Christian and educational stance. The current literary collection in the High School Educational Resource Center (ERC) is being re-evaluated and inappropriate titles will be weeded out.
2. The teachers will process any reading activity before, during, and after the task so that students will be guided in understanding deeply the essence of the literary works and handling their challenges.
3. Since there are award-winning titles and authors that need to be part of any academic institution's library that may contain controversial issues, these titles will be placed in the Reserve Section of the ERC so that they can be accessed only with permission and proper guidance.

We pray that you may accept our apologies. With God's help and your support, we will strive to do better in the coming days.