WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH... TEACHERS KEEP GOING!

by:
Nancy D. Villafranca
Teacher III Magsaysay Elementary School Dinalupihan, Bataan

According to the Graid Network (2020), stress isn’t new to teachers. Like what is being said, stress is their twin soul. From a bulk of school task, along with their duties as a parent of their own kids and parents of their students they handle, counselor of parents with problems kids, coordinator of various academic and co-curricular events; they act as nurses, engineers, record keeper; cook, name it; they are teachers slash another person equipped with board and chalk. It is indeed surprising how teachers survive such a tremendous undertaking.

But the stress they are experiencing right now is entirely different from what they have been used to. Compelled by a pandemic to the front lines of unparalleled haste to distance-learning, the teachers are apprehensive to manage a bulk of new challenges. Teachers are coping with unacquainted technologies. From board to laptop, from face to face to online learning. They have to reinvent their lessons and find new ways to cope with the new trend. They are flooded with emails, texts, calls from school heads, parents, and students. They are beaten by webinars or digitized lesson making. They are accused of doing nothing, receiving salary without an output that hurts and burdens their feelings and pride. Teachers have to manage their time. Fight their own worries on what the future will bring for their families and for their profession. (Reilly, 2020)

Just like a soldier who becomes braver as they were wounded, teachers will not raise the white flag and surrender. Little by little, they start to heal themselves; eliminate their worries for them to get back in focus. Their prayers for wisdom and good health are sincerely sent to the Almighty. Then as they put back the pieces of their confidence, their minds of overflowing ideas and creativity start to flourish.
They need supplies for pandemic prevention; they turn empty water containers into disinfecting mats. They reach out to those who can. They reach out to those who can donate for thermal scanners for future use in modules distribution. They have their android phones, editing digitized lessons are prepared even without a laptop. They make attending webinars as part of their system because they know it is for the better even they do this while cooking or doing the laundry. They need to know the status of their students, they made their group chats, made an improvised drop box, and coordinated with the barangay council for information dissemination. Slowly they can cope. Gradually, they can sleep with peace. They know in their hearts they are doing their best not just for themselves but for students whose future lie on their hands.

Yes, this is a tough time, even the toughest to be considered. But the teachers will… the teachers’ heart will never stop to keep going!

References: