

Media Seminar gives confidence

- Theresa Dola, Catholic Communications Solomons

Twenty seven students and their teachers from five different schools in Honiara had an enjoyable weekend seminar from 17th to 19th April, 2009, at Don Bosco House of Prayer, West-Kolairidge.



The participating schools were St John School, Rove, Bishop Epalle School Rove, St Josephs School, Tenaru, Don Bosco Technical Institute and St Nicholas School, Honiara. The weekend Seminar was the first of a series of Media Education Seminars planned for this year 2009.

The students were given the possibility to relax and express themselves through a series of activities led by Jordana Langridge. Radio programmes were prepared on the following issues: Rights of Children, Need for Education, Media Awareness, Parent-Teacher Interaction and Healthy Environment. The session was led by Joe Vidiki, while Theresa Dola explained the 5Ws + 1H in order to write a good news article.

The students were encouraged to be aware of the subtle messages influencing them that are changing their behaviour, attitudes, value system and customs. "Media Education is a process of critical reflection", stressed Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb. "You must be familiar with the language of the media that strongly influence social, cultural, religious, political and economic forces. You need to be discriminating consumers of the media and responsibly contribute to influence others for the good of society", he said.

The students also reflected on the theme for the World Communications Day to be celebrated on 31st May, 2009 -: "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

"I taught that the media was just taking pictures and shooting clips but now I realize that there is a negative and positive side to it", said Bleston Toremana, a participant from St. Nicholas School, Honiara.

The weekend was delightful and enlightening and had its moments of fun, relaxation and prayer.