



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Diversity in School

by Hannah Snowe for the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education



The smell of stew permeated the upstairs of St. Joseph's School on St. Patrick's Day this year. It was the talk of the school. What was the smell? Where was it coming from? Was anyone else suddenly hungry? Anyone who stepped into the fifth grade classroom that day had all of their questions quickly answered.

A sea of green met the eye from head to toe. Students, staff and teachers all sat together eating homemade Irish dishes and drinking tea. Sharing stories and food made us all realize how much our two cultures have in common. A visiting second grader (mistaking my Irish flag for the Mexican flag) even asked what was missing from the Mexican flag! That day my kids were mesmerized about everything to do with Ireland. I couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride when they asked if I had really seen all of these places in the video and I could respond with "yes I lived there!" My hope is that from seeing the pride that I have for my home country and culture my students will be encouraged to continue to feel the same pride towards their own culture.

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School Celebrates "Best" Cultural Diversity Day



Clockwise from top: Juniors represent the CNMI with a traditional Carolinian dance. K-4 students don island apparel to represent Jamaica. 5th grade students celebrate German culture with traditional attire and a dance. K-5 students line up, ready to present Thailand.

Despite fears about rain and a few sprinkles, the sun came out in full force today just in time for Mount Carmel School's annual celebration of Cultural Diversity Day. As part of the festivities, MCS students celebrated over a dozen cultures with a parade, cultural dances, and performances. The celebration featured the following grade levels showcasing their respective cultural traditions: K-4: Jamaica, K-5: Thailand, 1st: USA, 2nd: China, 3rd: France, 4th: Philippines, 5th: Germany, 6th: FSM, 7th: India, 8th: Japan, 9th: Russia, 10th: Mexico, 11th: CNMI, and 12th: Korea.

"This is probably the best cultural day celebration we've ever had," said school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "The kids were full of energy and their performances were wonderful!" Deleon Guerrero also recognized the value of the school's diversity. "As one of our longest standing traditions, long before the CNMI declared its own Cultural Diversity Day, it's heartwarming to see our students, faculty, and staff appreciate our

cultural diversity so much. After all, we are a very culturally diverse school, so it's important that we value and validate who we are on a day like this."

Student Council President Deleon Guerrero agreed. "I was very happy that all our students put in more effort into this celebration than in previous years." He added, "We also had a great mix of performances, including dances, songs, and even skits."

The performances were also part of a contest to see which class could best represent their assigned cultural tradition. In this contest, 2nd grade took first place in the A division, the 5th grade took first place in the B division, and the Juniors took 1st place in the C division.

Student Council also sponsored poster, poetry, and essay contests for cultural diversity. K-5 took first place in the poster contest, which asked K through 6th grade students to draw the cultural face of the NMI. 7th grade student, Robin Alvarez, took first place in the poetry contest, which invited junior high students to

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Announcements

Campus Security

ALL VISITORS MUST OBTAIN A VISITOR'S PASS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE. This includes parents and guardians. We have witnessed a number of visitors who bypass the main office and go directly to students, which poses a security risk because we have no way of verifying whether or not they are parents, guardians, or family members. This needs to stop for the sake of the safety of our children.

Theatre Club presents "Dracula"

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents its production of "Dracula" by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston from Bram Stoker's novel. Performances of "Dracula" will take place on Friday, October 21, and Saturday, October 22, at PIC's Charley's Cabaret. Doors open at 6:30 p. m. and admission is \$15 for premium seats and \$5 for general admission. Tickets go on sale soon at the Business Office. Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Also, due to mature content, adult discretion is advised. ("Dracula" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.)

In the Future

Freshmen Game Night
TONIGHT, 5:00-9:00 pm

MCS Campus Clean Up Day
TOMORROW, Saturday, October 8
8:00 am to 11:00 am

CNMI Cultural Diversity Day
Monday, October 10 (no classes)

Sophomore Candy Gram and NJHS Mini-Carnival
Wednesday, October 12

PTO Parent Representatives Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 5:30 pm

NSDA Fried Oreos
Thursday, October 13

ESLR of the Week

#4. Show leadership by being active participants within the community.

Cultural Diversity Day

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Clockwise from top left: 6th grade girls gather after their performance highlighting the Federated States of Micronesia. Junior girls prepare for their Chamorro dance representing the CNMI. 7th grade students are all smiles after their celebration of Indian culture.

write poems about the cultural face of the NMI. Senior, Michael Ortizo, took first place in the essay contest, which asked high school students to explain how cultural diversity has had a positive impact on the NMI.

In his winning essay, Ortizo reflected on how Typhoon Soudelor brought the island's diverse community together. "I did not see individuals helping themselves, but rather, I saw a community of various cultural identities rebuilding together."

Diversity in School

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I always try to share as much of my life as possible with my students so that they can truly get to know me. I feel that I have such a wonderful relationship with my students. A relationship that respects two cultures which have more in common than I thought. It touches me how much respect my students have for my culture and how proud they are to be part Irish through me!

The amount of students who I heard saying that they want to travel was amazing. As teachers we always want to ignite that spark in our students. That sense of curiosity that will drive them to greatness. Days like this may not be purely academic in nature but they are certainly still educational in my book. It is days like this that give us a true chance to teach our students something about the big picture that's life.

I think that this kind of multicultural education is the way forward. Students learn to see the beauty in every culture and how they all deserve the respect that we give to our own culture. How can we create classrooms rich in such diversity and beauty? It all starts with acceptance and I have experienced such acceptance in the Hispanic community at St. Joseph's. They welcomed me with open arms and have taken the time to learn about my culture, as I have done for them.

It is on a day like St. Patrick's Day when your community joins together to acknowledge a day special to your culture that you realize how blessed you are to be there. Since arriving at St. Joseph's the sense of family and community has always been prevalent. There are those few distinct moments when I stop and contemplate the close attachment that I have to my school. It's quite simple really; they are my family and always will be.

Sports Calendar

All Schools Cross Country
TOMORROW,
Saturday, October 8, 4 pm, Airport Field
Saturday, October 15, 7 am, Civic Center
Saturday, October 22, 4 pm, Airport Field
Saturday, November 5, 3 pm, Airport Field

CCOPSA Middle School Volleyball
Tuesday, October 11
MCS2 v GCA2 @ MCS at 3:30 pm

Thursday, October 13
MCS1 v Agape @ Agape at 3:30 pm
MCS2 v WPS @ MCS at 3:30 pm

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents

DRACULA

by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston
from Bram Stoker's novel

October 21 & 22
Charley's Cabaret
Pacific Islands Club
Doors open at 6:30 p. m.
\$15 for premium seats
\$5 for general admission

Tickets available at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Due to mature content, adult discretion is advised. For more information, call 734-6164 or visit mountcarmeltheatre.com.

*"Dracula" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

MCS CAMPUS CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, October 8
8:00-11:00

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