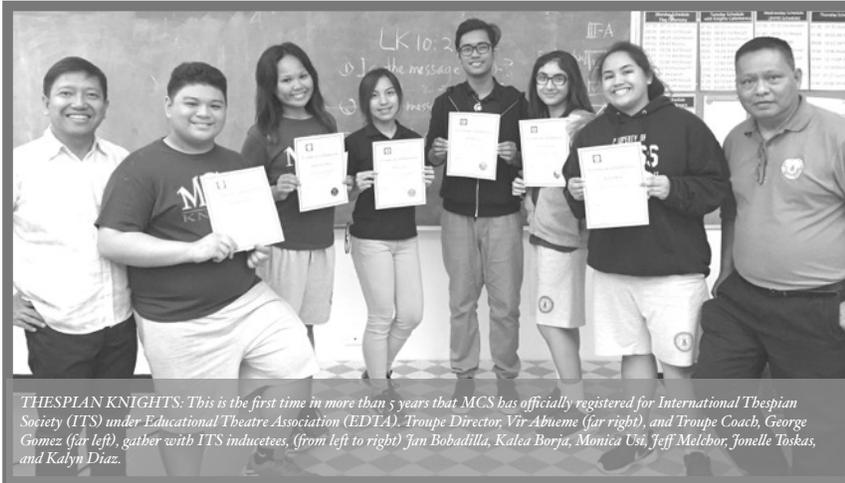




ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

The Benefits of the Performing Arts



THESPLAN KNIGHTS: This is the first time in more than 5 years that MGS has officially registered for International Thespian Society (ITS) under Educational Theatre Association (EDTA). Troupe Director, Vir Abuene (far right), and Troupe Coach, George Gomez (far left), gather with ITS inductees, (from left to right) Jan Bobadilla, Kalea Borja, Monica Usi, Jeff Melchor, Jonelle Toskas, and Katelyn Diaz.

While the performing arts are under fire across the country as standardized curricula like the Common Core gain more prominence, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is doubling down on the performing arts. Especially as the club ramps up for its most recent production, it emphasized that the arts help students in many ways.

"I know I learned a lot from my drama teacher in high school, Cheryl Treiber," said Mount Carmel School president and Theatre Club adviser, Galvin Deleon Guerrero. He added, "She lit a fire in me that I have sustained now for over 30 years."

Deleon Guerrero also noted, "Producing a show brings the arts together and provides growth opportunities for all varieties of learners. For example, kinesthetic learners engage their bodies through dance, linguistic learners dive into the written and spoken word, spatial learners tackle set and costume design, and musical learners revel in the show's score."

The Theatre Club added that the performing arts help young people develop many of the skills necessary for success in today's world:

Self-Confidence: Throughout the rehearsal and performance process, young performers discover how to take creative and emotional risks and learn to trust their abilities.

Literacy: Students increase reading and writing skills at their own pace by immersing themselves in the story, reading and re-reading

their scripts, memorizing their lines and taking notes at rehearsal.

Communication: During rehearsals, students learn how to articulate their thoughts and questions and carefully listen to direction in order to improve their performances.

Imagination: Theatre is most dynamic when the imaginations of its participants are fully engaged. Students make countless interpretive choices in design and performance to create a detailed, fictional world for their audiences.

Empathy: Through character work and story creation, young performers explore the lives of others. First-hand perspectives of new circumstances challenge prejudices and aid in the development of well-rounded students and citizens.

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving: The amount of work required to successfully put on a show makes all participants valuable troubleshooters. Whether inventing mnemonics to remember lines, adjusting staging to show off everyone's faces, or mastering a tricky scene change, students have countless opportunities to creatively tackle challenges.

Self-Discipline: Through prompt attendance at rehearsals and learning lines, music and choreography on schedule, students acquire valuable self-discipline techniques and become reliable and trustworthy members of an ensemble.

Advent Reflection

by Fr. Lou DeFra, C.S.C. for the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Education

We have just entered a very powerful four weeks as a Church—the season of Advent. I say powerful because the season of Advent taps into one of our deepest experiences as a human being—the experience of longing. The experience of yearning. The experience of desire—our heart's deepest desire.

Deep, deep in the heart of Judeo-Christian spirituality is the recognition that we as human beings have a deep emptiness at the center of our being. And that emptiness, naturally, longs to find completion, longs for fulfillment. And even more, as writers from St. Augustine to Dorothy Day have eloquently expressed, that longing for completion is the central force of our entire being.

All our wants, all our needs—the need for nourishment, the need for companionship, the need to love and to be loved, the need for healing, the need for joy—all of these longings are expressions of that vacuum in the very core of our being, seeking for its fulfillment.

The Book of Genesis, our foundational story, begins with the claim that, once upon a time, we had lives of utter contentment, in the Garden of Eden. But a snake and an apple later, and it was gone. We were cast out of our home. And ever since then, we have lived with a gnawing desire to return. This, the Scriptures bequeath to us, is the foundation metaphor of our existence.

Later, Abraham, too—our Father in Faith—is lured away from his home, as God calls him to wander after a dream called the "Promised Land." Moses and the people wander for forty years in the desert, longing for this Land. All the Hebrew characters we will hear from in these next four weeks—Ruth, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Judith, Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Daniel—all of them, we can feel viscerally through their words, are desperately longing for fulfillment, and for the Messiah who will deliver it.

This is why the Season of Advent is such a powerful season for us. And why the first readings of Advent are such discomfiting ones. For Advent is a season where we allow our deepest longing, our core incompleteness to be completely exposed.

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Announcements

PTO Meeting

Please note that there will be a PTO Parent Representatives meeting on Wednesday, December 7, at 5:30 pm in the faculty lounge.

Knights Football

Interested in joining Mount Carmel School's Football program? Then sign up to train for the 3rd Annual Marianas Bowl, Knights versus Guam All-Stars, January 14-15, 2017, CPA Airport Field.

- Junior Knights (1st Annual Game), 10-12
 - Junior Varsity (3rd Annual Game), 13-15
 - High School Varsity Football (1st Annual Game), 16-18 (No Weight Limit)
- Questions? See Mr. John Blanco.

In the Future

Senior Hot Lunch

Saturday, December 3

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8, Cathedral
2nd-12th Grade students report to homeroom by 2:30 pm; pick up by 7:00

Sports Calendar

IFL (Interscholastic Futbol League)

Monday, December 5
MCS v sWSR @Hopwood at 3:45

Tuesday, December 6
MCS vs Kagman @Chacha at 3:45

CCOPSA High School Volleyball

Tuesday, December 6
MCS Girls vs MBA Girls @MCS at 3:30
MCS Boys vs MBA Boys @MCS at 4:30

Wednesday, December 7
MCS1 Girls vs MCS2 Girls @MCS at 3:30
MCS Boys vs GCA @MCS at 4:30

Thursday, December 8
MCS1 Girls vs Agape Girls @ Agape at 3:30
MCS Boys vs Agape Boys @Agape at 4:30
MCS2 Girls vs MBA Girls @MCS at 4:30

ESLR of the Week

#6. Develop continually as an independent lifelong learner.

Performing Arts

continued from front

Community Awareness: A theatrical production provides ample opportunities to connect with our families and neighbors. Students can engage parents, community centers and local vendors to help create sets, props, costumes and publicity.

Public Speaking: Whether performing for their peers during rehearsal or for their school and local community during a performance, students gain expertise and confidence speaking in front of a group.

Curricular Integration: A musical provides a rich and engaging springboard for students to explore many subjects in their classrooms and discover connections among various modes of learning.

This year, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club celebrates its 20th anniversary, having staged numerous productions including Passion Plays, plays by William Shakespeare, Disney shows, several musicals, many original plays, a number of local stories, two summer drama camps for kids, and even a number of feature-length and short films. However, the school's drama program stems back to 1952 when the school started the island's longest continuously running performing arts program, the school's annual Christmas program. Moving forward, the school is gearing up to relaunch its Save the Stage campaign to renovate and revitalize the school's historic stage, where the CNMI Covenant and Constitution were deliberated and signed.

Advent

continued from front

So this first week of Advent, the Church warns against allowing that desire for wholeness to get confused with longings of lesser goods-of trying to fill the God-shaped whole at the center of being with things that will inevitably be too small. That is why the first words of Jesus that the Church shares with us for Advent are: "In the days of Noah, before the flood, everyone was eating and drinking, and then the flood came and carried them away."

Jesus is not so much trying to scare us with some impending cataclysm. He's giving us counsel: Don't get too caught up in fulfilling all your temporary desires-eating and drinking and all your other pleasures. They're fine, but they're merely a sign of something much deeper. The desire to be totally fulfilled, to be united with God.

So this is the message of Advent: "Stay awake! Be alert! Because the fulfillment of your deepest desire is on His way. At an hour we do not know, the Son of God will come!"

Advent is the season of our deepest longing. Let us enter it with the God-sized expectancy that is at the core of our hearts.

Thank you!



Representatives from Grandvrio Resort Saipan recently stopped by to present an Educational Tax Credit (ETC) contribution to Mount Carmel School (MCS). Grandvrio Resort General Manager, Akira Takaoka (second from right), and Comptroller, Kazunori Tabuki (far right), presented the contribution to MCS President, Galvin Deleon Guerrero (center), and MCS Student Council President, Zeno Deleon Guerrero (second from left).

Representatives from Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc., stopped by recently to present an Educational Tax Credit (ETC) contribution to Mount Carmel School (MCS). Saipan Stevedore's General Manager, Mike Demapan (second from left), and Assistant Manager, Lee Cabrera (far left), presented the check to MCS Student Council Vice President, Jaqueline Doctor (second from right), and MCS President, Galvin Deleon Guerrero (far right).

