



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Catholic Schools Week 2017



Later this month, the CNMI's three Catholic schools, Mount Carmel School on Saipan, Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center on Saipan, and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota, will join the rest of the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2017.

This year's CSW theme speaks to the holistic framework of Catholic education by proclaiming, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service". As the National Catholic Educational Association announced, "The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities –small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged."

For its part, Mount Carmel School has prepared a full week of events that are aligned with CSW themes for each day of the week. On Sunday, January 29, at 9:00 a. m., the focus will be on "Catholic Schools in our Parishes" as MCS students converge on Mount Carmel Cathedral to kick off CSW 2017 with a Eucharistic Celebration. On Monday, the focus shifts to "Catholic Schools in our Community" as MCS junior high and high school students engage in different

activities that support community services. Elementary school students will make banners expressing their appreciation for the school's many donors and supporters. Tuesday will be dedicated to "Catholic Schools in our Faculty and Staff". On that day, MCS will hold an appreciation program for faculty and staff, in which the 2017 Teacher of the Year will be announced. On Wednesday, MCS will celebrate "Catholic Schools in our Vocations" with a Eucharistic Celebration, which will be followed by a vocations talk and other activities honoring vocations. MCS will shift its attention on Thursday to the rest of the country with "Catholic Schools in our Nation" as students honor the many ways that volunteer groups have contributed. Friday morning's emphasis will be on "Catholic Schools in our Students" with MCS students participating in a road-side waving in the morning, followed by field activities and demonstrations. Friday night will highlight "Catholic Schools in our Families" with the school's signature CSW event, Family Night. Held on the school grounds beginning at 6:00 p. m., Family Night will feature dinner, entertainment, and the presentation of a new award, Parents of the Year.

The school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week will conclude with the "Night with the Knights" AlumKnight fundraising banquet on Saturday. The "Night with the Knights" will feature a music video montage of the school's history, raffle prizes, and entertainment. The event will also include the announcement of the 2017 AlumKnight of the Year. Tickets for the Night with the Knights are \$50.00 each and can be purchased at the school's Business Office or from AlumKnights. For more information, call 234-6184 or email Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com.

Leave Your Devices at the Door to My Classroom

by Darren Rosenbaum for the New York Times



When I started teaching, I assumed my "fun" class, sexuality and the law, full of contemporary controversy, would prove gripping to the students. One day, I provoked them with a point against marriage equality, and the response was a slew of laptops staring back. The screens seemed to block our classroom connection. Then, observing a senior colleague's contracts class, I spied one student shopping for half the class. Another was surfing Facebook. Both took notes when my colleague spoke, but resumed the rest of their lives instead of listening to classmates.

Laptops at best reduce education to the clackety-clack of transcribing lectures on shiny screens and, at worst, provide students with a constant escape from whatever is hard, challenging or uncomfortable about learning. And yet, education requires constant interaction in which professor and students are fully present for an exchange.

Students need two skills to succeed as lawyers and as professionals: listening and communicating. We must listen with care, which requires patience, focus, eye contact and managing moments of ennui productively – perhaps by double-checking one's notes instead of a friend's latest Instagram. Multitasking and the mediation of screens kill empathy.

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Announcements

Saipan vs Guam Football

Come support some of our Knights as they play in the Saipan vs. Guam Football games TOMORROW, Saturday, January 14, at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at Airport Field. GO KNIGHTS!!!

IFL Middle School Division

The school is forming a middle school team (6th–8th grade) for the Interscholastic Fütball League (IFL). To sign up, see May Ling Colombo. The season will start January 19th.

In the Future

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 16 (no classes)

7th Grade Cookie Gram

Tuesday, January 17

2nd Quarter Report Card Distribution

Wednesday, January 18

NSDA Hot Lunch

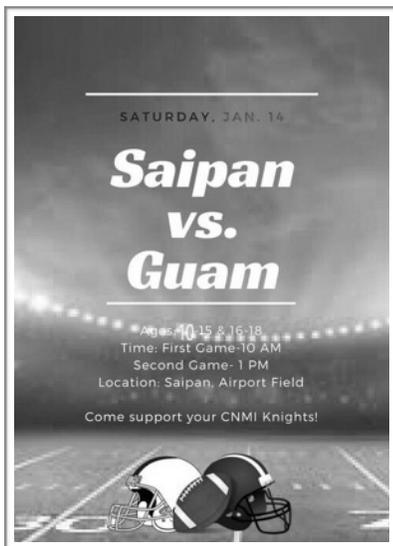
Thursday, January 19

Freshmen Game Night

Friday, January 20

ESLR of the Week

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



SATURDAY, JAN. 14

Saipan vs. Guam

Ages: 10-15 & 16-18
 Time: First Game-10 AM
 Second Game- 1 PM
 Location: Saipan, Airport Field

Come support your CNMI Knights!

AlumKnight Association

continued from front

Likewise, we must communicate – in writing or in speech – with clarity and precision. The student who speaks in class learns to convey his or her points effectively because everyone else is listening. Classmates will respond with their accord or dissent. Lawyers can acquire hallmark precision only through repeated exercises of concentration. It does happen on occasion that a client loses millions of dollars over a misplaced comma or period.

Once, a senior associate for whom I was working berated me for such a mistake and said, “Getting these things right is the easy part, and if you can’t get that right, what does it say about your ability to analyze the law properly?” I learned my lesson. To restore the focus-training function of the classroom, I stopped allowing laptops in class early in my teaching career. Since then research has confirmed the wisdom of my choice.

Focus is crucial, and we do best when monotasking: Even disruptions of a few seconds can derail one’s train of thought. Students process information better when they take notes – they don’t just transcribe, as they do with laptops, but they think and record those thoughts. Laptops or tablets can undermine exam performance by 18 percent. Other studies reveal that writing by hand helps memory retention. Screens block us from connecting, whether at dinner or in a classroom. Kelly McGonigal, a psychologist and lecturer at Stanford University, says that just having a phone on a table during a meal “is sufficiently distracting to reduce empathy and rapport between two people.”

For all these reasons, starting with smaller classes, I banned laptops, and it improved the students’ engagement. With constant eye contact, I could see and feel when they understood me, and when they did not. Energized by the connection, we moved faster, further and deeper into the material. I broadened my rule to include one of my large upper-level courses. The pushback was real: A week before class, I posted the syllabus, which announced my policy. Two students wrote me to ask if I would reconsider, and dropped the class when I refused. But more important, after my class ends, many students continue to take notes by hand even when it’s not required.

Putting aside medical exemptions, many students are just resistant. They are used to typing and prefer it to writing. They may feel they take better notes by keyboard. They may feel they know how to take notes by hand but do not want to have to do so. They can look up material, and there’s no need to print assignments. Some may have terrible handwriting, or find it uncomfortable or even painful to write.

To them, I’ll let the Rolling Stones answer: You can’t always get what you want, but sometimes you get what you need. My students need to learn how to be lawyers and professionals. To succeed they must internalize an ethos of caution, care and respect. To instill these values and skills in my students, I have no choice but to limit laptop use in the classroom.

VFW Contest Winners



Congratulations to Jeff Melchor (far right) who took first place in the VFW Essay Contest, high school division, besting students from Saipan and Guam. Robin Alvarez (second from left) took 2nd place in the middle school division. VFW Commander Michael A. O’Kelley (second from right) presented the awards to the Knights along with Mount Carmel School Vice Principal, Helene Manning (far left).