



# ROUND TABLE

## NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

### Deciding At What Age To Give A Kid A Smartphone

by Claire McNerny for NPR

It's the time of year when kids are thinking about their holiday wish lists. So what's a parent to do when a child, possibly a very young child, asks for a smartphone?

We hear that smartphones can be addictive, that screen time can hurt learning, but can't these minicomputers also teach kids about responsibility and put educational apps at their tiny fingertips?

To learn more, let's look at two families: one where smartphones are allowed for elementary to middle school-aged kids, and one where they are not.

Sydney Crowe is in sixth grade and has a smartphone. While she admits she mostly uses it for "playing games and watching television," her mom, Patty, says that's not why Sydney got the phone.

Patty's main concern was safety. When Sydney was in fourth grade, the bus missed her stop enough times to really worry her parents. Without means to call an adult, she would walk to school near a busy highway.

That's when Patty gave her daughter a flip phone. But Sydney never charged it – she forgot about it. To her, a flip phone wasn't fun. "She wasn't using the junky phone," says Patty. So when her husband wanted to upgrade his iPhone, they decided to give the old one to Sydney as a hand-me-down.

Patty says she rolled her eyes at the idea of her child having a smartphone, but ultimately decided to allow it for one main reason: peace of mind.

On the other side of the debate, there's Mercy Shannon. She's 9 years old and doesn't have a cellphone. She likes playing house, playing outside and singing on her karaoke machine.

Mercy's mom, Brooke Shannon, like many other parents of elementary school kids, faced the cellphone decision early on. "They started asking for a phone in first grade," she says about her kids.

Brooke felt pressure from her children, yes, but also from other parents. So she started an online pledge that she calls "Wait Until 8th" to create a community of parents within each school waiting to give their kids smartphones until at least eighth grade – when most children are out of elementary and nearing high school. So far, more than 4,000 families across the country have signed the online pledge.

In addition to wanting her kids to have a break from screens, Brooke worries about the effects, specifically, of social media.

"Children just don't have the brain development at this age to be able to navigate the tricky social situations that come with social media," she says.

That isn't just a parent concern. Richard Freed, a California-based child psychologist and author of a book on the subject, wanted to research the topic after seeing an increase in the number of children coming to him with anxiety and depression.

His suggestion? Put some ground rules in place. "I want parents to understand how remarkably powerful and seductive these technologies are," he says.

Many agree that there's no magic age to give a kid a smartphone. Common Sense Media, a nonprofit focused on kids and technology, says rather than considering the age of a child, focus on maturity. Some questions to consider are:

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Mount Carmel School

## A Legacy of Theatre

For over two decades, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club has engaged thousands of students in a wide array of productions, including numerous plays by William Shakespeare, quite a few Disney shows, several musicals, a number of original stories, two drama camps, and a growing catalog of short and feature-length films. As the club prepares for its production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.* this weekend—the club's 46th production in 21 years—AlumKnights of the program take stock of what the club has meant to them over the years.

### Anastasia Schweiger Bashioum '13

*Productions: Winter's Tale (December 2009), A Comedy of Errors (January 2011), Rapunzeled (December 2011), Footloose (January 2013)*

Mount Carmel's Theater Club opened so many doors for me professionally. Even though I was only in four shows, that gave me enough experience to get a paid job working in 16 different plays throughout college. Thanks to Theatre Club, I have a strong work ethic, an innovative mind, and an ability to work well with a diverse group of people. Also, I met some of my best of friends through the club, and I'm happy that years later, we are still friends today. I am also proud that my sister is keeping the spirit of theatre and the arts alive in our home community. I know her performance and role as *Mulan* will be an inspiration for many young girls that they can be whatever they aspire to be. Tessie already embodies the strength, confidence, and sass of *Mulan*, so I know that she will bring that to the stage and put on a memorable show.

### Broc Calvo '08

*Productions: Romeo and Juliet (May 2006), Disney's Beauty and the Beast (December 2006), The Nightmare Before Christmas (December 2007), Caesar (May 2008)*

MCS Theatre Club was one of the greatest experiences in my lifetime. I was nervous getting in front of large crowds before Theatre Club. That all changed after I first performed in *Romeo and Juliet*. The confidence I possess today can be attributed to the club and I am most grateful to MCS and Mr. G for making this all possible.

### Ethel Castillo '03

*Productions: Grease (January 2000), Cyrano de Bergerac (May 2000), A Midsummer Night's Dream (May 2001), Omega (May 2002), Stained (February 2003), Cinderella (May 2003)*

I would never trade my MCS theatre experiences for ANYTHING, and I will forever treasure the memories that I've shared with everyone I got to work with. The auditions, the rehearsals, the memorizations, blocking, etc. The MCS Theatre Club under Mr. G's mentorship taught me how to trust myself, be more confident, take constructive criticism ... it also taught me to live in the moment! To relish the moments on stage until the bright lights eventually dim and the curtain finally falls. I'm very proud to have been part of the MCS Theatre Club!



### Matthew Deleon Guerrero '07

*Productions: Taming of the Shrew (May 2004), Anastasia (December 2005), Romeo and Juliet (May 2006)*

My experience in the Theatre Club continues to be an important part of my life. The productions I was a part of have provided me with some of the best memories I have of my childhood and of high school. The performances themselves were only small part of the experience. The motivation to aim for some level of perfection in rehearsals, the friendships I was able to make with students of all grade levels, and the realization that, even in a small role, I could be a part of something larger and beautiful have all contributed in my life after high school.

### Victoria Camacho Deleon Guerrero '13

*Productions: Cinderella (May 2003), Anastasia (December 2005), Romeo & Juliet (May 2006), Disney's Beauty and the Beast (December 2006), The Nightmare Before Christmas (December 2007), It's a Wonderful Life (December 2008), Winter's Tale (December 2009), A Comedy of Errors (January 2011), Zero to Hero (May 2011), Rapunzeled (December 2011), Footloose (January 2013)*

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club means so much to me because it was the space that I could be myself. For a long time I didn't know how to navigate through many social groups because I didn't feel like I belonged just to one. Throughout my education at MCS, Theatre Club was the place that I could be friends with everyone who stood out or didn't completely fit in. When I went on to Seattle University for my higher education, I didn't think I'd have the same love for my theatrical family until it still served as another home away from home.

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Home of the Knights

## Announcements

### MCS Theatre Club presents Disney's Mulan Jr.

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club proudly presents DISNEY'S MULAN JR TODAY and TOMORROW, Saturday, December 2, on the school grounds in a very special stage designed just for the show. Premium and preferred seats are sold out, but \$5.00 general seating tickets are still available in the MCS Business Office.

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

As the school has done for many years now, our students will help the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa with its celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, December 8, from 3:00 p. m. to 6:30 p. m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. For this event, please note the following:

- All students in grades 2 through 12 are required to attend.
- Students should report to their homeroom classrooms by 2:30 p. m.
- Students must wear their full school uniform (NO SHORTS).
- Candles for the celebration will be provided by the school.
- Since students will participate in a procession that runs from the Cathedral, down along Carmen Avenue, to the back side of the US Post Office, and back to the Cathedral along Beach Road, students should prepare by wearing comfortable shoes, eating ahead of time, and bringing a bottle of water with them.
- Parents must pick up their children no later than 7:00 p. m.

For more information about the celebration, please refer to page 84 of the school handbook.

### Kids for Kids Charity Event

All parents and students are invited to participate in the annual Kids for Kids Christmas Bake Sale & Change Drive on Saturday, December 16 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm across from the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center (facing Beach Road in front of Naked Fish). If your child(ren) would like to volunteer for this event and be listed as a MAW Kids for Kids helper, please contact Eleanor Cabrera at [etcabrera@gmail.com](mailto:etcabrera@gmail.com) or at 483-4117.

## In the Future

### MCS Theatre Club's Disney's Mulan Jr.

TODAY and TOMORROW, Saturday, December 2 7:00 p. m. each night on campus

### Senior Mini-Carnival

Wednesday, December 6, during Activity Period

### Senior Fried Oreos

Thursday, December 7

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 8  
Mount Carmel Cathedral

## ESLR of the Week

*#5. Appreciate traditions, customs and beliefs of a diverse world-wide community.*

## Theatre

### Zeno Deleon Guerrero '17

*Productions: A Comedy of Errors (January 2011) Zero to Hero (May 2011), Rapunzeled (December 2011), Dead Living (October 2013), Saipan Pride Rice (November 2013), 12th Knight (December 2013), Disney's The Little Mermaid (May 2014), Shakespeare Meets Disney (July 2014), Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (October 2014), The Snow Queen (December 2014), The Breakfast Club (November 2015), White Christmas (December 2015), For Realz (April 2016), Star Wars Fanfilm Festival (July 2016), Dracula (October 2016), Disney's The Lion King Jr. (December 2016), #2ForRealz (March 2017), We Drank Our Tears Vol. 1 (September 2017)*

It's been said too many times, though only because it's too true, but Theatre Club truly is home. Like many veterans, I first joined Theatre Club in grade school. At the time, it was just a place to have fun and was something extra to do after school. As I became involved in more productions and as I got older, Theatre became a space that challenged me. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to control my fear of public speaking. I learned valuable skills like projecting, enunciating, and others that I still use even today in college. Theatre became a place to be myself or even someone I wasn't - whether it be a floor manager, director, or a vampire. However, most of all, it was and still is home. The friends or rather family I've made there and grown to love will always have a special place in my heart. We've had our troubles - mostly shouting and complaining towards and about each other. But we've also had our triumphs - mostly producing amazing shows in seemingly impossible circumstances - all despite the drama that happens behind the scenes. After more than 6 years, Theatre Club has given me a lot - soft skills and networking, but more so memories and a home. But it's still giving by having me be a part of an ever-growing legacy, a family, of Knights who keep the spirit of Theatre Club strong and vibrant.

### Jaqueline Bernardo-Doctor '17

*Productions: What's Going On (May 2010), Rapunzeled (December 2011), Dead Living (October 2013), Saipan Pride Rice (November 2013), 12th Knight (December 2013), Disney's The Little Mermaid (May 2014),*

## Sports Calendar

### U11 Interscholastic Soccer League

Monday, December 4  
MCS v GES @GES at 3:45 pm

Tuesday, December 5  
MCS v GTC @Hopwood at 4:45 pm

Thursday, December 6  
MCS vs KagES @Chacha at 4:45 pm

### CCOPPSSA Varsity Basketball

Monday, December 4  
MCS Girls 1 v MCS Girls 2 @MCS at 3:30 pm

Tuesday, December 5  
MCS Boys v SIS @SIS at 3:30 pm

Wednesday, December 6  
MCS Girls 2 v MBA @MBA at 3:30 pm

Thursday, December 7  
MCS Boys v ACS @ACS at 3:30 pm  
MCS Girls 2 v ACS @ACS at 3:30 pm  
MCS Girls 1 v ACS @ACS at 4:30 pm

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*Shakespeare Meets Disney (July 2014), Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (October 2014), The Snow Queen (December 2014), The Breakfast Club (November 2015), White Christmas (December 2015), For Realz (April 2016), Dracula (October 2016) Disney's The Lion King Jr. (December 2016), #2ForRealz (March 2017)*

Mount Carmel's Theatre Club allowed me to develop my skills as a student-leader, and to form strong relationships within the MCS community. As a stage manager for several productions, I was able to meet, interact, and communicate with students from various grade levels. As a result of our strengthened bonds, our Theatre Club eventually transformed into a family; It became a second home for me and many other students who fell in love with the arts.

### Brianna Hunter '17

*Productions: Rapunzeled (December 2011), Saipan Pride Rice (November 2013), Disney's The Little Mermaid (May 2014), Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (October 2014), The Snow Queen (December 2014), The Breakfast Club (November 2015), White Christmas (December 2015), Dracula (October 2016), Disney's The Lion King Jr. (December 2016), #2ForRealz (March 2017), Disney's Mulan (December 2017)*

I am eternally grateful for Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club, which will also always have a place in my heart because I consider it to be my second family. Joining the club is the best decision I have ever made. Not only has it provided me with an outlet to express myself and break barriers that I have had socially, it has also allowed me to do something that makes people happy. Every production has a story, and it is always my hope that the stories we tell find a place in the audience's hearts. Theatre Club taught me how to be confident, that it takes teamwork to be successful, and most importantly, how to put yourself in someone else's shoes. Every moment that I've had in Theatre is priceless, from dress rehearsals to being backstage during a production to having the ability to go on stage and entertain people. Theatre Club is a family that is always growing, and I'm always happy to know that there's a place for everyone.

## Smart Phone

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- Are they responsible with their belongings?
- Will they follow rules around phone use?
- Would having easy access to friends benefit them for social reasons?
- And do kids need to be in touch for safety reasons? If so, will an old-fashioned flip phone (like the one Sydney never charged) do the trick?

## PTO Corner

### Parent Subs Needed

Are you willing to serve as a substitute teacher for the school and get paid? Then contact Luis Camacho at 287-9753.

### Schedule of Meetings

December 6, 2017 • 5:30 pm • Faculty Lounge

*All parents are encouraged and welcome to join us for these important meetings. For more information, contact PTO President, Luis Camacho, at 287-9753.*