



# ROUNDTABLE

## NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

### 15 Questions to Replace "How Was School Today?"

by Elena Aguilar for edutopia

How many times have you asked your child, "How was school today?" and been frustrated by the lack of response? As a parent, I'm guilty of asking my son this question all the time, even though I usually don't get much in return.

Sometimes (to be honest), I haven't had the energy for a real conversation. Other times, I just can't think of what to ask. As a teacher, I have often wished that kids would share stories of the awesome things we were doing with their parents, but I couldn't figure out how to make that happen.

Now that my son is in middle school—where communication from teachers is less than it was when he was in elementary school and more stuff is happening at school that I need to be aware of—I've identified a list of questions that draw out important information. I wish that when I was in the classroom I'd been able to offer this list to parents so that they could hear about what we were doing in our class.

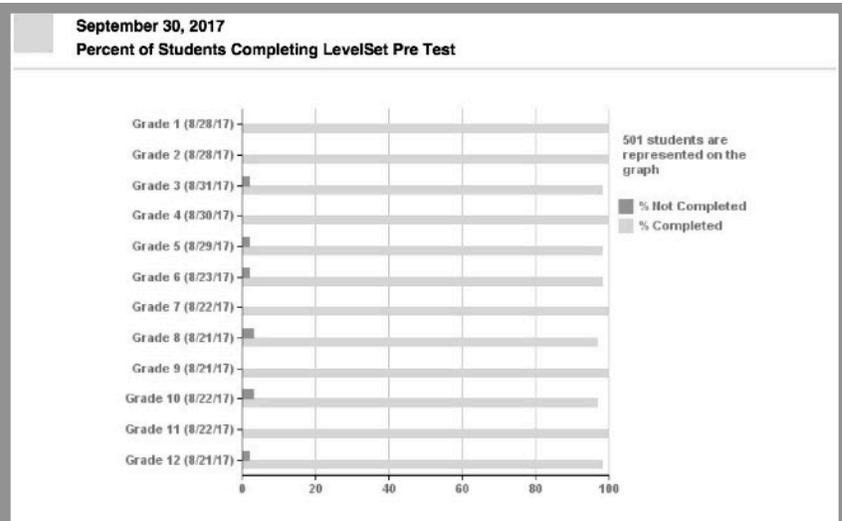
#### The Questions

With slight wording modifications, these questions can work with children of all ages:

1. Tell me about a moment today when you felt excited about what you were learning.
2. Tell me about a moment in class when you felt confused.
3. Think about what you learned and did in school today. What's something you'd like to know more about? What's a question you have that came from your learning today?
4. Were there any moments today when you felt worried? When you felt scared?
5. Were there any times today when you felt disrespected by anyone? Tell me about those moments.
6. Were there times today when you felt that one of your classmates demonstrated care for you?
7. Were there any moments today when you felt proud of yourself?
8. Tell me about a conversation you had with a classmate or friend that you enjoyed.
9. What was challenging about your day?

Mount Carmel School

### Knights Show Gains in Achieve3000



A recent update from Achieve3000 revealed that almost 100% of Mount Carmel School students were making full use of Achieve3000's cloud-based suite of interactive readings, formative assessments, and other resources that promote differentiated instruction and interdisciplinary reading for all grade levels.

Mount Carmel School students recently improved their performance on a national reading assessment designed to improve interdisciplinary literacy. From August 1 through September 30th, and so early in the school year, 65% of students are already approaching, meeting, or exceeding literacy benchmarks for college and workforce readiness.

The assessment was part of the school's participation in Achieve3000, a cloud-based suite of interactive readings, formative assessments, and other resources that promote differentiated instruction and interdisciplinary reading for all grade levels. In a recent report sent to the school, Achieve3000 CEO, Saki Dodelson, wrote that the program utilizes a "patented method of blended, differentiated instruction proven to dramatically accelerate reading gains for all learners."

In addition to showing gains on the assessment, the update from Achieve3000 commended the school for engaging almost 100% of students in the program. In its update,



Achieve3000 noted, "In a recent study, students who completed 40 reading activities on Achieve3000 gained an average of 113 Lexile points, nearly double the expected growth norms."

School principal, Frances Taimanao, was very happy with the update. Taimanao said, "We've been using this program for a few years now, and it's very important that our students and teachers make full of Achieve3000's ability to improve reading skills."

She added, "It's all part of a growth mindset; as long as our kids stick with it, they will continue to grow and improve."

Earlier this year, current 6th grader Leyonne Tolentino, was recognized by Achieve3000 for ranking as one of the nation's top readers two years in a row. Achieve3000 consultant, Troy Akiyama, even visited the school to personally congratulate Tolentino.

Home of the Knights

## Announcements

### College Essay Workshop

Seniors are invited to participate in a college essay workshop at the Northern Marianas College Library on Tuesday, October 24th from 6-8 p.m. Bring 2 copies of your college/scholarship essay to share it with a reader to get good feedback. Refreshments will be served. Please see Ms. Manning for more information.

### Title I Program Parent Orientation

There will be a Title I Parent Orientation on October 25, at 4:30pm, in room C102. This will allow the parents at least thirty minutes to meet with the MCS Title I teachers before attending the MCS Parent Council meeting.

### All Schools Swimming Championships

MCS has been invited to participate in the 23rd All Schools Swimming Championships which will be held on November 18, 2017 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. If you swim for Tsunami Club, Saipan Swim Club, or Dolphin Club, and you can swim at least 50 meters, please see Ms. Manning to register for this exciting opportunity to represent our school! For more information see Ms. Manning or email her at [hlmanning.mcs@gmail.com](mailto:hlmanning.mcs@gmail.com).

### 2017 Film Festival

The MCS 2017 Film Festival is RESCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, at Hollywood Theaters. The festival will feature a number of short films, including "We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta's Story", which was an official selection for the recent Guam International Film Festival and was a nominee for three major awards. \$10.00 admission. Tickets and permission slips are available in the Business Office. Buses depart campus at 9:00 am.

## In the Future

### Junior Store

Monday, October 23

### Sophomore Shake Shake Fried Oreos

NHS/Junior Stand, Theatre Club Pizza Night  
Wednesday, October 25

### Parent Assembly/Report Card Distribution

Wednesday, October 25

### NHS Candy Gram Distribution, Senior Fried Oreos

Thursday, October 26

### Knights of the Altar Movie Night

Friday, October 27

### Junior Hot Lunch

Saturday, October 28

### MCS Halloween Festival

Saturday, October 28

## ESLR of the Week

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

## 15 Questions

*continued from front*

10. What do you appreciate about your day?
11. What did you learn about yourself today?
12. Is there anything that you'd like to talk about that I might be able to help you figure out?
13. Is there anything you're worried about?
14. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
15. Is there a question you wish I'd ask you about your day?

### Tips for Asking Questions

How and when we ask these questions makes a big difference in the information we receive from our kids. First, you don't want to ask all of these questions on the same day. You might ask one or two. After a while, you'll figure out which ones elicit the most meaningful responses. You'll want to ask during a time when you have the ability to focus so that your child feels they have your full attention. With my child—and in my household—dinner and driving in the car are optimal times for these conversations.

Now these conversations have become routine. My son knows that when we drive to school I'll ask him what he's looking forward to, if there's anything he's worried about, and if there's anything he wants to talk about with me that I might be able to help him figure out.

## 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

November 8  
Election of Officers  
5:30 pm • Faculty Lounge

November 21  
Turkey Trot

*All parents are encouraged and welcome to join us for these important meetings.*

*For more information, contact PTO President, Luis Camacho, at 287-9753.*

### Mount Carmel School

# HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

Saturday

October 28

6:00 to 10:00 pm

Maturana Building

Featuring food, games, entertainment, and a haunted mansion  
Outsiders welcome.

# 2017 MCS FILM FESTIVAL

Featuring a screening of  
*We Drank Our Tears:  
Francisco Babauta's Story*

Rescheduled for  
**Wednesday October 25**  
**Hollywood Theaters**

\$10.00

Tickets with permission slips available in the Business Office

Buses depart campus at 9:00 am

Brought to you by the MCS Theatre Club