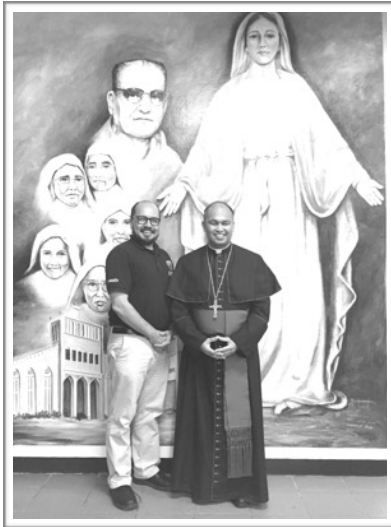




ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

MCS to Maintain Current Tuition Rate for SY 2017-2018



Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez (right), who is the corporate sole of Mount Carmel School, Inc., meets with school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, in front of the school's mural honoring the founders of the school, Father Arnold Bendowski and the sisters of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berziz.

In preparations for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, Mount Carmel School's leadership recently agreed to hold tuition and fees at their current rates.

After discussing the issue with Bishop Ryan Jimenez, who serves as the corporate sole of the school, and the school's Board of Directors, school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, shared that the school wanted to continue helping parents afford a quality Catholic education. He said, "Since the rising values of local real estate is raising the cost of living on island, we wanted to help returning parents keep their kids at the school, as well as encourage parents who are looking to transfer their kids to Mount Carmel."

The school also announced the continuation of incentives that were offered this past 2016-2017 school year. The first incentive is an Early Bird Registration Fee.

Normally \$400 per child, parents who pay the registration fee by May 5 will get a 50% discount on the fee, at only \$200 per child. The deadline was extended from May 1 to May 5 to give parents more time to take advantage of the discount.

The school will also continue family discounts for families that enroll more than one child. Families with two children can avail of a \$600 discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a \$1,000 discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a \$1,500 discount for the fourth child.

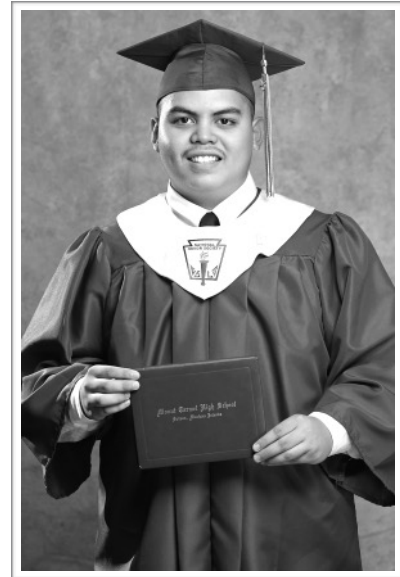
In addition, the school will once again offer up to \$750 per student in scholarships and financial aid for qualified students. Scholarship and Financial Aid application forms will be available on May 31.

With these incentives and growing interest in the school, the school is anticipating an enrollment increase, consistent with enrollment trends for the past few years. Deleon Guerrero, noted that the enrollment increased from around 250 in 2012 to a current enrollment of over 500. Regarding the increase, he said, "We have taken steps to accommodate the increase by hiring additional teachers, allowing us to keep teacher-to-student ratios optimal for student learning." He added, "We will, likewise, do the same for the upcoming school year to uphold the highest standards of educational quality for our students."

The school also announced that its online admissions portal is up and running for families that want to enroll their children for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. The portal is available through the school's website, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. The \$50 application fee per child is waived for each application submitted online using the admissions portal.

It Takes an Island

by Thomas Manglona II, 2016 AlumKnight



The following is a piece that Thomas Manglona II wrote for Michelle Obama's Better Make Room initiative to promote higher education.

Applying to college was everything I looked forward to, but also feared. I did not think my story mattered, and with the lack of resources in my community on the Northern Mariana Islands; I did not feel fully equipped to submit a successful college application. Regardless of these anxieties, I made it a point to work hard throughout school, and I told myself that, "you get what you put in."

In middle school, I began to use my writing to combat this culture of complacency on Rota, a place where no newspaper is printed and no reporter resides. In between homework and chores, I maintained a blog where I featured stories about community events and the environment. I distributed homemade business cards at school to my friends and their parents to view my blog. I continued my passion for writing when I moved to the neighboring island of Saipan for high school, where I enrolled in my first journalism class. I recall giving one of my homemade business cards to a guest speaker—who happened to be a publisher and encouraged me to write for her newspaper. I accepted her offer and wrote stories following the same beat as my blog. From there, I was hired by local print publications and a television station in Guam to report about Saipan events. I used the money that I earned from my stories to pay for my high school tuition at a Mt. Carmel School on Saipan, which was the island's sole Catholic educational institution. Even though I was on academic scholarship and financial aid, I still had to work to cover the costs of my other expenses, such as my uniforms and school supplies.

Continued on back

Announcements

End of After School Enrichment Program

Please note that the After School Enrichment program for Mondays and Wednesdays has ended. Also note that the Tuesday, Thursday, Friday program will not run on SAT-10 testing week (May 8-12) and will officially end on May 18.

Junior Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Junior Raffle:

- 1st: Dencio Manglona (\$500)
- 2nd: Jose Pangelinan (2 round trip tickets to Guam)
- 3rd: Oly (GoldPro Hero 5 Camera)
- 4th: Juan Blanco (Let's Go Pass for 8)
- 5th: Myrna Killelman (2 PIC Water Park passes)

In the Future

AP Exams

May 1-8

Freshman Milkshake Stand

Wednesday, May 3

Junior Hot Lunch

Thursday, May 4

May Crowning

May 5

Marianas March Against Cancer

May 5-6

2017-2018 Student Council

This morning, the new Student Council officers for SY 2017-2018 were announced and took their oath of office. The new officers take their oath of office with the school's Leadership Team. From left to right: Faculty Representative Kosiky Camacho, Vice Principal Helene Manning, MCS President Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Director of Development John Blanco, and new STUCO Officers, President Erika Mendiola, Vice President Michelle Palacios, Secretary Tiana Deleon Guerrero, Treasurer Theresa Zbeng, and Moderator Seok Jun Yim.



It Takes an Island

continued from front

While at Mt. Carmel School, I immediately became involved in student government, speech and debate, and community organizing on Saipan Island. I even helped coordinate the first ever College Signing Day! I was also a proud member of the AmeriCorps program, where I was able to tutor middle school students.

When junior year came around, I knew it was time for me to reflect on the past couple of years of my life and put my story on paper to submit as my personal statement to the colleges I wanted to attend. It was at this point that I realized the hardships I had experienced by living in a single parent household,

and working as a student at a restaurant in junior high, and being a cub reporter for the news stations at my high school, were not at all disadvantages. Instead, they were similar to "weights" that prepared me to take on larger things in life beyond the island shores.

"Through this process, I felt like my story mattered. In turn, I hope that those after me will have their voices heard and hopefully have access to a good education, as I do."

During the college application process, I reached out to my mentors at school and older cousins in my family who went to college for advice. I spent many days writing drafts for the several colleges and scholarships that I applied to and was fortunate enough to receive feedback from my mentors and family. If there's anything I learned in the process, it's that while you are doing the bulk of the work writing out your story; having those conversations with people close to you can really help you form your essay and collect your thoughts. At first, it was difficult and awkward for me to write about myself, but my conversations with loved ones helped me fill in parts of my story that I did not think had any value. In the end, I got into my first choice, UC Berkeley, where I have continued to be involved in volunteering and news reporting, while on a full ride scholarship through the Gates Millennium Scholarship program.

Through this process, I felt like my story mattered. In turn, I hope that those after me will have their voices heard and hopefully have access to a good education, as I do. I can't see myself anywhere else and I hope that more Pacific Islanders get a similar chance to succeed.

PTO Corner

The Parent Teacher Organization wants to thank everyone who participated in and helped make this year's Easter Egg Hunt a huge success!



Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA High School Basketball

TODAY, Friday, April 28

MCS Boys vs SIS @SIS at 4:30 pm

Monday, May 1

MCS 2 Girls vs MBA @MBA at 3:30 pm

Wednesday, May 3

MCS Boys vs GCA @MCS at 3:30 pm

ESLR of the Week

#6. Develop continually as an independent lifelong learner.