



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Looking Back

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. Thomas is currently enrolled in UC Berkeley.

Mount Carmel School on Saipan is the only Catholic Pre-K to 12th grade educational institution in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. My school, home of the Knights, was founded in 1952 by the Mercedarian Sisters. The idea of hosting a College Signing Day during my senior year of high school came up at one of the Student Council meetings. As student body leaders and seniors who had recently went through the stressful application process, my fellow officers (Markel Toves, Amalina Evangelista, Sung Hun Ryu, and Janka Taimanao) and I thought we needed to set something in motion so that those who followed in our path would have additional assistance earlier than we did when applying to college. While our school had a college prep curriculum, we wanted something where students from all grades could be directly involved in and raise awareness about college in a different way.

That's when we did a simple Google search and discovered former First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative, which included a digital toolkit and instructions on how to coordinate a College Signing day event. We were immediately drawn to its mission to celebrate students just as much as we celebrate famous athletes and celebrities. I wrote to the program's office and received a response from a staffer in the White House. Being from the islands, we did not expect a quick response or any at all, but the staffer responded enthusiastically and helped us plan our event. Since it was the first of its kind on the island, we wanted to make it more than just an hour celebration where students committed to a college. After consulting school officials and family members who went to college, we decided that we'd host a "College Week" in April. We emailed alumni from our school, various members of the community, and we even reached out to our relatives who went to college to ask if they would be willing to participate in a "College Fair."

The fair was hosted on Monday and Tuesday and allowed students to roam the halls and speak with more than two dozen professionals who pursued their education at places such as MIT, Georgetown, University of Michigan, NYU, USC, University of Washington, and even our local Northern Marianas

Continued on back

College Week



Clockwise from top left: MIT alumnus and 2005 Mount Carmel School AlumKnight, Emmanuel Borja, helps students learn more about MIT. Northern Marianas College Director of Financial Aid, Daisy Propst (right), and Lisa Rafael from NMC's Office of Admissions and Records prepare to recruit Knights to Start Smart at NMC. Representative Ivan Blanco (right) shares his experience at Creighton University.

This past week, Mount Carmel School's Student Council hosted the school's 2nd annual College Week. Led by Student Council President Zeno Deleon Guerrero, the week promoted a college-bound culture among the student body.

MCS College Week kicked off with a college fair in which professionals from across the island represented their college alma maters at booths in the first floor hallway of the school's Maturana Building. Students then had the opportunity to talk with the guests about their college experience in speed-dating-style round-robin sessions. Colleges represented included the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Michigan, the University of Southern California, Washington State University, and Northern Marianas College.

On Wednesday, representatives from Northern Marianas College Financial Aid Office met with Sophomores and Juniors to help them learn more about how to pay for college. NMC Financial Aid director, Daisy Propst, led the presentation, which covered everything from financial aid, scholarships, grants, work study, and student loans.

MCS Junior Monica Usi learned a lot from the week's events. She said, "The financial aid presentation was very helpful because I didn't

know that we could qualify for grants and scholarships." She added, "It was also nice to learn more about what different colleges have to offer at the College Fair."

MCS College Week was also celebrated on Wednesday with College Gear Day, in which students represented their favorite colleges with clothing and accessories from those colleges. Students were seen donning attire from New York University, Kentucky State University, and University of Hawaii.

College Week continued on Thursday with college-bound Seniors meeting with Juniors to offer tips and guidance on the college admissions process. The week will conclude with College Signing Day, when Seniors announce which colleges they are attending this coming fall.

Student Council President Zeno Deleon Guerrero was very happy with how the week turned out. He said, "This helps put students on the right path towards pursuing their future." Now that Deleon Guerrero is heading off to college himself, he said, "It felt good to give back to help others prepare for the college admissions process." In August, he begins his first term at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

Announcements

Saipan Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
Applications for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Scholarship program are due by 5pm on Wednesday, 5/10. Please hand deliver the application at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office.

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.

In the Future

Marianas March Against Cancer
May 5-6

SAT-10 Testing
May 10-12 (12:00 noon dismissal)

8th Grade/Senior Exams
May 15-18

Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA High School Basketball
Tuesday, May 9: Playoff Games
Thursday, May 11: Championship Games

ESLR of the Week

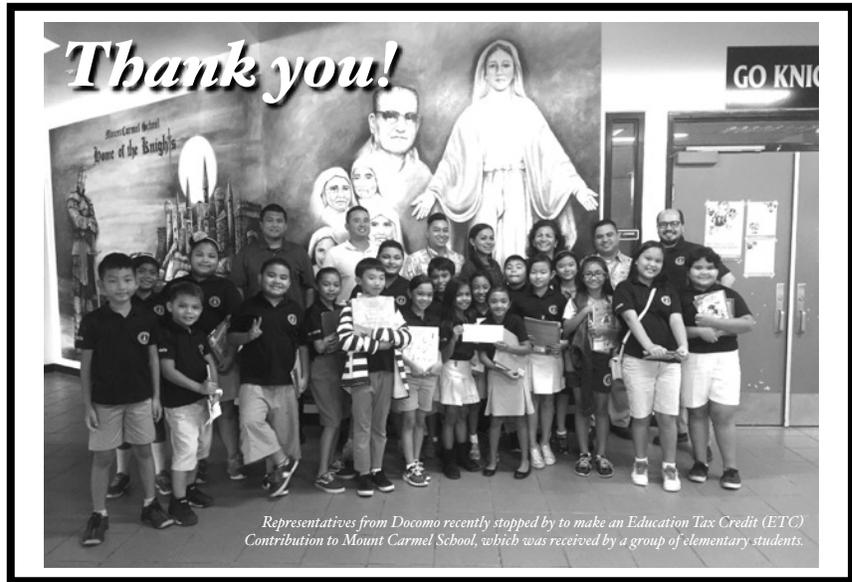
#1. Communicate effectively using various methods and mediums.

PTO Corner



CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WHERE BILLY IS OPENLY TAUGHT
AND ENCOURAGED TO PRAY

The Good News in Education



Representatives from Docomo recently stopped by to make an Education Tax Credit (ETC) Contribution to Mount Carmel School, which was received by a group of elementary students.

Looking Back

continued from front

College. This was a special day, as many students had never met other islanders who went to these types of institution. I felt that people walked away with the belief that "they could do it too." That Wednesday, students assembled to listen to a financial aid officer from the local community college, who offered advice on applying for financial aid, scholarships, and filling out the FAFSA. We decided that Thursday would be "College Gear Day" and students were able to be out of uniform and don clothing and accessories from colleges that they planned to apply to or were interested in attending. We ended the week with a "junior/senior match up," where seniors were paired up with juniors to answer any questions and offer personal advice to those who would be applying to college the following year.

The entire week culminated with College Signing Day, where students signed papers and committed to attending a college. Parents, faculty, staff,

school board members and the entire campus attended the event, where a video message from then-First Lady Michelle Obama congratulated the senior class. We even recognized students who chose to pursue other options such as entering the workforce or armed forces. Our school president and longtime educator, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, supported the student council in this endeavor and delivered the keynote address for the College Signing Day event. Before our week of events, he joined us in advertising the event on a local radio show, contacting college graduates on island, and writing press releases. We could not have done this without the full support of the administration, who trusted the student council to organize College Week and made time for our events throughout the school day. After speaking with school officials, College Week and College Signing Day is now an annual event for our school. Our hope is that other schools in the Pacific Islands will host similar events, so that the conversation about college begins a lot earlier than senior year and students are able to be competitive and ready to reach higher.



Registration for SY 2017-2018

Early Bird Registration Fee
\$200 per child (normally \$400)
if registration fee is paid by May 5

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY for the Early Bird Discount

Family Discounts*
\$600 off for 2nd child • \$1,000 off for 3rd child • \$1,500 off for 4th child
*Available only to parents and legal guardians of children

\$750 (per student) Scholarship & Financial Aid Packages Available
Application Forms Available May 31

\$50 Application Fee Waived
For applications completed online

**JOIN THE LEGACY
BECOME A KNIGHT**



For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.