



# 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.

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?

*Continued on back*

### Student Leadership Retreat



*Clock wise from top left: Mount Carmel School's 2017-2018 Student Council officers gather for a photo before kicking off the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. From left to right: Secretary Monica Usi, Treasurer Theresa Zheng, President Erika Mendiola, Vice President Michelle Palacios, and Moderator Seok Jun Yun. Student Council Secretary Monica Usi (right) works with Senior Class Vice President Cassidy Torres on planning events for the school year at the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. Senior class officers work together to build their pyramid at the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. From left to right: Vice President Cassidy Torres, Treasurer Miki Takayama, and President Jonelle Toskas. Student Council Vice President Michelle Palacios leads students in a team-building activity at the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. Student Council Moderator Seok Jun Run opens the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat with a prayer. 8th grade class officers are all smiles as they participate in the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. Counterclockwise from the lower left: Isabella Guerrero, Larry Cruz, Jedric Villar, Amaya Reyes, Theresa Schweiger, Jeremiah Diaz, Luke Mersui, and Fiona Bucalig.*

While their peers slept in on Saturday, August 26, Mount Carmel School's student leaders got up bright and early to participate in the school's Student Leadership Retreat in the school's Maturana Building. Held every year, the retreat helps students grow as leaders and gives them the opportunity to work together to plan all school activities for the school year.

School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, kicked off the retreat with a talk about leadership. In his talk, Deleon Guerrero challenged student leaders to rethink their understanding of leadership. Deleon Guerrero said, "Leadership is nothing if people don't follow you, so the key is to learn how to motivate your team." He added, "In this sense, the definition of leadership is motivating others to accomplish something together."

Talking about the importance of motivation, Deleon Guerrero told students, "Despite what you may have learned, people are not that motivated by promises of rewards or threats of penalties." He clarified, "The research tells us that people will rally behind you if they believe in you, if they believe in your vision, and if you believe in their ability to fulfill that vision."

Taking this all together, he ended with one last piece of advice: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

After Deleon Guerrero's leadership talk, Student Council took over with a team-building activity in which students had to build a pyramid of paper cups using only yarn to carry the cups. According to Council president, Erika Mendiola, the activity helped students learn to work together under difficult circumstances.

After a few more group-building activities, student leaders and their teacher advisers got down to work, planning out the entire school year. Going through week by week, Student Council officers worked with clubs, classes, and organizations to schedule activities for the year. Whenever conflicts emerged, students were ushered aside to work out alternatives and solutions. By the end of the retreat, student leaders had successfully planned out the entire year.

Student Council Treasurer Theresa Zheng was very happy with the results of the retreat. She said, "It was great because we learned that it's not just one person that leads the team; everyone has to work together."

## Announcements

### 2016-2017 Yearbooks

Yearbooks for last school year are now available. With limited quantities, don't miss this chance to relive the memories from last year as you build new ones this year. \$50 per yearbook, available in the Business Office.

### Lady Knights Basketball

Calling all 6th-8th grade girls who are interested in learning how to play basketball and have fun!! Practices will be Mondays and Fridays, 3:30-5:30 and Wednesdays 2:30-4:30. GO KNIGHTS!!!

### Knights Herald

If you would like to subscribe to the Knights Herald (daily bulletin) email distribution list, feel free to email Mr. G at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

## In the Future

### Faculty & Staff Retreat

TOMORROW, Friday, September 1 (no classes)

### Labor Day

Monday, September 4 (no classes)

### School Photos

September 5-8

### Cheer Squad Mini-Carnival

Wednesday, September 6

### Senior Fried Oreo Stand

Thursday, September 7

### Junior Homecoming

Friday, September 8, 6:00-10:00 pm (8:30 curfew for middle school students) Maturana Building • \$8.00 admission Open to 7th-12th grade MCS students **OUTSIDERS NOT ALLOWED** Students must have a signed permission slip. Permission slips available in the main office.

## ESLR of the Week

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

## 15 Questions

*continued from front*

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?
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?

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.



# VOX KNIGHTS

DICERE VERITAS ET IUSTITIA

In Latin, vox means "voice".  
Mount Carmel School's Vox Knights is a club that brings together students of all grade levels who use their voice in various interscholastic competitions, including National Speech and Debate Association, National Junior Speech and Debate Association, Primary Grade Forensic Competition, Mock Trial, and International Thespian Society.  
Together, these students commit to the club's mission to "dicere veritas et iustitia", which in Latin means, "speak truth and justice."

FIRST MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 9/6, ACTIVITY PERIOD  
JOETEN-DAIDAI SOCIAL HALL

Mount Carmel School's  
Theatre Club  
presents



## AUDITIONS

Tuesday, September 5

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
Room A-201

Audition Forms available in the main office.  
Due to license restrictions,  
casting limited to students in 9th grade or below.  
Questions? See Quincy Chinen  
or email Mr. G at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER 8th, located in the Maturana Bldg. \$8  
6pm - 10pm, 8:30 CURFEW FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**NO OUTSIDERS ALLOWED**  
**GO KNIGHTS!**

For more information, please see Reica Ramirez or Dayna Matoranos.

## PTO Corner

### Schedule of Meetings

September 6  
Parent Representatives Meeting  
5:30 pm • Faculty Lounge

October 4  
Parent Representatives Meeting  
5:30 pm • Faculty Lounge

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

November 14  
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.