



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

CNMI Supreme Court Holds Hearings on Campus

by Quincy Chinen, Justin Ocampo, and Reica Ramirez, students in Mount Carmel School's Introduction to Media Communications



Clockwise from top: The CNMI Supreme Court recently held an appellate hearing at Mount Carmel School and gathered for a group photo with students, law clerks, and appellant and appellee attorneys an appellate hearing recently held at Mount Carmel School. CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John Manglona, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, and Associate Justice Perry Inos listen to arguments during the hearing. Appellant, Nancy A. Dominski, makes her argument during the hearing. Appellee, Charles Lee, makes his argument during the hearing.

Last week, the Supreme Court of the CNMI held an appellate court hearing at Mount Carmel School. The hearing was attended by students from the AP United States Government, AP United States History, and AP English courses as well as by members of the school's Mock Trial team.

The hearing was presided over by Chief Justice Alexander Castro and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos. The students watched as Defense Counsel with the CNMI Office of the Public Defender Nancy A. Dominski and Prosecutor with the Attorney General's office Robert Charles Lee argued their case before the justices on the merits of the law.

Kyle Bautista, a veteran member of the MCS mock trial team, noted that the hearing was substantially different from his experience in mock trial, "The attorneys are not asking questions, instead they argued to the judge. I would say I learned a lot from this experience

because the attorneys both presented well thought out arguments based on different perspectives on the law."

Fellow veteran member Angelo Manese had this to say about the experience, "As a mock trial attorney myself, I find it comforting to know that even experienced lawyers still find challenges when formulating and presenting well structured arguments."

The hearing was part of the NMI Judiciary's "Justices and Judges in the Classroom" interactive outreach program designed to educate our youth on the judicial system and its functions. The program serves to help encourage students understand the role of the court system and the concepts of justice and responsibility.

If you are interested in the court's outreach program or seek further information, please contact Divana Delacruz at divana.delacruz@justice.gov.mp.

5 Simple Ways To Encourage Brain Development In Your Little One

by Elissa Nadworny for NPR



Ron Ferguson, an economist at Harvard, has made a career out of studying the achievement gap – the well-documented learning gap that exists between kids of different races and socioeconomic statuses.

But even he was surprised to discover that gap visible with "stark differences" by just age 2, meaning "kids aren't halfway to kindergarten and they're already well behind their peers."

And yet, there's a whole body of research on how caregivers can encourage brain development before a child starts any formal learning. It's another example, Ferguson says, of the disconnect between research and practice. So he set out to translate the research into five simple and free ways adults can help their little ones.

"Things that we need to do with infants and toddlers are not things that cost a lot of money," he explains. "It's really about interacting with them, being responsive to them."

He calls his list the Boston Basics, and he's on a mission to introduce it to caretakers first in Boston and then across the country.

The principles are:

1. Maximize love, manage stress. Babies pick up on stress, which means moms and dads have to take care of themselves, too. It's also not possible to over-love or be too affectionate with young children. Research shows feeling safe can have a lasting influence on development.
2. Talk, sing and point. "When you point at something, that helps the baby to start to associate words with objects," Ferguson explains. Some babies will point before they can even talk.
3. Count, group and compare. This one is about numeracy. Babies love numbers and counting, and there's research to show they're actually born with math ability. Ferguson says caregivers can introduce their children to math vocabulary by using sentences that compare things: "Oh, look! Grandpa is tall, but grandma is short" or "There are two oranges, but only three apples."
4. Explore through movement and play. "The idea is to have parents be aware that their children are learning when they play," Ferguson says.

Continued on back

Announcements

Sengebau Poetry Competition

Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 6:00 pm
 American Memorial Park Visitor's Center
 MCS Entrees: Junior School Division: Jill Anne Mallari (8th grade); Senior School Division: Reica Ramirez (12th grade), Raesyl Solis (9th grade)

We are proud of our official entries/ participants who will be representing MCS. Let's show our support of Jill, Reica, and Raesyl. Advisers are Ms. Criselda Aldan and Ms. Candy Bahillo.

MathCourt

Any middle school and high school students interested in joining the upcoming MathCourt competition can pick up a permission slip from the high school office. Feel free to see Mr. Borja for more information.

Mock Trial and Tasi Rehearsal Cancelled TOMORROW

Please note that Mock Trial Practice and Theatre Club's rehearsal for Tasi will be cancelled TOMORROW.

In the Future

PGFC Competition

TOMORROW, Saturday, October 6
 Great Meadows School

CNMI Cultural Diversity Day

Monday, October 8 (no classes)

Sophomore Cookie-Gram

Senior Ice Cream
 Tuesday, October 9

Chamorro Club Shave Ice

Wednesday, October 10

Senior Milk Tea Stand

Freshman Bake Sale
NJHS Candy Trolley
 Thursday, October 11

8th Grade Lollipop Trolley

Friday, October 12

ESLR of the Week

#3. Integrate religious themes to reinforce Catholicism and sacramental virtue of life.

Brain Development

continued from front

- Read and discuss stories. It's never too early to start reading aloud – even with babies. Hearing words increases vocabulary, and relating objects to sounds starts to create connections in the brain. The Basics also put a big emphasis on discussing stories: If there's a cat in the story and a cat in your home, point that out. That's a piece lots of parents miss when just reading aloud.

So how do these five principles get into the hands – and ultimately the brains – of Boston's babies?

Ferguson and his team decided the Basics have to go where the parents are. They're partnering with hospitals to incorporate the five principles into prenatal care and pediatrician visits. They work with social services agencies, home-visiting programs, barbershops and local businesses. Ferguson even teamed up with a local church to deliver a handful of talks at the pulpit after Sunday services.

Tara Register runs a group for teen moms at the Full Life Gospel Center in Boston. She says when she learned about the Basics, she thought, "This would be the perfect place. We've got these young moms learning how to parent and trying to figure this out."

Register wishes she had known about the five principles back when she was a teen mom. Years later, she's now helping get the word out to a new generation. She says when she talks about the Basics in her group, the teenage parents are surprised to discover that so much learning happens so early. "Some of this stuff they're probably doing already and they didn't even know there was a name behind it or development behind it."

And that's true for most caregivers. A lot of this comes naturally; the key is to connect those natural instincts to what researchers know about developmental science – something all parents can learn from, Ferguson says. "I have a Ph.D. and my wife has a master's degree, but I know there are Boston Basics that we did not do."

Back in Register's class, she holds one of the babies and points to his head – and the developing brain inside. "You can't imagine how much of a sponge this is right here," she says. The teens brainstorm ways they'll incorporate the Basics into their daily routine. "I'll narrate what I'm doing as I get ready for work," one suggests. "I'll count out the number on his plaything," another offers.

As Register wraps up her lesson, she has one final thought for the group, which she repeats several times. It's essentially the thesis behind all five of the Boston Basics: "Our babies are incredible," she tells the new moms. "They are complex, they are incredible, they are smart. They can take it all in. So don't underestimate them."

Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA JV Volleyball

Tuesday, October 9
 MCS v SCS @MCS at 3:30 pm

Thursday, October 11

MCS v SIS @MCS at 3:30 pm

PSS Volleyball

Tuesday, October 9
 MCS v KHS @North Court at 4:30 pm
 MCS v MHS @South Court at 5:30 pm



The Mount Carmel School
Parent Council
 is the governance body for
 our school's parents.

Along with the school's
 Faculty Council
 and Student Council,
 the Parent Council works with
 the school's Leadership Team
 and Board of Directors
 to support the school
 with fundraising,
 collaborative planning,
 and policy development.

All parents and guardians
 are welcome
 to join the Parent Council
 as representatives
 for their children's
 respective grade levels.
 Parent Council officers
 are elected among its
 grade level representatives.

Election of new officers
 for the new school year
 will take place on
Thursday, November 8.

*For more information about the
 Parent Council,
 please contact Tina Crisostomo at
 tbcrisostimo@gmail.com.*