



# ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

## MCS Honors Many During CSW 2018



2018 AlumKnight of the Year, 1963 AlumKnight Sister Isabel T. Seman (center) gathers for a group photo with Mount Carmel School faculty, staff, and administrators as this year's Night with the Knights.

During last week's celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Mount Carmel School honored many individuals who have, in one way or another, embodied this year's theme of "Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed" and have fulfilled the school's mission to "educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

### ALUMKNIGHT OF THE YEAR

At Saturday's Night with the Knights AlumKnight dinner, the school awarded its AlumKnight of the Year to 1963 AlumKnight, Sister Isabel T. Seman. Upon receiving the award, Sister Beck, as she is known, dedicated the award to her fellow sisters in the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz (MMB). She noted that by serving others to learn, lead, and succeed, they made great sacrifices in fulfillment of this year's Catholic Schools Week theme. Remembering the first MMB Sisters to arrive in 1928, she said, "Their love for God, their zeal and desire to share the good news of redemption, was their only compass."

In presenting the award, school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, also honored the work of the MMB Sisters. Noting that the the 2018 AlumKnight of the Year marks the 20th anniversary of the prestigious award, he said that it was fitting that the award also honors the 90th anniversary of the arrival of MMB Sisters on Saipan. He said, "At a time when women around the world are finding empowerment against oppression and injustice, it may help to note that the sisters of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz have been empowered and have been empowering thousands of others for over a hundred years."

### CLASS OF THE YEAR

At the Night with the Knights event, the school also announced the Class of the Year award, which was given to the school's graduating Class of 1990. The award recognizes classes that have given back to their alma mater in a substantial manner and that represent the school's mission and philosophy. In addition to helping the school and various community outreach efforts, the Class of 1990 launched its annual scholarship program for graduating seniors pursuing a college degree.

Members of the Class of 1990 were ecstatic to win the award, and pledged to continue giving back to their alma mater.

### LEGACY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND MILLENNIUM FALCON AWARD

A few other new awards were also launched at the Night with the Knights, including the Legacy Teacher of the Year and the Millennium Falcon Award. The Legacy Teacher of the Year Award was presented by the school's 2018 Teacher of the Year to Marie Soledad Camacho Castro, as one of the first batch of teachers at the school back in the 1950s, for her contributions to the learning, growth, and success of many AlumKnights. Taking its name from the famed Star Wars aircraft piloted by Han Solo, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero created and presented the first Millennium Falcon Award to 2005 AlumKnight Robert C. Travilla to honor a millennial AlumKnight who has distinguished himself for his accomplishments in business, art, and entertainment.

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## Parents and Teachers: The Dream Team

by Dr. Richard Curwin for edutopia

Ineffective communication between parents and teachers can be a major obstacle when trying to solve problems with students, but fortunately it can be improved. Let's first examine the two major causes of communication dysfunction.

### Problem 1: Judgment

Teachers judge the parents of their students all the time. They judge them based on students' language, hygiene, dress and social skills. Parents judge teachers, too, based on comments from their children. "What did you learn in school today?" is usually followed by, "Nothing." Sometimes children accuse teachers of being unfair, picking on them, being prejudiced or a myriad of other questionable treatments.

So parents and teachers judge each other constantly, and the sources of their judgments are kids, often with a vested interest. Good kids want their parents and teachers to like each other. Troubled students want the opposite. Many children can, in their eyes, benefit from animosity between parents and teachers; and they play one against the other. This is a dysfunctional form of communication.

### Problem 2: "Dumping"

The second problem is called "dumping." When ineffective, frustrated or angry teachers call parents about their child, they tend to "dump" the problem in the parents' lap. They tell what offense the child committed, and state that the parent must do something about it. This is no more effective than a parent calling a teacher about a problem at home and asking the teacher to fix it. Parents dumping on teachers is also common. They claim the teacher is responsible for a child's bad grades, bad behavior or bad attitude. They demand that the teacher must change. Parent dumping is growing, reaching dangerously high levels with less respect and belief in the professionalism of the teacher. When parents and teachers blame each other and make unreasonable demands, the one who suffers the most is the child. Blame creates no winners and lots of losers.

### A Shared Goal

Parents and teachers have the same goal, and therein lies the remedy for these problems. Both want the best for the student. Removing the child from parent/teacher communication process can alleviate much of the communication dysfunction. I don't mean that children should be left out totally. There is certainly an important place for the child to be part of the process. But there is also a place for teachers and parents to build a relationship of their own. Both need to talk directly to each other.

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## Announcements

### MMB Legacy: Looking Back, Looking Forward

To commemorate and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the arrival of MMB Sisters on Saipan, the school is holding a set of contests for the following grade clusters: K-4: Drawing/Painting Art Contest; 5-8: Poetry Contest; 9-12: Essay Contest (500-1000 words). Prizes for each category and grade cluster are as follows:

- 1st: Field Trip to Fiesta Sea Touch or Saipan World Resort for student and his/her class
- 2nd: Dress Down and Pizza Party for student and his/her class
- 3rd: Ice Cream Party for student and his/her class

For more information, contact your child's Religion or Theology teacher.

### 2018 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest

The US Ninth Circuit Court invites all high school students to participate in its annual essay and video contest for students in the western United States and Pacific Islands. This year's theme is the 14th Amendment and what its equal protection clause means to students. For more information, visit <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.

## In the Future

### Sophomore Hot Lunch

TOMORROW, Saturday, February 10

### Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday, February 14  
7:40 am, Cathedral

### Sophomore Rose-Grams

Wednesday, February 14

### Junior Buy-a-Change

Senior Fried Oreos  
Thursday, February 15

### Junior Hot Lunch

Saturday, February 17

### Presidents Day

Monday, February 19 (no classes)

## Sports Calendar

### CCOPSSA Middle School Volleyball

Tuesday, February 13  
MCS1 v ACS @ACS  
MCS2 v SDA @SDA

Thursday, February 15  
MCS1 v SIS @MCS  
MCS2 v GCA @MCS

## ESLR of the Week

*#1. Communicate effectively using various methods and mediums.*

## CSW 2018 Honors

*continued from front*



Mount Carmel School (MCS) recently recognized its 2018 Parents of the Year.

### TEACHER AND STAFF OF THE YEAR

On Tuesday, the school announced the 2018 Teacher of the Year, kindergarten teacher, Zhenzhu "Pearl" Jin, and Staff of the Year, Priscilla T. Dela Cruz. Two years ago, after earning her Bachelors in Science in Elementary Education from Northern Marianas College, Jin started teaching at the school. She was one of the first batch of teachers to launch the school's first kindergarten classes when it merged with Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center.

For her part, Dela Cruz was recognized for her invaluable contributions to the school. School President Deleon Guerrero, was especially thankful for her service. He said, "Much like a staff that provides support when you need help walking, staff like Pres provide much needed support we need as a school to keep moving forward."

### PARENTS OF THE YEAR

At Friday's Family Night celebration, the school recognized several Parents of the Year: Alyssa Griffin, Armela Ham, Brien Sers Nicholas, Jocelyn Toskas, John R. Santos, Jung Honn Yun, Lauren DLC. Sanchez, Leilani B. Iramk, Lucia Buensalido, Parent Council President Luis Camacho, Ma. Rizallie Punzalan, Melisa T. Jack, Rowena Javan, Rowina O. Torres, and Tina Crisostomo-Tudela.

The school recognized the valuable contributions of parent volunteers like them. School president, Deleon Guerrero, shared with parents gathered, "These parents have generously given their time, attention, and commitment to Mount Carmel School. Their acts of volunteerism are necessary for Mount Carmel School to achieve its mission of educating the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

## Parent-Teacher Dream Team

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### How Teachers Can Help: The Three-Call Method

As early in the year as possible, teachers need to call as many parents on the phone as possible, hopefully all of them if their load is small enough. The purpose of the call is to welcome the parent into the learning community and to establish a positive communication line.

Here's an example of the type of call I suggest. "Hello, Mr. Curwin. I'm David's teacher. I just want you to know how happy I am to have David in my classroom this year, and to let you know that if any problems should occur, I'd be happy to talk with you so we can work together to make things better." The second call is to tell the parent something good the child has done. Stay away from superficials like dress and focus on behavior, improvement and quality of work. Only after these calls have been made should the teacher call about a problem; not before. In this way, parents and teachers have already established a trusting, workable relationship that significantly diminishes blaming.

### How Parents Can Help: Communicate Proactively

Parents, too, can help communication. They can inform teachers of things happening at home that might affect student behavior; a pending divorce, serious illness, birth of a new baby, a change or addition of a medication, or a parent on an extended trip abroad are all examples of

things that can help teachers. Children who strongly object to going to school, hate a certain subject, are being bullied or have too much homework are other helpful things to discuss with teachers.

### Become a Team

Finally, stop dumping and blaming on both sides. These tactics help no one, make the other party defensive and prevents finding possible solutions. Say things like, "Since we both care so much about David, let's work together to find a way to improve things." Become a team, not adversaries. Share your perceptions honestly. Tell the other what works at home or in class and what doesn't. Work out a plan of action to try, and be flexible enough to change it if it doesn't help. Deflect accusations by not taking them personally. It's better to say, "I understand why you might feel that way, but what we really need to do is find some solutions that we both can agree to. I'd like to hear your ideas," than to say, "That's not true, and your son is not being truthful. I've never done that."

Setting up effective communication and forming a team are very powerful tools in helping children be successful in school. Children spend most of their time at home and in school. When teachers and parents are allies and teammates, their combined influence on children is very powerful indeed.