



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Luis Camacho: A Parent Leader Who Makes a Difference



At its 2018: Night with the Knights, Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association recognized Parent Council President, Luis Camacho, for his outstanding contributions to the school over the years.

"If you give just one hour a week to your child's school, you can make a difference." This is what Luis Camacho, the president of Mount Carmel School's Parent Council, tells every parent every chance he gets. And it reflects his overall efforts to engage more and more parents in making a difference at their schools.

Camacho is no stranger to parental engagement. At various schools throughout the island, Camacho has pioneered leadership models and parent activities that have revolutionized how parents interact with their children's schools. Camacho was one of the founding members of the Public School System Parent Advisory Council and collaborated with the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Division of Youth Service to launch their annual Parent Leadership Month.

With this experience, Camacho has led other parent leaders at Mount Carmel School to accomplish many things over the past five years.

Four years ago, Camacho worked with other parent leaders to raise funds and resources to support the school's maintenance needs. This included lawn cleaning equipment, wheelbarrows, and even a riding mower. Not one to shy away from manual labor, Camacho has also been known to clean the campus himself, whether by mowing the lawn or water-blasting the campus sidewalks. Many other parents often join him on the weekends to keep the campus clean.

Campus cleanliness is not the only thing Camacho and his parent leaders have worked on. A few years ago, they worked closely with school officials to address safety concerns that parents had about campus parking and traffic. At one point, morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups were chaotic affairs without clear driving and parking lanes and drivers that jeopardized the safety of students. To address this problem, parent leaders and school officials designed a new parking and traffic plan. This plan created clearly demarcated traffic lanes and parking zones, erected additional traffic barricades, increased supervision during drop-off and pick-up, and had teachers and student drivers park their vehicles south of the cafeteria to alleviate traffic

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Mount Carmel School

Mock Trial Knights: 2018 CNMI Champions

by Be a Cabrera for Saipan Tribune



Mount Carmel School successfully defended its title after winning the 20th Annual High School Mock Trial last Friday at the CNMI Supreme Court, making the team the CNMI's representative at the national championship in Reno, Nevada in May.

Tinian High School placed second, while Marianas High School placed third.

The competition was presided by Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

MCS president Galvin Guerrero couldn't be prouder of the MCS team. "Half of the team that competed this year was their first time, the students who played attorneys this year were their first time. The winning team last year were mostly seniors and they all left, so this year was a tremendous challenge but this was [made] possible by the support of the parents, the entire school family, and our attorney coach Garth Backe and...all the students who worked really hard," he said.

He credited their winning performance to teamwork.

"We had a bench team, we had a junior high team and it was a very big team and they all helped out each other... We will take a week or two off and then we will get back to get ready for the national[s]," he added.

Justin Ocampo, an MCS junior high student, said the team "worked very hard to get here and I commend the high school students but also the teachers and lawyers that worked so hard, preparing us for this competition," he said. "I feel very happy and proud for this opportunity to represent the CNMI."

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio congratulated all the participants.

"All the students come in as winners and I really feel it's tough for the jurors—the lawyers who score them because you are judging a bunch of kids who are already excellent. ...The competition...gives the students some type of exposure so they are not just coming in as fresh competitors," she said.

"I've been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to see this in different aspects as I was once a coach, state coordinator, and now I judge the competitions. It was...great to see the dedication of the students," she added.

Kim-Tenorio said the CNMI Judiciary will be involved in helping prepare the MCS team for the nationals. She will sit in to give the students tips to hone their skills.

The jurors in the final round of the high school mock trial competitions were Jim Sirok, Nicole Ripple, Gil Birnrich, Janet King, and Ben Hale.

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Home of the Knights

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.

In the Future

EcoClub Beach Clean-Up

TOMORROW, Saturday, February 24

International Thespians Society Regional Competition

TOMORROW, Saturday, February 24

MCS Science Fair

February 26–March 2

Senior Cookie-Gram

Monday, February 26

Sophomore Fries Sale

Wednesday, February 28

Senior Fried Oreos

Thursday, March 1

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 5:30 pm

Senior Hot Lunch

Saturday, March 3

Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA Middle School Volleyball

Monday, February 26
MCS1 v GCA2 @GCA
MCS2 v SCS @SCS

Wednesday, February 28
MCS1 v MCS2 @MCS

ESLR of the Week

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

Luis Camacho

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congestion elsewhere. While there are still plans to further improve the parking and traffic situation, thus far, the current plan has not only made it safer for students, but it has also made parking and traffic more efficient for all drivers.

To further support student safety, earlier this year, Camacho also worked with parent leaders and AlumKnights to procure a video surveillance system for the school. The parent leaders also secured additional equipment for the IT department.

To make all of these efforts possible, Camacho has helped parent leaders to work more effectively together. Last year, the former Parent Teacher Organization was reconstituted as a Parent Council, as the faculty formed their own Faculty Council. Both councils were modeled after Student Council, and share the same goals to represent their stakeholders and to coordinate different activities for those stakeholders. All presidents of the Councils, including Parent Council President Camacho, sit on the school's Leadership Team, which meets regularly to manage operations, facilitate planning, and address various issues at the school.

In addition to representing parent concerns, the new Parent Council has developed three signature activities held every year, all of which are geared towards families. The first activity is the Turkey Trot Health Walk, which was launched in November last year to promote healthy lifestyles and to raise funds for their efforts. The next major activity is the council's Easter Egg Hunt, held the first Monday after spring break. The final activity is the council's annual End-of-Year Carnival, which allows students to enjoy the last day of school with carnival games, activities, and treats.

In all of this, Camacho makes it clear that it's not just about raising money; it's about raising awareness and getting more parents involved. As he always puts it, "Just one hour a week is all we ask."

Mock Trial

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This was not Sirok's first time to judge the final round and has been involved in moot court judging for four to five years already. "I see the improvement every year and I think more participants are involved than when we started out years ago," Sirok said.

"Coaching is one of the factors why this competition is improving every time. I didn't know how many attorneys were involved, if at all, in the early years but now you have attorneys involved as well as just teachers. You also have students that are committed that are just like a sports team," he added.

The schools that participated was composed of public and private schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Acting Education Commissioner Glen Muña praised the students' performance and commended the schools and students that got individual awards.

The Best Prosecution Witness award went to Kevin Wolf of Marianas High School; Best Defense Witness went to Theresa Zheng of Mount Carmel School, Anna Nunez of Grace Christian Academy, and Jonan Pohl of Marianas High School; Best Prosecution/Defense Attorney went to Shea Hartig of Saipan International School; and the Supreme Court Professionalism Award went to Grace Christian Academy.

CONGRATULATIONS



Members of Mount Carmel School's newest club, VOX Knights, fared well in recent competitions held by the Primary Grade Forensic League (PGFC) and the National Junior Speech and Debate Association (NJSDA).

In NJSDA, Jill Anne Mallari secured a place on the CNMI National Team that will compete in the NJSDA National Competition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this June. Mallari took 2nd place in Original Oratory, 2nd place in Poetry, and 5th place in Declamation. The following Knights excelled throughout the year, thus earning them enough points to compete in the recently concluded regional competition: Raesyl Solis, Hannab Lacap, Renee Kiser, and Kyla Cabrera.

In PGFC, the following placed in the K-2 division: Jaze Enzo San Nicolas (1st place Impromptu, 5th Place Readers Forum Masters), Remiegem Melchor (1st place Impromptu, 3rd place Readers Forum Masters), and Donray Barcinas (5th place Impromptu). In the PGFC 3-5 division, the following placed: Valerie Anne Estella (1st place Impromptu), Kiana Sablan (2nd place Impromptu), Heleyna Dela Santa (3rd place Impromptu), Justin Mallari (4th place Impromptu), and Oscar Buenafior (5th place Impromptu).

Parent Council Corner

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, March 1
5:30 pm in the Faculty Lounge

Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 9