



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Top 10 Homework Tips

by Eric J. Gabor, JD, for KidsHealth

Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework – it shows kids that what they do is important.

Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to take a break. And who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two!

Here are some tips to guide the way:

1. Know the teachers – and what they're looking for. Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
2. Set up a homework-friendly area. Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies – paper, pencils, glue, scissors – within reach.
3. Schedule a regular study time. Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
4. Help them make a plan. On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary – and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
5. Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
6. Make sure kids do their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.
7. Be a motivator and monitor. Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
8. Set a good example. Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
9. Praise their work and efforts. Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
10. If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.

MCS Films Award Nominees at GIFF

Two Mount Carmel School films have been nominated for the Made in the Marianas Award at the 8th Annual Guam International Film Festival, also known as the GIFF. The films, "We Drank Our Tears: Benjamin Abadilla's Story" and "We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story", continue the series of films started with last year's "We Drank Our Tears: Fransico Babauta's Story", which was also nominated for the Made in Marianas award at last year's 7th GIFF.

In his notification letter, Kel Muna, Co-Founder and Program Director of the GIFF, congratulated the school and its filmmakers for their selection, writing, "It gives me great pleasure to announce that we are honored to screen your submitted films, "We Drank Our Tears: Benjamin Abadilla's Story" and "We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story", as Official Selections and nominees for the Best Made in the Marianas category."

Recognizing how competitive and prestigious the festival has become, Muna also noted, "Nearly 82 films out of over 300 submissions from over 50 countries around the world were chosen as Official Selections for this year's festival with only six nominated for the this award category."

To honor the occasion, some cast and crew members from the films will travel to Guam to attend the GIFF. Underwritten by the CNMI Public School System Federal Programs, ten members of the cast and crew will attend the screenings of their films and other films at the GIFF. Cast and crew members will also participate in filmmaker panels at the festival.

Produced by the school's Theatre Club and TRIBE Marianas, the films are adapted from "We Drank Our Tears", a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles, and the films chronicle some of their stories.



The directors of the recent "We Drank Our Tears" films gathered for a group photo after a sold-out screening of the films earlier this year. From left to right: Angelo Manese, Galvin DeLeon Guerrero, and Justin Ocampo. Their recent films have been nominated for the Made in the Marianas Award at the 8th Annual Guam International Film Festival.

Benjamin Abadilla's story, which was written and directed by DeLeon Guerrero, follows Abadilla as he is separated from his family during the battles and hides out in the jungle tries to find them. Rafael Mafnas's story, which was written and directed by students Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo, tells of Mafnas's efforts to escape crossfire between American and Japanese soldiers by hiding in a cave with his friend.

For student directors Manese and Ocampo, they were just excited for their film to be accepted into the festival. Manese said, "To be accepted, let alone chosen as an official selection and nominated for this award is both exhilarating and humbling."

Ocampo was equally surprised and humbled. "This recognition is also a recognition of the stories we're telling, which we hope these films honor the lives and the memories of Rafael Mafnas and Benjamin Abadilla."

For his part, school president, Theatre Club adviser, and director/producer/writer, DeLeon Guerrero is proud of the accomplishment of the students. "This success, for a second year in a row, speaks to the talent, the hard work, and the passion of these amazing students." He added, "Between cast and crew, pre-production and production, these films were primarily made by

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Announcements

Math Club

MCS Math Club will have a meeting on Monday, October 1 during high school lunch time. Anyone interested in participating in the upcoming MathCourt events is welcome to attend.

In the Future

Junior Beach Clean Up

TOMORROW, Saturday, September 28

Senior Ice Cream Sales

Tuesday, October 2

Chamorro Club Shave Ice Stand Seniors Fried Oreos

Wednesday, October 3

Sophomore Smoothie Stand

Thursday, October 4

Chamorro Club Food Stand

Friday, October 5

Mount Carmel School Cultural Diversity Day

Friday, October 5

Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA JV Volleyball

Tuesday, October 2
MCS v ACS1 @ACS at 3:30 pm

PSS Volleyball

Tuesday, October 2
MCS v SIS @North Court at 5:30 pm

Thursday, October 4
MCS v SSHS @South Court at 4:30 pm
MCS JV v MHS JV2 @North Court at 6:30 pm

ESLR of the Week

#2. Consistently exhibit Catholic attitudes, values and behaviors.

GIFF

continued from front



students, and are proof of what amazing things they can do.”

The films’ cast and crew included a wide range of talent from across the island. Both films were produced by Deleon Guerrero, 2005 AlumKnight Rob Travilla and his company TRIBE Marianas, Frankie Eliptico and the Northern Marianas College, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

Rafael Mafnas’s story features Derrick Atalig as Rafael, Matt Moran as his friend Juan, Seok Jun Run as Takeda, a Japanese soldier, Eric Kiser as Mike, an American soldier, and Rodrigo Castro as the older Rafael. Benjamin Abadilla’s story features Dylan Santos as Benjamin, Aysia Adele Duenas Santos as his mother, Martha, Kalea Borja as his aunt, Mariana, and Jeremiah Diaz as his father, Ramon. The cast also includes Mark Toves as the older Benjamin, Joaquin C. Duenas as the older Ramon, and Joyce C. Santos as an older version of Benjamin’s sister.

Both films shared a crew, with Quincy Chinen as the unit production manager, Kelvin Cepeda as the first assistance director, Reica Ramirez as script supervisor, Victoria Deleon Guerrero and Joanie Paraiso as production designers, and Alvin Palacios as lead cameraman. The crew also included Aldwin Batusin and Ivy Leong assisting with production design, Kyle Bautista operating the boom microphone, and Maverick Irang serving as the crew grip.

Screening times for the GIFF are as follow:
We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas’s Story: Fri, Oct 5 - 6:00PM Guam Museum Indoor Theatre; Sat, Oct 27 - 1:00PM Guam Museum Indoor Theatre

We Drank Our Tears: Benjamin Abadilla’s Story: Sat, Oct 6 - 2:45PM Guam Museum Indoor Theatre; Sun, Oct 21 - 1:00PM Guam Museum Indoor Theatre

All GIFF films will be screened at the Guam Museum.

According to the GIFF website, the festival presents an international cinema event exhibiting a dynamic source of cross-cultural artistic presence, bridging gaps among the U.S., Asia and the Pacific’s multi-cultural population and region. GIFF is the first and only annual U.S. film festival in the western pacific. For more information about the GIFF, or to purchase tickets, visit www.guamfilmfestival.org.



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.