



CNMI Public School System

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October 2023

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Public School System Celebrates 35 Years

THE Commonwealth's public education system today is an institution that works hard in giving optimum educational opportunities to the children of the Commonwealth.

The framers of the CNMI Constitution envisioned, 35 years ago, an independent Public School System, and they believe that the children of the Commonwealth can only be best served if the education system has the autonomy and free reign on all education initiatives. It was the path forward in embracing the growing diversity and need for high-quality, innovative public schools.

The autonomy of PSS, governed by an independent Board of Education, essentially increased, and expanded the range of educational opportunities for the children of the CNMI.

On November 21, the Public School System will celebrate 35 years of its establishment as an autonomous government instrumentality responsible for providing quality free education to elementary, middle, and high school students.

It was in 1988 when Senate Bill 6-1 was introduced. This

was authored by then-Senator Juan N. Babauta, who was a former Board of Education member before being elected to the CNMI Senate.

The Senate bill became the "Education Act of 1988" with its enactment into Public Law 6-10 by the late Governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

The act transformed the then-Department of Education as an autonomous Public School System governed by an independent CNMI Board of Education.

Essentially, the author of the Senate bill carried the intent of "Amendment 38" of the 1985 Second Constitutional Convention, which was, to expand the rights afforded to the people of the CNMI by establishing a Board of Education that would be elected at large on a non-partisan basis.

The State BOE, as it is known today, is comprised of 5 members elected at large, and an appointed teacher representative, student representative and non-public schools representative.



HISTORIC PHOTO OF THE FIRST ELECTED BOARD OF EDUCATION

The first elected Board of Education members: Chairman Luis Limes, Vice Chairman Juan B. Tudela, and members Anicia Q. Tomokane, all of Saipan, and Raynaldo Cing of Tinian and Jesus T. Taisague of Rota took their oath of office from Judge Jose Dela Cruz, according to the Marianas Variety's January 15, 1988 edition.



A photo of students at a Japanese girls' school during the Japanese period. *Photo credit: The Chamorro, A History and Ethnography of the Marianas*

Interim Commissioner Flores, BOE members to Celebrate with Schools on Education Day

ALL 20 public elementary, middle, and high school campuses, including Head Start/Early Head Start Centers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota will mark thirty-five years of the creation of an independent Public School System with various on-campus celebrations.

Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores will announce the 2024 State Teacher of the Year winner. The eventual winner will represent the CNMI in the 2024 National Teacher of the Year competition in the nation's capital.

Following the announcement, Interim Commissioner Flores will visit Rota and Tinian schools to attend the celebration.

All members of the CNMI Board of Education, along with various members of the PSS key leadership team will also celebrate with various schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on November 21.



Local students doing handicrafts during the pre-war period.

Photo credit: Photo credit: The Chamorro, A History and Ethnography of the Marianas

Chamorro and Carolinian students in this 1905 photo.

Photo credit: The Chamorro, A History and Ethnography of the Marianas



20th ANNUAL SENGBAU POETRY COMPETITION



Dandan Middle School, Saipan Southern High School Students Top Sengebau Poetry Competition

PUBLIC students continue to dominate the annual Sengebau Poetry Competition.

This year marks the 20th edition of the competition since it was established to honor Valentine “Val” N. Sengebau, the Palauan poet who spent the final quarter-century of his life on his adopted home island of Saipan during the Trust Territory period.

Giana Lang of Dandan Middle School and Yu Rong Jiang from Saipan Southern High School topped their respective divisions at the Northern Marianas Humanities Council’s Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition.

The competition was held on October 20 at the American Memorial Park’s Visitor Center Theater.

The competition was established to support the work of young Micronesian poets and to honor Sengebau’s legacy as one of the region’s foremost poets.

Held every October as part of the Humanities Month celebrations, the poetry competition is open to junior and high school students—as a way to promote an appreciation for poetry and capture the islands’ diverse experiences and values.

Junior high students memorize and recite poems from Sengabau's posthumous poetry anthology, entitled Microchild.

Lang won the competition after reciting Sengabau's poem "Ngedeloch."

Fellow Dandan Middle School student, Mary Bansil, won second place, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Kalie Ann Kalen in third place.

In the high school competition, contestants wrote an original poem, which they would then perform.

The poem's content was judged prior to the student performing it at the 20th Sengabau Poetry Competition. The student's performance was then scored on the night of the competition and added to the content score at the competition's end.

High school students create original poems which are judged for content prior to performance.

Jiang's "Reminders of Home" was the judge's top pick. She was last year's winner in the 2022 Junior Division category of the competition.

Second best was Fanai Staffler's "Can You Weave". She is a student of Kagman High School.

Ashley Cayabyab and Sayer Sidur's duo performance of "The Pacific's Lush Paradise" was third place. The duo are students from Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School.





Interim Commissioner Flores Led PSS in Honoring All 20 Public School Principals

INTERIM Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores led education leaders in honoring and praising public school principals throughout the commonwealth.

The “most underrated profession” and yet performs “very demanding” tasks, said Interim Commissioner Flores, as she reminded everyone that school principals ensure day in and day out that they are accountable for the best education of each student and create the school’s tone. This is notwithstanding decision-making in staff hiring and recruitment and student curriculum.

“I have been with you all for almost 14 years and have had the pleasure of building a work relationship with each of you as counterparts in our respective roles. And these past 2 months, I had the opportunity to view you from a different lens, and I can honestly say my perception has come full circle in terms of the gratitude I hold for the care and commitment you have for the staff and students we serve, while oftentimes, going unrecognized, underrecognized or even acknowledged for what you do,” the education chief said in her remarks during last Wednesday’s culmination of PSS’ Principals Month Celebration.



Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, center, back side, led school district leaders in honoring all 20 elementary, middle, and high school principals of the Public School System during a professional development at the Pacific Islands Club. October is National Principals Month.

"Most of the time, the 1 percent wrong overshadows the 99 percent right – which is sometimes a fact of life for many of us. At any rate, you all deserve a round of applause for what you do and for why you do what you do."

The interim commissioner also expressed the appreciation of Board of Education Chairman Antonio L. Borja to all school administrators. "Our Chairman, Antonio Toram Borja, says 'thank you for all your sacrifices, for what you do for our children and our schools.'"

There are 20 public school principals throughout the islands. The elementary school principals are Raena Camacho (Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School); Derwin Johnson (Garapan Elementary School); Dr Ignacia Demapan (Kagman Elementary School); Paulette Tomokane (San Vicente Elementary School); Jasylene Parico (Oleai Elementary School); Lou Connie Manglona (Tinian Elementary School); Daisy Quitugua (Sinapalo Elementary School); Naomi Nishimura (Koblerville Elementary School); and Dr. Lyn Mendiola (William S. Reyes Elementary School).

The middle school principals are Carla Sablan (Chacha Oceanview Middle School), James Sablan (Dandan Middle School); Hilda Rios (Tanapag Middle School), Cherlyn Osung (Francisco M. Sablan Middle School), and Victorino Borja (Hopwood Middle School).

The high school principals are Liz Perzinski (Tinian High School and Tinian Middle School); Annette Calvo (Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School); Vince Dela Cruz (Saipan Southern High School); Ben Jones (Kagman High School), Jonathan Aguon (Marianas High School), and Christine Tudela (Da'ok Academy).

Not to mention the professional criteria of all the public school principals in the CNMI, Interim Commissioner Flores said there are few qualities that these principals possess to be able to accomplish and succeed. These are essential and of the utmost importance in fulfilling the day-to-day responsibilities of a school administrator, adds Interim Commissioner Flores.

The education chief identified 8 qualities of an effective and successful school principal.

She individually praised all 20 elementary, middle, and high school principals assigned to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota public schools.

“Although you all fall into more than one of these eight qualities, I’m going to call you out with the ones that I immediately attached to you too (what comes to mind first), and I beg your indulgence with this introduction.”

Leadership quality

Every administrator must demonstrate excellent leadership traits for others to follow, including staff and children. An effective leader should be accountable for his school’s triumphs and failures—regardless of the challenges, the school principals should always look for innovative methods to improve the school, Interim Commissioner Flores said.

Chacha Oceanview Middle School Principal Carla Sablan was praised for taking on the interim role as principal “when we needed someone to step up for a period of time”.

Dandan Middle School Principal James Sablan for being “supportive of staff and taking responsibility for all his actions.”

Communication skills

The education chief said communication skills is one of the biggest qualities of a school administrator. “You

interact with many people, including parents, students, and staff. As a result, you must ensure that you convey any vital information to them in a timely and suitable manner- the way you speak to a child differs from how you attend a parent or a staff member.”

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Principal Cherlyn Cabrera Osung and Hopwood Middle School Principal Victorino Borja were both praised for leading their school’s effective response to school threats.

Vision

School principals can also be described as visionaries and futuristic. “The proficiency requirements of a school principal are one-of-a-kind. Make your vision for the school clear not only to your staff, parents, and students, but also to yourself. Create and promote a clear and defined vision for your school’s future, and work on it daily.”

Interim Education Commissioner Flores said WSR Elementary School Principal Dr. Lynn Mendiola mirrors are future-ready school leader and sets the bar high for staff recognition.

Kagman Elementary School Principal Dr. Ignacia Demapan is a lifelong learner who is able to adjust to the new trends in education and learning.

Problem-solving skills

Education chief Flores said the school principal’s



position requires problem-solving skills. In many circumstances, new principals are appointed to a school experiencing difficulties. Any principal, whether new or experienced, will be expected to deal with a variety of challenging and complex situations.

Interim Commissioner Flores said Saipan Southern High School Principal Vince Dela Cruz manifests the kind of skill by being able to provide concrete solutions.

Tanapag Middle School Principal Hilda Rios is able to provide a plan for every issue presented before her.

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Principal Liz Perzinski was able to effectively handle the separation of her school—into a high school and a middle school.

Sinapalo Elementary School Principal Daisy Quitugua was recognized for leading her school every time there is an approaching storm.

Dedication

A competent administrator equates to being committed. “(He or she) believes choices should be made with the children’s best interest in mind,” said education chief Flores.

Da’ok Academy Principal Christine Tudela was recognized for believing in the students’ potential.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School Principal Annette Calvo has shown dedication to her years of service and is now in a new permanent role as principal. Calvo was the school’s former vice principal for many years. Interim Commissioner Flores appointed her principal last week.

Student-centric

It’s too easy to get caught up in work aspirations, day-to-day duties, and school budget needs, but school principals are also, first and foremost, educators “responsible for providing the best education.

“As a result, you have your students’ trust, their parents’ trust, and the community’s trust, both inside and outside the school,” Interim Commissioner Flores said.

She recognized GTC Principal Raena Camacho for taking on an extra role – as a “substitute for an absent classroom teacher.”

Oleai Elementary School Jasylene Parico for “always outside running around”, ensuring that the school is able to provide uninterrupted learning to students.

Tinian Elementary School Principal Lou Connie Manglona for walking the extra mile, albeit to “driving the (PSS) bus” to ensure that students are picked up or driven home safely.

Organizational skills

Interim Commissioner Flores emphasized the importance for a principal to have the “best organizational skills”.

In particular, the education chief recognized Marianas High School Principal Jonathan Aguon, San Vicente Elementary School Principal Paulette Tomokane, and Garapan Elementary School Principal Derwin Johnson for successfully and effectively managing their campuses. These 3 schools are the largest in terms of staff and student population.

Fairness and integrity

As an employee of PSS with the highest authority in the school, a principal should always be fair and must always act with integrity.

Interim Education Commissioner Flores recognized Kagman High School Principal Ben Jones, Jr., and Koblerville Elementary School’s Naomi Nishimura for treating all their teachers, staff and students with respect and fairness.

“Let’s face it: we all have our own personal lives that we need to somehow fold into this. Only when I worked for PSS did I complain about not having enough time in the day to get things done at work, let alone make time for myself or my family. Yet here I am, still going at it, just as you are, hoping to achieve the balance. Why? That’s what leaders do. So, thank you. Just thank you for everything,” Interim Commissioner of Education Flores said.

The interim commissioner personally thanked the school principals for all the support in her temporary appointment. “The people I least expected showed me great respect and with high regard – I will never forget who you are.”



The 20 public elementary, middle, and high school principals are considered as the backbone of the Public School System. In this photo, they are joined by Public School System officials led by Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores and Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna.



Board of Education Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Pat Borja signed the proclamation declaring October as “Bullying and Violence Prevention Month”. The event was held at the cafeteria of Dandan Middle School.

‘It costs nothing to be kind...but everything when you bully someone’

THE month of October has been proclaimed “Bullying and Violence Prevention Month”.

Board of Education Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Pat Borja and Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores led public education leaders and stakeholders in a proclamation ceremony held on October 4 at the school cafeteria of Dandan Middle School.

Joining BOE Secretary-Treasurer Borja and Interim Commissioner Flores were Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna Senior Director for Student and Support Services Yvonne R. Pangelinan, school administrators, counselors, teachers, and students from various Saipan elementary and middle high schools in witnessing the signing ceremony.



Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores reminded the Public School System community and its stakeholders on the importance of being kind and respectful as the BOE declared October "Bullying and Violence Prevention Month."

BOE Secretary/Treasurer Borja expressed concern on the impact of bullying, particularly how it affects the mental and emotional wellbeing of students and adolescents.

Borja has appealed to all students, parents, and the local community to engage in a variety of awareness and prevention activities designed to make public schools safer for all children and adolescents.

In her remarks, Interim Commissioner Flores extolled the virtue of kindness: "It costs nothing to be kind and courteous, but it may cost everything, including money, freedom, and sadly even a life, when you are cruel, mean, and causing harm to another person."

The education leader reminded students that bullying is an "unwanted behavior by another individual or group of individuals" that is highly likely to be repeated. It can cause psychological, social and or educational harm to an individual, including and in particular a student.

Bullying comes in various forms: physical, verbal, social, and cyberbully. It also comes in many forms—and "none of which is acceptable," Interim Commissioner Flores reminded the students.

Bullying is a serious issue that takes place on any campus, anywhere, and anytime. It is a serious issue that happens to one in every five students.

According to the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 27.9 percent of middle school students and 9.9 percent of high school students who responded to the survey reporting being bullied on school property."

"And this is why we are all here today, to bring awareness to this social ill in hopes of empowering us all to be better citizens, better school mates and a better, more inclusive community simply by being kind. I'm not saying you have to like everyone, but you can be civil (or polite). There's enough hate in this world, we don't have to contribute to that," Interim Commissioner Flores remarked.

She added: "We are so fortunate to live here in our islands where we still value family and friends; there are so many places that no longer respect that. Let's not be those people. We don't know what others are already struggling with in life. Let's face it— everybody is going through something and, oftentimes, just being in the company of others and being included, is the only comfort. So, let's all be kind, especially in the spaces we share with others, including cyberspace.

The education chief also reminded students that schools have resources that can assist students and those in need of services to handle, prevent and stop bullying.

"(L)et's challenge ourselves by being the better person. It may take a lot of practice, but it's well worth it and I guarantee you it will not only make others feel good, but it will also make you feel good. And who knows, maybe one day, you will be a role model for your younger sibling, cousin or neighbor. And if anything, always remember that "a smile costs nothing, but gives much."

First for NMI

Tinian Schools Recipients of NOAA Ocean Garden Program



The pioneer of the Tinian School Garden which is recognized by NOAA as one of the only 72 ocean gardens in the nation are Princess Dona, Raphael Dumdum, Kayleah Castro, Fatima Hossain, Qing Fang Zhong, Tasi Borja, Meherabin Shahin, Tristan Manglona, Jazz Doria, and Owen Borja.

TWO public schools in the Northern Mariana Islands are among the only 72 K-12 schools across the nation that were selected to participate in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Ocean Guardian School Program.

Tinian Elementary School and Tinian Junior Senior High School are the first NOAA Ocean Guardian partners from the CNMI, NOAA said in a release.

"Tinian Elementary School is filled with joy and enthusiasm as we proudly announce our participation in the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program for the very first time. Our journey into this exciting endeavor has been made possible through the invaluable efforts of Mrs. Carmen Farrell, who has served as our Lead Teacher for the program," Tinian Elementary School Principal Lou Connie Manglona said.

According to Principal Manglona, Mrs. Farrell played a pivotal role in guiding the school through the grant application process, lending her expertise to the composition and submission of all necessary documents.

The TES grant was used in the launching of the School Garden Project, an initiative designed to educate students, staff, and the community about the essential role "we all play in safeguarding precious watersheds and coastlines."

"(O)ur School Garden project aims to bolster the population of vital pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, within our ecosystem," Principal Manglona added.

For the school year 2023-2024, 72 K-12 schools across the nation were selected to participate in the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program, including two schools from the CNMI.

Selection process

NOAA said Tinian Elementary School will receive a \$4,000 Ocean Guardians grant to support the construction of a garden on their school campus that will create additional animal habitat and bolster the population of vital pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, as well as reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation to nearby waterways.

This is a five-year grant for both schools.

A group of 10 students will participate in this project, headed by project lead teacher Carmen Farrell with support from TES principal Lou Connie Mangloña.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries established the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program in 2009. Across the United States and its territories, K-12 schools submit project proposals every year to acquire funding and participation in the multi-year program. Selected schools carry out hands-on school or community-based stewardship projects that fit under one of the program pathways: marine debris, 6Rs (rethink/reduce/refuse/reuse/rot/recycle), watershed restoration, school garden/habitat, and energy and ocean health.

Principal Manglona said that on September 15, 2023, her TES team convened virtually with regional members to discuss the grant's requirements and seek clarification on any inquiries we may have had.



Principal Lou Connie Manglona, second left, and lead teacher, Mrs. Carmen Farrell, second right, are joined by Joann Cepeda-Cabrera and PSS Science Coordinator Asapmar Ogumuro, among others.

She expressed excitement about the project's commencement, emphasizing the school's commitment to fostering collaboration with relevant agencies to ensure the success of our inaugural year.

"We want to extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Joann Cepeda-Cabrera for her assistance in helping with the School Garden Project and our student volunteers. Our students are Princess Dona, Raphael Dum Dum, Kayleah Castro, Fatima Hossain, Qing Fang Zhong, Tasi Borja, Meherabin Shahin, Tristan Manglona, Jazz Doria, and Owen Borja. We also wish to extend our appreciation to Ms. Janice Castro, our region coordinator, for her invaluable support in this endeavor. We eagerly anticipate the active involvement of our students, parents, and community members in making this project a resounding success," Principal Manglona said.

If you are interested in joining us on this transformative journey and contributing to our mission, please do not hesitate to reach out to, Lou Connie Manglona, at Tinian Elementary School, via email at louconnie.manglona@cnmipss.org, or our Lead Teacher, Mrs. Carmen Farrell, at carmen.farrell@cnmipss.org, or Mrs. Joann Cepeda-Cabrera at joann.delacruz@cnmipss.org. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on our environment and community.



Board of Education chairman Antonio L. Borja delivers his remarks following the proclamation, as BOE member Maisie B. Tenorio, as Interim Commissioner Donna Flores listens.

PSS Head Start Celebrates 39th Anniversary

THE CNMI Public School System and Board of Education joined the rest of the nation in celebrating the 58th year of the Head Start program which provides low-income children and families comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and other services.

Launched in 1965 in the U.S., Head Start was established in the CNMI in the fall 1984 through a federal grant awarded by the US Department of Health and Human Services to the then-CNMI Department of Education.

The proclamation signing ceremony Dandan Middle School Head Start Center.

“The history of Head Start has taught us that if we invest in the future of all our children, we can strengthen our economy, bolster our communities, and give every young person the chance to build a better life. As we mark the 58th anniversary of Head Start, let us rededicate ourselves to building an education system worthy of our daughters’ and sons’ enormous potential, and to providing a strong,



CNMI Head Start-Early Head Start Director Lathania Angui talks about the growth and success of the program over the last 39 years.



Some of the Headstart and Early Head Start stakeholders celebrate with the community.

healthy, and safe head start in life for all children in the CNMI," Chairman Borja said quoting a portion of the proclamation.

Board of Education Chairman Antonio L. Borja and Head Start Policy Council Chairman Kevin Tudela signed the proclamation dedicating the month of October as Head Start Awareness Month.

Witnessing the event were Board Member Maisie B. Tenorio, Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director Lathania Angui, and all Head Start/Early Head Start Stakeholders.

In the last 39 years, the CNMI Public School System Head Start Program has served more than 17,000 children, supporting them in every aspect of their development -- from early learning and health and nutrition to social and emotional well-being. In communities throughout the CNMI -- the Head Start program empower children and their families to foster positive parent-child relationships, to reach for economic and family stability, and to make important connections to their peers and their communities.

This year also marks the 28th anniversary of Early Head Start nationally. This was created to enhance the impact of Head Start by serving children from six weeks to age 3, as well as expectant mothers -- ensuring all children receive the best care possible. This expansion has made a real difference for thousands of infants, toddlers, and their families. The CNMI celebrates 9 years of providing services to infant and toddlers on the island of Saipan.



Interim commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores delivers her remarks as BOE member Tenorio listens.



With the Nation's Top Special Education Leaders

The Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Special Education Programs, Valerie Williams, second left, front, and Deputy Director David Cantrell, second right, met with the CNMI Special Education Director and Interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, Board of Education Chairman Antonio L. Borja and PSS-SPED Program Manager-Data & Compliance Monitor Nora Fujihira at the 85th National Association for State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) Annual Conference and Business Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The annual conference is designed, among others, for the nation's education leaders and policymakers to discuss and be engaged about practices tailored for special education.



Merchant Marine Program for Public School Students Enters Second Year



Captain Michael Bacher speaks to members of Tinian schools PTSA officers and members about the Merchant Marine Program of the Western Pacific Maritime Academy and the Public School System's Career and Technical Education Program.

THE pioneering Merchant Marine Program of the public school system has entered the second phase of its implementation within the Public School System.

Established last year, the Merchant Marine Program is a successful initiative of the school district's Career and Technical Education Program with the Western Pacific Maritime Academy. This is an on-campus program, which is held at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Over the course of the month of October, the Western Pacific Maritime Academy and PSS-CTE Program held a series of dialogues and outreach to Saipan, Tinian and Rota students and members of the Parents, Teachers and Students Association (PTS) officers and members.

The Merchant Marine Program offers a full curriculum of US Coast Guard-approved maritime courses and services. This curriculum and program offering is also the first U.S. Coast Guard-approved course in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Merchant Marine Program is considered as a workforce placement program for the maritime trades and is considered as provider for strategic sealift needs of the nation, according to Captain Bacher in his presentations with students and PTSA officers and members in Tinian, Rota and Saipan Southern High School.

He said there is a growing need for sailors in the commercial and military sealift industries.

Last school year, the Public School System made history when 10 students from Kagman



Saipan Southern High School students learned more of the Merchant Marine Program.



In Rota, Captain Bacher shares the partnership that was established between PSS and Western Pacific Maritime Academy.

high School and Da'ok Academy graduated from the program. They were the pioneer cohort of the program that was initiated by CTE Director Dr. Jessica Taylor, NMTEch CEO Jodina Attao and WSPA Executive Director Capt. Bacher.

The graduates of the program will receive their Merchant Marine Credential and basic certifications in various tasks on a ship, such as personal survival techniques, first aid, and designated duties,

Capt. Bacher also said that through its partnership with PSS, it is able to develop, certify and train mariners to take on an entry level job on a ship immediately after graduation.



Students of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School in Rota are presented with the latest career-designed Merchant Marine Program of PSS-CTE with the Western Pacific Maritime Academy.



Koblerville Elementary School Edges Out WSR Elementary School to Secure Soccer Title

KOBLERVILLE Elementary School triumphed to win the NMI Football Association Interscholastic Soccer League School Year 2023-2024 against William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Koblerville Elementary School provided a nail-biter overtime shoot out against WSR Elementary School, claiming the elementary division championship title.

WSR Elementary School put up a good fight, unleashing a good start. In the end, they settled for the second best title.

In the battle for third place, San Vicente Elementary School 2 reigned supreme over Garapan Elementary School.

The interscholastic soccer league is part of the Public School System interscholastic sports season. This year it has successfully staged several sporting events for elementary, middle, and high school.

Led by PSS Athletics Program Director Nick Gross, the interscholastic sporting events have been a flagship program of the school district.

It was only last school year that PSS had an athletics program complete programming.

"We're really just ecstatic at the end of PSS about having been able to work with our partners and establish every program and the amount of Tinian and Rota exposure that we've had. We're just really pleased with the private schools and the public schools; it's been a fantastic year for everybody kind of coming back to sport," PSS Athletics Program Director Gross said at last season's successful closing event.

Hopwood Middle School is SY 23-24 Middle School NMIFA-PSS Soccer League Champion



HOPWOOD Middle School bagged this year's girls middle school division title of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League SY23-24 by edging Saipan International School in a shootout.

The title game was held at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA or the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association runs this soccer for the CNMI PSS Public School System. It features competitions in the elementary, middle school, and high school divisions and involves students from both public and private schools.

During the middle school division title game, both Hopwood Middle School and Saipan International School teams were evenly matched. It went into an overtime shootout because of neither of the team's failure to goal.

In the battle for third place, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School triumphed over Dandan Middle School, 3-1.

FMS Middle School started strongly to gain a slight edge. After five minutes of pressure play, FMS penetrated Dandan Middle School's strong defensive wall.

