



March 2022

CNMI Public School System

STUDENTS FIRST

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STUDENT COMPETITIONS

STEM Fair
Scripps Spelling Bee
JROTC Academic Bowl
JROTC Unarmed Drill

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Successful Public, Private School Students Win Awards at CNMI Island Wide STEM Fair

SINCE the Public School System pioneered STEM Fair in School Year 2007, the competition has become a venue for the Commonwealth's best and brightest students, both private and public schools, to showcase leading edge and innovative work in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This year was no different with over a hundred of public and private school student throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands competed in the first ever Virtual Island Wide STEM Fair for School Year 2021-2022.

The judging and evaluation were conducted on March 9, 2022 at the Saipan World. Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair sponsored the event.

Winners from various categories and the coveted Commissioner of Education STEM Award and Environmental Research Award came from a mix of public and private schools.

"On behalf of the IWSF Committee, we gratefully thank all members, teachers, administrators, and parents for supporting their student participants. We also thank our Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred Ada, Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh, and Senior Director of Curriculum & Instruction Jackie Quitugua for their commitment to students' STEM experiences and opportunities. Special thanks to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) for providing the "Environmental Awards" for this year's IWSF," the organizing committee, led by STEM Asamar Ogumoro said.

PAPER AIRPLANE CATEGORY



"Flying Dart"

First Place
Jeno Pino
Oleai Elementary School

I enjoy making paper airplanes, which made me interested in joining the Paper Airplane Competition. My biggest challenge was throwing my airplane in a longer distance. I was able to reach my goal by practicing everyday.

"The Buzz"

First Place
Jun Young Seo
Tinian Elementary School

The reason why I joined paper airplane is because I love making origami. I'm also into sports especially track and field. I created the Buzz type of paper airplane because it's unique. The challenge I had during this competition is how windy and rainy it gets outside. We had to move to the cafeteria to test my paper airplane.

"GES Fighter"

First Place
Taku Rogopes
Garapan Elementary School
Garapan Elementary School

I joined the paper airplane competition because it sounded fun! It also teaches us how models are used to study something very big. It is a way to understand how engineering works as we



"Jeff Boy Paper Airplane"

First Place
Joshua Lizama
WSR Elementary School

I am interested in this project paper airplane because it was a fun activity and experiment for us to do in Science. I really enjoyed making my paper airplane and folding them in different ways to create my best paper airplane. In addition, I also enjoyed when we went outside in the school field, and launched our paper airplane to practice before we had an actual school wide competition. I was very happy and excited when the STEM fair judges declared that my paper airplane has the farthest flight in the final launched



"Pyramid 1000"

First Place
Dilen Quitugua
Kagman Elementary School

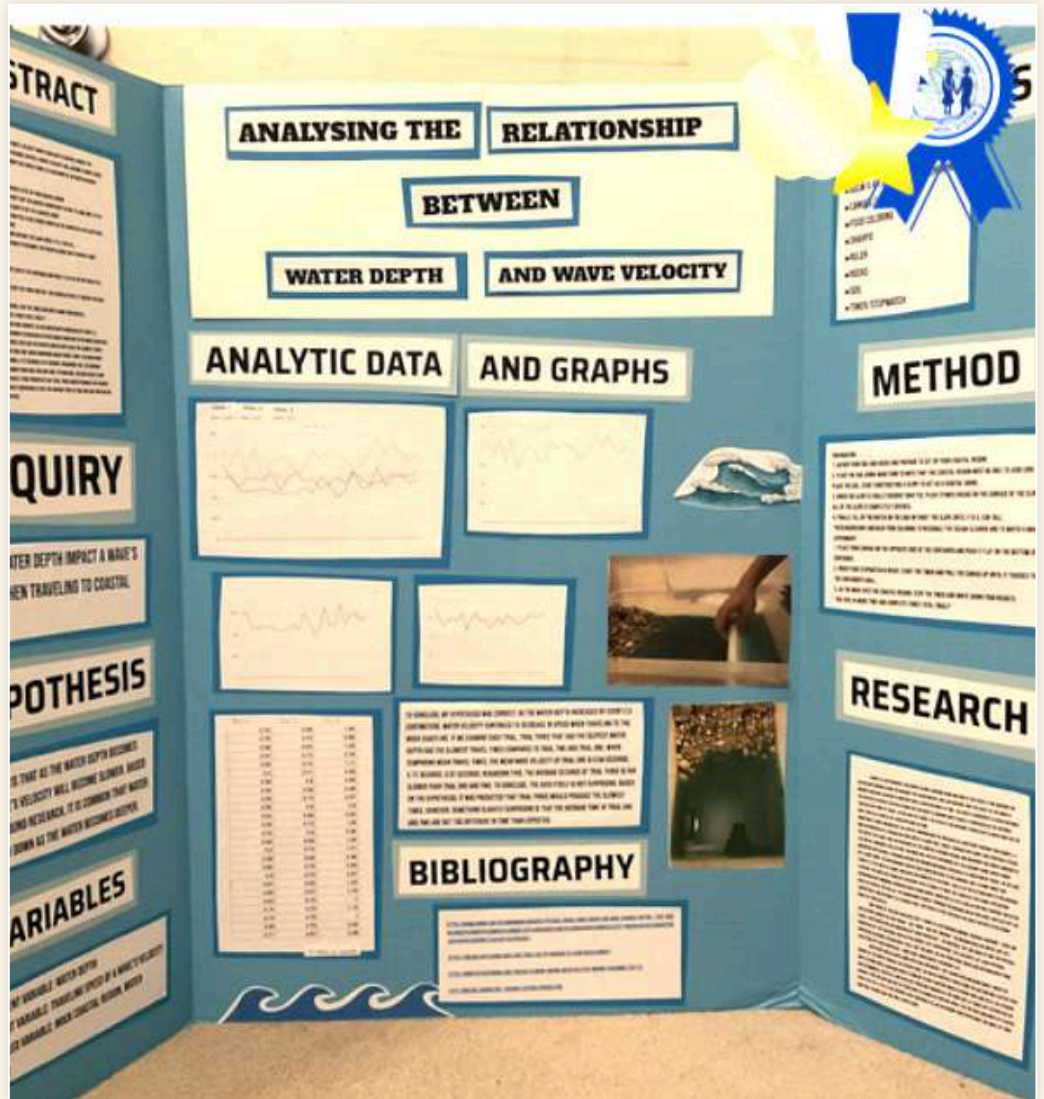
I entered the Paper Airplane Challenge because I participated last year and really enjoyed myself. I wanted to make sure to join again this year and hopefully win again. I find that the weather conditions, specifically wind, are hard to throw with. Also making a better model that will go farther is a bit hard.



"Analyzing The Relationship Between Water Depth And Wave Velocity"

**First Place Grade 9-12 Category
Commissioner STEM Award**
Jesus Roman Tudela Sablan
Saipan International School

"Waves are a natural body of energy that is prevalent upon global bodies of water including the very coastal shores that surround our island, Saipan. Though Saipan's coral reefs pursue to shield our shores from massive bodies of energy created by waves, such a natural phenomenon continues to play a role on erosion seen on Saipan's coastal shores (this is highly prevalent upon Micro Beach). Through this project, hopeful goals and solutions may arise based on the project's results and conclusion".



"Will oobleck Save the Egg"

Second Place
Linda He
Agape Christian School

Oobleck is a type of non-Newtonian fluids that is able to protect the egg.

"The Importance of Break for Memory"

Third Place
Sanghyeok Lee & XinWen Jin
Mount Carmel school

Our project is to find out whether breaks are needed and useful when we study. Some students tend to overlook and underestimate having break while they study for a long time. We are here to prove that breaks are effective for studying.



"Super Geo Dome"

**First Place K-2 Category
Commissioner STEM Award
Bianca Manlulu
Tinian Elementary School**

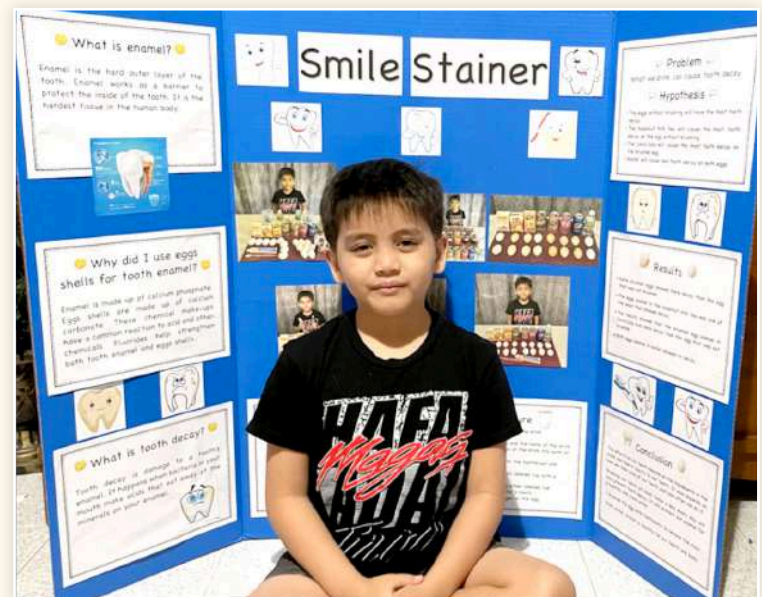
"Geodesic domes are said to be durable and strong. In this project, we will learn if this is fact or fake. If this is a fact, this may be suitable homes in our islands because we experience strong typhoons".



"Erase the Mess!"

**Second Place K-12 Category
Amelie Jeanne C. Ogumoro
WSR Elementary School**

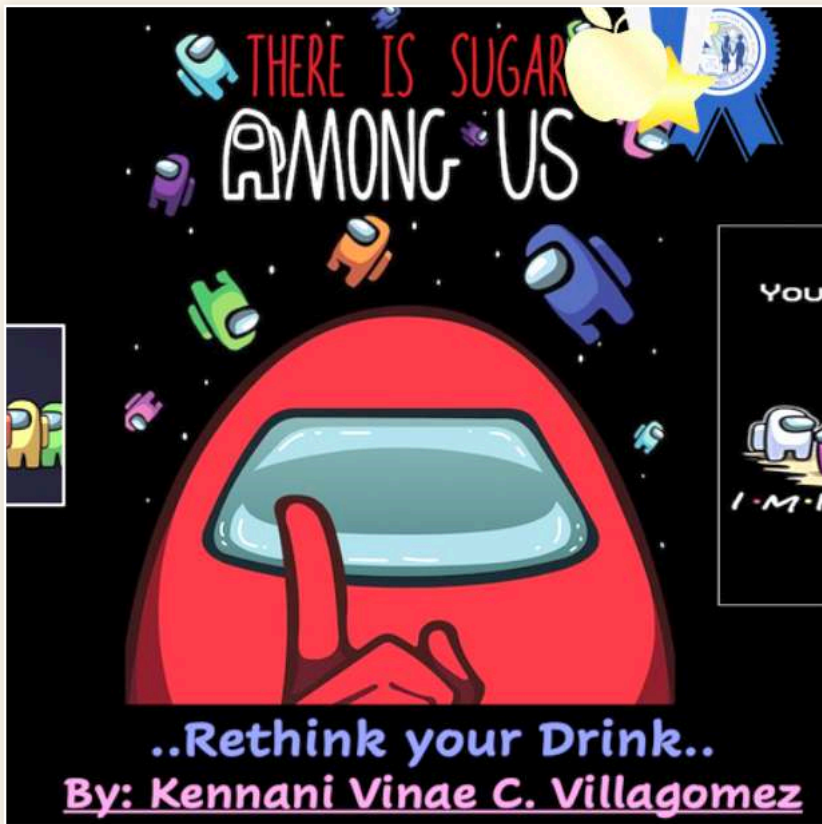
My project answers the question: Which eraser removes drawings from a wooden wall the best? I test different types of erasers and sponges to find out which one removes a pencil, crayon, permanent marker and chalk drawings the fastest and neatest.



"Smile Stainer"

**Third Place K-12 Category
Jose Rafael Tudela
Kagman Elementary School**

How we take care of our teeth helps strengthen our tooth enamel and have a nice white smile. Our teeth enamel are strong but what we drink can cause it to break down.



“There is sugar AMONG US!”

First Place, Grade 3-5 Category
 Commissioner STEM Award
 Kennani Vinae C. Villagomez
 Mount Carmel School.

“We are all taught to think before we speak, think before we act, but maybe we should add in “think before we drink” to that list too.”

“Rocking the Boat”

Second Place,
 Grade 3-5 Category
 Nevaeh Cabrera
 Tinian Elementary School

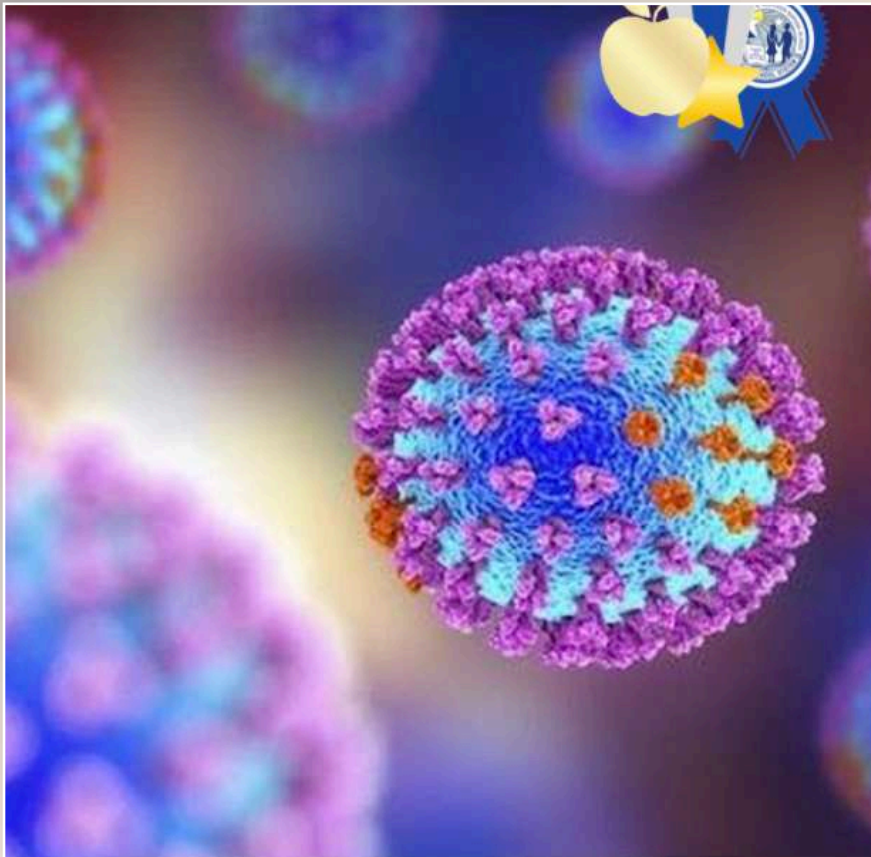
“In my project, I will try to build a model of a boat that has bilge keel which will help stabilize the boat and lessen the rocking movement cause by strong waves.”



“Candy Snap”

Third Place, Grade 3-5 Category
 Audrey Pittman
 Kagman Elementary School

Can freezing candies change?



“Power Of Clean Hands”

First Place, Grade 6-8 Category
 Sophia Faith Barcinas
 Sinapalo Elementary School

Highlights items being used to clean hands and are effective in killing germs.



“Don’t Box Me In It’s Hot”

Second Place, Grade 6-8 Category
 Jose Peter Tudela Sablan

Saipan Community School
 You will learn about what colors reflect or absorb the most heat. You could also learn what colors to put on a house or what clothes to wear during the day.



“Six Feet Apart, Please!”

Second Place, Grade 6-8 Category
 Justin Mallari
 Mount Carmel School

This project will present an experiment on how far droplets can travel. When covid-19 hit the world, social distancing is the idea that became paramount to slow idea down the spread of very contagious corona-virus. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends social distancing, staying at least 6 feet apart from others both indoors and outdoors as part of its guidance to stop the community spread of Covid-19. The objective of my experiment is to test how far droplets from simulated infectious spray scenario can spread to determine if social distancing is effective. So, I set up pieces of paper on the floor at different distances. I filled up spray bottle with coffee, positioned the spray bottle toward the center of the of the paper and gave one complete spray. Then, I observed the stains and recorded my findings. I repeated the same procedure but with different angle of spray bottle for the rest of the papers.



“Which Food Make Dog’s Fur Good”

Third Place, Grade 6-8 Category
 Jiamei Hong
 Agape Christian Academy

This project is talking about dog’s fur. Many dog’s have fur problems, but dog’s fur is very important to dog, for fur can keep dog away from cold. Fur can keep bugs away from dog. Fur can keep sunshine and sunburn away from dog. Fur can also make dog looks very cute and tell us isn’t it health. This is why I want to know which kind of foods can make dog’s fur good. (This collie which in my project is my dog. Before her fur is very soft, her fur is shaved. Let’s see what food did she ate.)

“COVID-19: The Effect On Our Island’s Visitors”

First Place, High School Research Grade 9-12 Category
Brent Ortizo and Vidal Camacho
Mount Carmel School

The project delves into the stats and statistics of the number of worldwide COVID-19 cases and monthly visitors to Saipan and discern whether if there is any relationship or correlation between them. In doing so, would the results mean anything for the CNMI?



“Role of Public Knowledge and Public Perception In the Avoidance of Tap Water Consumption in Saipan”

Second Place, High School Research Category & Winner Environmental Research Award
Hyeonbin Jeong
Saipan International School

The purpose of this project was to study the role in which Public Knowledge and Public Perception play in the avoidance of tap water consumption in Saipan. In Saipan, tap water is commonly avoided due to the idea that tap water is undrinkable. As a result, Saipan residents spend thousands of dollars and generate thousands of pounds of plastic buying and disposing of bottled water.

Public Knowledge was defined as the Public’s Knowledge of Saipan’s tap water and Public Perception was defined as the Public’s Perception of the local tap water. The study was done using a Google survey using 14 questions based on Wang et al.’s paper “Public Awareness of Drinking Water Safety and Contamination Accidents.” The study used a Quantitative survey using simple targeted sampling to better match Saipan’s population. Approximately 40 students from Saipan International School (SIS) participated in the survey.

The study found that Overall, it is inconclusive to what extent Public Knowledge plays in the avoidance of the consumption of tap water. However, there is a very negative perception behind the local tap water, and as such Public Perception plays a major role in the avoidance of the consumption of tap water.

The conclusion showed that Public Perception plays a major role in the avoidance of consuming tap water. With this information, we find that we need to change the public’s perception of the local tap water in order to change the narrative, and let them make a more informed choice to drink tap water.

“Plasma the GIFT of life, against COVID-19”

Third Place, High School Research Category
Liang Liu
Agape Christian Academy

This research project is dedicated to the effectiveness of convalescent plasma therapy on covid-19. During the pandemic, many health organizations and professionals try to discover any valid treatment for this coronavirus disease while no effective vaccines or medicines available. Plasma,

one of the essential components of the human blood, has been used to carry nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body. The cells will also put the waste products into the plasma so that the plasma can remove the wastes out of the body later. As humans dive into the exploration, many scientists realize that convalescent plasma therapy (CP) could be a potential cure to covid-19 or the SARS-CoV-2. Those who had been recovered from the covid have formed antibodies within their blood. Suppose the recovered population donates their blood plasma to those still suffering from the virus. In that case, the infected people could likely be cured after receiving the plasma donation. Thus, this project aims to uncover more facts regarding the treatment of coronavirus disease. Hopefully, more people will realize the wonder of the human immunization system and keep having faith even in this troubled period.



Regional Scripps Spelling Bee Champion Ana Guadalupe Mafnas Villagomez of Grace Christian Academy, a 7th grade student. She is with her proud parents, Jennifer, a finalist of the PSS Teacher of the Year, and Richard.

Public School Students Compete, Earn Honors at Scripps Regional Spelling Bee

CNMI Public School System students successfully competed in the 2022 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee, with three public school students earning honors for the school district.

Saipan's Ana Guadalupe Mafnas Villagomez of Grace Christian Academy, a 7th grade student, won the regional title, besting 39 other competitors. She will represent the Marianas in the national Bee in the nation's capital.

Another CNMI student, Northern Marianas International School's Sean Troy Mateo, a 7th grader, was second place.

Two CNMI public school students made it into the top ten- and that's when the competition became intense, with every student trying their best to win the top plum: as the region's best Bee speller.

Tinian Elementary School 6th grader Christopher Donald Patio took the seventh spot; and Koblerville Elementary School's Phil William Lumactod, a 5th grader, was ninth place.

GCA's Villagomez successfully spelled "pugilist" to win the 2022 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee title. The competition was held at the Tiyan High School gym in Guam.



From left: Peter Loken (coach), Megan Nevitt-Loken (teacher), Maria Enriquez (2022 CNMI PSS State Level Spelling Bee Champion), Mary Anne Enriquez (mother) Jomer Enriquez (father) and brother.

CNMI-wide Spelling bee

In the CNMI, the Public School System spearheads the state-level Spelling Bee.

During the CNMI-wide PSS State Level Spelling Bee, Garapan Elementary School's Maria Enriquez won first place.

The CNMI-level competition took 20 rounds.

This is the first time that the Bee was held after the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily suspended the staging of the competition in 2020 and 2021.

"The benefits of spelling bees extend beyond language: Since students are required to spell words while on stage, they also develop self-confidence, communication and public speaking skills, and the ability to thrive under pressure," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said.

He added, "I am so glad that we are finally getting back to some sense of normalcy after 2 years."

For three rounds, four students from Garapan Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and Hopwood Middle School kept spelling all the words correctly. By round 12th, Preciouz Kenzie B. Lontoc of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School earned 4th place in the competition. For the next 7 rounds, three students vied for championship trophy.

The 2022 CNMI PSS State Level Spelling Bee hosted 13 elementary and middle public schools from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.



From left: Mary Joy Vilorio (3rd place), Maria Enriquez (1st place), and Walter Josh N. Clave (2nd place).



Nusrat J. Syed (Tinian Elementary School's School-Level bee winner).



From left: Jenar Ivahn A. Nuyda (TJSHS School-Level Spelling Bee Runner Up) and Jursi Gian G. Cabarles (TJSHS School-Level Winner)



4th Placer: Preciouz Kenzie B. Lontoc of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

The following are the school-level winners and runners up which competed in the last Saturday's state-level competition are:

1. GES School Champion - Maria Enriquez
2. GES Runner Up - Aliyana Garcia
3. KAG School Champion - Aubrey Taitano
4. KAG Runner Up - Jamie Pereira
5. KES School Champion - Phil William L. Lumactod
6. KES Runner Up - Merleen Tamerang
7. OES School Champion - Isabel Maximina Carreon
8. OES Runner Up - Chloe Rivera
9. SVS School Champion - Mitsue Borja
10. SVS Runner Up - Kyrie Palec
11. SNP School Champion - Kamea Blas
12. SNP Runner Up - J'Ana Hocog
13. TIN School Champion - Nusrat J. Syed
14. TIN Runner Up - Christofe Donald Patio
15. WSR School Champion - Clodia Merjilla
16. WSR Runner Up - Israt Jahan Jannat
17. DMS School Champion - Mary Joy Viloría
18. DMS Runner Up - Genelyn Lansangan
19. FMS School Champion - Preciouz Kenzie B. Lontoc
20. FMS Runner Up - Amber Faith Reyes Guevarra
21. HMS School Champion - Walter Josh N. Clave
22. HMS Runner Up - Aryan Sheikh
23. TMS School Champion - J'Dean Leilisheng Calvo
24. TMS Runner Up - Ry'ahna Quitan
25. TJSHS School Champion - Jursi Gian G. Cabarles
26. TJSHS Runner Up - Jenard Ivahn A. Nuyda

The CNMI-PSS extended appreciation to sponsors and donors of the spelling bee: Lollipops' \$50 gift certificates, Gentle Brook Cafe and Shirley's Coffee Shop, Kensington Hotel Saipan for pool passes, Monster Pizza, AC Pacific LLC dba I Love Saipan, One Legacy LLC, and our NMI Museum of History and Culture.

All student competitors also received monetary donations from Saipan Marianas Corporation (SMC).

The judges were Jaclyn Rose Quitugua of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Lorraine CatiENZA from the Office of Instructional Technology and Distance Education, and Loremel Hocog of Kagman High School.

From left: Dorina Salavaria (teacher), Mary Joy Viloría (3rd placer), Peter Loken (coach), Maria Enriquez (1st placer), Megan Nevitt-Loken (teacher), Walter Clave (3rd placer), Jesse Sablan (coach), Karen Manuel (HMS Vice Principal), and Eric Magofna (Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services)





The training participants gather for an official group photo.



Northern Marianas College President Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, and Public School System Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, right, brainstorms with participants.

Fiduciary Essentials Training for PSS, NMC, NMTech, and MPLT

THE CNMI Public School System has joined its counterpart from the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and, along with other government boards and institution, to participate in an extensive fiduciary training on March 11, 2022.

The Marianas Public Lands Trust Board of Trustees also participated in the training.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies/Fiduciary Essentials Certificate Program has partnered with the Northern Marianas College for the training session in the CNMI.

The training was facilitated by one of AIFA's board of governors, Raaj Kurapati, current chief financial officer of University of Memphis.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada and his financial management team: Federal Program Officer Tim Thornburgh, Finance and Budget Director Arlene Lizama and Internal Auditor Beverly Casaclang.

Respective leaders and financial management teams of NMC, led by President Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero MPLT Board of Trustees Chairwoman Maria Frica Pangelinan were also present. Also among those present were NMC Chief Financial Officer David Attao, MPLT Trustees Martin B. Ada and Vianney Hocog, and NMTech officials.

PSS, NMTI Partnership Expands Work-Based Educational Program for High School Students



On March 3, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, and Northern Marianas Technical Institute Chief Executive Officer Jodina Attao signed the Memorandum of Understanding that provides for greater work-based career and technical education/learning opportunities for public school students.

The MOU essentially expands an existing program jointly implemented by PSS-NMTech, through the school district's Career and Technical Education Program (CTE). The MOU establishes and offers vocational, technical and trades training program for public school students currently offered by NMTech.

One of the major highlights of the MOU will expand career exploration of public school students, through apprenticeship program offered by NMTech. Qualified freshmen or grade 9 public school students can avail of the apprenticeship program.

PSS and NMTech's previous existing partnership allows or only limits participation of programs, training and courses offered at NMTech to senior high school or grade 12 students.



Celebrating the historic signing. In this photo, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres joins other officials that include NMTI Chairman Mario Valentino, NMTI Board Members Catherine Attao and Ana Mendiola and PSS officials Dr. Jessica Taylor, Senior Director Jackie Quitugua, Principal Jonathan Aguon, Principal Vince Dela Cruz, Principal Ben Jones, and interim Family and Community Engagement Program Manager Liela Yumul.



Public School System Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada and Northern Marianas Technical Institute Chief Executive Officer Jodina Attao signs the MOU.

“This is
the right
path; this
is the new
change”

Commissioner of Education
Dr. Alfred B. Ada

“Today is a very historic day for all of us— a historic event not just for us custodians of education but for our students and their future,” Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada said. “We are changing things the way we used to do things back then or before COVID-19 pandemic.”

The chief state school superintendent said that this partnership and expansion of the CTE-tailored programs for public school students changes the traditional curriculum”

“(It’s no longer) a 7:30 am to 2:30 pm classroom setting. We are now changing things around to make it happen for our students early on where they can explore career pathways, job opportunities as they prepare themselves for the future,” explains Dr. Ada.

He added, “I feel that we are in the right path.”

The education chief also congratulated CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica B. Taylor for the continuous growth of the CTE Program, and the leadership of Senior Director for Instructional Services Jackie Quitugua.

“This is the new change. It is about leadership, it is about partnership and it is about collaboration.”

Thank you for making this happen, Dr. Taylor and Jackie Quitugua.

Oceania National Olympic Committee Visits PSS Facilities

In the lead up to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands hosting of the first-ever Pacific Mini Games in Saipan, delegates representing the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) visited the islands, including several Public School System facilities.

The Northern Mariana Islands will host the quadrennial event, the largest sporting competition in the Pacific, starting June 17.

On March 12, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada was at the Marianas High School to welcome Secretaries-General of the Oceania National Olympic Committee. The PSS representative to the Games Nick Gross, PSS Athletics Program Director, and PSS Office of Pupil Transportation Director Shawn San Nicholas joined the chief state school superintendent.

Commissioner Ada led the ONOC delegates with the onsite inspection of Marianas High School's brand new cafeteria, the renovated MHS gymnasium and public school buses. The MHS gymnasium will be used as the site for the weightlifting completion.

The entire fleet of 30 yellow buses and vans of PSS will be used to transport athletes and coaches to and from the competition sites.

The delegates that visited Saipan and PSS facilities include ONOC members from the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, members of the Guam National Olympic committee, and members from the Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organization.



Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, and the PSS representative to the Games, Nick Gross, PSS Athletics Program Director, and PSS Office of Pupil Transportation Director Shawn San Nicholas briefed the 31-member nation ONOC during their inspection of the Games transportation preparation through PSS' fleet of 30 buses and vans.



The ONOC delegates inspect a PSS bus and a van. The PSS OPT team will provide free transportation to and from the venue to all athletes and coaches of the Games.

The federal-funded \$1.6 million Marianas High School cafeteria was also inspected by the ONOC delegates.



An Oceania Olympic delegate tries out MHS' basketball hoop height.



Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada and an ONOC delegate tours the fully air conditioned MHS cafeteria.



At the MHS gymnasium, the Ocean Olympic Committee explores the vastness of the facility.



The mural by the entrance of MHS gym captures the attention of the ONOC delegates.



ONOC delegates appreciate the mural by the hallway of MHS gym.



Weightlifting Committee head for the CNMI, Gregory Pat Borja, who is also the current Board of Education Chairperson, engages with two of the ONOC delegates.



San Vicente Elementary Teacher is Presidential Awards for Excellence Finalist

“I’m proud raise the name of San Vicente Elementary School”.

This was what Dr. Patrick Castillon, a mathematics and science classroom teacher of San Vicente Elementary School, after he was chosen as the state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Dr. Castillon will represent the CNMI in the prestigious competition. Being a state finalist for the CNMI in it is already a huge honor, according to PSS Science and PAEMST State Coordinator, Asapmar Ogumoro.

“This prestigious award recognizes your contributions as an Elementary Teacher in CNMI and we commend you on your selection from the field of outstanding candidates,” said Ogumoro.

All state finalists are forwarded to a National Selection Committee comprised of K-12 teachers, administrators, university professors, and STEM education researchers.

Teachers chosen to be Presidential Awardees will be notified by the



Dr. Castillon receives his award from Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada.

White House, will be honored in Washington, D.C. and will received \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, and will join the elite list of award-winning teachers who can impact STEM education, both in the CNMI and the nation.

Dr. Castillon, surprised of the award, expressed his appreciation for the continued support of his San Vicente Elementary School family led by Principal Paulette Sablan.

Dr. Castillon said it is the time to raise the name of SVES and is proud to join his hardworking colleagues in this collective task.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada joined his leadership team in presenting the award to Dr. Castillon on March 14. The simple ceremony was held at the SVES school cafeteria.





SSHS JROTC Leadership Team Will Compete in Finals with World's Best

Bested over a thousand teams globally to make it to championship

Saipan Southern High School's JROTC Leadership Team has brought honors to the Commonwealth, as they will compete with thirty-nine other teams from around the world in the JROTC Leadership Academic Bowl Championships in the nation's capital on June.

SSHS JLAB Leadership Team competed against and was among the top scorers out of the 1,371 JROTC Leadership teams around the world to be able to make it to the select 40 teams that will advance to the championship level.

The championship will be held at the campus of the Catholic University of America from June 19-23.

The cadets who have successfully advanced to Level 3 of the JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl or JLAB are C/2LT De Ramos, Mechaella; C/2LT Formalejo, Danielle; C/1SG Tuquero, John Lloyd; C/SFC Catindig, Matz, and C/1LT Catindag, Dianna

The cadets from Saipan Southern High School have proven their ability to overcome and succeed despite the many obstacles they faced throughout their preparation.

"Our team worked very hard to study as many questions as possible and will review any questions we got wrong on our quizzes," said C/2LT Formalejo, Danielle. "We had our doubts as the questions were random... however teamwork makes (our) dreams work."

According to Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Richard S. Basa, this is the second time that the JLAB Leadership team is qualified to compete with other schools in Washington DC. The first time they competed, out of 40 different teams worldwide, the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion won the Espirit de Corps Award for the JROTC Leadership Championship.

Manta Ray Battalion's Unarmed Team will Compete at Golden Bear National Drill Meet

THE Unarmed Team of the Manta Ray Battalion of Saipan Southern High School has won first place overall in the Annual CNMI Drill competition, and will represent the CNMI in the Golden Bear National Drill Meet in Torrance California.

The Annual CNMI Drill competition was held on March 18, 2022 and the results were announced virtually on March 23.

The drills were conducted separately due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with both Armed and Unarmed Teams of the Manta Ray Battalion doing their drills last March 18, 2022.

Both teams showcased their Inspection, Color Guard, Regulation, and Exhibition routines to the evaluators.

"Both teams had to face challenges as they were practicing during a pandemic, knowing that they're risking themselves. However, I commend everyone for putting their time and effort into making it to our practice days," said C/LTC Martha Gordon. "I, along with the other leaders in the team, are so proud of them for putting countless hours of their time, dedication, and motivation into this victory".

