Energy Fair caps a week of field trips for Sullivans School

Story and photo by Steve Parker,
The Sullivans Elementary School Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) sponsored an energy fair on the Red Brick Courtyard outside the commissary Oct. 19. The fair included static displays, some quite elaborate, from visiting Japanese energy and water companies. Students from The Sullivans School also attended as visitors and took away a wealth of knowledge from the presenters.

The visiting agencies had very popular and timely displays to show Sullivans students and other visitors to the energy fair. The Tokyo Gas Company display included two globes surrounded by plastic "atmospheres." One of the atmospheres was filled with common air, a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen and other gases. The other was filled primarily with carbon dioxide (CO^2). The CO^2 globe was obviously hotter and clearly displayed the concept of global warming to the students. It was especially helpful to my fourth-grade class who were studying the greenhouse effect the same week in science class.

Another memorable display was the roof umbrella presented by the Sawaya Company. The roof umbrella adapts a traditional Japanese design to cover existing metal roofing with a polyethylene "umbrella" which reduces the amount of solar radiation hitting the roof by blocking sunlight. In tests, this ingenious device not only lowered interior temperatures but also, unexpectedly resulted in less noise inside the buildings.

Kosei and Toshiba companies displayed LED (light-emitting diode) lighting technologies, while the For You Company had an interactive display where visitors could feel the water flow from a standard showerhead and a lower flow showerhead, which felt very strong because the new lower-flow model was an aerated model, increasing the pressure of flow.

The Sullivans School fourth graders were invited to the fair by CFAY Energy Manager Thomas Bawden, who spent the week leading up to the fair and meeting each class next to "the tallest structure on Berkey Field." The tallest structure turned out to be a wind monitoring station. Bawden talked with the students about energy and specifically wind power.

CFAY erected the station about a year ago to test the feasibility of placing a wind turbine there in the future. According to Bawden, "While the study is not yet completed, the preliminary numbers look good." On a windy day, a wind turbine could generate up to two megawatts of power needed for the base. Bawden really excited the fourth grade students when he informed them that their own school, The Sullivans, as well as the commissary roof were two sites chosen for installation of two Solar Arrays that should be in operation, "during the next year." These two arrays are estimated to produce over one per cent of the electricity usage the school purchased from the Tokyo Electric Power Company grid for our main base this past year.

Thomas Bawden, Yokosuka Base Energy Manager, shows data to fourth-grade class members Oct. 19. The data is being collected to determine the feasibility of placing a wind turbine near Berkey Field. The wind turbine would generate electrical power for the base.

The Sulllivans School students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

By Steve Parker,
The Sullivans Elementary School Public Affairs

The Sullivans School put on a Hispanic Heritage show at the Benny Decker Theater aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Oct. 13, which was colorful, charming, musical and poetic. The show was presented by classes in the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) program and the Spanish Immersion (SI) classes from all grade levels at the Sullivans School. The theater was filled with loudly clapping, enthusiastically cheering and energetically dancing parents, teachers, classmates, and members of the community supporting the young performers who overcame their fears and responded with heartfelt, if not a little nervous, performances.

Jason Palmer, a fifth-grade Spanish Immersion teacher, was the master of ceremonies for the perfomances. He hosted with a booming voice that could be described as Spanish disc jockey meets NASCAR race announcer. He introduced Silvia Soto whose Kindergarten Spanish Immersion class performed a *canción* (song) "*Hola Amigos*" for the crowd. Pyhrra River's classes then followed with a "*desfile de banderas*" or parade of flags, in which FLES students crossed the stage to wave a flag and introduce all of the world's Spanish-speaking countries.

First graders from Kimberly Solomon's SI class sang and danced along with a charming song about plants in Spanish, "*La Semilla*." Veronica Sandoval's FLES class followed them with a dance to "*Grito Al Bolo*" from Nicaragua. Marisa Pandiella's class was not to be outdone as boys in peasant costumes and girls in beautiful Panamanian pollera dresses took the stage to perform "*Cumbia carnavalera*." Zapater's third-grade class sang and danced to no less than five different children's songs in English and Spanish. The songs were used by Puerto Rican children to learn English. Rocio Gutierrez' class of fourth-grade SI students positively electrified the crowd with a performance of the song, "*Salome*" by the Puerto Rican pop star Chayanne. A performance of "*Soy feliz*" was danced masterfully by Palmer's fifth-grade SI class.

(Left) The Sullvans Elementary School Spanish Immersion Class students Isabella Terhaar, Marcellus Harris, Venus Hill, Bryon Yoder, from Rocio Gutierrez' fourth grade dance to "*Salome*" by performing artist Chayanne at the School's Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Photo by Patrice Noma

Palmer's fifth graders kept the show moving and allowed for scene changes as they performed a series of vignettes (portrayals) in front of the red curtain in between acts. The vignettes included, the "*Pledge of Allegiance*" performed in Spanish, the poems "*Chocolate*," "*Bicicleta*" and "*Canto Coral a Tupac Amaru*" by Alejandro Romualdo. Palmer's students also sang two songs "*Aserejé*" by Los Ketchup and "*La Cucaracha*." The show climaxed with two *Bailes Sevillanas* (a type of Spanish folk dance originating from Seville, Andalusi, Spain) performed by Latinos Unidos. Latinos Unidos is an association that promotes the welfare and morale of its members and their families while at CFAY. Their mission is to raise awareness and understanding of all the different Latin cultures and traditions amongst Americans and Japanese Citizens.

The ladies wore the beautiful Spanish style flamenco dresses popularly at *ferias* (fairs) throughout Spain including the famous Seville Feria. The audience expressed their thanks with rounds of warm applause for all the performers, the parents and teachers who supported them and the Sullivans Parent–Teacher Organization who donated money for costumes. *¡Vivan los latinos!* (Long live Latinos).