Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXIII, No. 6 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Feb. 17, 2012

Kinnick High School holds Diversity Celebration

By Jamie Chevalier,
CFAY Public Affairs contributor

Students, faculty and staff of Nile C. Kinnick High School attended the school's annual Diversity Celebration in the Benny Decker Theater on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Feb. 2.

The event featured presentations by students highlighting several cultures including Asian, Spanish, Middle Eastern, European, Indian and African. Along with facts about each region, the presentations included musical numbers, dancing or readings. The school choir, and the Kinnick junior ROTC armed and unarmed drill teams also performed.

According to Kinnick Music Director Jonathan Parker, who is a member of the school's Continuous School Improvement Diversity Community, the purpose of the celebration was to give students the opportunity to share their own diverse backgrounds.

"We hope to have a great time while building school unity, pride and a better understanding of our diverse community," Parker said.

The guest speaker for the celebration was Samuel Williams, a teacher at the school. Williams took the stage and compared cultural diversity to baking a cake.

"Each ingredient plays a role. Each loses a part of its self and takes on part of the other ingredients in order to produce the final outcome," Williams said.

"Even if you cut a slice of the cake you can still taste the egg, the flavor, the sugar. The same goes in with us as human beings. We are a diverse nation. We are a diverse people. There is not one ingredient that is more important than the other," Williams added, using the analogy that the cake represents humanity.

Principal Lorenzo Brown said he hoped the students learned one important message, that race, gender, religion and so on are important to our identity.

"It's how we treat one another and what we do with our limited time that truly defines us," Brown said.

The Diversity Celebration was started three years ago by Parker and has become an annual event. Sophomore Alexandra Nicolas said the idea started with "did you know" facts read over the school's public address system and grew from there.

"Last year they (students) felt like they had to do more to show all the students how important this really is to us," Nicolas said.

According to Nicolas, who is a Continuous School Improvement representative, student's who are a part of a military community have the opportunity to experience diversity on a daily basis.

"All of us, as military dependents, know that we live in a completely different bubble. We see mixed cultures as a normal everyday thing for us, but for other people it's not," she added.

In the future, Brown hopes to have the event each semester to showcase the strengths, accomplishments and historical significances connected to the cultural diversity within the school and the community.

"There are many inspiring stories that can help us all better appreciate and understand one another," said Brown.

Nile C. Kinnick High School JROTC member Calvin Rifareal performs the U.S. National Anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" on electric guitar during the opening of the school's annual Diversity Celebration at the Benny Decker Theater Feb. 2. Photo by Jeffery C. Doepp

Local children selected as finalists for Military Child of the Year

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Operation Homefront announced finalists for it's annual Military Child of the Year award Jan. 26. The organization selected two children from families the live on Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) as finalists.

From Operation Homefront's website "...candidates for the Military Child of the Year Award demonstrate resilience and strength of character, and thrive in the face of the challenges of military life. They demonstrate leadership within their families and within their communities."

The candidates come from families of active duty service members who are serving in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Navy. Twenty finalist from each branch are selected and then from that group one is chosen to be the Military Child of the Year for that branch. More that 500 children applied for just the Navy, so making it through the first cut and becoming a finalist is an accomplishment. CFAY hosts two of the finalists for the Navy and the families happen to be good friends, both husbands Lts. Tito Warner and Chon Dareing serve aboard *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54).

(Left) Lts. Tito Warner and Chon Dareing pose with their daughters, Mariah Warner and Elisha Dareing who have been selected as Military Child of the Year Finalists. The girls will find out if they won the award for the Navy branch before the award ceremony April 5.

"These military kids sacrifice a lot, each and every day, they really do. They take on extra stress and they deserve for people to say 'I appreciate everything that you do and everything you sacrifice' because it's not just my husband going out there and deploying," said Sandra Dareing, mother of finalist Elisha Dareing. "We expect these kids to keep their grades up, come to a different country, be good ambassadors, and all the other things they need to do as part of a military family, so I just want people to know that these kids and all military children sacrifice a lot."

Elisha Dareing and Mariah Warner, the other finalist from CFAY, share some common attributes that they said helped them get selected. Both have good grades, both help their families cope with a military family life-style and both are active in the community, volunteering to help where they can.

"I try to work hard at everything I do. I have a lot of expectations for myself and I don't want to just meet those expectations but to go over them," said Mariah Warner, explaining why she thought she got selected for this year. "Of course I help my family. I do my homework, I'm outgoing and I like to be with my friends, and I volunteer. Sometimes you have to do more than that, you've got to volunteer and help other families in the military."

The Military Child of the Year will be award a $5,000 scholarship and will get to fly to Washington D.C. to meet with President Barrack Obama.

The girls will find out if one of them won, when the winners for each branch are announced before April 5.

INSIDE

Blue Ridge completes port visit departs Tomakomai

***USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) Sailors and Marines, embarked 7th Fleet staff and Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Pacific completed a port Tomakomai, Japan visit Feb. 8.**

Pg. 4

Sailors enjoy Super Bowl XLVI at Spectrum Center

Single Sailors and geographical bachelors watched Super Bowl XLVI with breakfast, buffalo wings and other events at CFAY MWR Spectrum Center, single Sailor liberty lounge Feb. 6.

Pg. 10