Student 2 Student program helps attendees adjust to situations

Story by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

The Military Child Education Coalition brought it's Student 2 Student program to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) to teach life skills to students and adults Dec. 1.

The course focuses on issues that people who are part of a military community deal with frequently.

"Student 2 Student and Junior Student 2 Students works in and around military installations. We've trained 275 high schools and about 250 middle schools through out the world," said Joyce Hodson, Youth Project Specialist for the Military Child Education Coalition. "Here we teach students and their sponsors how to be good ambassadors and welcome new students to their schools."

King Lewis and Michael Palermo, both Yokosuka Middle School students at the Junior Student 2 Student class, work on drawing a map of their school for new students Dec. 1. The activity is part of the Student to Student class that teaches students and adults about dealing with issues that are common to the learning environment in a military community.

The class brought students and sponsors from schools in Korea, Guam and other areas in Japan. The course spanned four days that included some regular classroom-like learning and some activities that required the students to work together.

"We begin with orientation and learn not only about each other but also how effective introductions work," said Hodson. "The second day is about academics and relationships, and the third day is a lot of group activities about how to bring new students into a school and make them feel like a welcomed part of the group."

One of the activities was just drawing a map of the school so that new students would have something to show them how to get around a new school. King Lewis and Michael Palermo, both Yokosuka Middle School students at the Junior Student 2 Student class, were working on one for their school and said they would have liked to have when they started there.

"In a military family, we move so many times," said Lewis. "I lived in Japan, then London and Texas, then back to Japan. This [the map] would have made me feel more welcome."

The class awards certificates to those who finish the course and encourages them to start Student 2 Student programs back at their schools both when a student arrives and when one leaves. Hodson said that this would emphasize that the program is as much about the beginning of a shared learning experience as wishing someone well when their time together comes to an end.

"At the end, each team writes an action plan. It's a very detailed plan about how they are going to take this back to their school and put this program into place," said Hodson.

To find out more about Student 2 Student and other resources from the Military Child Education Coalition visit them online at www.MilitaryChild.org.

Sullivans School helps Navy family members become teachers

Story and photos by Steve Parker, The Sullivans School Public Affairs

The Sullivans School administers several programs for helping service members and family members realize their dream of becoming teachers. They include student teaching, cooperative work study, and teacher observations. The Sullivans School administrators work hard with other local community professionals to provide these services to the community. There are teachers working at the Sullivans today and many other schools around the world who have taken advantage of these programs.

(Right) Laura Nadeau guides a blindfolded Mia Burtch through a difficult lesson. Nadeau was a student teacher in Lyn Borom-Phillips' fourth grade class at The Sullivans School earlier this year in October.

The student teacher program is one program for transitioning actual community members into the teacher's chair. Later we will learn how the process works but now, let's meet a few people who are making the system work for them, Sally Davis, a petite soft-spoken powerhouse, is a Navy family member who has made the transition. Davis is a 3rd grade team leader at the Sullivans who was living in Ikego when she started her student teaching with Bill Hunter, a teacher at Ikego Elementary School in 2008. Davis studied education at Virginia Wesleyan College in Virginia Beach. After completing her student teaching at Ikego Elementary, she worked as a long term substitute and was hired at the Sullivans the following year where she has taught 3rd grade ever since. Davis says of her transition, "I learned a lot during my student teaching and have continued to learn every year since at the Sullivans School."

Laura Nadeau hopes to have a similar success story to tell a year from now. The lithe former college athlete was a student teacher at the Sullivans earlier this year and is currently working there as a substitute. Nadeau's husband is Chris Nadeau. Chris works as a Navy contractor with Command Submarine Group 7. Nadeau studied at Old Dominion where she was also a member of the soccer team and is currently studying education with University of Phoenix . Nadeau has also been an assistant coach at Kinnick High School's girl's soccer team for the past 3 years. She was recently observed and evaluated in the classroom by a representative of her college. Her eyes twinkle and her infectious smile hints at what awaits her fortunate future students as she proudly proclaims, "I nailed it!"

Trent Anderson, Laura's Faculty Supervisor during her 12 week student teaching internship stated, "To date I've worked with well over 100 student teachers, and discovering a teacher candidate overwhelmingly advanced in all four domains- Planning and Preparation, Learning Environment, Instruction and The Professional Educator is a rare treat. Laura is one of these candidates."

You can do your student teaching at the Sullivans if you meet both of these criteria:

• You are enrolled in a degree program or teacher education program with an accredited institution.

• There is a student teacher agreement between Department of Defense Dependant Schools and your college or university.

A wealth of information about student teaching with Department of Defense Education Activites can be found at the DoDea website listed below along with a list of participating colleges and universitys, Faq sheet, and all the forms you will need. The forms should also be available through your college advisor. A very succinct synopsis of the process was provided by Timothy Lemisy, the current DoDea Pacific Area student teaching point of contact (POC), "Interested student teaching applicants should ensure their university has an agreement with DoDEA for student teaching. The first step in the process is to contact the student teaching POC at their respective university. The university's POC will have the applicant fill out a formal application or the applicant can download applicable forms from HQ's website. University POCs submit the application to head quarters (HQ). HQ will verify the applicant's eligibility for student teaching. Applicant's information is forwarded to the area pocs for placement once they are deemed eligible to participate in student teaching program...The applicant's information is sent to the district office along with a 30 day suspense for placement. The district sends the request to the schools the applicant requested to be placed in on their applications. The district gives notification prior to setting suspense of the applicants placement, scheduled dates of placement and cooperating teacher. HQ will in turn notified. HQ notifies the university and the university will inform the applicant of their placement information."

More information can be found at the DoDea website, http://www.dodea.edu/offices/hr/employment/studentteaching.