USS George Washington adopts The Sullivans School

Adoption is mutal agreement between ship, school to benefit Sailors, students, teachers

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Continuing a long tradition of community partnerships aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) formally adopted The Sullivans School during a ceremony at the school Feb. 23.

The adoption is a mutual agreement where the ship and school commit to develop a partnership and friendship for the benefit of Sailors, students and teachers who participate in the program.

To formalize the agreement, The Sullivans School Principal Walter Wilhoit and *GW* Commanding Officer Capt. John R. Hale exchanged letters of commitment and signed certificates of adoption. In addition, Hale presented Wilhoit with a framed photo of *GW* to display at the school.

According to letters exchanged by Wilhoit and Hale, the *GW* will endeavor to provide various forms of support to the school throughout the year. In addition to providing volunteers to assist students and teachers in the classroom, Sailors might be available for school trips or special occasions and assistance with small school self-help and maintenance projects while in port.

Command Chaplain Cmdr. Dennis Young helped to organize the adoption and will continue to serve as the ship coordinator for the program. He explained that the ship's first and second class petty officer associations will take the initiative on recruiting volunteers. Young believes the program will greatly benefit Sailors.

"The [*GW* and The Sullivans School] have come together to partner, help learn about each other and to provide an opportunity for our Sailors to engage in the community and to make a positive contribution to young boys and girls in our community," Young said.

***USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Commanding Officer Capt. J. R. Haley presents a signed lithograph to Walter Wilhoit, The Sullivans School principal, at an adoption ceremony Feb. 23. The ceremony was a mutual adoption contract where the school and ship agreed to support one another through community relations and friendship.**

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jeff Stewart

Excited about the opportunity to have Sailors help at the school, The Sullivans School Student Council Vice President Sydney Marshburn explained what students expect from the *GW* volunteers and expressed their appreciation.

"It's fun when they go to recess with you and get to play all sorts of games with them and teach them how you go to school…but sometimes the teachers will put them to work grading tests," said Marshburn. "I hope [*GW* Sailors] have as much fun at this school as we do hosting them."

The Sullivans School has a long history of support from visiting ships and as an adoptee of aircraft carriers in Japan. Most recently, Sailors from *USS The Sullivans* (DDG 68) volunteered at the school while visiting Yokosuka.

Previously, The Sullivans School was adopted by *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), *USS Independence* (CV 62) and *USS Midway* (CV 41) while they were forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

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Though some students may be awarded scholarships, Fielder lets the students know that in today's society there is no free ride. So, he attempts to instill strong work ethic and dedication.

"You've got to work. If you're going to go to college, with the [economy] the way it is now, you've got to do something to earn a college education," he said. "Our program not only prepares them to go to college, but we incorporate life success skills as well. You've got to learn to work. Success is the reward of work."

Prior to acceptance into AVID, interested or referred students are interviewed to see if it is something that they truly want and if they are willing to commit themselves to the program.

"[AVID] Students have to sign a contract," said Fielder. "That's something that a lot of students don't do. They don't understand the value of what a contract means. It's old fashioned, but here we bring back some of those old-fashioned values and concepts."

Fielder is an advocate of the program and uses it to teach those ideals by doing outings, confidence building activities and cultural exposure activities.

"When I was hired to work at DoDDs, more than eight years ago, I was an art teacher," he explained. "I was assigned to [teach] AVID and the more that I worked with the AVID program, the more I became convinced and indoctrinated to the worthiness of the program."

Knowing that the program is helping people to make a change for the better is a, personal, reward for Fielder.

"When parents and students come back and say what they've learned and what they took away from here, it's priceless."

For more information about the AVID program contact Ed Fielder at 243-5165 or visit the official AVID Web site at www.avidonline.org.

Voluntary recall of prescription prenatal and iron supplements

By U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka

ETHEX Corporation and Ther-Rx Corporation have issued a voluntary recall of prescription prenatal and iron supplements at the wholesale level. This is a precautionary measure because the products may have been manufactured under conditions that did not sufficiently comply with current manufacturing practices.

Patients who have these products in their possession should continue to take them in accordance with their prescriptions to avoid the possible risk of suddenly stopping needed medications. Patients should contact their physician or health care provider if they have experienced any problems that may be related to taking these products, or to obtain replacement prescriptions.

For a complete list of ETHEX and Ther-RX products recalled at the wholesale/distributor level visit their Web sites at www.ethex.com and www.ther-rx.com.

U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka beneficiaries with questions about the recall should call ETHEX customer service at 1-800-748-1472 or Ther-Rx customer service at 877-567-7676, or contact their health care providers. Any adverse reactions experienced with the use of these products should also be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Program by phone at 1-800-FDA-1088 on the MedWatch Web site at www.fda.gov/medwatch.