MiMe festival motivates, entertains, educates school students

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

The Sullivans School hosted their 8th annual Multiple Intelligences and Me (MiMe) festival May 7. The festival, which is based on Dr. Howard Gardener's theory of multiple intelligences, showcased 45 cultural, artistic, scientific and kinesthetic activities at various locations around the base to highlight and reinforce lessons learned during the year and inspire students by exposing them to new and interesting activities.

Mundo Nova puppeteer Gen Kimura, performs a musical puppet show for The Sullivans Elementary School students at Nanaban Tower during the MiMe festival May 7. The festival showcased 45 cultural, artistic and scientific activities at various locations around the base to highlight and reinforce lessons learned during the year and inspire students by exposing them to new and interesting activities.

More than 150 guests came to the base to share their unique talents with the children in events such as poetry, taiko drumming, salsa dancing, flower arranging, speed stacking, martial arts demonstrations and much more.

"It went very well," said Sullivans School 5th-grade teacher Jeff Sparling, who coordinated the event with 4th-grade teacher Steve Parker and music teacher Tamara Choate. "The kids got an entire day of incredible events, incredible expertise in the different intelligences; so, they had hands-on experiences with things they wouldn't typically have the opportunity to do."

According to Gardener's theory, the traditional notion of intelligence, based on IQ testing, fails to recognize and develop the full potential of students, both as kids and adults. The theory suggests that there are eight different intelligences that should be taken into account when teaching and learning. The proposed intelligences are: linguistic intelligence (word smart), logical-mathematical intelligence (number, reasoning smart), spatial intelligence (picture smart), bodily-kinesthetic intelligence (body smart), musical intelligence (music smart), interpersonal intelligence (people smart), intrapersonal intelligence (self smart) and naturalist intelligence (nature smart).

"Gardener's theory says there are eight different ways for kids to be smart in our world," said Parker. "We use [the different intelligences] when we teach. If a child is musically talented and we are teaching them about the three branches of the government, then we make up a little song. The kid learns the song and that's how the student can use [one of] his intelligences."

The MiMe festival not only helped motivate, entertain and educate the students, it also helped forge closer bonds between the base and the local Yokosuka community.

"The community gets as much out of it as the kids," said Sparling. "The community gets the opportunity to come to our school as a guest and share with our students and I think they each get so much out of and that's why the program is successful."

The success of the festival has helped it grow in scope each of its eight years of existence and 2011 will be no different. Parker and Sparling are slated to coordinate MiMe next year as well and welcome the support of community members who can help out, whether it's by greeting and escorting visitors or sharing their skills in front of the kids.

"There are many different ways for parents to volunteer," said Parker. "They are all encouraged by classroom teachers to come and just walk around with the class to help get the kids from place to place. It's a great day for the parents too."

Wet battle training provides students with realistic environment

Story and photo by MCSN Mike Mulcare, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

May 6 was like most days at Yokosuka's Center for Naval Engineering Fire Fighting and Damage Control Learning Site (CNE), as excited shouts echoed off the cramped training chamber's metal bulkheads and frigid water flooded into the space, pounding and soaking Sailors as they stood by to react and put training to the test.

The CNE Learning Site plays out similar scenes multiple times a week, teaching Sailors of the forward-deployed naval forces essential shipboard damage control and firefighting techniques.

"Today we did wet battle training, teaching 16 students topics like pipe patching, I, K, and H-type shoring while we flooded the chamber up to the shortest person's chin," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW/SW) John Cacal, a CNE Learning Site instructor and native of Kauai, Hawaii.

Before their immersion into the training chamber, students broke up into groups and received hands-on instruction on how to operate a peri-jet eductor, which would aid them in their mission of dewatering a flooded space.

Cacal said most of the Sailors attending training haven't operated an eductor or worked in a realistic damage control environment before. As with any damage control scenario, experience or not, it is essential for someone to step up, assume a leadership position and bring the team together.

After students operated the eductor, they learned the finer points of pipe patching. Using banding patches, Sailors used a rubber gasket to seal a cracked pipe, a strong back to brace the gasket and metal bands to hold everything in place. The effectiveness of their work was tested by charging the pipe with water.

Sailors from *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) test the integrity of their pipe patching work at the Naval Engineering Fire Fighting and Damage Control Learning Site May 6. The facility offers students hands on experience in damage control scenarios to better prepare them for potential mishaps and casualty situations at sea.

The pinnacle of the training scenario was when students put shoring and patching techniques to the test in and immersion chamber, while two large ruptures hooked up to a water supply flooded the space.

"Most of the Sailors who have come through here haven't experienced anything like this before," said Cacal. "When the water starts gushing out of the bulkheads and pipes their eyes light up and they go, 'Wow! This is the real thing!' and they really appreciate it."

Following immersion in the chamber, the students changed and went back to the classroom to provide feedback to the instructors.

"I really enjoyed the training. I treated this situation like it was real and I did my best. If it ever happens in the future, I'll be ready and won't be nervous," said Electrician's Mate Seaman Robert Biol, from the guided-missile destroyer *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62).

While nervousness isn't discouraged, knowing how to react and put this type of training into motion in a damage control scenario is encouraged and expected of fleet Sailors.

"Look at the *USS Cole*; anything can happen to a ship. They had a 40-foot gap in the side of their ship and everyone pulled together to save the ship," said Cacal.

***USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) Sailors take part in a tug-of-war competition against *JDS Shirayuki* (DD 123) crew members in Shimoda May 16.**

Black Ship Festival, cont. from pg. 1

"This year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Japan – U.S. Security Treaty, which contributed to the development of Japan as well as the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region. It is very important to maintain the bond between the JMSDF and U.S. Navy, the core of the Japan – U.S. alliance," Kitamikado added.

The four-day festival furthered the friendship between the two nations by giving Sailors the chance to interact with and gain a better understanding of Japanese nationals who don't ordinarily have the opportunity to meet Americans face-to-face.

"It was an outstanding experience; I'm glad we had a chance to come out here and hang out a little bit and walk around mingle with the local nationals here. It means a lot," said Information Technician 1st Class (SW) Lucas Lewis. "For a lot of the people who live outside of Yokosuka, they don't get a chance to interact with Sailors very often, so this gives us an opportunity for them to meet us and let them know that we are here and that we are on the same team."

According to Gunners Mate 1st Class (SW) John Hamrick, the festival was especially beneficial to Sailors new to Japan or the Navy.

"It helps the junior Sailors get a much more thorough understanding of the diversities of culture and it helps them do away with the myths that they hear about," said Hamrick. "They can see for themselves that it's an exceptionally beautiful culture. They're very hospitable and that they are nice people. This isn't just a show and this visit gives them an opportunity to see it first hand and enjoy it."