

Pico Rivera

EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT INITIATIVE

October 2011 Newsletter

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26 - Trauma, Grief & Loss in Children & Adolescents Training
- 10/11 - Town Hall Meeting with US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan
- 10/17-10/18 - Olweus Bullying Prevention Program - Committee Training
- 10/17-10/21 - National Character Counts Week
- 10/21 - Incident Command System Refresher Course
- 10/21 - Element Working Group Meeting
- 10/24 - School Site Coordinators Meeting
- 10/24 - 10/28 - Red Ribbon Week
- 10/26 - Character Counts! Training



RED RIBBON WEEK



In 1988, Congress proclaimed that the last week in October would commemorate the sacrifice made by a dedicated young federal Drug Enforcement agent from Calexico, California. In 1985, undercover agent, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, was brutally tortured and murdered by drug traffickers after he provided information about a multi-billion dollar narcotics pipeline. His hometown rallied to the call to honor Camarena's efforts and tragic death by pledging to live drug-free lives; those pledges were given to First Lady Nancy Reagan at a national conference of parents working to combat drug use among young people. They bring to the forefront the scope of international drug trafficking. The first Red Ribbon Week celebrations were held in both La Mirada and Norwalk, California. Red ribbons became symbols of sacrifice and awareness. The DEA estimates that more than 80 million people show their commitment to combating drug use by donning red ribbons and ERUSD is no exception.



Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, gave his life in the fight against drugs. The red ribbon symbolized Kiki's sacrifice to prevent loss of life from drug use.

Each year the district finds creative and meaningful ways to voice its stand against illegal drug use. The celebration is not intended to fix the complex problem of narcotics abuse, but to bring about a heightened awareness of the attendant dangers

and consequences. It's about the need to show our local community and youth the need for prevention, intervention, and treatment as well as a renewal to live lives free from illegal narcotics, tobacco, and alcohol.

From kindergarten to high school, ERUSD students will wear red in all forms to declare that commitment. Elementary school sites have planned clever activities such as wearing crazy socks to "Sock it to Drugs" or "Team up Against Drugs" by sporting their



favorite team jerseys. How about bringing a stuffed bear to show that "Drugs are Unbearable?" And some students will wear their clothes backwards to signify they're "Turning Their Backs on Drugs"!! Primary grades will receive pledge cards with four paw-shaped silly bands touting that "These Paws Don't Touch Drugs".

Middle and high-schoolers will wear two-sided silicon bracelets with the phrase "Show Good Character by Being Drug Free." Assemblies and poster contests will round out school activities to demonstrate the value of a drug-free, healthy lifestyle.

As tragic as "Kiki" Camarena's death 26 years ago, it still serves to educate our young people about the dangers of drug use, and it is a call to action for a community to show it will not tolerate drugs to destroy its citizens.



Spotlight On...

Christopher M Gutierrez-Lohrman, Ed.D
Director of Student Services

El Rancho Unified School District is pleased to welcome and introduce Dr. Christopher Gutierrez-Lohrman as the new Director of Student Services. Dr. Lohrman comes to ERUSD from Orange County where, since 2007, he was the Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) Coordinator. SELPA ensures that disabled students are guaranteed equal opportunities for education and training, and Dr. Lohrman brings impressive credentials to his new job of overseeing the large and diverse aspects of student services for the district.

Dr. Lohrman hit the ground running just one month ago when he was hired to lead a staff of 31 and bring his expertise to the areas of counseling & support services, health & nursing services, Special Education for students with disabilities, child welfare & attendance, and the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative. He will also lead a host of other departments that, in the words of Dr. Lohrman, "are dedicated to removing barriers and creating opportunities for students with a variety of needs" in order that they may have the resources for success not only in school, but in their home life and community.

Chris Gutierrez-Lohrman graduated from UC Irvine with a BA in Psychology. Two years later he earned his Masters of Education in Educational Psychology from Arizona State University, and this year he graduated from USC with a doctorate in K-12 Leadership in Urban School Settings. Dr. Lohrman also serves as a consultant with schools districts' Fiscal Services, Human Resources, and Facilities on budget related issues pertaining to special education costs.

He is qualified to conduct assessments for learning disabilities, autism, developmental disabilities, and special education eligibility. As a licensed educational psychologist, Dr. Lohrman provides parent and individual counseling in the areas of behavior management, peer relationships, and social skills development.

Attaining educational excellence seems to run in Chris' family. His wife is an education program specialist, his mother is an elementary school principal, and he has a sister who is a high school language arts teacher. He is the proud father of two boys, ages five and three, whom he loves to take on backpacking and hiking adventures, and two Labrador dogs round out the Gutierrez-Lohrman family. For a man with so many irons in the fire, it's no wonder Chris says he finds gardening a great de-stressor and relaxing hobby.

The district is privileged to have someone with Dr. Lohrman's educational background and experience in the field of special education. He will serve his students and their families well as El Rancho strives to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for some of its most vulnerable children.



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