

Pico Rivera

# EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT INITIATIVE

### February 2012 Newsletter

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2/2-3 - Olweus Bullying Prevention Program training at Durfee Elementary  
2/6 - Olweus Bullying Prevention Program training at Oregon School  
2/16 - Open House at El Rancho High School  
2/27 - School Site Coordinators Meeting

## GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES!

El Rancho Unified School District is pleased and proud to announce the addition of three new hires under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative. District administrators believe these exceptionally qualified people will enhance the district's mission to provide safe havens of learning for all K-12 students.

Each of our new employees serves a special need to meet the high standards set for our schools; that is to ensure our children will have the best education we can provide within an environment that is violence-free and emotionally healthy. Please meet Jaime Hernandez, Luis Gomez, and Jesus Quinonez.

### Jaime Hernandez

El Rancho Unified School District welcomes Jaime Hernandez to the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant team! Ms. Hernandez will also serve on the working group for Element 5 under the Early Childhood Social and Emotional Learning Programs team.

As a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.), she will be responsible for providing home visits and case management for pregnant teens. Additionally, she will conduct parenting classes for pregnant teens and teens who are already parents. Ms. Hernandez's credentials are from Advanced College, a private nursing school, and her experience as an L.V.N. comes from working at the Colonial Gardens Nursing Home in Pico Rivera. She continues her college education to become a speech pathologist from California State University, Los Angeles.

Jaime is a native of Pico Rivera and was educated in the district's school system beginning with Selby Grove Elementary and graduating from El Rancho High School four years ago. She loves dancing; Jaime was an Aztec dancer for several years. Her other leisure interests include hiking and camping. Sunset-watching on the beach is another favorite pastime for Jaime, but probably the most important thing in her private life at this time is enjoying date nights with her new fiancé.

ERUSD is very pleased to have someone with Jamie Hernandez's qualifications on board. Her youthful enthusiasm and nursing experience is a perfect fit with our teen pregnancy parenting programs provided under the SS/HS grant initiative.



### Luis Gomez

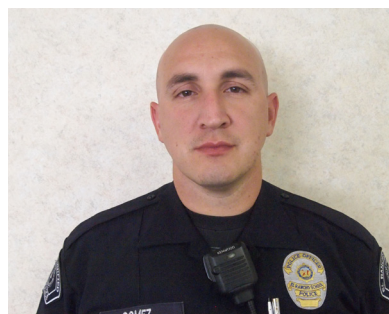
Luis Gomez comes to ERUSD as a police officer reporting directly to district police chief, Jeff Fitchett. Officer Gomez's duties include monitoring truancy and identifying at-risk and habitual offenders. Among his other responsibilities, Officer Gomez facilitates and participates in district and community truancy sweeps; holds community forums to explain and discuss California Penal Section 272, which holds parents liable for their children's truancy; and expanded an education-based prevention and intervention program aimed at high-risk youth. Officer Gomez serves as the Element 1 Working Group Leader. This element of the grant provides programs for safe school environments and violence prevention activities.

To add to his already-expansive duties, Officer Gomez teaches the G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance and Education Training) program to district middle school students.

Luis Gomez comes to his post with a solid background in law enforcement. He is an energetic and enthusiastic proponent of keeping our schools safe. He graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy with an associate degree in Science-Administration of Justice and holds many law enforcement certifications that well equip him for his duties.

Luis grew up in Lincoln Heights and was formerly a sergeant in the U.S. Army Airborne operations, so it's no surprise that he loves jumping out of airplanes! He's engaged to be married this summer. Officer Gomez keeps in shape by running and working out at the gym, and enjoys many outdoor activities that include fishing, camping, hunting, and back packing. Working on his house is a particular pleasure for him, as well as road trips, seafood, and Mediterranean cuisine.

Officer Luis Gomez is a dedicated and a valuable asset to our ERUSD schools.



### Jesus Quinonez

Deputy Probation Officer Jesus Quinonez was assigned to the El Rancho School District last November. Since that time, he has worked throughout the school District monitoring behavior, attendance, and school performance of youth who may be currently at-risk as well as formal probationers. DPO Quinonez receives referrals from school officials, parents, and law enforcement officers, collaborating with them to bring the at-risk students to appropriate community and school resources. In addition, he provides mentoring, counseling, and law education to his students.

Mr. Quinonez serves on the Element 1 Group for Safe School Environments and Violence Prevention Activities. The district is indeed fortunate for the wealth of experience he brings to his post along with his educational background. DPO Quinonez has an Associate of Arts from East Los Angeles Community College and a B.A. from California State University, Dominguez Hills that included a major in Interdisciplinary Studies with Honors. He rose through the ranks of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, where his last assignment was with the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) program at Camp Ellison Onizuka. His assignments included intensive supervision to High-Risk/High-Needs offenders, as well as providing care, safety, and control within a dormitory setting.

In spite of carrying a caseload and district duties, Jesus manages to relax with his wife and three children, enjoying family road trips and barbeques. He's an avid 49ers fan! And he likes to play pool and dominoes and enjoys steak, seafood, and Italian food. He likes old architecture and has been known to run and ride a bike occasionally. He is a California native who grew up in East L.A.

ERUSD is fortunate to have someone of Jesus Quinonez's caliber working with our students.

