

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

11/8, 11/9, 11/18, 11/19 - Emergency Drills

11/18 - Core Management Team Meeting

11/29 - School Site Coordinator Meeting

EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT INITIATIVE

CHARACTER COUNTS! LET'S MAKE IT A LIFESTYLE

"... America's strength, even in the most challenging of times, is found in the spirit and character of our people...the strength and character of our country have always come from our ability to recognize ourselves in one another...by demonstrating shared values respect, curiosity, integrity, courage, honesty, and patriotism, we help our youth develop the strength of character that is the mark of our great Nation. In turn, our young people will serve as models of mutual regard and civility, and share in the responsibility to maintain our schools and neighborhoods as safe, supportive, and inclusive environments..."



NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby

Proclaim October 17 through October 23, 2010 as National Character Counts! Week..."

And on September 3rd, El Rancho High School launched a highly successful effort to celebrate the proclaimed week in rousing fashion. Administrators, teachers, and students shared the spirit of Character Counts! with countless other schools across the country to embrace the ideals of the Six Pillars of Character. Kicking off the week along with its Back to School Day, grades 9 through 12 vied to present the best interpretation of the Six Pillars. Skits and lots of clever depictions of the traits that make up the pillars of character had students and staff in the stands laughing and cheering. Winners of the class competition won't be announced until next Spring until which time all classes will have yet another opportunity to show that they are still committed to implementing Pillar values.

But just what are these "Pillars of Character" that the President and everyone's talking about?

They're not political, religious, or culturally biased. They are all-inclusive:

- **TRUSTWORTHINESS:** Includes honesty, reliability, loyalty, no cheating, no deception and no stealing. Having the courage to do the right thing.
- **RESPECT:** Means following the Golden Rule, tolerance and acceptance of differences, good manners, consideration of others feelings, never hurting someone physically or emotionally, dealing with anger in a peaceable manner.
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** For planning ahead, doing what you're supposed to do, persevering, self-control and self-discipline, being accountable for your actions, words, and attitude, setting a good example.
- **FAIRNESS:** Includes playing by the rules, sharing, being open-minded and listening to others, not taking advantage of someone or a situation, not carelessly blaming.
- **CARING:** Is about kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and helping in times of need
- **CITIZENSHIP:** Means doing your share, cooperation, involvement with school and community, being informed, voting, being a good neighbor, obeying the law, respecting authority, safeguarding the environment, volunteering.



WE-TIP LINE (ANONYMOUS REPORTING) 800-78-CRIME (27463)



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Lorraine Jimenez

Lorraine Jimenez has a long title behind her name: Evidence-Based Intervention Programs Facilitator for the El Rancho Unified School District. It means that Ms. Jimenez will be responsible for the implementation and oversight of all the evidence-based programs for the Element Three working group that includes student behavioral, social, and emotional support systems being implemented under the new Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative. Ms. Jimenez reports directly to Project Coordinator Dora Soto-Delgado.

In addition to Element Three, Ms. Jimenez will be overseeing the Character Counts! and Olweus Bullying Prevention programs at each school site, working in concert with principals and teachers. She is a resource for marketing materials and will be maintaining curriculum libraries, in addition to her responsibility to maintain the fidelity of the programs and evaluations thereof.

Ms. Jimenez is a product of the El Rancho Unified School District schools; she attended Rio Hondo College and is a 35-year resident of Pico Rivera. Her background includes experience in accounting, medical transcription and office management. For two years she was the District's senior bookkeeper, organizing and managing up to 72 grant accounts, so she comes into her new role with a wealth of practical experience and a desire to be part of new, innovative programs being developed under the new grant.

Lorraine is the proud mom of four kids; one a graduate of Northwestern University, another is a Cal State Los Angeles student and a coach for El Rancho football. A third is currently an El Rancho honor student and the youngest is an honor student at Rivera Middle School. She's a busy woman keeping up with her kids' interests, activities, and athletics, but she also makes time for herself by enjoying hobbies such as knitting, gift making, cooking, and golf with some time thrown in for hiking and being a sports enthusiast. The District is fortunate to have a dedicated and talented personality such as Lorraine Jimenez to carry out the vital intervention programs now underway.



El Rancho Unified School District is proud to be implementing this way of life for its students and staff. For more information about the Character Counts! program, contact Lorraine Jimenez at ljimenez@er.usd.k23.ca.us.

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