



## Montebello Unified School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative

### Upcoming Activities

- 2/1/11 - School Site Coordinators Meeting
- 2/7/11 - Core Management Team Meeting
- 2/10/11 - REMS Grant Training
- 2/24/11 - ATOD Meeting (ES & MS)
- 2/28/11 - ATOD Meeting (HS)
- 3/2/11 - School Site Coordinators Meeting
- 3/3/11 - NIMS-700 Training
- 3/7-3/18/11 - CHKS Consent Period
- 3/21-3/25/11 - CHKS Survey
- 3/21/11 - ATOD Meeting (HS)
- 3/24/11 - ATOD Meeting (ES & MS)
- 3/25/11 - Mental Health Providers Meeting
- 3/28/11 - Element Working Group Meeting
- 3/28-3/29/11 - CHKS Collection
- 3/30/11 - School Site Coordinators Meeting

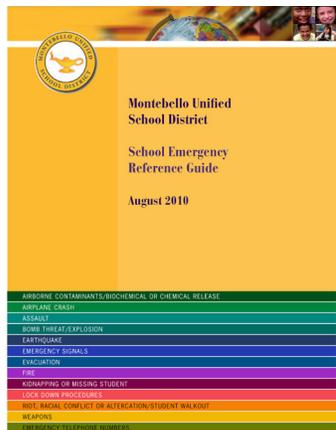
### Take a Second, Make a Difference

### February 2011 Newsletter

## MONTEBELLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS DOING MORE THAN JUST TEACHING KIDS....WE'RE KEEPING THEM SAFER

And the District is doing it through Emergency Preparedness funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Two grants, The Safe Schools/Healthy Students and The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools initiatives, were awarded to MUSD to improve and strengthen our emergency response plans. With the outstanding leadership of Captain John Ortega, there are four areas of crisis management we are striving to address: **Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.**

The grants require that the District schools partner with community agencies including law enforcement, public health, mental health, and local governments. Also required are staff and student training in the four listed phases, along with plans for communicating policies and procedures to parents. We must also support implementation of the National Incident Management System which provides the foundation needed to ensure that we can work together in times of crisis when our schools and communities need it most. It's a systematic approach to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location or complexity.



To this end, MUSD has already created enhanced school emergency response plans and has provided all schools with Classroom Emergency Flipcharts and Crisis in a Box. These charts are placed in all classrooms and offices providing appropriate responses to a variety of threats and hazards, emergency phone numbers,

and all necessary paperwork each school would need in a crisis situation.

**Training** is the key to the success of emergency preparedness. The District has in place a very comprehensive program that gives each school site an individual with extensive training, provided through grant funds, to serve as their Train-

the-Trainer. Fifteen different training sessions for a total of 74 hours has been conducted so far with more scheduled the remainder of this school year and the year following. There were 641 people participating in the training sessions. Even District cabinet members took an Incident Command System course and passed with flying colors!

**Drills** put staff and students to the test in putting to use the training materials and protocols. Every MUSD school has just completed a follow-up emergency lock down drill and, on average, increased their score by 29 points. That's great news! And when controlled evacuation drills are conducted this spring, we are expecting the same outstanding result.

The District is proud of its dedicated school staff members who work hard to provide the utmost care in training our children what to do in the event of that worst case scenario. They all have shown remarkable professionalism with regard to efficiently and effectively safeguarding that most precious commodity, our children. Space does not permit giving credit to all those who have created excellent preparedness plans, but these few are examples of the across-the-board commitment shown by District staff:

- Carlota Arvelo of Greenwood Elementary, made clipboards for each member of the school's Emergency Response Team.
- Stacey Honda at Schurr High School created an excellent phone tree for quickly notifying all adults working in the building of an emergency situation.
- Jazmin Calvo and her team at Cesar Chavez Elementary made good use of the Buddy Teacher System to fill all team positions. Their Search & Rescue team was outstanding.
- Robert Cornejo and Rosewood Park Elementary not only conducted an emergency drill for the grant requirement, but also participated in a citywide earthquake drill for the City of Commerce on the same day. Now that's commitment!
- Sterling Schubert at Macy Intermediate had an emergency cupboard installed in the main office and stocked it with all essential emergency supplies.
- Chris Low and Chris Calderon at Montebello Elementary created excellent color-coded emergency maps.

Thanks to all of you who are making MUSD a leader in the very serious business of keeping our schools safe and our children healthy.



KUDOS TO..

Rocio Zaragoza

### School Site Coordinator at Bell Gardens High School

This energetic, charismatic teacher and counselor has taken on the position of Site Coordinator at BGHS under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative. As one of 29 coordinators in the District's K-12 program, Mrs. Zaragoza will serve as the point for Bell's classroom teachers now teaching curriculum for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (K-8) and the 40 Developmental Assets program (K-12). She is responsible for monitoring the implementation of each program.

Mrs. Zaragoza has been in the Montebello District for 16 years. In addition to acting as a site coordinator, one of her current duties is counseling 9th and 10th graders to make educated decisions when choosing classes and developing a four-year plan. She also facilitates parent education workshops and assists with college planning as well as helping seniors apply for financial aid. Added to this already-hectic schedule, Mrs. Zaragoza is a member of the Counselors Leadership Team that plans professional training for counselors and other support staff.

Previously, she was a 5th grade bilingual teacher and student advisor at Suva Intermediate, and was a 40 Developmental Assets Trainer of Trainers. Outside of the District, she taught 3rd and 5th grade studies at St. Rose of Lima Parochial School in the city of Maywood.

An unabashedly proud Bruin, Mrs. Zaragoza graduated from UCLA with a major in Sociology and minored in Chicano Studies. She received a Masters degree from California State at Dominguez Hills.

As if she's not running around enough at work, Rocio loves to run a good race and has completed a number of 5K and 10K events. Loving the work that she does for the District's school children brings Rocio a keen sense of accomplishment, but it is her own family that brings out the maternal joy of raising two girls, ages nine and seven. She proudly calls them her joy in life in addition to being "awesome softball players!" Rocio and her husband never miss a game or tournament.



Rocio Zaragoza most certainly typifies the dedicated, hard-working educator that MUSD is proud to call its own. She is a professional in every respect, and one that will be leading her students toward fulfilling their future dreams and aspirations for a long time to come.

### Montebello Five

1. Asset #3-Other adult relationships
2. Asset #5-Caring school climate
3. Asset #10-School Safety
4. Asset #22-School Engagement & Participation
5. Asset #24-Bonding to School

### For additional information

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