



Montebello Unified School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative

Upcoming Activities

- 12/2 ICS-200 Class
- 12/2 School Site Coordinator Meeting
- 12/3 Mental Health Providers Meetings
- 12/5 Core Management Team Meeting
- 12/13 ATOD HS Meeting
- 12/16 ATOD ES & MS Meeting
- 1/12 School Site Coordinator Meeting
- 1/14 Basic School Emergency Response Training
- 1/24 ATOD HS Meeting
- 1/27 ATOD ES & MS Meeting
- 1/28 Mental Health Providers Meetings
- 1/31 Element Working Group Meeting

Take a Second, Make a Difference

December 2010 Newsletter

3 MUSD High Schools View Program & Award-winning Film on Bullying

To launch its district-wide program on Anti-Bullying Prevention, Bell Gardens, Montebello and Schurr High School students attended a total of 10 assemblies to experience a multi-media and motivational presentation by TEEN TRUTH LIVE, including a 22-minute award-winning, student produced film, TEEN TRUTH: BULLY & SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

The Montebello Unified School District has become a national leader in dealing with school bullying practices and subsequent violence. While the TEEN TRUTH assemblies targeted high school students, MUSD is implementing Olweus Bullying Prevention Program for all grade levels to address the almost-epidemic tide of bullying now sweeping schools and communities throughout the country. MUSD is proud to be at the forefront of this fight to erase fear, intimidation, and violence from bullying in its schools and the communities that surround them.

The TEEN TRUTH LIVE assemblies on November 29, 30, and December 1 focused on social issues that oftentimes lead to tragic consequences. The presentations challenged students to think about how their own reactions to these issues directly impacts the lives of others around them. The TEEN TRUTH team led the kids to participate through dramatic storytelling, humor, and real world experiences, empowering and inspiring them to notice and acknowledge the pervasive and negative impact bullying has on a school campus and beyond. Students were also challenged to change by viewing a film that grew out of the Columbine High School killings in Colorado.

Producer of the film, JC Pohl and director Erahm Christopher, wanting to understand the Columbine incident and subsequent other school shootings, found five teenagers across the United States who were willing to carry a camera with them everywhere they went and document one year at their high schools. That raw and honest footage became the backdrop for TEEN TRUTH LIVE: BULLY & SCHOOL VIOLENCE. Christopher states that awareness is the key to controlling acts of bullying "because this monster of bullying is changing so rapidly....people are not even aware they are being bullied." The Internet is a somewhat recent vehicle for intimidation, exclusion and spreading rumors to a wide-ranging audience often not even known by the victim.

The documentary film is a rapid fire, almost lyrical documentary featuring real kids coping with real issues of loneliness, rejection and harassment, and builds into an emotional climax that illustrates the

harrowing aspects and sobering consequences of bullying.

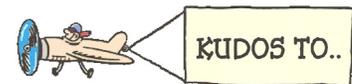
Alexander Hamilton is credited with this insightful quote: "Those who stand for nothing, fall for anything." TEEN TRUTH LIVE is about making choices to stand up to do the right thing in our schools and communities; standing up to protest physical and emotional abuse and bullying; protecting our most vulnerable friends, neighbors, and strangers. It means standing up for change because we need to believe that it's possible to live with tolerance, respect, and compassion, and as Erahm Christopher points out in his concluding remarks, if students, teachers, and people within our communities...."hope for change, commit to change, there is a chance. When we believe, there is certainty".

Michael Cobarrubias, Director of the District's Grant Initiative making these comprehensive programs available to all district school children, says that, "the foundation of the district's efforts is based on mutual respect and acceptance....and giving students the keys to developing positive relationships which, will serve them well throughout their lives." For more information on the District's continuing anti-bullying programs and rules of conduct, please contact Mr. Corbarrubias at Corbarrubias_mike@montebello.k12.ca.us



Teen Truth Live assembly at Schurr High School
Stacey Honda, Principal

For additional information
Contact Michael Cobarrubias, Grant Director
Cobarrubias_mike@montebello.k12.ca.us
www.spsg-software.com/montebello



Juan Hernandez, Case Manager

Juan Hernandez is an extremely compassionate young man who believes that his calling as a social worker can and will make a difference. He is the mental health caseworker for Montebello Unified School District under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant awarded in 2008. Mr. Hernandez is responsible for connecting qualified students with mental health resources and serves as an advocate for such children.

He also serves as a case manager for families whose kids are having truancy and attendance issues.

Juan graduated from Pioneer High School, received his B.S. in Sociology from San Francisco State University, and is working on obtaining his Masters in Social Work from USC in 2013. Before coming to MUSD, Juan worked with The Whole Child, a non-profit mental health agency in Whittier. His focus there was working with severely emotionally disturbed children by providing a social skills curriculum, conducting parent workshops and behavioral-educational advocacy at school sites. He is proud of the progress his clients make when they become empowered to be the best they can through their own efforts. He states that he wants to continue to be the person who helps unlock that potential.

Juan is a fiercely loyal Mexican-American; he cites the sacrifices his parents made when they arrived as immigrants over thirty years ago. He and his three brothers feel humbled by the educational opportunities provided due to their parent's diligent struggle. He is a proud American with deep indebtedness to his roots "in the land of the sun." Juan is a thoughtful guy who loves to read and then travel to places he's read about. For example, Paris detailed in Dan Brown's DaVinci Code, and the Mexico City environs learned from the history penned by John Ross in Monstruo: Dread and Redemption in Mexico City. He's a hip-hop fan when it comes to music. Sports teams that get his competitive spirit going are the Chicago Bears, LA Lakers, and say's he bleeds Dodger Blue! And he's an avid fan of what he calls the "sweet science of boxing"! Family and friends over for a meal of carne asada or barbeque is a special pleasure for Juan Hernandez.

Needless to say, it is the District's good fortune and pleasure to have this uniquely dedicated and passionate young man working with our students and their families.



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