



Montebello Unified School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative

Upcoming Activities

February 3	ATOD Coordinator Meeting
February 19	Mental Health Providers Meeting
February 23	CMT Webinar
February 25-26	High School Asset Retreat
March 15	EWG Meeting
March 23	CMT Webinar

Take a Second, Make a Difference

February 2010 Newsletter

MUSD PRACTICES WHAT IT PREACHES!

Montebello School District and Grant Director, Michael Cobarrubias have a leading role in a new video created by the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

The film is about the many aspects and consequences of school bullying. It features what MUSD administrators, more particularly Mike Cobarrubias, are doing to counteract and prevent the humiliating practices found on every school campus in the country.

The District will be implementing in 2010 the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. It's designed to speak to kids from grade school through high school. It addresses children's vulnerability and suffering, the bully's often-violent aggression, and what can be done to mitigate anti-social behavior in our schools and community. The program also works to reduce opportunities for bullying by creating a safer, nurturing environment in which our children can learn and grow into harmony with their peers.

The program features a 3-pronged intervention plan for schools, classrooms, and individuals by first creating a Bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee that will assist staff and teachers in developing strict behavioral standards, and to develop carefully supervised break periods.

Secondly, teachers will have resources to encourage dialogue about bullying and peer relations, and bring parents into these discussions.

The third part of the Olweus Prevention Program is to form one-on-one interaction with perpetrators of bullying, while at the same time counseling those who are the targets of abuse, and again, involve parents of both victim and bully to seek a peaceful resolution to conflict.

The program is recognized as a model evidence-based program among experts in the field of mental health services and juvenile justice authorities. MUSD can point with pride that it is carrying this program into every school campus. In fact, 26 schools now have trained committees up and running. This is a huge plus for hundreds of District school children, their parents, and community. Additionally, six MUSD employees will become certified Olweus trainers before the school year ends. Congratulations!

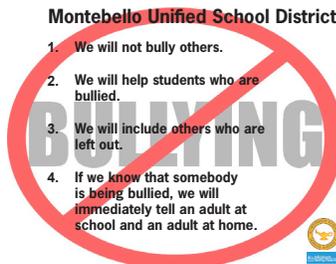
The LACOE video is being distributed to every school district in Los Angeles County and posters that carry the message of bullying are now prominently displayed in every MUSD school building.

For additional information

Contact Michael Cobarrubias, Grant Director
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Montebello Unified School District

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help students who are bullied.
3. We will include others who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will immediately tell an adult at school and an adult at home.



HOW DOES MONTEBELLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT STACK UP?

Now into its second year, the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative will once again take measure of the programs and activities being implemented by the District.

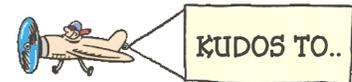
The evaluation and analysis process is drawn from an annual survey known as the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). But surveys are only as good as the amount of data submitted, so during this year's survey period, MUSD is urging all schools, children and parents to get on board so that results will not be skewed by non-participation. The District goal is achieving at least 90% participation so that the great progress made by its innovative programs can be properly evaluated. We all know great progress has been made since the inception of the grant initiative, but that progress must be quantified in order for the District to proceed with its mission of creating schools that are safe for learning and the vision that from learning, our children will be successful.

Grades 5, 7, 9 and 11 are the focus of the survey. Students' perceptions of their school's safety features and learning climate are the heart of the survey and without complete data it is impossible to gauge the effectiveness of our mission and vision for the kids of the Montebello District. Parents are a very important component in the survey process; without your consent and participation, the progress made under the grant initiative cannot be fully measured. As always, survey answers are anonymous and confidential. Thanks to everyone for making the 2010 CHKS a huge success!

To that end, teachers and parents, please note the following dates:

- March 8-19: Consent Period
- March 19-29: Administering the Survey
- March 30-April 30: Collecting completed surveys

www.spsg-software.com/montebello



Debbie Nelson

Debbie Nelson exemplifies the level of expertise found on the Core Management Team that is overseeing MUSD's Safe School/Healthy Students grant initiative. She brings a wealth of experience as a Director of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. For over 20 years, Debbie has served as a public administration professional and she holds a Masters of Public Administration Degree from California State University, Long Beach.

For the past 9 years, Debbie has held the highly charged position of overseeing the Specialized Enforcement Operations programs which consists of high profile, politically focused work with armed probation officers who act in collaboration with policing agencies to remove probationers who threaten community safety; the countywide Intensive Gang Supervision Program which consists of probation officers charged with monitoring high-risk, gang-involved probationers; and the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act – Cluster 1 Programs which allows for probation officers to be placed in schools, parks and housing developments to focus on monitoring and providing services for probation youth and non-probation youth and their families.

MUSD is privileged to have such a consummate professional on board to further its vision of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative. Her team-building skills are greatly admired along with her interpersonal, organizational and strategic planning abilities. She possesses a number of awards and is a member of several professional organizations, but she says the ones that mean the most is her membership in the National Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration and Delta Sigma Theta professional sorority.

Debbie Nelson is a busy lady not only professionally but also personally; she and her husband, Richard, are the proud parents of a 20 month-old son. Before the birth of their little guy, Debbie says she enjoyed international travel, fine dining and snuggling up with a good John Grisham novel, however, these days her reading material is more likely to be something from Dr. Seuss or parenting magazines. Leisure time traveling now means a walk to the park, and catching up on sleep is near the top of the list for this mom! Debbie confesses that being a mother is her greatest life achievement and every moment is a delight.



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