

Response to Olweus Training is Heartening!

An Olweus Bullying Prevention Program training for Montebello Unified School District's part-time employees took place on April 12 at Suva Elementary. The remarkable aspect of this particular training was that it was tailored for the Noon Directors who supervise school cafeterias during the lunch hour and break times. While the program always draws participants, the response from this staff group was overwhelming. Over 60 noon directors, plus a number of other, pertinent staff members, were in attendance for the four-hour session.

Even Michael Cobarrubias, director of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative, was taken by surprise by the amount of interest, yet he maintains that this is just "one more success story in the District's commitment to keep its kids and their environment safe." The enthusiasm that staff and support people, such as the Noon Directors, have for the preventative program under the grant tells administrators that MUSD is in the forefront to combat the destructive nature of bullying on its school campuses.

The program 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. It reduces bullying opportunities by creating a safer, more nurturing environment in which our young people can learn and grow in harmony with their peers. This is where the Noon Directors come in. These dedicated people are carefully supervising those areas in which students gather and interact, and to have them come out in such encouraging numbers is indeed a testament to the District's mission.

For more information about the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, contact Michael Cobarrubias at: Cobarrubias_mike@montebello.k12.ca.us.

