



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

Montebello Unified School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative

Upcoming Activities

- 11/1 - ATOD Meeting
- 11/14 - School Site Coordinator Meeting
- 11/30 - Mental Health Meeting
- 12/8 - ATOD Meeting
- 12/12 - School Site Coordinator Meeting
- 12/17 - Core Management Team Meeting

Take a Second, Make a Difference

November 2012 Newsletter

Montebello Unified School District Well Represented At Nation's Largest Gathering Of Risk Management Professionals

When you've got a successful program, people want to hear about it, and MUSD was on the schedule at South Lake Tahoe last September to share our expertise in anti-bullying programs and discuss how that impacts risk management. The prestigious conference of the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA) brought risk managers and professionals from all over the country to its 31st annual gathering. Because risk management is a huge concern for school districts, MUSD was invited to showcase its efforts and successes in promoting anti-bullying programs throughout its school sites. As the only California school district invited to present at the conference, it is a great source of pride that MUSD received recognition for its diligence in preventing bullying, and it was a first for insurance company representatives to hear the story behind those efforts.

The Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Companies (ASCIP), brought four California professionals – two from Montebello – to show how a school district can prevent or circumvent costs often associated with lawsuits resulting from bullying behavior. **Ana Banuelos and Roseanne Casalicchio, MUSD guidance counselors, along with Erahm Christopher from Teen Truth, and Rick Phillips from Community Matters** were featured in a breakout seminar during the 3-day conference to demonstrate their approaches to bullying prevention. Following the session they sat as a panel for Q & A.

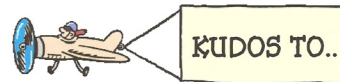
MUSD has been leader in the fight to combat bullying practices through our implementation of the highly effective **Olweus Bullying Prevention Program** made possible by a federal grant initiative, Safe Schools/Healthy

Students, four years ago. To begin its move to push an anti-bullying agenda, district administrators chose the **Olweus** program because it was meticulously researched and is the most widely adopted program in the world, proven to reduce bullying by 50% when implemented with fidelity. The program is not a classroom curriculum; it is a whole-school, systems-change program on four levels: school, classroom, individual, and community.

The presenters made clear to insurance professionals that this issue was not only critical for the well being of each and every student, but it was imperative to protect a school district's financial security by reducing the vulnerability to lawsuits. One mid-western state just last year was sued for over two million dollars over unchecked anti-gay bullying practices. It is an issue that cannot be ignored by schools, students, parents and the community at large. MUSD believes that indifference to bullying behavior takes away the human right for every student to feel safe in school and to be spared the repeated degradation and humiliation that comes from being bullied.

Montebello educators, who represent the third largest school district in Los Angeles County with 30,000 students, have led the way to fight bullying practices that have become near epidemic throughout the country. It's a proud honor to be at the forefront of such an endeavor.

For additional information
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Jose Franco Element 3 Team Leader SS/HS Grant Initiative

A hearty welcome to Montebello Unified School District Core Management Team's newest member! Jose Franco is replacing outgoing member Angel Gallardo, and he brings to the Element 3 component a wealth of experience and expertise as the district heads into its final year of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative. Element 3 provides student behavioral, social, and emotional support systems in order to fulfill the district's goal of creating an environment of safety and good health within its schools.

Mr. Franco most recently was the principal of Laguna Nueva, a K-8 school in the City of Commerce. It is in the process of being re-purposed for a number of educational opportunities. He comes to the district as a Principal on Special Assignment and is headquartered at the district's administrative offices. He will take on a role similar to that of a director of student services, working with all of the district's 28 schools and alternative education sites as well. The responsibilities in this large and varied district will be well served with Mr. Franco's exceptional 10-year background with the Montebello educational community.

He began his educational career after graduating California State University, Los Angeles in 1993 with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. Four years later, he earned his Masters in Teaching to Students of Other Languages followed by another Masters in Educational Administration from CSULA. During those years, he was teaching and mentoring at a high school in Los Angeles.

For five years, he was with the administrative offices of LAUSD as an Ombudsman working with parent advisory groups and providing professional development skills to community representatives. After that Mr. Franco took on the mantle of Director of Parent Involvement for the Montebello district where he developed an accountability report card system for school sites, and continued to work with parent education programs.

This hardworking educator has followed a long and outstanding path from his native El Salvador. His skill set will bring another dimension to MUSD's vision of excellence. Jose is a busy man away from academia's corridors considering that he is the father of 6. He says that leaves him little time to pursue personal hobbies or outside activities. However, he is a jazz aficionado and finds Afro-Cuban rhythms an avenue to relaxation and enjoyment.

This district is extremely fortunate to have Jose Franco help craft the exciting future Montebello is striving to provide to its students. It's a pleasure to welcome him aboard for the ride!

