

Pico Rivera

# EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT INITIATIVE

### September 2011 Newsletter

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month  
9/1, 9/21 & 9/28 - Trauma, Grief, and Loss in  
Children and Adolescents Training  
9/26 - School Site Coordinators Meeting  
9/28 - Core Management Team Meeting  
9/28 - Element Working Group Meeting

## DISTRICT COACHES SCORE IN TRAINING – ATHLETES TO BE THE WINNERS!

Legendary Coach John Wooden *lived* it...  
Olympic Team USA *modeled* it...  
35 Local coaches and support staff *believe* in it...  
Student athletes will *learn* it...



"It" is....**Pursuing Victory with Honor**, an exciting sportsmanship initiative that uses the extraordinary power of sports to mold and strengthen the character of student athletes. In fact, the program is a direct offshoot of the *Character Counts!* program already being implemented in our schools district-wide.



On June 2nd of this year, 35 head and assistant coaches and grant staff were trained in the *Pursuing Victory with Honor* program under the auspices of the Josephson Institute's Center for Sports Ethics, and led by Dr. Harold Slemmer, Executive Director of the Arizona Interscholastic Association. Not only is Dr. Slemmer a former coach, he is a high school principal and part-time instructor at Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University, teaching graduate courses in educational leadership.

The program, an extension of Coach John Wooden's personal and professional philosophy (he also was a dedicated sponsor of the program), is endorsed by virtually every major amateur athletic organization. It instructs coaches, teachers, administrators, and parents

to use sports as a vehicle for developing strong sportsmanship through character building and teaching young athletes how to achieve victory through honor. The program focuses on assisting them to develop life skills and values like integrity, perseverance, sacrifice, respect, and responsibility.

It develops the whole player so these values will remain throughout their lives.

Staffers say the coaches came out of the training "inspired and excited" to integrate the program into all El Rancho High School athletic disciplines. With this fire-in-the-belly enthusiasm, teachers and coaches hope to incorporate the program into their own staff meetings concerning leadership roles. According to ERHS assistant principal, Steve Rodriguez, varsity coaches will be picking up the pace of the PVWH program by "forming their own S.W.A.T. (School Wide Action Teams) group, meeting monthly to map out plans for best utilizing the guidelines offered by the program." Lorraine Jimenez, the grant's evidence-based program facilitator, says involving the athletes' parents through workshops each new athletic season will go far in "promoting a positive atmosphere throughout the school campus."

It's an exciting prospect for high school athletes, coaches, and students. In the words of Michael Josephson, founder of the Ethics Institute:

*A Good Coach Improves Your Game...  
A Great Coach Improves Your Life.*



Dr. Harold Slemmer training all Head and Assistant coaches for El Rancho high school in the *Pursuing Victory with Honor* program.

WE-TIP LINE (ANONYMOUS REPORTING) 800-78-CRIME (27463)

For questions and additional information contact Dora Delgado, SS/HS Project Coordinator  
at [ddelgado@erUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:ddelgado@erUSD.k12.ca.us)



### Sonia (Leos) Lilley

ERUSD Administrative Assistant,  
SS/HS Grant Initiative

Sonia wears a lot of hats when she reports to SS/HS Project Coordinator, Dora Soto-Delgado. She is particularly skilled in organizing events and programs made possible by the grant initiative for all schools within the District. She came to ERUSD seven years ago and is a natural at multi-tasking a number of jobs from bookkeeping to office management. Currently, her enthusiasm for the grant programs now underway is creating a positive response within the Core Management Team and Element Working Group.

Sonia has been an El Rancho schools supporter from the time she entered Rivera Elementary, through Rivera Middle School, then proudly wearing the Blue & Grey of El Rancho High School. Upon graduation, she attended Cerritos and Rio Hondo Community Colleges, furthering honing her organizational skill-set.

Sonia married the love of her life, Ben Lilley, in a quiet home ceremony last December. She and Ben love road trips to Arizona. They parent two cats. Sonia buys high heels but never wears them, and adores purses of any style and color. She loves to shop with her beloved sister, Mia, and greatly admires her schoolteacher brother, Ron. She is a big fan of Pai Gow, a Chinese domino-type tile game, and sushi is a must-have food. And she wants to be a pharmacist one day, later retiring to Las Vegas. This is a woman who's already set some long-term goals! But for the present, she says she's enjoying the busy and hectic lifestyle of "running to district campuses to ensure that program requirements are being met," and "loves the fun-loving staff she works with." Her own delightful personality most certainly is a plus for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students team as well.



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