



### 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

### Upcoming Activities

- 12/1 - Anti-Bullying Assembly at JGE
- 12/7 - Olweus/Assets Coordinators meeting
- 12/12 - ATOD Meeting - HS
- 12/15 - ATOD Meeting - ES & MS
- 12/16 - Mental Health Providers Meeting
- 1/11 - NIMS-800 Training
- 1/17-School Site Climate Survey begins
- 1/30 - Core Management Team and Element Working Group Meeting

## Montebello Unified School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative

### Take a Second, Make a Difference

### December 2011 Newsletter

## DISTRICT HAD POSITIVE TRUANCY SWEEP

Montebello Unified School District and cooperating enforcement agencies conduct periodic Truancy Sweeps to ensure that its school children are off the streets and in the classroom. The latest such sweep was held the first week in November with multi-agencies out in force using Schurr High School as the base of operations.



School police officer Flores participates in the truancy sweep.

Officers from the District's police force, along with support services from Compton Unified School District police, the cities of Montebello and Bell Gardens Police Departments, East Los Angeles and Pico stations of the LA Sheriff's Department, and officials from LA County Probation and District Attorney's office. Los Angeles Unified School District provided a Zone 5 Attendance Specialist as well as MUSD's specialists, and the MUSD office of Children and Family Services worked alongside to bring in a total of 20 minors. The children were brought to the SHS command post for processing. Of the 20 detained, 14 received daytime loitering citations, two were issued Possession of Marijuana citations, and one student received a Minor in Possession of

tobacco/Tobacco Products citation. Two of the remaining students were not cited, and the last student was found to be in Contract Independent Studies.

The Montebello Police Department has long held that students who are truant are more vulnerable to not only committing crimes, but are at risk of being crime victims. The District prides itself on maintaining a safe environment for all students in which to study and learn.

And it is through such an extensive collaboration with other enforcement agencies that MUSD students have a remarkably low rate of truancy.

### The SS/HS Grant Has Significantly Impacted MUSD's Mental Health Program!

During the 2010-11 school year:

- 619 K-12 students received school-based mental health services
  - ◆ 32% increase from pre-grant data
  - ◆ 15% of these students received more than 12 months of service
  - ◆ A total of 8,911 hours of service were provided to these students
- 20 K-12 students received mental health services in the community (includes only the students who were referred by school personnel)

For additional information regarding our mental health program, contact George Muriel at [Muriel\\_george@montebello.k12.ca.us](mailto:Muriel_george@montebello.k12.ca.us)

**For additional information**  
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**Joseph Caron**  
 Mental Health Coordinator

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant initiative at Montebello Unified School District provides for a mental health coordinator who will be a facilitator, coordinator, planner, and communicator for the grant's evidence-based mental health programs. It's a tall order, but Joe Caron is fitting into each role with ease due to his credentials and long time experience within the mental health field.

Joe Caron comes to the SS/HS with a long resume of professional work, ranging from a Juvenile Diversion Specialist with SPIRITT Family Services in Whittier to Youth Counselor to Program Manager for the LA Skid Row Collaborative program. He is proficient in oral and written Spanish and has worked with youth and adults since his graduation from California State University-LA with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Next year, Joe will begin studies for a Masters in Social Work.

Joe brings his special brand of skills to MUSD to head up the Why Try? groups at key district school sites. This skill-building program focuses on decreasing truancy, drug and alcohol addictions, and youth engaged in violent behavior. He is also with charged with the Parent Project, a program that helps families deal with strong-willed and hard to manage children. There is a long list of other programs and duties within the grant initiative that will keep this energetic professional hopping.

But it's not all work and no play for Joe Caron. He maintains a busy family life with his son, age 17, and a 13 year-old daughter. They hike the San Gabriel mountains on a regular basis and love attending street fairs and music festivals. The family even has its own band with Joe on drums and percussion, his son playing keyboards, and his daughter providing vocals. He's learning to play keyboard himself while composing and recording on his computer. His family likes to bike along beaches, and if you're in Huntington Beach some Sunday you'll probably find Joe in a drum circle!

The SS/HS team is fortunate to have such a well-rounded professional working with district kids who risk falling through the cracks because of untreated mental health issues, and helping struggling families to understand those issues and work toward positive outcomes for their children. Kudos to you, Joe Caron - we're happy to have you here!

