



El Rancho

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent Advisory Councils Recognized



Left to Right: Ignacio Fonseca, Leticia Fonseca, Leticia Rodella,
Silvia Raigosa, Maria Aguirre, and Maria Zamora

The Parent Advisory Recognition Dinner has been an annual event in the El Rancho Unified School District for more than 15 years. It's a special night dedicated to honoring those individuals and parents in the Pico Rivera community who have donated their time and effort to the advisory councils that help guide and support each school in the District.

This year's event was held at the beautiful Wyndham Garden Hotel in the City of Commerce. The evening began with the flag salute led by Mrs. Silvia Raigosa, Parent Advisory Council President. Parents were welcomed by Mr. Frank Boyce, school board member, District Superintendent, Arthur Narvaez, and Mr. David Angelo, on behalf of his wife Esperanza Angelo, District English Learner Advisory Council President.

Following dinner, parent honorees were presented certificates to commemorate their participation and contribution to the District Advisory Council (DAC), the District English Learner Advisory Council (DELAC), the Migrant Parent Advisory Council (MPAC), the English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC), and the School Site Council (SSC). Among this year's honorees were Maria Aguirre, Esperanza Angelo, Nellie Aguilar, Roy Arroyo, Lourdes Baeza, Ruby Ballesteros, Virginia Barrientos, Maria Castorena, Rayven Colores, Henry Cruz, Maria Currie, Bacilisa Delgado, Linda Eaves, Leticia Fonseca, Guadalupe Gonzalez, Ana Hernandez, Emelda Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Blanca Jacobo, Maria Jauregui, Elizabeth Jimenez, Betty Lopez, Bertha Madera, Jeanette Martinez, Eva McFarland, Mary Montoya, Herlinda Ochoa, Luis Padilla, Alfredo Ramirez, Silvia Raigosa, Alfred Renteria, Margaret Renteria, Maria Rosas, Gloria Santana, Michelle Soto, Yolanda Soto, Carlos Vargas, and Maria Zamora.

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Board of Education

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Superintendent:

Arthur Narvaez

El Rancho Unified School District

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Welcome Back!



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Superintendent's Message



Arthur Narvaez, Superintendent

Dear Parents/Community,

I am pleased to welcome you to a new school year, and report to you that the District continues to show steady improvement in test scores, teacher training, and facility modernization.

The District showed consistent growth, for the most part, among all grade levels in all subject areas in the 2001 SAT-9 testing. The greatest gains were made by sixth and ninth grades, although smaller gains in reading and language occurred in second and third grades (student testing is from second to eleventh grade).

In the last six years District staff has changed over 70 percent. Therefore, extensive staff development has continued to be a high priority. This summer the District provided over 30 courses for staff in both curriculum and instruction, and technology. Teachers also participated in training that focused on various District programs: Language!, RESULTS, and Accelerated Reader, amongst others. On-going

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Burke School Gives High Marks to Accelerated Reader

A renaissance of sorts swept through the halls of Burke Middle School, when parents, administrators, teachers, and staff unanimously voted to make the library the hub of education at Burke. Initial work included upgrading the library infrastructure by replacing outdated reading materials, and installing an automated library program and computer networked technologies.

Once the work was completed, Burke's staff took a bold move and implemented Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is a computerized program that assesses student reading levels and challenges students to improve through reading practice, and motivation by a points based system.

Positive results occurred: interest in reading increased, and book circulation more than quadrupled in less than a year. Furthermore, Burke's test scores showed dramatic improvement in reading skills, and after the third year of implementation, test scores showed a significant growth in language, spelling, and reading. Students who began using the Accelerated Reader program three

years ago as sixth graders showed marked growth in the areas of language arts and mathematics as eighth graders.

At the District level, Mr. Norbert Genis, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, created a committee to assess the needs of teachers and administrators in facilitating the implementation of Accelerated Reader District-wide.

Acknowledging the success at Burke, and recognizing the collaborative work of Mr. Cunningham, Principal, his staff—including Christine Ortega, Library Media Technician—the technical support from the Education Division, as well as the commitment of parents and students, the School Board unanimously agreed to implement the Accelerated Reader program at all schools.

Thanks to Burke's success with Accelerated Reader, all El Rancho Unified School District students will benefit from this innovative program. At the Board's direction, the program will be implemented at all K-12 schools in the District this year. 📖

Parent Advisory Councils Recognized

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Student Mariachi Group: Armonia Ranchera

Highlights of the evening included special presentations made by former DAC President and current member Nellie Aguilar in memory of Board of Education

President Cecilia Chavez; a surprise presentation on behalf of the District to retiring Categorical Programs Coordinator Mrs. Leticia Rodella; and the lively and inspiring entertainment provided by the North Ranchito Elementary School and North Park Middle School student mariachi group, Armonia Ranchera, led by teacher Jose Rodriguez. Closing remarks were made by Mrs. Leticia Fonseca, DAC President, who thanked all parents for their participation in the schools. 📖

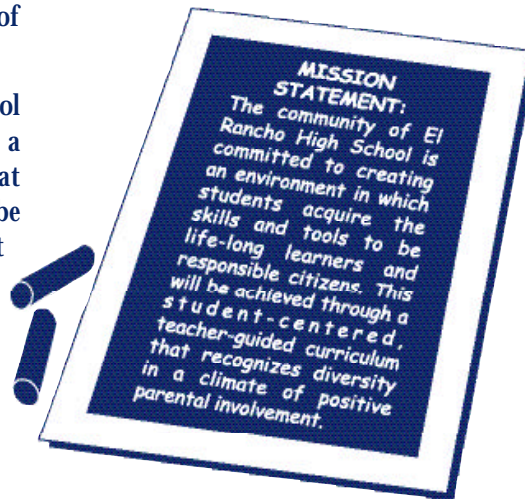
El Rancho High School Prepares for Accreditation Process

During the current school year, El Rancho High School will go through the process of accreditation known as Focus on Learning, the process by which the quality of the school's program will be assessed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Focus on Learning is an ongoing school improvement self-study that assists a school in an in-depth look at what currently exists, and what needs to be improved in relation to student learning. ERHS is examining the effectiveness of its program and evaluating the extent to which students are accomplishing the expected school wide learning results, known as ESLRs.

After careful reading of the self-study, a visiting committee will spend three and a half days visiting the high school in March 2002. At the end of the visit, the committee will recommend a term of accreditation based upon their findings. The desired term of accreditation is six years.

El Rancho's ESLRs describe what an El Rancho student should know and be able to do. The school community has identified five ESLRs; however, for the



purpose of the self-study, the following two ESLRs will be focused on:

- I:** El Rancho students will be active learners who:
- Are motivated, engaged, and take responsibility for their own actions

- Demonstrate academic proficiency via multiple forms of assessment
 - Prioritize interests in career and vocational choices through goal setting and post secondary planning
 - Create quality products that reflect pride in workmanship
 - Recognize the relevance of their learning and apply it in their everyday lives
- II:** El Rancho Students will be critical thinkers who:
- Interpret, understand and apply information
 - Solve problems using logic and evidence

All members of the school community will be involved in the ongoing Focus on Learning process and we look forward to working together with all stakeholders—students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members. 📌

English Language and Literacy Classes Available

El Rancho Unified School District is very proud to be the recipient of a grant from the California Department of Education for our English Learners. The grant is the English Language and Intensive Literacy Program, (ELILP). This new program is designed to help our English Learners improve their English language skills through increased instructional opportunities. English Learners are those students who have not met English fluency status based on the District's criteria.

Students enrolled in the ELILP classes will benefit from unique instructional practices designed to improve student academic achievement. This program will consist of 27 weeks, with some schools holding Saturday classes and others holding after-school classes. Saturday school begins September 29, 2001 and the after-school classes will begin

the week of October 1, 2001. All classes will end in May 2002. Classes will be held at the elementary, middle, and high schools. There will be three ELILP classes per school and all classes will have a maximum of 18 students. In addition, the kindergarten through grade three classes will have a college tutor. All instructional material will be aligned to state content standards leading to mastery of those standards. An important component of this program is the ongoing student assessment, which will be used to guide and alter instruction on a day-to-day basis.

If you have any questions regarding this exciting and innovative program, please call Ruth Narro, District Resource Teacher, at (562) 801-5225, or Silvia Borjas, Coordinator/Categorical Programs, at (526) 801-5224. 📌

District's Advisory Councils Set Calendar

Our school District prides itself in involving parents in the education process. This year again, we will be having District Advisory Council (DAC) meetings and District English Learner Advisory Council (DELAC) meetings throughout the school year, held at the District office and facilitated by District staff.

The two councils are composed of a parent representative from each school, one principal, one teacher, and an instructional aide. In addition, elected members that represent the community will also participate. These council meetings are open to the public. The meetings provide information regarding District programs and also provide workshops for parents on topics such as standards, state and federal programs, assessment, and literacy.

The following is the calendar for this school year. Meetings will start at 6:30 p.m.

2001-2002 COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 24, 2001	March 20, 2002
January 16, 2002	April 17, 2002
February 20, 2002	May 15, 2002

If anyone is interested in being a member of these councils as a community representative, please call the Categorical Programs Office at (562) 801-5224.

Superintendent's Message

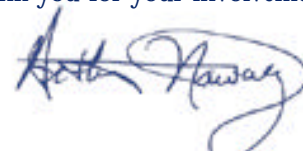
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training will allow staff to provide quality programs and instruction to all children.

The District has also been awarded four grants totaling over \$3 million dollars of restricted funding: 1) The English Language and Intensive Literacy Program (ELILP) will focus on intensive English and literacy instruction; 2) Pacific Clinic Latina Adolescent Project at North Park Middle School will focus on family awareness of high risk female behaviors through education and family intervention; 3) Teaching As a Priority (TAP) is designed to recruit and retain fully credentialed teachers; and 4) De Colores Community Learning Center at Durfee and Rio Vista elementary schools will provide an after-school program for fourth and fifth grade students.

Finally, our District facilities have been steadily improving. Please see *Renewal*, the modernization insert, for a complete progress report.

In summary, the El Rancho school community will continue to move forward and be successful in improving student performance. Thank you for your involvement and support of our schools.



El Rancho Unified School District
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