

MONTEBELLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

123 SOUTH MONTEBELLO BOULEVARD / MONTEBELLO, CALIFORNIA 90640-4729

(323) 887-7900 • (562) 806-7900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March XX, 2014

CONTACT: Selina Ayala-Patlan
Valerie Martinez
(909) 445-1001

**Assemblywoman Visits her Former Elementary School for
'Read Across America' Event**

MONTEBELLO – A group of students at Bandini Elementary School had a special visitor on March 14, when Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia returned to the classroom of her former teacher to read to kindergarteners as part of the “Read Across America” campaign.

Every year, many schools within MUSD take part in “Read Across America” by hosting assemblies, special guest readers and other events. The nationwide initiative coinciding with the birthday of beloved children’s author Dr. Seuss, encourages reading out loud and celebrates the lifelong joys and benefits of reading.

“I am very excited to be able to share my love of reading with our future leaders. I have a lot of fond memories of reading time at Bandini Elementary and it is a big part of who I am and what I do,” Garcia said. “It was particularly awesome to be able to share with them how their teacher, Ms. Ponce-Edgington, was also my teacher and the positive impact she had on me.”

During her visit, Garcia provided every Bandini student with a coloring book promoting safety, which was produced by the State Legislature.

“Our School District is such a special place because we have individuals such as Assemblywoman Garcia, who are so devoted to their communities and are willing to give their time to enhance the educational experience for our students,” said MUSD Board of Education President David Vela.

MUSD Superintendent of Education Susanna Contreras Smith called the annual initiative an important and exciting event for everyone involved – students, staff and the community.

“We’re proud to be part of this initiative, which truly aims to inspire a love for reading in our children,” said Contreras Smith. “Reading is such an important element of our

students' long-term growth and is something we encourage them to do on a regular basis, both at school and at home.”

PHOTO CAPTION: Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia reads to kindergarten students in the classroom of her former teacher Ms. Ponce-Edgington.

#

Montebello Unified School District is a dynamic learning institution employing top-quality educators. It is the combined work of many that allows the District to continue educating more than 30,000 students every year using the 40 Developmental Assets at all of our school sites. It is through everyone's efforts – students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators – that we are achieving the District's number one goal of raising student achievement. Learn more online at: www.montebello.k12.ca.us.