

March 2011

**In this Issue:**

\*Parent Survey Goes Out Across the State

\*USC Interns Lead Session at Parent Workshop in Chula Vista

\*Featured Resource: Project FOCUS

\*School Liaisons to Sponsor Seminar on Resiliency

\*Presentation Made at School Climate Conference

\*New Study on Effects of Deployments

\*Johns Hopkins Offers Web Course

**Parent Survey Features Military Module**

The [California Healthy Kids Survey](#) (CHKS) provides valuable anonymous information on school climate and student trends regarding resiliency, friendships, teacher-child relationships, exposure to drugs, violence, bullying and other factors that affect learning.

Now parents can anonymously share their views on the same issues as part of a new effort to increase parent involvement and assist schools in creating positive learning environments.

The new [California School Parent Survey](#) is significant for two reasons. First, no state education agency has ever administered a parent survey on such a wide scale. Second, it is the first parent survey to include an optional [military module](#) in order to anonymously gather feedback on the issues of concern to military families.

Parent responses will allow education leaders and Wested, which administers the surveys, to identify areas of need as well as factors that contribute to healthy behavior and positive school climate. Results will be used to improve health services as well as prevention and education programs for students.

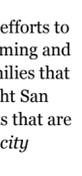
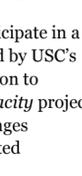
**MSW Interns Lead Sessions at Parent Workshop**

USC's MSW interns are having a positive impact even at schools where they are not assigned. Interns Viviana Medina, Mako Csapo and Gena Truitt (pictured top to bottom) traveled to Greg Rogers Elementary School in the [Chula Vista Elementary School District](#) recently to participate in a parent workshop organized by Principal Sherroll Stogsdill-Posey.

Medina and Csapo led two sessions on bullying prevention—one in English and one in Spanish. Truitt presented two sessions on local community resources for military children and families. The military families “did not realize the support that was out there,” Stogsdill-Posey said, adding that even though turnout was light, “the parents that did come had a great experience.”

The event has even inspired one of the military spouses to organize a support group at the school for military parents.

“This opportunity illustrates that small numbers can bring big impact,” Truitt said.

**FEATURED RESOURCE**

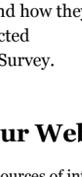
Project [FOCUS](#) (Families OverComing Under Stress) provides resiliency training to military families. It teaches families the skills they need to face the challenges of deployment and reintegration, to communicate and solve problems effectively, to set goals together and to create a shared family story.

Based at the University of California Los Angeles, FOCUS was initiated by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to address concerns related to parental combat operational stress injuries and combat-related physical injuries by providing family resiliency services to military children and families at designated Navy and Marine Corps sites. In 2009, FOCUS services were also made available to Army and Air Force families at designated installations through support from the Department of Defense Office of Family Policy.

**Astor, Benbenishty Speak at School Climate Conference**

*Building Capacity* investigators Dr. Ron Astor (top) and Dr. Rami Benbenishty traveled to New Orleans this month to talk with education data collection experts at the School Climate Technical Assistance Symposium held by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Officials in charge of both academic and school climate measurement from 47 states and all U.S. territories participated in the conference. Representatives from leading research organizations, such as WestEd and the American Institutes of Research, were also present.

Astor and Benbenishty discussed their work on measuring school safety and climate in Israel and how they are applying that model to military-connected schools using the California Healthy Kids Survey.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

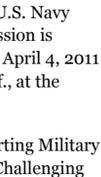
**Dr. Ron Astor** will participate in a Webinar April 1 organized by USC's Rossier School of Education to discuss the *Building Capacity* project and the numerous challenges affecting military-connected students.

He will highlight positive efforts to make schools more welcoming and supportive of military families that are taking place in the eight San Diego-area school districts that are part of the *Building Capacity* consortium.

The Webinar is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and space is limited.

Click on this [link](#) to register for the event.

**Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg**, a pediatrician specializing in adolescent medicine at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, will hold a one-day seminar for education professionals, counselors, parents, psychologists, social workers, and others who work with military-connected children.



He is the author of books focusing on resiliency in children and adolescents.

Sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy School Liaisons, the session is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011 at the in Carlsbad, Calif., at the [Carlsbad Sheraton](#).

To register for "Supporting Military Children in Good and Challenging Times," visit [www.MilitaryChild.org](#).

Choose "Upcoming Trainings" from the top menu bar and search April 4, 2011.

**News and Resources on Our Website**

We regularly feature important stories and resources of interest to schools serving military students on our website. Check the [site](#) often to stay informed. Here are a few examples:

The ["Building Resilient Kids"](#) Web course is just one of many resources available from the Military Child Initiative at Johns Hopkins University. For more information, click *Supporting Military Families* on our homepage and choose *Resources for Educators*.

[The Effects of Multiple Deployments on Army Adolescents](#), conducted by the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College, shows that some adolescents cope better with each deployment.

[Students Interview 'Unsung Military Heroes'](#), which appeared in the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, featured a curriculum-based project in which middle school students interviewed veterans at a senior living facility near Kansas City to learn about their military service.

[Navy Releases New School Programming Guidebook](#) provides a link to the new "Connections" initiative by the Navy to smooth school transitions for military children.

**Help for Japan**

The [National Association of School Psychologists](#) and the [National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder](#) have both organized resources and information helpful to families and children affected by the disaster in

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[buildingcapacity.usc.edu](#)



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