

Principal and Teacher Roles

The Role of the Principal

- Purchase the Los Dichos books and material for lesson plan activities.
- Assign a bilingual **Site Coordinator** who can work with the Project Cornerstone staff, teachers, and parent volunteers. This person becomes the “point person” for the program at the school site and will need to attend monthly trainings at our offices, coordinate reading schedules with volunteers and teachers, make reminder phone calls, and nurture relationships with the volunteers. This person is **critical** to the success of the program.
- Assist the site coordinator in locating a spot where your Los Dichos parents can meet monthly as a group. This helps provide stability and legitimacy to the program.
- Support the site coordinator in recruiting volunteers.
- Advocate for and encourage teachers to participate and welcome Los Dichos volunteers into their classroom.
- Schedule time for a Project Cornerstone person to speak at a staff meeting regarding Los Dichos and the variety of other services offered.
- Participate in the year-end evaluation needed for our funders and key constituents.

The Role of Teachers

The Los Dichos program will be a wonderful addition to the array of experiences teachers provide to students. The Los Dichos parent volunteer(s) will visit the classroom once a month for approximately 45 minutes to share the culturally-based book of the month. All books are bilingual, so the parent can read in Spanish and the classroom teacher in English, ensuring all students have a thorough understanding of the story. There is also a scripted lesson in both Spanish and English. Parent volunteers know to read a paragraph in Spanish and then stop to let the teacher read the same in English. After reading the story, parent volunteers will have a short discussion with the students to ensure comprehension and do a hands-on activity to reinforce the lesson. The parent and teacher are seen as a team by the students as they approach this work together every month. This time can be viewed as instructional time, as Project Cornerstone works to align lessons with the 21st Century Skills, Common Core Standards, and Social & Emotional Core Competencies.

To ensure success, the following is recommended:

- Work with the site coordinator to know the name of your Los Dichos parent, and when s/he will be in your classroom each month.
- Pre-read the book and lesson and have two chairs set up in the front of the classroom so you and the parent can get right to the business of the lesson.
- Facilitate a welcoming environment for your Los Dichos parent, as most are quite nervous the first few months. Anything you can do to help them relax when they come into the room will be a tremendous help.

A few comments from teachers who have invited this program into their classroom in the past:

"I believe you have had strong success with this program. Students look forward to having parents come and read. I've noticed an enhancement of their self-esteem and attendance. An overall feeling of acceptance and belonging has also been noticed."

"Having the parents share their culture, talk with the students and teacher is wonderful. Normally we wouldn't even know them."

Thank you for agreeing to invite this program into your classroom and the lives of your students.
We look forward to working with you.