



August 2011

Dear Robinson Family,

On behalf of the PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association), we would like to extend a very warm welcome to you as we begin the 2011-2012 school year at Robinson Elementary.

In just 14 years, Robinson has earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the best elementary schools in California. As the smallest of the five Manhattan Beach elementary schools with enrollment of approximately 400 students and 300 families, our size allows us to foster a nurturing, family-like environment while striving for the absolute best in academic excellence. Robinson's standardized test scores are among the highest in the state. The credit goes to our dedicated students under the focused leadership of our principal, Nancy Doyle, our tremendously committed and talented teachers and staff, and the generous commitment of time and financial support from Robinson families.

In order to maintain the high academic standards we have set for our school, we continuously need to provide ongoing financial support for the programs provided by the Robinson PTSA and the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation (MBEF). As you know, funding for education in the state of California has been significantly cut over the past years. In an effort to maintain the class size and programs expected, but that are no longer funded by the district or the state, we ask that you understand the distinction between and participate in the three pillars of support for our school; MBEF, Robinson PTSA and Parent Involvement.

Manhattan Beach Education Foundation (MBEF)

The MBEF funds critical personnel in our schools, including teachers, instructional assistants, librarians, computer lab specialists, clerical and health assistants, and instrumental music teachers. Your support for the MBEF also helps to maintain small class sizes at or near 20 students. Later this month, you will receive a pledge packet from MBEF. This year MBEF is asking for \$1,250 per student. We hope that you consider all the advantages the Education Foundation provides to all our K-12 Manhattan Beach schools and that you do what you can to give generously. This is a one-time annual campaign to protect these many vital programs.

Robinson PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association)

We also ask that you join the Robinson PTSA. Dedicated exclusively to our school, our PTSA funds site-specific programs and capital improvements, such as:

- Meet the Masters
- Young at Art
- Cultural assemblies
- School spirit assemblies
- Classroom supplies
- Technology improvements
- Updated computers and software
- Instructional supplies
- Science Lab equipment
- Field trips
- Playground equipment
- Sunshades

Yearly, our PTSA spends approximately \$350 on each child. We request all families join our PTSA and also donate at least \$125 per child to help fund these items. Each PTSA membership includes a Robinson school directory. Enclosed you will find a PTSA Membership & Donation Form. Please fill it out today and join in our efforts to keep Robinson Elementary a great school.

In years past, we can proudly say that 100% of Robinson families have supported both the MBEF & PTSA. We hope to reach that goal again this year.

Parent Involvement

Lastly, we encourage you to explore the many volunteer opportunities at Robinson, which range from working in the classroom to helping with annual events or assisting our volunteer committees. Whether you are looking for a weekly, monthly or more spontaneous commitment, there are countless opportunities for you to participate. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's success in school and in life. Please go to our website at [www.robinsonelementary.org](http://www.robinsonelementary.org) for volunteer information and opportunities.

Thanks for your generosity and support! We look forward to a terrific year ahead!

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