



What's the Latest... ...With the PTSA?

Every month, the Executive PTSA Board meets to discuss Robinson business, programs and events. The following is a brief recap of the highlights from our Executive PTSA meeting on 12/7/11 with current updates.

Principal Report

- The week of parent/teacher conferences went very well. Many teachers used iPads to highlight an individual student's achievements and progress.
- The district is rolling out a new Safe School Ambassador Program for grades K-12 in January. Training of students (possibly 3rd-5th) and staff at the individual schools will occur over a two-day period. Ms. Whitt will serve as our teacher facilitator and will work with Nancy Doyle to help lead the students. The goal is to create a visible full force on campus that can help breakdown the issue of bullying. This new program will coordinate with our already successful 5th grade ambassador program.
- Student Council caroled through the halls bringing holiday cheer to all grades. Students showed their spirit by wearing wooly winter clothes.
- A new "Prints for Pets Fundraiser" is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th in the lower parking lot at Robinson. Student Council will help participants create a unique piece of art with their pet to take home. The cost is \$5 per pet, and all funds raised will go directly to our local Los Angeles County Animal Shelter.

Technology

- The new MacBook Pros have arrived! Both 4th and 5th grades will begin using the laptops in the classroom to participate in a Khan Academy pilot for mathematics. Khan Academy incorporates online instruction and problem sets to allow for more differentiated instruction. Check out khanacademy.org to learn more about this highly regarded program.
- The district is looking to gain approval from the board to begin the second phase of the wireless plan in January. To help meet our needs at Robinson, temporary wireless service has been installed in the 4th and 5th grade classrooms to ensure our pilot is a success. The goal is that every school will have wireless capability by next year.

Communication

- Robinson is forming a Website and Communication Evaluation team to help evaluate the three main forms of communication at Robinson; constant contact, bulletin & room parent emails. Looking to see what is the best way to get information shared. The current website content will also be reviewed. Any interested parents should contact Dolly Boden at dboden1@earthlink.net.
- The new PTSA Handbook and Directory is out. Thank you to Victoria Zal for the newly designed and extensive directory. An abundance of information is at our fingertips! And Robinson's new logo looks stunning on the cover thanks to Elizabeth Riddell.

MBEF

- To date, 59% of Robinson families have donated to MBEF, leaving 120 families left to donate (to reach our goal of 100%). The deadline to donate will be in February. This year's ask is \$1,250 per student.
- A gift card for lunch (\$8) was mailed to all families who met the financial request per student. The gift cards were donated by local merchant, Manhattan Bread and Bagel.

Fundraising

- The first annual Turkey Trot raised over \$13,000 towards our student's health and fitness. It was the perfect way to end the trimester and start the Thanksgiving break. All students had fun running their laps and teachers went home with a gift card to purchase a turkey for the holidays. Thank you to Sig Ward and Debbie Lazar for kicking off the fun event with style! The funds raised will be used to supplement the current physical education equipment and programs run by Robinson teachers. Beginning in January, we will support a special guest once per month during PE to help instruct the students.

- The Candy Land Book Fair was a success - Jen Berlinger and Dora Seiffer did an amazing job. Despite the wind, the family game night was highly attended and many people enjoyed the bake sale hosted by Community Service. The scavenger hunt coordinated by Ms. Yukari was also a big hit!

Community Service

- There are still opportunities to get involved in the Adopt-a-Family program. Ten families from our sister school LaSalle Elementary have been adopted by Robinson families. This year, families can also get involved by sponsoring a \$40 holiday meal (gift card) for a family in need. See the bulletin for more details.
- In the future, the Board will consider supporting La Salle through funds raised from the Turkey Trot as a way of giving thanks and demonstrating our appreciation.

Spirit

- Thank you to Franca and Michael Stadvec for researching and securing our new outdoor sound system, complete with wireless microphones. Robinson's assemblies will now also be supported with music playlists on an iPod rather than CD's.

Scrip

- The Scrip Team is gearing up for the holidays and will be holding additional hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week to help parents fulfill their holiday gift needs. The holiday wish lists for Robinson staff are available in the office.

Legislation

- An Advocacy Information Night will be held on Monday, December 12 from 7-8pm at the David house at 500 7th St. The meeting will be an information session about our district's Advocacy Team, Legislative Representatives and how we impact education through legislation. Please RSVP to Alison McCauley at alisonmccauley@yahoo.com. There are a number of initiatives in the works – for more information, check out <http://idea.gseis.ucla.edu/newsroom/our-ideas/themes-in-the-news>.

Reach Out

If you have an idea or question for the Executive Board, please contact our CO-PTSA Presidents:

Ann Marie Johnson
annmarie100@mac.com

Hilary Mahan
hilarymahan@me.com