

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



Every month, the PTSA Executive Board meets to discuss Robinson business, programs and events. The following is a brief recap of the highlights from our Executive PTSA meetings on 1/11 & 2/1 and General PTSA session 1/20/12 with current updates.

## PTSA Budget Update

- **Income Mid-year Review:** Currently, we are on track to surpass our fundraising goal. Future fundraising events (FunRun and Scrip) are on track. If we hold off on our other planned fundraising events (Tile Wall and Teacher Raffle) we will still be well above our fundraising goal. Given that, the **Board decided to hold off on the Tile Wall Fundraiser (finished tiles from last year will be installed) and Teacher Raffle because of current budget status AND to put more emphasis on the MBEF Drive.**

## Capital Improvements

- **iPad Carts:** Still anticipating approval to purchase iPads for next year. Carts would be ordered in June.
- **Laptops for Students:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade laptops and carts were purchased. 4<sup>th</sup> grade's laptops have been approved and ordered. Total \$99,200.
- **Cafeteria Refurbishing:** The portable AV equipment was purchased and is currently in use. Next steps, purchase new exterior tables to replace some of the interior foldout tables, provide more storage for additional cafeteria items and create easier access to storage area.
- **Air Cooling in Classrooms:** Still in need of chairpersons and committee to initiate research.
- **Fencing:** Area to be fenced and design of fencing is still being determined. Unique fence design was proposed.
- **Sun Shades:** Large umbrellas and tables purchased for lower playground to offer more shade. During assemblies, we will try pop up tents and/or umbrellas and possibly hold assemblies early in the day before it gets too hot and sunny.
- **School Storage/Sheds:** Locations and dimensions for new sheds have been outlined. Committee is currently interviewing vendors.
- **Misc – Bulletin Board, Hooks, Mural:** Bulletin boards and hooks are in progress. Discussions are underway for murals.

## MBEF

- **MBEF Drive:** Drive ends February 17th. District is up overall from last year at 3.9 M. At Robinson we are at 88% donated.

## Fundraising

- **Parent Party Review Committee:** A committee is being formed to evaluate our annual Parent Party by reviewing purpose, timing, location and use of volunteers. Contact Kathy Crawford to join committee (katcrawford@verizon.net).
- **Family Fun Run:** Run is scheduled for Saturday, 3/17 (St. Patrick's Day) at 8am.
- **Scrip:** In 6 days of holiday sales, we generated a profit of \$1886 off \$26,350 sales. 106 families participated in MSOs, average \$174 mo.
- **PE Plan for Turkey Trot funds:** Additional PE equipment has been purchased. Outside vendors are scheduled to offer creative PE classes on a monthly basis. May develop an "Athletes in Residence" program to bring in consultants to go between the schools.

## Technology

- **4th Grade Laptops:** Additional MacBook Pro laptops are on order for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Currently, 5<sup>th</sup> grade is using the new MacBooks daily.
- **Wireless on Campus:** Phase 2 for MBUSD has begun (WiFi to 22 MCHS classrooms, all elementary classrooms, offices, public spaces).
- **iPads in Classrooms:** Conducted the 3rd meeting with the teachers. Universal complaint that sharing iPads among students is difficult. Second report to the Board will be on February 4th.

## Parent Education / Green Initiatives

- **Robinson Parent Ed Night in March:** "Feed Your Mind, Feed Your Body" -review of iPad apps and healthy breakfast / lunch recipes.
- **Safe School Ambassador Information Meeting:** Meeting was held 1/23 at Robinson to teach parents about the new district program and to understand the levels of bullying issues and proposed solutions to try with students.
- **Walking School Bus:** Grades of Green introduced the district wide Walking School Bus which begins Feb. 8.

## Community Service

- **Adopt-A-Family:** Event was a success. May need to find an alternative, safer site for exchanging gifts as the school was closed.
- **Prints for Paws:** Student Council and Erin Allard, Robinson's Health Assistant, raised \$600 for local SPCA.

## District Report

- **Lucy Calkin Writing Workshop:** Robinson is launching this writing program in all grades. MBUSD is funding the training for staff members and PTSA is funding materials, including books for all grade levels, for program.
- **Safe School Ambassador Program:** MBUSD has partnered with Community Matters, an organization that collaborates with schools and communities to engage, equip and empower young people to become change agents and peacemakers, regarding bullying and exclusion situations. Robinson students (mostly 4<sup>th</sup> & some 5<sup>th</sup> graders) were trained and a School Climate Survey was conducted with all grades.
- **AB 165:** Legal advisors have determined MCHS summer school is legal if managed completely by MBAF.
- **Mid-Year State Budget Cuts:** Significantly less than originally anticipated. Expected \$1.5 to 2 Million.
- **Mira Costa construction:** Groundbreaking ceremony held 12/16. Video of plan- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtipbfcEA80&feature=youtu.be>