

"If someone gets hurt always help them up." Julien Peterman "Friendship is the best policy in life." Chloe Robinson "Write a lot." Karina Patel
"Whatever you are - be good at it." Nikki Underwood "If you have a bump on the road, friendship will always help it" Katie Kortekaas

Riptide Newsletter

MBEF wants to extend a special THANK YOU to ALL the Robinson families who stepped up to SUPPORT our children's EDUCATION!

Almost 100% of the families in our school committed their support this year's campaign, showing our community how we all come together and succeed in today's challenging educational environment.

This funding will continue to support the critical programs our kids depend on. Science specialists, librarians, computer lab, reading, and music specialists, these are just a few of the many teachers throughout our middle, high, and all five elementary schools that MBEF funds support. This year, MBEF funds paid for 66 teachers throughout our district.

This has been an exciting year for MBEF! Our first community-wide pledge day rally was held in the

Metlox Center this past November and each school created handprint banners which were displayed during the rally. MBEF brings together our community and supports all our Manhattan Beach schools, including all

five of our elementary schools, Middle School and our award winning high school.

2011 MBEF campaign has raised \$4.3 million, that is over \$1.6 million more than our community raised in 2008, just 3 years ago.

This community wide support, including our Robinson families, is what makes our school district so special & unique. We are the only school district that has raised this amount of money for our schools. It is a true community effort & MBEF has become a fixture in our city; and we are here to stay!

- Charlyn Naylor,
- Lori Keenan,
- Franca Stadvec ■



RIPTIDES RESCUE THE ROUNDHOUSE!

Dear Riptide Families:

This is Luke Grafton, 5th grade community service commissioner here at Robinson Elementary. I am excited to report on an inspiring activity that took place a few months back here at Robinson school. If you remember, your student brought home a cup to collect change in order to "rescue the Roundhouse Aquarium." Our amazing school has raised **\$960.00** to help the roundhouse stay open.

When I presented the Roundhouse with the check on behalf of Robinson

school, the people at the Roundhouse were delighted with our generosity and encouraged from the support in our community. Our school name will be placed on a plaque inside of the roundhouse for our donation.



On this picture: Eric Martin, Co-Director of the Roundhouse

5th grader Community Service Commissioner Luke Grafton,
4th grader Alexa Schwake, Michael Schwake,
Lauren Holman, Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you for all of your generous contributions to this campaign for the Roundhouse Aquarium.

We, the RIPTIDES can and will MAKE A DIFFERENCE in our community! ■

BOOK FAIR

Last year's chairperson, Lauren Schwake, passed along a wonderful idea for the theme of book fair:

Candyland where a BOOK is Candy for the Mind

Jen Berlinger along with Lisa Tyler, Lisa May, Jenn Harris, Karen Westover, Dora Seiffer, Tiffany Barbara, Clare Flynn, and all their children, brought this theme to life. With candies hanging from the ceiling, and a foyer of lollipops there was no getting candy off the brain. Robinsonettes and their families shopped Mrs. Nelson's products as if they were in a candy store. The book fair this year made a

20% profit for the school of \$3,308

The hot sellers: Al Capone Shined my Shoes, The 39 Clues Series, Alex Rider Series, and anything to do with Legos and Surfing were some of the items that flew off the shelves.

-Jen Berlinger ■



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

The evening of December 1st was the clever idea of Nancy Doyle. With the assistance of Lisa Angstreich and her crew of amazing 5th grade ambassadors, games were the source of entertainment.

Candy-land, Bingo, Yahtzee, and Sorry (to name a few) drew players from every age and gave the winners a free pass to the Bake Sale table! Where the ambassadors left off, the Girl Scouts (Hannah Harris, Emily Yee, Nikki Cooper, Jessica Duckworth, Lauren Goldston, Lucy Atkinson, Sammy Underwood, Erin Yen and more) led by Kathy Crawford, took over at the Bake Sale.

Bake Sale raised about \$300 to benefit the Roundhouse Aquarium & satisfy any sweet-toothed shoppers.

Thank YOU all the wonderful people who donated baked goods and their time to work a shift at the book fair & the game night. ■

FUNDRAISING

2010/2011 fundraising at our school proved again how generous our supportive parents are. A good time was had by all at the **English/Rolling Stones** inspired event at the October annual party/auction. In November **Gift Wrap** orders were picked up and most recently the Riptides created tiles to expand our **Tile Wall**. We are truly fortunate to have such a supportive parent community.

-Claire Barberi VP Fundraising ■

SCRIP - HOW TO BENEFIT OUR School AT NO COST

We are so fortunate that scrip has become so widely accepted at Robinson. Over 100 families committed to a monthly order this year and so many other parents have incorporated the use of scrip in their weekly spending. With a little advanced planning, these parents have realized that they can benefit our school at no additional cost.

Gift cards sale have net over \$20,000 for our PTSA.

The scrip committee also manages the **e-scrip** program where proceeds from grocery rewards cards (Vons/Ralph's) registered by our parents typically **net over \$10,000.**

We would like to thank all of the parents for their continuous generosity of the Scrip Programs and our wonderful volunteers for all of their time and energy spent in making our program a success.

-Your Scrip Chairs Nicole Peters & Nicole Tang ■

"The music is not in the guitar; the music is always in your soul." Melia "Face the bumps!" You have to believe in yourself and face your fears. Always have a smile on! G. Watkins

"LIFE IS GOOD"

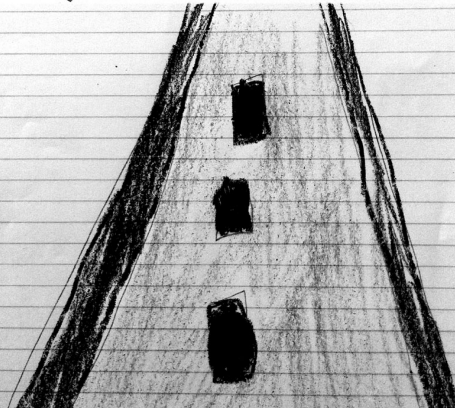
Tabitha Tredwell Brown
It takes all kinds.



I think this means we need different people to have a good life on Planet Earth. I am so glad that we have different people.

Tabitha Tredwell Brown: "It Takes All Kinds."

Gracie
The Road never ends
You can always keep on going if something puts you down.



Gracie: "The Road Never Ends"

Ella Nohan
Keep growing
School

I want my brain to learn all my life and never stop growing. Also I want my heart to not stop growing. I want to be kinder and kinder so other people feel safe and supported.

Ella Nohan: "Keep Growing"

YOUNG at ART

Young at Art is an all volunteer run program that has provided for the delivery and teaching of **six** rich, highly motivating art lessons to approximately 6000 school age children in grades Kindergarten to 8th at public and private schools in Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Redondo Beach every year since 1982.

Young at Art proper, irrespective of the individual schools, is a 501(c)(3), non-profit art education organization run entirely by parent volunteers, reflecting a true community grounded effort, from every workshop to every classroom.

Young at Art creates its own internal funding. Two volunteer directors run the organization throughout the entire year, creating themes, handbooks, coordinating workshops, schedules, artist relationships, and contracts to name but a few of the multitude of details guaranteeing that the lessons are eventually delivered to the students. At least one representative from each participating school is encouraged to support the organization by filling various board positions such as supply chair, accounting chair, resource material chair, or being members on the project selection committee, to name a few. Each participating school is chaired by one or two volunteers. They manage all schedules and supplies at their school, spending hundreds of hours coordinating their respective docents as well as being docents themselves.

Individual school PTA's and on-site fundraising efforts are the means by which each respective school typically pays for their own project specific supplies. There are currently 300 docents from 13 different campuses. Every docent puts in 60 to 70 hours during the school year, attending workshops and then applying their energy and time to insuring that the lesson is effectively taught in the classroom. This is an effort that involves maintaining a relationship with the classroom teacher, practice, preparation, set-up, and clean-up.

Young at Art exists today for the same reasons it has existed since 1982. Parents, year after year, recognize **the need for art education** in their children's' elementary years. They also support Young at Art because it provides them with an ongoing opportunity to be consistently involved in their child's classroom. It provides an opportunity to be in a community of like-minded parents, at times nourishing their **own sense of creativity** while reinforcing the need to have creative educational opportunities made available to their children.

Not every parent wants to be a docent; instead they volunteer to help during the lesson delivery, set-up, and clean-up. Young at Art is about the Kindergarten through 8th grade children and their lessons, not lessons developed for docents.

Young at Art exists as a reflection of the belief that art education should promote **individual expression** by providing the **opportunity, materials** and the **process** from which children can create their own unique conclusions and solutions. Young at Art volunteers devote their energy to providing deep, rich art experiences for each student, **taught in a non-judgemental environment with an emphasis on the learning process rather than on the final project.**

All in all, Young at Art has maintained an extended impact on the community, made richer by the way successive generations of children over 29 years, whose basic public school education was made stronger by art education. ■

THE COSTA CONNECTION

For the past six years, I have been the Mira Costa High School Liaison from Robinson Elementary School and It has made me a valuable, informed resource about our K-12 school community.

In short, the Liaison responsibilities include spreading the word about relevant events and information at Mira Costa for our elementary school parents. I pen all those Mustang Minute tidbits in the blue bulletin, letting you know about plays, concerts, special programs and outstanding students at the High School. Occasionally I sell tickets to promote an event at the high school during Wednesday ice cream on our Robinson campus. When a parent has a question about the high school or wants to know **if a rumor is true**, they come to me and I connect them with the people in our district who have the factual answers. As I have learned first-hand about what is going on, my whole family has enjoyed many events at Mira Costa **[Friday night football games, girls basketball, plays and musicals, dance clinics, Mira Costa Night information session, & much more.]** This participation has given me the opportunity to spend time at the MBMS and MCHS campuses well before my kids were old enough to attend.

Six years ago I joined Helen Codron in sharing this position as her son was getting ready to graduate. Next year, my youngest daughter Sydney will be a 5th grader at Robinson, and I will need to sign off as our school's Liaison to Costa at the end of the school year. I am hoping there's a parent reading this article right now who is thinking, "wow, I'd like to do this job with Renee next year, and then take it over when her kid graduates from 5th grade!" If that's you, **I promise you'll be glad you stepped up.** When it comes to our kids' education and the opportunities in our community it is important to be informed, and this job is one more way to:

be in-the-know!

I am here to answer your questions about the high school and can be contacted anytime at: **renee@buddingfamily.com**

- Renee Whitcombe ■

MBUSD ADVOCACY TEAM

Did you know we have a district-wide Advocacy Team working on behalf of our students? **This group of people takes an active role in the political process in Sacramento by staying informed about anything related to education funding at the local, state, and federal level;** then advocating to our elected officials on behalf of our students.

On our trip to Sacramento in March the Advocacy Team had individual meetings with our state Senators and Assembly-people. We have informed them of MBUS's position as it relates to the governor's proposed budget, made recommendations on legislation that will help our district, offered creative solutions during these challenging times.

Advocacy Team **is LOoKing** for new Legislative Representative members and a new Advocacy Chair Person.

Legislative Representative Candidate(s) Should:

- Have the desire to make a difference for our district.
- Be interested in the political process.
- Be excited about learning about education funding at the local, state and federal level.
- Desire to get more people involved.
- Like to communicate.



Advocacy Chair Position Opportunities Include:

- Be a part of the Advocacy Team.
- Attend an approximately monthly meeting of the Advocacy Team.
- Become informed about education funding at the district, local, state and federal levels.
- Participate/maintain of relationships with key Sacramento legislative staff.
- Research pending education related bills.
- Participate in letter writing, email sending and phone call campaigns.
- Travel to Sacramento to advocate on behalf of our schools/district's interests.
- Encourage parents to become informed and vote.
- Encourage parents to participate in Advocacy Team activities such as letter writing, email sending and phone call campaigns through school communications.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact:
Susan Neal **susanneal7@gmail.com**
-PTA Council Legislative Representative and Advocacy Team Leader
Alison McCauley **alisonmccauley@yahoo.com**
-Robinson Legislative Representative and Advocacy ■

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ?

For questions, suggestions and article submissions
E-mail us at **RiptideNews@gmail.com**