

# PRESS RELEASE

## Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**September 27, 2010**

### **Edie Babbe Named as a Parent Volunteer of the Year by the Los Angeles County Office of Education**

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District is proud to announce that Edie Babbe, a parent and volunteer in the District, was named on Monday as one of three Parent Volunteers of the Year by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Prior to receiving the award, Ms. Babbe had been named as the MBUSD Parent Volunteer of the Year, then the 33<sup>rd</sup> District PTA Volunteer of the Year. She received her award at a special presentation in Universal City on Monday. Mrs. Babbe was nominated and earned her award due to recommendations and endorsements by parents and district personnel who have worked with her on school and community committees, councils, boards and special task forces.

Edie Babbe is regarded as an extremely effective and energetic volunteer and a wonderful person, a combination that has enabled her to get others involved in important educational causes. She is a true leader, and has taken on projects that help not just individual classrooms or schools, and not just the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. She has become an advocate for all of California's public school children, and others follow her example.

Some of Edie Babbe's highlights:

- Served as Grand View Elementary School PTA President (2004-2006), Manhattan Beach Council of PTAs President (2006-2009), Manhattan Beach Education Foundation Board (2004-present)
- Played a crucial and substantial role in MB PTA statewide advocacy efforts since 2004
- Created the "Our Students Matter Now" campaign with logo and bright blue T-shirts worn every Wednesday by the "Blue Team"
- Organized a highly successful rally to attract city council community members to join the Blue Team to show unity and solidarity for public education
- Worked as an active member of the South Bay Youth Project and Children's Health Center to provide counseling services to those who needed but could not afford them

Helped found the Greater South Bay Education Coalition, a consortium of South Bay school districts that share budgetary strategies, resources, and lobbying efforts.

"Edie Babbe sees the big picture," stated MBUSD Superintendent Michael Matthews. "She understands that school funding has been reduced drastically, and she has taken steps with other volunteers that have impacted classrooms, schools, the district and all of California. She is truly an amazing leader."

"Edie Babbe is an incredible person who epitomizes the word 'volunteer,' adds MBUSD PTA President Cindy Ellenberg. "She continuously leaves an indelible impression on all who have had the pleasure of working with her. I have the utmost respect and admiration for her dedication, motivation and inspiration."

Ida Vander Poorte, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees reflected, "One of Edie's proudest overarching accomplishments was to work with others to elevate local PTAs from being isolated fundraisers to being a cohesive

power-house working hand-in-hand with school and district administrators to maintain District excellence in the face of horrific fiscal cut backs.”

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District is proud of Edie Babbe’s award, and we are thankful for her many years of service on behalf of the students in our district and beyond.

### **About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District**

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2010 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 926. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School’s API places it in the top 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN’s “Fab 50” High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org).