

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Manhattan Beach Unified School District**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MBUSD Ecology Program Gets National Attention**

**Manhattan Beach, CA, November 1, 2010**

Elementary schools in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District have established ecological programs that are now getting national attention. In recognition of this accomplishment, Grand View Principal, Rhonda Steinberg, was recently asked to speak at the "Green Schools National Conference," in Minneapolis. Steinberg shared with educators, administrators and ecologists from all over the country the story behind the incredible success that Grand View and other MBUSD schools have had with the ecology program "Grades of Green."

In 2007, MBUSD and Waste Management embarked on a private-public partnership to launch school-based waste and recycling programs as well as energy conservation practices throughout the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD). In the first year recycling across the district increased by 23%, and electricity consumption was reduced by 17% in one month resulting in an annual cost-savings of \$150,000.

With an active and impassioned parent community, MBUSD elementary schools began launching additional programs like "Trash-Free Tuesday," "Walk to School Wednesday," e-waste recycling, composting and ecology education.

"Everyone at Grand View wholeheartedly embraces the Grades of Green program. We feel that our ecology education, which has been tied to the state science standards for each grade, plays a role in our academic success," said Steinberg.

MBUSD schools take the position that the time to start teaching children about their responsibility to the environment and the advantages of living green begins in kindergarten.

“Being ecologically minded should be a lifestyle—not a short-term project. Perhaps not every school has the capacity to implement green programs to the extent that Grand View has, but every school has the potential to do something,” stated Steinberg.

MBUSD recently hired an energy conversation specialist who helped implement programs to save on gas, electricity and water use throughout the district. The District hopes to achieve a significant savings during this school year and beyond.

“We have a Grades of Green program at all of our elementary schools and we anticipate that it will grow considerably as those children who started with the program in kindergarten go to middle and high school. We are so proud that Ms. Steinberg was asked to speak, because the green success at Grand View mirrors the green successes in all of our elementary schools. Our young students will consider it commonplace to live a green lifestyle. We will continue to support environmentally sound practices throughout the district because it’s the right thing to do and these behaviors ultimately save the district money,” commented Dr. Michael Matthews, MBUSD Superintendent.

“Our goal throughout the district is to raise environmentally aware children. I can’t wait to see how these amazing young people affect our environment as they become adults,” added Steinberg.

### **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).