

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District's Robinson Elementary Honored as a National Blue Ribbon School

Manhattan Beach, CA, December 16, 2013

Opal Robinson Elementary School was honored this fall as one of 286 schools across the United States to be designated as a National Blue Ribbon School. Schools chosen as National Blue Ribbon winners are selected because they are either "Exemplary High Performing" or "Exemplary Improving." Exemplary High Performing schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. As a 2013 Exemplary High Performing School, Robinson joins just 14 other such Blue Ribbon Schools in California.

Last month Robinson Principal Nancy Doyle traveled to Washington, D.C., with several Robinson teachers to accept the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. At this ceremony, school principals received a National Blue Ribbon plaque and flag to signify the exemplary status of their schools. On the morning of Friday, December 13, the Robinson community joined together to celebrate the inaugural raising of their new National Blue Ribbon Flag. Principal Doyle, teachers, students, and several parents were joined at the event by Board of Trustees Clerk Ellen Rosenberg, Superintendent Michael Matthews, and Executive Directors Brett Geithman and Carolyn Seaton. Prior to the official flag raising, Mrs. Doyle thanked the students and staff for their hard work that made the award possible, and all audience members sang patriotic songs.

On behalf of her fellow Board members, MBUSD Board President Karen Komatinsky stated, ""We are so very proud of this incredible recognition of Robinson Elementary School. Our teaching staff, site, and community leaders, committed parents, and talented students have pulled together and transformed a great school into an extraordinary learning environment. Our District is the benefactor of these efforts, and we are thrilled to receive this honor."

Added Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent of Schools, "When I joined MBUSD in 2010, I quickly discovered the pervasive spirit of innovation at Robinson. Robinson teachers are to be commended for their dedication to providing students with a rigorous curriculum that challenges them academically while also nurturing their social/emotional growth."

Principal Doyle noted, "At Robinson we are extremely proud of our shared vision of excellence. Our teachers stay focused on the important work of teaching and learning. We display a culture of mutual respect and commitment at our school through which teachers collaborate and share best educational practices within our school and across the district. National Blue Ribbon status is a culmination of the dedication and determination of our teachers, parents, students, and community. We are thankful to be in a community that values and supports public education."

To view the list of all 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools awardees, click [here](#).
For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, click [here](#).

ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2013 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 935. MBUSD serves approximately 7,000 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 Growth API of 913 places it in the top 1.5% of public, comprehensive high schools in California. Robinson Elementary School was recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Four MBUSD schools have been honored as California Distinguished Schools: Mira Costa High School (2011), Manhattan Beach Middle School (2009), Grand View Elementary (2010), and Pacific Elementary (2010). In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States to receive this award. 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 community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.