



December 2023



A Note from the PTO

Happy holidays! As we head into a new year, we'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support and wish you a lovely winter break with family and friends.

We're making a New Year's resolution to further refine and enhance our communications with you all to be even more effective. To that end, we'd appreciate it if you could complete this survey on your communications preferences:

[Participate in the PTO Communications Survey](#)

You'll also notice that we added a quick bulleted list of events to the top of the newsletter to make it easier to find key dates and information. The hyperlinks will take you to our website landing pages or SignUpGenius forms with more information, or you can continue scrolling to read the content in our usual newsletter format.

As always, we welcome feedback from you, our Bancroft community.

Happy holidays,
Your Bancroft PTO

December Events Summary

- Early Dismissal (12:15pm) and [Staff Winter Luncheon](#): Friday, Dec. 8
 - [Last Day for Toys for Tots Donations](#): Friday, Dec. 15
 - [Dave & Busters Fundraiser](#): Now through Friday, Dec. 15
 - [Spirit Week: Dec. 18-22](#)
 - Last Day for Local [Spiritwear](#) Holiday Orders: Thursday, Dec. 21
 - [Winter Assembly](#): Pictures/videos needed; Friday, Dec. 22
 - [Chorus/Orff Winter Concert](#): Wednesday, Jan. 17
 - [Heritage Night Thank You](#): Photos and Digital Cookbook coming soon
 - Ongoing: [Library](#) and [Cultural Arts](#) volunteers needed, [CORI reminders](#)
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Staff Winter Luncheon: Volunteers & Donations



The annual Bancroft Staff Winter Luncheon will be held this **Friday, December 8!** This is a wonderful and much appreciated event for our Bancroft teachers and staff. We are still seeking monetary donations to help us supply the catered meal as well as a few volunteers to help clean up the event at 2:00pm. Please help us show them our appreciation!

Dessert, drink, and supply donations can be dropped off on the front porch of 124 Chestnut St. by Thursday, December 7 OR in the Bancroft teacher's lounge anytime before 10:30 on Friday, December 8. Please use disposable containers/dishes for any edible contributions.

[Click here to sign up to help with the Staff Winter Luncheon!](#)

Toys for Tots Reminder



This holiday season, the Bancroft Cares Club needs your help to "Fill a Cruiser" with Toys for Tots. The Bancroft Cares Club will be collecting **new, unwrapped** toys for ages infant-14, in the lobby until **Friday, December 15**. At the end of the drive, Massachusetts State Trooper MacAllister will come to Bancroft and Bancroft Cares Members will "fill the cruiser" with all the toys collected.

Collection boxes will be placed in the lobby for the duration of the collection. Students can bring their donation to school to drop off. You can also ship directly to Bancroft attn: CARES CLUB. Please help us reach our goal of over 500 toys! Any donation is appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Dave and Busters Fundraiser



Need last minute inspiration for a holiday gift? Look no further! Bancroft PTO has teamed up with Dave & Busters to offer rechargeable POWERCARDS, now through **12:00pm on Friday, December 15**. We'll arrange for pickup or mailing shortly after the fundraiser ends.

Please note, as soon as the fundraiser closes at 12:00pm on Friday, December 15, there will be no refunds/cancellations and no additional orders can be processed. We will be meeting with the D&B team that afternoon and will have the cards in hand by that evening. We appreciate your understanding.

[Purchase Dave & Busters POWERCARDS](#)

December Spirit Week

December Spirit Week December 18-21				
Monday December 18	Tuesday December 19	Wednesday December 20	Thursday December 21	Friday December 22
Merry Monday	Tinsel Tuesday	School Spirit	Tis the "winter" season	Flannel Friday
Let's celebrate what makes YOU special this holiday season. Are there colors that are important to you? A favorite holiday shirt? Show your own holiday spirit today as we kick off a wonderful week.	Let's see that bling, sparkle, glitter, & shine. Wear your favorite holiday accessories. Hats, headbands...be creative!	Showing our school spirit is "SNOW" much fun! Let's show our Bancroft school spirit by wearing as much green or Bancroft as possible!	Celebrate the first day of the winter season. Wear your favorite winter sweater, or cozy outfit!	Wear your favorite flannel shirt or cozy flannel pants to school.

Spiritwear for the Holidays



Spiritwear makes a wonderful holiday gift! Place your order now to ensure it arrives in time. Any items available through local delivery need to be ordered by **Thursday, December 21!** Zazzle items can take 10-14 days to ship. Click the button below to view our two Spiritwear stores.

Order Bancroft Spiritwear

Gift of Giving Calendar and Winter Assembly

In preparation for our "Together in Harmony" all school assembly on **Friday, December 22**, we are inviting students to submit photos or videos showing acts of working together in harmony. For example, helping care for a sibling, washing the dishes, cleaning their room, donating to Toys for Tots, etc. Please submit using the button below:

Submit Photos/Videos for the Winter Assembly

We thought this paired beautifully with the calendar below, which serves as great inspiration for ways to be kind each day in December. Thanks for your participation!



Chorus/Orff Winter Concert

Bancroft's Chorus and Orff Winter Concert, "Positive: A Celebration of Happy Thoughts," is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**. There will be two performances in the Bancroft cafeteria: 9:30am for staff and students and 7:00pm for parents, families, and friends of Chorus and Orff students.

Please have your performer wear a solid dark color on the bottom like black, navy blue, charcoal grey, etc. Jeans and leggings are fine. Chorus and Orff t-shirts have been ordered and are scheduled to be

here in time for our concert.

Please contact Evelyn Casey with any questions (evelyn.case@andoverma.us).

Heritage Night: THANK YOU!



Many thanks to those who attended and/or volunteered to make last week's Heritage Night and K-2 Art Show such a success! It was a wonderful evening of community, celebration, and creativity.

Kids and parents alike were able to take a journey to ten different countries and learn about other families' traditions and cultures, as well as try foods from all over the world. The K-2 art show was full of color and creativity, thank you to Mrs. Dunn and Ms. Scarfo and all the students!

A full photo album and recap video of the night is coming soon, as well as our refreshed Digital Cookbook with recipes contributed by families over the years. [If you would like to contribute a recipe, click here.](#)

Library and Maker Space Volunteers Needed



Are you interested in volunteering in the Library or the Maker Space this year? If you already have an approved CORI ([see below under Important Reminders](#)) and are able to help please click the buttons below to sign up.

[Volunteer at the Library](#)

[Volunteer at the Maker Space](#)

Cultural Arts Volunteers Needed



Want to see the planets up close, touch a wild animal, or learn a cool science experiment? The PTO is in need of volunteers to work with the great performers and educators coming to school this year. The cultural arts committee has booked great in-school events for every grade level, including a traveling planetarium, the Discovery Museum, authors, and scientists. We need a few people to serve as liaisons between our guests and the school, particularly for these upcoming events:

- Tuesday, Jan. 16: Top Secret Science, Physics (Grade 3)
- Tuesday, Mar. 5: Techsploration (Grade 5)

To learn more about the opportunities available and to volunteer, click the button below.

[Volunteer at a Cultural Arts Event](#)

Important Reminders: CORI

Andover Public Schools require a new Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check every year for anyone who volunteers at a school or school event (i.e. field trip chaperones, volunteers for class parties, library duty, etc.). If you would like to volunteer during the 2023-2024 school year, please fill out the [APS CORI check form](#) and return it in person to a school administrator with an original government issued ID. Blank forms are also available at the front office. It can take 2-3 weeks for your application to process and you will not receive a notification once it's complete. You can confirm your status with the front office.

Upcoming Calendar Events

[Click here to access the full Bancroft PTO Calendar](#)

[Click here to view the full APS 2023/2024 calendar on the APS Website.](#)

- **December 6:** Origamido (Grade 4)
- **December 8:** Early Release Day at 12:15pm, Staff Winter Luncheon

- **December 18-22:** Bancroft Spirit Week
- **December 22:** Winter Assembly
- **December 25-January 1:** No School, Winter Break
- **January 9:** PTO Meeting (7:00pm at Bancroft)
- **January 15:** No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **January 16:** Top Secret Science, Physics (Grade 3)
- **January 17:** Chorus & Orff Winter Concert
- January 25: Science Made Fun (Grade 2)
- January 26: Early Release Day at 12:15pm
- **Future PTO Meeting Dates:** 3/12, 5/7 (7:00pm at Bancroft)

HAVE NEWS TO SUBMIT TO THE BOBCAT? Email us at communications@bancroftpto.org. All submissions must be received by the end of the month to be included in the next monthly update.

Bancroft PTO

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