

January 2024



## January Events Summary

- [PTO Meeting](#): Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 7:00pm
- NO SCHOOL, [MLK Jr. Day/Andover Service Day](#): Monday, Jan. 15
- [Free Book Fair: Week of Jan. 16](#)
- [Chorus/Orff Winter Concert](#): Wednesday, Jan. 17
- Early Release Day: Friday, Jan. 26 at 12:15pm
- [Science Fair](#): Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6:00pm in the Bancroft cafeteria
- [Winter Learning Labs Update](#): Course preview coming on Sunday, Feb. 4, sign-ups open Monday, Feb. 5
- [Heritage Night Photos and Digital Cookbook](#): Review photos from this incredible night and try recipes from around the world
- Ongoing: [Library](#) and [Cultural Arts](#) volunteers needed, [CORI reminders](#)
- [5th Grade Parents: Last Call for Yearbook Photos](#)

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## PTO Meeting



Our next PTO meeting will be held **tonight, January 9 at 7:00pm** in the Bancroft Media Center as well as virtually. A meeting link has been posted to social media as well as the website calendar item to join virtually.

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## Seeking Winter Gear Donations



The school is in need of spare winter gear for kids who forget their own (who wants to miss out on snow play?!). If you have any extra gently used snow pants, boots or gloves, please drop them off at the school and we'll put them to good use! Can't get to the school? Feel free to drop them off on the front porch of 124 Chestnut St, and we'll get them there. Thank you!

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## Free Book Fair



In the spirit of inclusion, equity, and sustainability, we are excited to bring a Free Book Fair to Bancroft this winter. Throughout the **week of January 16**, kids will have the opportunity to visit the Free Book Fair and select a free book (or two) along with some fun Bancroft-themed reading goodies!

We will be having a more traditional book fair in the spring and look forward to bringing you details on that in the coming months. But in the meantime, we're looking for volunteers to help make next week's book fair a success. Click the link below to signup today, it's a great opportunity to be a part of the school day and this special one-time event!

[Click Here to Volunteer for the Free Book Fair](#)

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## Chorus/Orff Winter Concert

Bancroft's Chorus and Orff Winter Concert, "Positive: A Celebration of Happy Thoughts," is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 17**. There will be two performances in the Bancroft cafetorium: 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](mailto:evelyn.case@andoverma.us)).

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## **Last Call: Fifth Grade Yearbook Photos**

The yearbook is currently in production and we're putting one **last, LAST call** out there for photos so no fifth grader is left behind (don't worry, we make every attempt to ensure this doesn't happen).

### **PHOTO GUIDELINES:**

- School related – all kids in the photos should be Bancroft 5th graders (but the pictures don't have to be at school).
- Ideally we would like a picture of each 5th grader from every year, but send all you have! We love group shots too so that we can try and get kids whose parents may not have submitted as many pics. Note that if you transferred into Bancroft at some point, feel free to send pictures of your child from the early years at their other school or at home.
- Highest resolution possible – please don't condense photos. They need to be in the original resolution to ensure the best quality when printing.

### **HOW TO ORGANIZE AND SUBMIT PHOTOS:**

Please rename each photo with the names of each child in the photo (other children too), as we need to know who each child is. You will need to do this on your computer, as you can't do it once you add the photos.

To upload, please click on the appropriate grade level link below. If you experience difficulties, please reach out to [president@bancroftpto.org](mailto:president@bancroftpto.org) for assistance.

- [Baby Photos](#)
  - [Kindergarten](#)
  - [1st Grade](#)
  - [2nd Grade](#)
  - [3rd Grade](#)
  - [4th Grade](#)
  - [5th Grade](#)
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## **Save the Date: Science Fair**



Please join us for the annual Bancroft Science Fair on **Thursday, February 15 from 6:00-7:00pm** in the Bancroft Cafeteria (snow makeup day is Thursday, February 29). Students of all ages are

encouraged to showcase their unique, innovative, and creative science projects, experiments, and inventions.

The fee is \$5/child, which covers the cost of a project poster board and prizes given at the end of the event. Please note that it is the project, not each child, that is registered, and each project can have one, two, or three participants.

Please contact Justin Baker at [jbaker618@gmail.com](mailto:jbaker618@gmail.com) or Heather Olson at [heatherolsonsmall@gmail.com](mailto:heatherolsonsmall@gmail.com) with any questions. To view photos and videos from our 2023 Science Fair, please click [here](#).

For more information or to sign-up now, please click the button below.

[Click Here to Signup for the Science Fair](#)

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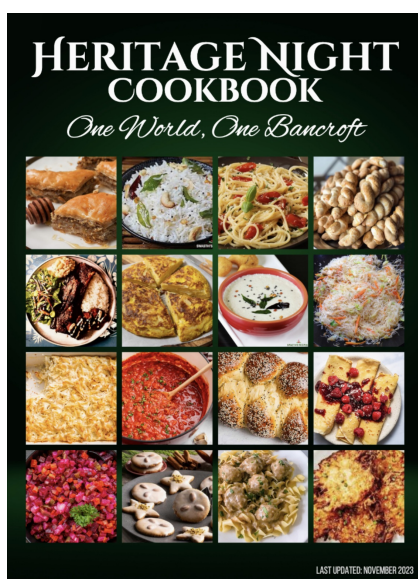
## Winter Learning Labs are Coming!

Mark your calendars for the return of Learning Labs! Winter Learning Labs registration will open **Monday, February 5**, with a course preview going out to parents on Sunday, February 4 so that you have time to review and discuss course options with your child(ren) before sign-ups open. Learning Labs will run between the February and April school breaks. Look for an email from the PTO in February with additional information.

If you have any interest in running a learning lab in the future, or if you have any other questions, please contact [communications@bancroftpto.org](mailto:communications@bancroftpto.org).

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## Heritage Night: Digital Cookbook & Photos



[We are excited to share a photo album](#) of the incredible trip around the world we all experienced at Heritage Night in November! Thanks again to all who joined us that night, and especially to those who hosted a table or contributed food.

[We also have a refreshed Digital Cookbook](#) with recipes contributed by families over the years, some of which we were lucky enough to have tasted that night. Thank you to all who contributed, and if you have a recipe you would like to add it isn't too late! Click here to send it to us.

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## School Play: Co-Director Needed

The PTO is looking for a community member who may be interested in helping us direct our PTO run Bancroft play. We have one director but we are looking for co-director(s) to share the position. **Without additional help, we are in jeopardy of not having a school play this year.**

This position does have a paid stipend that is funded by the PTO:

- This role involves directing the Bancroft play.
- We will have parent volunteers organize the costumes, props, communication with parents, and provide support during rehearsals.
- The play will run over three weeks at the end of March/beginning of April and will meet three afternoons a week (likely M/W/F) after school with a daytime and evening performance likely on Thursday, April 11.

If you are interested in this position, or have any questions, please reach out to us at [communications@bancroftpto.org](mailto:communications@bancroftpto.org)

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## 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](#)

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## Cultural Arts Volunteers Needed

A promotional graphic for Cultural Arts Volunteers. The background is a light green textured wall. On the left, there are three small inset photos: a woman smiling, two children working at a table, and a child playing a guitar. The main text in large blue font reads "Cultural Arts Volunteers Needed!". Below this, in smaller blue font, it says "Come give us a helping hand and get a front row seat to the amazing programs your kids get to take part in!". At the bottom, there are several images: a hand holding a colorful geometric paper object, a girl in a white lab coat holding a pipette, a man playing a guitar, and a circular logo for "TOP SECRET Science &amp; Math" featuring a cartoon scientist. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center Concord, MA".

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)
- Wednesday, Mar. 20: Discovery Museum (Grade K, two volunteers needed)

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

[Volunteer at a Cultural Arts Event](#)

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## 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.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Andover Service Day

Andover Service Day looks a little different this year. There will be no day of specific opportunities this year, only "any day" opportunities. No signups necessary! Just browse the available projects and complete them on your own time. [Feel free to share pictures](#) that will be showcased on the Andover Service Day Facebook page or the website photo gallery!

**Interested in helping coordinate Andover Service Day in the future?** Reach out to [info@andoverserviceday.org](mailto:info@andoverserviceday.org) for more information.

# ANDOVER SERVICE DAY

*A Day On, Not a Day Off*

**M O N D A Y**  
JANUARY 15, 2024

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we hope you'll join us for the 4th annual Andover Community Service Day, an event that is a "day on" to give back to our community by volunteering for a service project. **How can you help?**



SCAN ME

- **Review the service projects available** at our website, [www.andoverserviceday.org](http://www.andoverserviceday.org), to determine how you can volunteer.
- If you're with an organization (PTO/PAC or other community-based group), **consider helping to coordinate and host efforts amongst your group.**
- **Forward this flyer** amongst your groups/networks, share via social media or established communication methods.
- Don't see a project that interests you? **Submit suggestions for volunteer projects** to add, either at our website or email us at [info@andoverserviceday.org](mailto:info@andoverserviceday.org).
- **We are actively seeking community members who would be interested in coordinating this event in future years.** Contact us at [info@andoverserviceday.org](mailto:info@andoverserviceday.org) if you would like more information!



[www.andoverserviceday.org](http://www.andoverserviceday.org)

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**Love the Arts Market**

# LOVE THE ARTS MARKET



**Saturday, February 3rd**

**10:00am–4:00pm**

Andover Old Town Hall  
20 Main Street, Andover



Looking for a unique,  
handmade Valentine's  
Day gift for your  
favorite person  
or you?

**HAND  
MADE**

ceramics, hand knit clothing,  
jewelry, acrylic, stained glass,  
glass art, fabric and pencil art



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**Love the Arts Market**



# FREE DROP IN HIGH SCHOOL ULTIMATE FRISBEE

THE CORMIER YOUTH CENTER IS  
HOSTING HIGH SCHOOLERS WHO WANT  
TO TRY THE SPORT OR GET READY FOR  
THE SPRING SEASON ON SUNDAYS.

\* A SIGNED WAIVER IS REQUIRED PRIOR  
TO PARTICIPATION \*



**SUNDAYS**  
**1:00 -**  
**2:30PM**

**JAN. 21 -**  
**MARCH**  
**10**

[www.AndoverYouthServices.com](http://www.AndoverYouthServices.com)

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**MHL Winter Activities**



## Memorial Hall Library Children's Room

Check out the programs we'll be offering at the library this January-March! Go to our full [events calendar](https://mhl.org/calendar) online at [mhl.org/calendar](https://mhl.org/calendar) to see registration information!



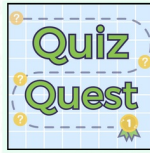
**All Ages**  
Drop in to free build or try a challenge prompt!  
**Mondays 4PM-6PM**  
Sat Feb 10 2PM-4PM  
Sat Mar 9 2PM-4PM



**Ages 5+**  
Practice your read aloud skills with a therapy dogs!  
**Check our website to sign up for 15 minute slots!**



**Ages 5+**  
Drop in to work on a comic, story, video, or any creative project!  
**Tuesdays 5PM-6PM**



**All Ages**  
Find and answer trivia questions to win a prize!  
**Sat Jan 20 2PM-4PM**  
**Sat Feb 17 2PM-4PM**  
**Sat Mar 16 2PM-4PM**



**Ages 5+**  
Drop in for hands-on STEAM activities!  
**Wed Jan 17 5PM-6PM**  
**Wed Feb 14 5PM-6PM**  
**Wed Mar 13 5PM-6PM**



**Ages 6-10 & Families**  
Explore books about food, plus an activity and recipe!  
**Sat Jan 27 2:30PM-3PM**  
**Sat Feb 24 2:30PM-3PM**



**Ages 7-11 & Families**  
Relax and enjoy some snacks at this monthly family program!  
**Wed Jan 24 7PM-8:15PM**  
**Wed Feb 28 7PM-8:15PM**



**Ages 6+**  
Beginner-level D&D for kids and families! Dice will be provided!  
**Sat Feb 3 2PM-3:15PM**  
**Sat Mar 2 2PM-3:15PM**



**Ages 5+**  
Drop in to trade, battle, or just talk Pokémon with other fans!  
**Thursdays 5PM-6PM**



**Ages 0-8**  
Enjoy an evening storytime for families!  
**Monthly on Tuesday & Thursday 6:30-7PM**



**Grades 4-8**  
Drop in to play Smash Bros. on the Teen Room's Nintendo Switch!  
**Fridays 3PM-4:30PM**



**Grades 4-5**  
Kids can volunteer and help the library plan programs!  
**Monthly meetings**  
**Mon 4:30PM/Tue 6:30PM**

## 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.](#)

- **Jan. 9:** PTO Meeting (7:00pm at Bancroft)
- **Jan. 15:** No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **Jan. 16:** Top Secret Science, Physics (Grade 3)
- **Jan. 17:** Chorus & Orff Winter Concert
- **Jan. 25:** Science Made Fun (Grade 2)
- **Jan. 26:** Early Release Day at 12:15pm
- **Feb. 2:** Bancroft Spiritwear Day
- **Feb. 5:** Learning Labs Registration Opens
- **Feb. 9:** Johnny the K (Grades K-5)
- **Feb. 15:** Science Fair (6:00pm at Bancroft)
- **Feb. 19-23:** No School, Presidents' Day and Winter Break
- **Feb. 26:** Winter Learning Labs begin
- **Feb. 27:** Top Secret Science, Electricity (Grade 4)
- **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](mailto:communications@bancroftpto.org). All submissions must be received by the end of the month to be included in the next monthly update.

**Bancroft PTO**

15 Bancroft Rd, Andover, MA 01810

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