



BANCROFT PTO OFFICERS

Sara Blais, Co-President Caity Castagna, Treasurer
Stephanie Barry, Co-President Cristina Addesa, Secretary
Amy Hamilton, Vice President

Profiles for all board members can be found on bancroftpto.org/our-team

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

We had an incredibly successful Halloween Festival on November 5th. It was hard won success as we had TWICE the attendance we typically have and had to contend with a weather delay. With over 600 attendees, we played games, tackled a scavenger hunt, walked through themed haunted houses, had a dance party, and more. We also ran a silent auction at the same time online - Staff for the Day offerings were a big hit as always!



CULTURAL ARTS

Cultural arts have continued throughout the past two months, including a traveling planetarium, author visits, science with biodiversity, and more. We look forward to this month's cultural arts continuing when school resumes, including a visit with a local meteorologist, a puppet show and Extreme Science!

LEARNING LABS

Fall Learning Labs kicked off on 10/30. Kids have been attending before and after school activities throughout the week including chess, art, math enrichment, ceramics, sewing, knitting, sports and more. These will continue up to Winter break.

ROOM PARENTS TRAINING

We held an online training session at the beginning of the month for all room parents, to walk them through their duties throughout the year and answer any questions they may have. It was a very informative hour and a half, with a lot of feedback and ideas exchanged. We published an online FAQ for the room parents and are continuously updating that with more information as questions come in. We also have a digital resource library under construction for publication by end of year that will include ideas, printables and resources for seasonal party planning, teacher gifts, and other room parent needs.

HERITAGE NIGHT

Our annual Heritage Night will be taking place on Tuesday, November 30th. An evening to celebrate the different cultures of Bancroft families, kids visit host tables to learn more about each country and get their passport stamped, see performances that share something special about their cultural heritage and try new foods. The event is held in conjunction with the school's Art Show.

BOOK FAIR CHANGE

We were scheduled to have a book fair occur this month using Scholastic, however after the recent news surrounding their decision to have an opt-in, opt-out policy for their "diversity shelf", we as a board voted to move in a new direction as we didn't feel they aligned with Bancroft values. In the interim, we are going to host a "free book fair" in the school for all grades, using gently used or new donated books as well as what we can source ourselves, and we'll also be offering a chance to order through Andover Bookstore for new publications. We hope to have an alternative sourced in time for a more traditional book fair in the spring.