



Bobcat Tracks Newsletter: December 2010

Life Skills of the Month: Problem Solving & Curiosity

In this issue:

- **Closure Committee Update**
- **Kindergarten Orientation**
- **Book Fair Thanks**
- **Walk-A-Thon Results**
- **Clip those BoxTops**
- **Auction Sign-Ups**

Dates at a Glance:

- 12/6 – 16** Conferences/Early Dismissal
- 12/21 – 31** Winter Break
- 1/3** School Resumes
- 1/10** PFC Meeting
- 1/17** MLK Holiday
- 1/25** SSC Meeting
- 1/26** Kindergarten Orientation

Principal's Message

Happy Holidays to each of you and your extended families around the nation and globe! We are so fortunate to be in a community that blends many traditions and cultures each day. Students have had the opportunity throughout classrooms these past two months to share and celebrate their traditions and family experiences with their peers and teachers. While the events, words, and decorations may be different, we can all find a common thread in our traditions among family, love, time honored celebrations and a devotion to giving our children rich and meaningful experiences.

During the month of December it is our tradition to set aside time with parents and students to share the growth and progress made during the first learning trimester of the school year. Thank you to the teachers who have prepared these report cards and are setting learning goals for the new trimester. Thank you to parents who have promptly scheduled conference times with teachers and have reflected on the goals and growth presented during the conference. Thank you to our students who come prepared each day to learn and stretch to their potential. Bancroft School staff continues to serve students by believing in their capacity and capabilities to be successful learners and caring friends. Someday our children will tell stories of their childhood, and I believe that their Bancroft Bobcat years will bring back smiles, great learning memories and the realization that between their home and school family their sense of belonging with respectful relationships was the foundation to all their future endeavors and dreams.

This past week an article in the Contra Costa Times created a buzz about the Bancroft community. The article identified fifteen schools for potential closure, naming Bancroft as one of these schools. You may be hearing rumors and speculation furthering misinformation and or fear. I wanted to give each of you some facts and information for a better perspective. The article was written by a reporter who attended a School Closure Committee meeting where

they were asked to create a variety of scenarios based on extensive studies using specific criteria for closure evaluation. These scenarios are where the names of the schools came from.

Some facts:

The district proposed budget includes 1.5 million dollars in reductions by way of closing four schools. A School Closure Committee (SCC) was created through an application process that began last spring. The SCC is an advisory committee to the Board of Education.

Since September, the School Closure Advisory Committee has met 10 times. The Committee is made up of parents, community members, classified employees/teachers, and administrators from each feeder pattern as well as reps from bargaining units and district committees. The committee has also been working with Jack Schredder & Associates, a demographics firm very familiar with our district. Over the last three months, the Committee has received an abundance of relevant information and data. The Committee was then divided into seven subgroups; each was assigned one of the following criteria:

1. Facility condition
2. Capacity utilization
3. Operations and maintenance costs
4. Adjacent facility capacity
5. Academic performance
6. Geographic equity
7. Improved facility conditions for students

The subgroups rated all schools using a 1-20 rubric for their criteria. These ratings from the seven subgroups were then compiled to determine a composite score to assist the Committee in developing their recommendations.

The Committee was again reorganized, this time into five teams with members coming from different criteria subgroups. Each team was charged to develop two scenarios based on the data and analysis where each scenario would realize a savings of at least \$1.5 million. These scenarios were presented by each team at this past Monday night's meeting. Rose Lock, Superintendent for Student Achievement and School Support also presented an additional scenario developed by Superintendent's Council. This scenario addressed two areas not included in the Committee's 10 proposals. It would address the issue of a high school in Bay Point and the declining enrollment at Ygnacio Valley HS.

The Committee is still very much engaged in the process of studying all the options and will be presenting multiple options to the Board. A study session will be scheduled once the new Board takes office at the December Board meeting. Ultimately, our Board has the authority to make the final determination. The Committee feels very strongly that it would not be appropriate to release names of schools prematurely and cause undue stress on families, staffs, and community (it is regrettable that this occurred via the newspaper article). The SCC is very serious about this very challenging and difficult task and they have tried to maintain the integrity of the Committee and respect the work they are still doing. The release of all relevant information will occur once the Committee finalizes its recommendations.

For information regarding the Committee's work, check <http://www.mdusd.org/Community/Pages/scac.aspx>

Thank you in advance for furthering your knowledge and understanding in order to be better informed. Meanwhile, I urge each family, student and employee to remain emotionally and mentally in the "here and now." We can speculate about the changes that lie ahead, but the fact is that we have students to serve right now and through June. We must remain committed, focused and engaged in the activities that help us do our jobs as parents and educators and support our students. All events planned for this school year will take place because it is what we have established to benefit our programs, and directly impact the day to day experiences for the children. Thank you for your role in creating positive, productive and supportive conversations within the community.

Finally, as we prepare for our final weeks of 2010 year, I am grateful for the many gifts in my own personal and professional life. It is a daily joy to come to Bancroft School and to share in the education of our children. I wish each of you all the best as you celebrate the winter break and holidays with family and friends and that the new year ahead treats us all with kindness, good health, and abundant joy!

Warmest Regards,
Linda Schuler

Kindergarten Registration Orientation and Readiness

A night for parents preparing to enroll their Kindergarten children for the 2011-2012 school year has been planned at Bancroft School on Wednesday, **January 26** in B Pod Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bancroft School will begin accepting Kindergarten registrations on Tuesday, **February 1**. Registration packets will be available beginning January 18, 2011. Packets will also be on hand at the parent orientation night.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District welcomes the participation of all students, parents and community members in all District sponsored activities conducted on campuses or at off-site locations. The District will work diligently to see that these activities are not limited by physical access barriers, thereby ensuring the opportunity for participation by all in these activities."

"El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Mt. Diablo alienta la participación de todos los estudiantes, padres y miembros de la comunidad en todas las actividades patrocinadas por el Distrito en los terrenos escolares o en locales fuera de sitio. El Distrito trabajará diligentemente para ver que estas actividades no estén limitadas debido a barreras bloqueando acceso físico, de este modo asegurando oportunidad para que todos participen en estas actividades."

School Contact Information:

2200 Parish Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 • 925-933-3405

Linda Schuler, Principal: schulerl@mdusd.k12.ca.us

Linell Rooney, Office manager: rooneyl@mdusd.k12.ca.us

Parent Faculty Club: bancroftpfc@yahoo.com

Book Fair Thank You!

by Carol Berger

Here's to Our Heroes, Read Saves the Day! This year's book fair was a success! We made \$9,800; of that amount our school will receive approximately 30% of that money (excluding sales tax) in books and resource materials for the library.



A huge thank you goes out to our student council for giving short "book talks" over the public address system the week before and during the book fair. (These "book talks" highlighted books being sold at the book fair.) The talks were given by Minty Powleson, Hana Khakpour, Mya Mannoni, Kira Ring, Elizabeth Fisher, and Koki Skuleva. Also, thank you Mrs. Spalding for coordinating the book talks.

We gave away over 20 prizes in books at the Family Story time event Wednesday after school. Thank you to Mrs. Gay for helping to make it such a wonderful event!

This year's book fair would not have been such a success if it weren't for all of our wonderful, fabulous volunteers!! Over 30 people volunteered their time!! We could not have done it without the help of: Liz Chaffee, Julia Moreland, Amy Wiederhold, Irina Akkerman, Lee Ann Miloradovitch, Lammone Bushbaker, Kim Friedman, Kim Powleson, Kristen Rudy, Joanne Schneider, Susan Cannon, Vicky Brandt, Lynn Yee, Betsy Hale, Esperanza Mingming, Mrs. Barber. Meena Dempsey, Alette Coble-Temple, Pauline

Tobin, Leslie Lafrado, Yana Bazulina, Stacy Hovey, Olga Kitsis, Katie Pierceall, Paige Lane, Eileen Saldana, Jill Collins, Tina Hall, Malena Castro, Candi Mannoni, Sandy Sauvajot, Staci Lindsey and Miho Ridgway. Please forgive me if I neglected to include your name I am still suffering from book fair overload!

Finally, a HUGE thank you to Priya Venugopal for co-chairing the event this year. Thanks again for everyone's help!

Walk-a-Thon Success!

by Gina Haynes

Hi Parents,

The Bancroft Elementary School PFC would like to thank our parent volunteers, teachers and staff, Safeway, Simply Selling Shirts, Noah's Bagels, CVS Pharmacy, Costco, Club Sport, Nob Hill and most of all, our amazing kids for making this year's Walk-A-Thon a great success! We hit our goal for our first Walk-A-Thon and we Stepped Up for Education raising approximately \$15,400. As you remember this fundraiser replaced the fall catalog gift wrap/product sales (Sally Foster) with a wholesome, fun, healthy alternative with 100% profit. If you were not able to see this event in action it was truly a remarkable sight. Our students, alongside teachers, administrators, support staff and parents walked/ran for 40 minutes, some logging over 4 miles. Another impressive goal executed in typical Bancroft style.

All participants received a Steppin' Up for Education silicone wristband for their hard work and participation. Additionally, those students that logged the most laps during their event time won a tee shirt. Those students include:

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>1st Grade</u>	<u>2nd Grade</u>
Andreas Guarnaccia	Alexander Johnsen	Alexis Lutter-Lee
Sofia Aparicio Weil	Maxim Grigoriev	Ajani Gueye
Clarabelle McCaffrey	Borislav Kostov	Julien Lutz
Sharan Sairamesh	Alicia Chen	Kobe Falkenstine
Tyler Sauvajot	Michael Cho	Jared Collins
Peter Jorgensen	Evan Leach	Quinn Brandt
<u>3rd Grade</u>	<u>4th & 5th</u>	
Kaiwo Kawaai	Marat Devyatyl	
Kaitlyn Sutherland	Macela Lattanzi	
Katie Volynets	Anna Mehan	
	Claire Scannell	
	Ryan Haynes	
	David Shamis	

Prizes were also awarded to those students with the most pledge money collected. Our top ten students brought in an amazing \$2,500 collectively:

- 1st Place Winner: Frances Lofranco (Ipod Nano & Walk-A-Thon Shirt)
- 2nd Place Winner: Vanessa Fong (Hurley Backpack, Sports supplies & Walk-A-Thon Shirt)
- 3rd Place Winner: Alexis Lutter-Lee (Rare Squishies, Glow Silly Bandz & Walk-A-Thon Shirt)
- 4th Place Winner: Lily Moore
- 5th Place Winner: Adrian Medina
- 6th Place Winners: Victoria Fong and Trey Guillory
- 7th Place Winner: Miles Daniels
- 8th Place Winner: Katy Giantvalley
- 9th Place Winner: Katarina Dicksen

Congratulations to our class pizza party winners that include:

- * Mrs. Lipnicke/Gamez: Most Pledge Money Collected \$1,767.50
- * Mrs. Spalding and Mrs. Haberman: Most Participation.

Lastly, a BIG thank you to our parent volunteers that helped on event day and our Walk-A-Thon Committee that made this event possible - Jill Collins, Amy Weiderhold and Kim McCann. You all did an absolutely amazing job!!!!

Onto our next challenge. Our annual Auction will be held on Saturday, March 5th, 2011. We have some very exciting changes planned for this event. If you would like to be a part of this event, please email me at budgandryan@astound.net. See sign-up information later in this issue!

Bancroft Bobcats Care!



There are many families in our own community that need our support. Therefore, our **Bancroft Student Council** will be encouraging all students to participate in the MDUSD program HOPE (Homeless Outreach for Education) so we can help the lives of students in our school district.

Student Council Representatives will collect specific food donations at each Life Skill Assembly. All items will be boxed up and sent to the HOPE Food Pantry. Food donation items will be announced before each assembly.

Thank you for joining us in the Bancroft Bobcat Cares Program!

Lost and Found

Are you missing jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, or lunch boxes? Chances are, they are in the Bancroft Lost and Found department....come check out the cabinet inside the main entrance to the school courtyard.

Items not retrieved by December 17 will be donated to charity.

Keep those Box Tops for Education Coming!

- **Clip** Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to school.
- **Sign up to support** our school on the Box Tops website at btfe.com
- **Shop** at over 100 favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® (btfe.com/marketplace); our school earns up to 15% of your qualifying purchases. It is simple and is at no additional cost to you!
- **Purchase books** through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM at Barnes & Noble; our school earns up to 6% of your purchases.



For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops, contact Joanne Schneider, our Box Tops coordinator, at jomacsf@hotmail.com or visit btfe.com.

ATTENTION BANCROFT PARENTS SAVE THE DATE: March 5, 2011

The Bancroft Elementary School Parent Faculty Club is currently planning our biggest and most popular fundraising event for the year. The funds we earn at this event sustain many of our school programs throughout the school year. Donation of your valuable time is appreciated by all! So much of the success of this event hinges upon the personal time that parents give to collect donations, send out mailings, volunteer at the event, etc.

If you have an idea or an item to donate or if you would like to sign up to help, please contact Gina Haynes (250-3790 or budgandryan@astound.net)

The list of Committees and volunteers to date follows. Check it out!

Bancroft Elementary School Auction: Vegas Theme • March 5, 2011

A. Procurement Committee

- 1. Christine Dickson**
- 2. Victoria LaPorte**
- 3. Katie Pierceall**
- 4. Gina Haynes**
- 5. Chris Fong**

B. Invitations, RSVP's, Advertise/Post Signs Chairman: **Victoria LaPorte**

1. Gina Haynes
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Data Input, Catalog Preparation Chair: **Katie Pierceall**

1. Julia Moreland
2. Christine Dickson
- 3.

D. Decorations Chair: **Deanna Wong**

1. Gina Haynes
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

E. Catering Chairman: **Stacy Hovey**

1. Meena Dempsey
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

F. Bar Chair: **Gretchen Bruns**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

G. Teacher Liaison/Class Basket/Art Project Chair:

1. Julie Fustok (Art Project Coordinator)
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

H. Check-Out Chair: **Chris Fong**

1. Tracy Watson
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Auction Day Sign-Up

A. Auction Set Up:

1. Lee Ann Miloradovitch
2. Michele MacIntyre
3. Andrew Dempsey
4. Gina Haynes
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

B. Check-In Guests (Auction Day)

1. Meena Dempsey
2. Katie Pierceall
- 3.

C. Runner (Auction Day) Go between check out and live auction with updates on winners

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

D. Clean-Up (Auction Day) Not a popular position but the more we have the easier it will be. Please help!!!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

E. Thank You Notes To Businesses

1. Michele MacIntyre
- 2.
- 3.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
INTRADISTRICT TRANSFER PROCEDURES 2011-2012

Intradistrict applications will be available beginning **October 1, 2010** at the District Office in Student Services, Wing D, James W. Dent Education Center, and 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, CA 94519.

Completed applications for grades 1-12 must be submitted between October 1, 2010 and January 15, 2011 for the following school year. No applications will be accepted after the January 15, 2011 deadline.

The following schools have been designated by the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education as “**Over Enrolled**” for 2010-2011: **Meadow Homes Elementary and College Park High School**. Intradistrict Transfers are NOT accepted for “**Over Enrolled**” schools. **Over Enrolled Schools for 2011-2012 will be determined by the School Board in October.**

A student may only apply for one transfer during a school year. If a student has applied for an Intradistrict Transfer, then a subsequent NCLB Transfer will not be accepted. NCLB School Choice Applications are accepted from students whose residence school for 2011-2012 would be:

Elementary		Middle School
Bel Air	Cambridge	Glenbrook
Fair Oaks	Meadow Homes	Oak Grove
Rio Vista	Shore Acres	Riverview
Ygnacio Valley		

PROCEDURES

- Intradistrict Transfer applications are to be completed, signed by parent and submitted by mail or in person to the Student Services Office, James W. Dent Education Center, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, 94519.
- When more requests are received than there is space available to attend a specific school, the Student Services Office will conduct a public lottery among the applicants to fill any vacancies that may exist. The lottery is to be held on February 11, 2011 and parents will be notified by April 15, 2011 for 6th-12th grades and August 16, 2011 for K-5th grades of approval or denial of transfer request.
- **Incoming Kindergarteners:** Intradistrict Transfer applications for incoming kindergarteners may be requested on or after the student is registered at his/her school of residence on kindergarten registration day, February 1, 2011. These applications should be submitted no later than February 26, 2011.
- Once enrolled, the transfer is in effect through the 5th grade for elementary, 8th grade for middle school and through 12th grade for the high schools. ***PLEASE NOTE: Students on Intradistrict Transfers can be displaced prior to September 15 of each school year by students who reside in the school’s attendance area. (BP & AR 5116.1)**
- Students in **5th grade and 8th grade** who wish to apply for an Intradistrict Transfer to a middle or high school **other than their school of residence** must apply for a new Intradistrict Transfer for the next grade level.
- **Monte Gardens and Sequoia Elementary Schools and Cornerstone Family School** have a separate admissions process. Please contact those schools directly to be placed on a waiting list.

9/20/10

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
PROCEDIMIENTOS PARA TRANSFERENCIAS INTRADISTRITALES 2011-2012

Las solicitudes para transferencia intradistrital estarán disponibles a partir de **octubre 1, 2010** en las Oficinas del Distrito en Student Services, Wing D, James W. Dent Education Center, y en 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, CA 94519.

Las solicitudes de inscripción para los grados 1-12 deben ser presentadas entre octubre 1, 2010 y enero 15, 2011 para el siguiente año escolar. No se aceptarán solicitudes después del 15 de enero, 2011 fecha límite.

Las siguientes escuelas han sido designadas por la Junta de Educación de Mt. Diablo Unified School District como **“Over Enrolled” (matriculados de sobra)** para el año 2010-2011: **Meadow Homes Elementary y College Park High School.** Las transferencias intradistritales NO son aceptadas en las escuelas que están **“Over Enrolled”** **Las escuelas que tienen alumnos matriculados de sobra para el año 2011-2012 serán determinadas por la Junta Escolar el mes de octubre.**

Un alumno puede solicitar solo una transferencia durante un año escolar. Si un alumno ha solicitado una transferencia intradistrital y posteriormente solicitó una transferencia NCLB “Ningún Niño Queda Atrás” (siglas en inglés: NCLB), ésta no será aceptada. Las Solicitudes para la Escuela de Opción NCLB son aceptadas únicamente de aquellos alumnos cuya escuela de residencia para el año 2011-2012 sería:

Primarias		Escuelas Intermedias
Bel Air	Cambridge	Glenbrook
Fair Oaks	Meadow Homes	Oak Grove
Rio Vista	Shore Acres	Riverview
Ygnacio Valley		

PROCEDIMIENTOS

- Las solicitudes de transferencia intradistrital deben ser completadas, firmadas por los padres y enviadas por correo o entregadas en persona a la oficina de Student Services, James W. Dent Education Center, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, 94519.
- Cuando las solicitudes recibidas exceden el cupo disponible para atender a una escuela específica, la oficina de Student Services realizará una lotería pública entre los solicitantes para llenar las vacantes que puedan existir. La lotería se llevará a cabo el 11 de febrero, 2011 y los padres serán notificados sobre la aprobación o denegación de la solicitud de transferencia en abril 15, 2011 para los alumnos del 6^{to} – 12^{avo} grado y en agosto 16, 2011 para los alumnos de K-5^{to} grado.
- **Entrantes de Kindergarten:** Las solicitudes de transferencia intradistrital para los entrantes de Kindergarten se pueden adquirir en o después de que el alumno sea matriculado en su escuela de residencia el día 1 de febrero 2011, día de las inscripciones para kindergarten. Estas solicitudes deberán ser presentadas a más tardar el 26 de febrero 2011.
- Una vez inscrito, la transferencia será válida hasta el 5^{to} grado para alumnos de la primaria; hasta el 8^{avo} grado para alumnos del ciclo medio y hasta el 12^{avo} grado para alumnos de secundaria. ***POR FAVOR TOME EN CUENTA: Los alumnos con transferencias intradistritales pueden ser desplazados antes del 15 de septiembre de cada año escolar por alumnos que residen en el área de asistencia de esa escuela. (BP & AR 5116.1)**
- Los alumnos de **5^{to} y 8^{avo} grado** que desean solicitar una transferencia intradistrital a una escuela intermedia o secundaria **otra que no sea su escuela de residencia** deberán solicitar una transferencia intradistrital nueva para el próximo nivel de grado.
- **Monte Gardens, Sequoia Elementary Schools y Cornerstone Family School** tienen un proceso de admisión por separado. Póngase en contacto directamente con estas escuelas para ser colocado en la lista de espera.

9/20/10