



Bobcat Tracks Newsletter: April 2011

Life Skills of the Month: Cooperation & Patience

In this issue:

- Operation Bobcat
- No Cell Phone Pledge
- Bancroft Benefits from PEAK
- Casino Night Results
- Spell-a-Thon is here!

Dates at a Glance:

- 4/4 PFC Meeting
- 4/11 – 4/16 STAR Testing
- 4/14 Open House
- 4/15 Spell-a-Thon Test
- 4/19 Site Council Mtg
- 4/20 Parent Ed Night: Middle School
- 4/25 – 4/29 Spring Break
- 5/2 – 5/6 Staff Appreciation Week

Principal's Message

This past month brought devastating news around the globe as we watched in horror as Japan withstood an earthquake and tsunami that crushed the landscape, but not the human spirit within the county and remarkably all around the world. This event and the human spirit that prevails as Japan begins to recover and rebuild can be seen and felt right here at Bancroft School. During the last weeks of March the Bancroft Student Council launched *Operation Bobcat; Caring Hands and Loving Hearts*. Each child was given a hand print themed pencil and a heart sticker to represent their personal positive energy on the world. Keeping their minds and hands busy and being positive and productive is a major contribution towards recovery efforts. A Bobcat collection campaign began on March 23 – March 30. All donations will be made to the relief efforts in Japan. We are still looking for a corporate matching donation so that the Bancroft community can double efforts towards what was raised for Japan.

I am including in this edition of the Bobcat Tracks information for parents from the National PTA Council that was shared with me regarding the events in Japan and how to manage any questions and concerns that will come up for your children. I thought the piece was informative and often validating many of the actions in place within your families. I am also including a note from a former Bobcat, Freddie Ramsey, who moved to Japan this school year. Freddie and his family are doing well and we are very grateful to hear that they are safe. Freddie's note to us is especially meaningful as it illustrates the lasting bonds that are made between children and families that so uniquely define the heart of Bancroft.

Finally, your children are amazing. I am deeply touched and honored each day to act on their behalf. Their education, their safety, and the positive and trusting relationships built during their elementary school years will serve as the foundation to all future learning, friendships and interests.

In our final two and half months our children will experience a focused and committed path of learning and student achievement. Report cards have revealed considerable strides in our students. Teachers have strategically targeted instruction using student data to bring about the next expected growth outcomes towards getting students to proficient levels in Math, Reading, and Writing. Many activities are planned to enrich the instructional experiences. **Please check classroom newsletters for updates and thank you for working each day to support your child's learning at home** as you encourage nightly reading practice, getting homework done, and giving guidance with a helping hand around organization and getting ready for each day.

While our students are gaining ground academically and we can feel good about that, the student themselves are often more concerned about the handball court, basketball, soccer, and the other playground recreational activities. These short periods embedded in their learning day can often be the time when school is the most stressful as well as the most exciting; much depends on your friendships, social skills, ability to problem solve, and following expected "be safe, be responsible and be respectful" behaviors as one member of our 460 student population! Check with your child to make sure play time is going well too. I am working with a team of students to bring some simplicity back to our handball rules and approach to the game and play time. Attention to good sportsmanship and a positive attitude even for our most competitive players is an essential.

We are always in need of paid **Noon Time Supervisors**. We typically need 5-6 supervisors on M, T, TH and F. If you would be interested in working 1-4 days or just stepping in as a sub noon supervisors in the event that someone is out ill, then please contact the school office for more information about the application process. Hours for the position are from 11:20-12:45.

Attention Drivers: A final note to many of our parent and family drivers who car pool or drive their students and classmates to and from school each day. Your efforts to follow the laws of the road as well as the safety practices within a school zone make it safe for everyone each day.

I am asking each adult driver to take the **No Cell Phone Pledge**. This is simply to *pledge never to be on your cell phone when you are activity driving or pulling up through the car pool lane*. Cell phone use and driving have caused some near misses on Parish drive in the last few weeks. Walnut Creek Police Department has been contacted about this violation and they will do their best to be present during some of our arrival and dismissal times. In addition, it is not uncommon for drivers or pedestrians to take down license plate numbers in order to contact the WC police department in the event of witnessing a violation. While this maybe motivation to keep from breaking the laws—the BEST motivation is that our children are watching and learning from us and if we do it wrong (even just once)—our precious children may be the ones to pay the price with their lives.

Please slow down, stop at all stop signs, stay off cell phones, and use only the car pool lane areas if you are picking up or dropping off your children.

Warmest Regards,
Linda Schuler

Open House • Thursday April 14th • 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
We proudly invite you to mark your calendars for this special evening to
celebrating teaching, learning and community at Bancroft School!

PFC President's Message

Hello Bancroft Community:

What a **FANTASTIC NIGHT** at the 2011 Bancroft Elementary School, "Let the Good Time Roll for our Kids' Education," Casino Night and Auction! Over 150 guests enjoyed cocktails and a delicious dinner while rolling the dice at craps and betting big at the blackjack tables. Through the generosity of those who donated live, silent and online auction items, those who signed up to be sponsors, those who gave donations, and those who bid and won auction items both online and at the event, we were able to raise \$39,620. To those who participated and shared in this special event, we extend our thanks.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Gross</u> | |
| <u>Revenue</u> | |
| \$11,600 | Online Auction |
| \$20,820 | Event Silent and Live |
| \$6,350 | Tickets/Donations/Teacher Sponsors |
| \$440 | Bancroft Enrichment Center Donation |
| \$410 | for Kids-Night-Out 3/5/2011 |
| <u> </u> | After the Event Online Auction |
| \$39,620 | Grand Total |



After expenses we expect to net \$27,600. Proceeds from this event will go towards funding technology improvements, library books, campus support staff and other programs/supports for this school year that are no longer funded by the District.

A big thank you to the Auction Committee (Chris Fong, Michelle Allison, Julie Fustok, Jill Collins, LeeAnn Miloradovitch, Deanna Wong, Christine Dickson, Michele MacIntyre, Stacy Hovey, Gretchen Bruns, Julia Moreland, Katie Pierceall, and Candi Mannoni,) and a special performance by Elvis (A.K.A. Ben Nakamura-Bush) who made the night VEGAS STYLE FOR SURE! Also, thank you to Mrs. Lee and the Dianne Adair Enrichment Program that donated half of the money earned from Kids-Night-Out on March 5, 2011 and a fabulous online auction item that raised lots of money for our school.

On behalf of the Bancroft PFC we'd like to thank everyone that donated to the Teacher/Staff Wish List both online and at the auction:

Steve & Michell Allison

Scott & Michele Barreuther

Nick & Christina Bowen

David & Kriss Bridgham

Troy & Susan Cannon

Thomas & Elizabeth Chaffee

Jim & Larisa Chiappe

Jim & Jill Collins

Lauren Dascole

Jim & Christina Deasy

Gay Dempewolf

John & Stephanie Denman

Chris & Libby Fong

Khaled & Julie Fustok

Rob Franklin & Michelle Rooney

Eric Hayashi & Sharon Fees

Buddy & Gina Haynes
Danny Ho & Iris Yuen
Robert Jesch
Elie & Marina Khoury
Jung Kim
Ken & Leslie Lafredo
Paige Lane
Lisa McElroy & Keith Mills
Mark & Karen Meehan
Daniel & Nancy Mullen
Regina Ng
Jerry & Karyn Ossinger
Colleen Prowicki
Van & Elizabeth Real
Gary & Joann Schneider
Vladimir & Yelena Shapiro
Marcus & Pauline Tobin
Ray & Heather Waldo
Brian & Sharlene Welday
Luis & Theresa Zapata

Kenneth Haynes & NC Ku
Chris & Stacy Hovey
Ed & Marge Joehnk
Euikyung Kim
Trevor Knoflick & Emma Hopkins
Elisabeth Lambert
Jim & Julie Lee
Werner & Grace Medina
Tony & Lee Ann Miloradovitch
Travon Murphy & Elisa Boyd
Jack & Betty Nuckolls
Kim Powleson & Valerie Barone
Maricel Ramirez
Linell & John Rooney
Vad & Marina Shamis
Thom Trimble
William Trautman
Geoff & Tracy Watson
Bill & Lynn Yee

We'd also like to thank the following parents for Sponsoring a Teacher for the auction:

Tai Chang & Christine Yeh
Chris & Libby Fong
Rob & Amy Walters

James & Margareth Click
Laurie Matthews
Chris & Deanna Wong

Lastly, thank you to all parents/staff that helped make this a fun and successful event!

Sincerely,
Gina Haynes
PFC President

Dear Bancroft Elementary School

Thank you so much for donating to Japan. There are still people suffering by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. My family is okay, but we had a scary experience when the big earthquake happened. Nowadays, after tremors have happened. After the earthquake, my school closed for now and soon, it became spring break. I will try to use less electronics to save power and try to donate something to help the people that are suffering. I hope that the people that suffered from the earthquake and tsunami will return back to their happy and normal lives.

From Freddie Ramsey

Parent Input Forms

March 21- April 1, 2011 is the window for parents to obtain and return a *Parent Input Form* from the school office. This form is to give parents the opportunity to provide to the school any information you feel you would like us to know about placing your child in a class at Bancroft for the 2011-2012 school year. Please note that this is not a required form, rather an option for parents. You are respectfully asked not to request a teacher by name or a specific room number, but rather describe your child's characteristics and needs in order to create the input you would like us to have as we develop balanced classrooms for the next year. It is possible that will have staffing changes, grade level assignment changes and a possibility of 1 combination classes at more than one grade level. Current classroom teachers, Learning Center staff and the principal will work together to finalize classes. The process will be tentatively completed by June, and class assignments are provided at our Information Days scheduled for August 2011.

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

PEAK Education Foundation Awards Over \$18,000 to Schools!

At its annual March Stakeholders Meeting, PEAK Education Foundation awarded over \$18,000 to its five schools, Northgate, Foothill, Bancroft, Walnut Acres and Valle Verde. The funds represented the proceeds from recent fundraising events including the Walnut Creek Sports & Fitness Turkey Trot, the PEAK Holiday Boutique and the Walnut Festival Run. Principals and leaders of the school's Parent Faculty organizations were at the meeting to accept the awards on behalf of their schools. The school's individual award amounts were determined by the number of students per school and their participation rate in the Walnut Festival Run.

On behalf of PEAK and each of the five schools, we would like to thank all of those within the community who attended, volunteered or otherwise supported these events. Their success is the result of the community working together to help our children.

PEAK has lots of other fundraising activities planned for the future but we need your help to make them happen. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Alisa Mac Cormac (amaccormac@astound.net) or Melissa Sunbury (mesunbury@yahoo.com), or you may send an email to PEAK's general website info@peakwalnutcreek.org

**Thank you, Peak Foundation for the \$1,728.95
donation to Bancroft School!!!**

Spell-A-Thon 2011 is Here!

March 21 – April 10:

Collect Pledges

April 11

Bring EMPTY pledge envelopes back to school

April 15

Spelling Test!

April 20

Pledge envelopes with test results returned to students

May 3

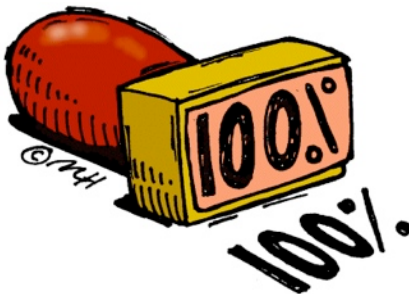
Pledge money and envelopes due to school

1st party will be awarded to the classes with

- the most money collected
- the highest number of 100% tests

1st class to turn in 100% of its pledge money

Persons or would like to volunteer, please contact Carol Berger at carolberger@astound.net.



Bobcat “PAW”king

Each year at the Bancroft Auction, two parking spots are auctioned off. The families who purchase these parking spots have accomplished two things:

- They have provided a contribution towards fundraising efforts to benefit all Bancroft Students.
- They have alleviating their parking worries as they travel to and from Bancroft school. These parking spots are actively reserved during all school days and all school sponsored functions (musical, back to school night, open house, fall fest, etc.)

Each member of the community has an opportunity to bid on these spots if they so wish. If these reserved spots are open when you arrive during the school day, arrival or dismissal times you are respectfully requested to practice the life skill of *Integrity and Respect* in selecting other legal and non-staff parking spots otherwise open for use.

Thank you for showing your Bobcat Pride!

Bancroft Odyssey Team Shines at State Competition

Congratulations to our Odyssey of the Minds (OotM) Team Goldberg students who made Bancroft history for being the first team from Bancroft to compete at the State level on March 26th. Over 200 teams came from all over the state of California to compete. Despite the pouring down rain, Bancroft’s Team Goldberg shined in their “Good As Gold...berg” solution. The team members enjoyed pin trading with teams from all over the state, and watching other teams perform. The best of the best were all there. Only the first and second place teams in each division advance to the Worlds competition in May in Maryland. Many of Bancroft’s students came out to show their support as well as Mrs. Bremer and her son. Special thanks to Gilbert Mingming for volunteering to be an Odyssey judge so that Team Goldberg would be allowed to compete at State (each team must provide a volunteer and a trained judge for each event), and to all of the team parents for helping us keep our props and gear dry. Thank you, again, Alphina Zapantis for spearheading the effort to bring OOTM back to Bancroft. Bancroft’s Team Goldberg finished a respectable 11th place in the State. So, if you see any of these team members please tell them congratulations on a job well done! May Odyssey Mania be here to stay at Bancroft for many years to come! Go Bobcats!!!!

“Good as Goldberg” Team:

Aaron Hayashi
Gautam Sajja
Olivia Zapantis
Vanessa Fong
Evelyn Chiappe
Jacob Berger
Cameron Paloutzian

Coaches:

Eric Hayashi
Larisa Chiappe
Christy Paloutzian

**Vegas Night on April 30th
to Raise Vital Funds for High School Sports**

- With MDUSD high school sport collections more than \$300,000 behind last year, the United Mt. Diablo Athletic Foundation (UMDAF) is partnering with the six MDUSD athletic booster clubs to host a fun-filled “Vegas Night” fundraiser at the Concord Hilton on April 30th.
- This will be a full house casino event run by professional gaming providers. There will be fabulous prizes for all the winners, including a one-year 2011 Camry lease from Toyota of Walnut Creek to the winner of the Texas Hold’em Tournament.
- Doors will open at 6:00pm with the games starting at 7:00pm. The \$50 cost per person includes dinner and gambling chips. Buy-in to the Texas Hold’em Tournament is an additional \$100. There will also be a live band for dancing.
- Because participation is limited, sign up now to ensure a spot and directly support MDUSD high school sports. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to UMDAF’s web site at www.unitedmtdiabloathletics.org.



“Our Planet: Keeping it clean and healthy” is the inspiration for this year’s **Arts, Adventures & Academics (AAA) summer camp**. Open to all, this is an exciting and popular city and school district sponsored program. AAA offers opportunities for fun learning and creative, positive experiences for kids entering K through 9th grades.

Our program will be held at Walnut Creek Intermediate School from June 20th through July 22nd. We have exciting new classes this year as well as the return of our most popular classes. Whether attending for a half day or a full day this all-encompassing, high quality, program offers everything needed for a summer to remember!

Check out: www.arts-ed.org and go to Arts, Academics and Adventures for all the details.

Talking to children about the disaster in Japan

The earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan has evoked many emotions including sadness, grief and helplessness in many around the world.

As children may be struggling with their thoughts and feelings about the stories and images, they may turn to trusted adults for help and guidance.

- Start the conversation. Talk about the event with your child. Not talking about it makes the event even more threatening in your child's mind. Silence suggests that what has occurred is too horrible to even speak of or that you may not know about what has happened. Chances are your child has already heard about it.
- What does your child already know? Start by asking what your child has already heard about the events from the media as well as from friends. Listen for what understanding he has reached. As your child explains, listen for misinformation, misconceptions and underlying fears or concerns.
- Gently correct inaccurate information. If you hear inaccurate information or misunderstandings, provide the correct information at a level that your child can understand.
- Encourage your child to ask questions, and answer those questions directly. Your child may have some difficult questions about the events in Japan. For example, she may ask if it is possible that an earthquake could occur that would impact the family; she is probably really asking whether it is "likely" – when appropriate, reassure her the risk of an earthquake in your community is quite low. She is also asking if she is safe. This may be a time to review plans your family has of assuring safety in the event of any crisis situation. Whatever questions your child may have, answer. This lets her know that you are open to talking about anything and can be trusted to answer. Include in your answers any information you may have on efforts being made in Japan to help the people there. Like adults, children are better able to cope with a crisis if they feel they understand it. Question-and-answer exchanges help ensure ongoing support as your child begins to understand the crisis and the response to it.
- Limit media exposure. Limit your child's media exposure to images and sounds related to the disaster. Remember children often overhear or see what you are watching on t.v. or listening to on the radio. For the very young, exposure should be rare. Remember to limit your own exposure. Adults may become more distressed with nonstop exposure to the event.
- Helping those in need. Work with your child to figure out a way that she can help the people who were affected by the disaster, such as making a card that can be sent (often agencies such as churches or Red Cross will accept such cards). If they work, this may include making a small donation from their earnings or allowance. Children may also find benefit in helping others in need in their own community. When children help others, they increase their resilience (their ability to bounce back from stressful events).
- Be a positive role model. Consider sharing your feelings about the events in Japan with your child. This is an opportunity for you to role model how to cope and how to plan for the future. Before you reach out, however, be sure you are able to express a positive or hopeful plan. Included in being a good role model is showing good self-care by getting enough rest, eating well, and exercising.
- Be patient. In times of stress, children may have more trouble with their behavior, concentration, and attention. They will need a little extra patience, care, and love.
- If you have concerns about your child's behavior, contact your family's pediatrician, other primary care provider, or a qualified mental health care specialist.

For more information on how to help your children cope with disasters, visit the following websites:

- National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at www.cincinnatichildrens.org/school-crisis (which includes a helpful booklet on how to talk with children who are grieving)
- American Academy of Pediatrics website at www.aap.org/disasters/adjustment.cfm.
- American Psychological Association at www.apahelpcenter.org
- FEMA at www.ready.gov

APPROVED

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
and opinions are not necessarily
those of the school district or school
personnel.

WALNUT CREEK AQUABEARS

MAR 10 2011
2011 SPRING & SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM

Superintendent's Office



The Walnut Creek Aquabears Spring and Summer Swim Program offers the summer recreational swimmer an outstanding opportunity to experience swimming at its best. Swimmers are instructed in each of the four competitive strokes and their associated skills in a **fun, positive, friendly atmosphere** emphasizing drills and techniques key to the success of age group swimmers. The Aquabears believe that long range success in swimming requires a **positive experience at a young age**, and our program provides this opportunity. Questions? Call the Aquabears' Coaches at (925) 939-5990.

AT CLARKE MEMORIAL SWIM CENTER IN HEATHER FARM PARK

SPRING SESSION

Monday, May 2 to Sunday, June 12

| GROUP | TIME | DAYS |
|--------|-------------------|------------|
| Novice | 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. | M,T,W,Th |
| Cub | 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. | M,T,W,Th,F |
| White | 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. | M,T,W,Th,F |
| Purple | 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. | M,T,W,Th,F |

SUMMER SESSION

Monday, June 13 to Sunday, August 14

| GROUP | TIME | DAYS |
|--------|-------------------|------------|
| Novice | 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. | M,T,W,Th |
| Cub | 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. | M,T,W,Th,F |
| White | 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. | M,T,W,Th,F |
| Purple | 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. | M,T,W,Th,F |

EACH SWIMMER WILL GET A TEAM T-SHIRT AND TEAM CAP

The **Novice Group** is for "first year swimmers" who have previous lesson experience and can swim 25 yards of freestyle. The Novices learn the fundamentals of the four strokes with daily in-the-water instruction.

The **Cub Group** learns each stroke, starts, and is introduced to turns, using the fundamental drills in the Aquabears' Drill Progression Program. The Cubs range in age from 6 to 9 years old.

The **White Group** focuses on proper stroke form and technique, with additional attention to starts and turns. They continue the intermediate drills in the Aquabears' Drill Progression Program. The White Group ranges in age from 8 to 11 years old.

The **Purple Group** learns advanced stroke concepts as part of the Aquabears' Drill Progression program. They are introduced to the basics of training and are guided through goal setting and achieving. The Purple Group ranges in age from 10 to 13 years old.

VISIT WWW.WALNUTCREEKAQUABEARS.ORG FOR MORE INFO, PRINTABLE REGISTRATION FORMS AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

Swimmers interested in joining the Walnut Creek Aquabears Year Round Team should contact the WCAB coaches at 925-939-5990 or aquabears@sbcglobal.net.

The Walnut Creek Aquabears Swim Team is a Non-Profit Organization. IRS Tax Exempt Code 501(C)3: 94-1693715