



## Bobcat Tracks Newsletter: December 2011

### Principal's Message

Our students are demonstrating growth toward their academic success. I want to acknowledge their efforts, as well as the school and home environments that support their learning opportunities. We attribute successes to the following:

- Students who are making growth arrive to school on time and are only absent due to an illness. Attendance is a number one priority all year long. Being late even 10 minutes can put a student at a disadvantage for the start of his or her day.
- Students who are making growth are healthy: They get plenty of sleep, get at least 60 minutes of physical activity most days, and eat nutritious meals and snacks.
- Students, who are making growth practice healthy habits such as coughing or sneezing into his or her elbow or a tissue instead of their hands, wash their hands with soap and water, brush their teeth twice a day.
- Students who are making growth have a time each day at home to practice reading, math, writing, listening and speaking. The art of conversation and listening is critical to building vocabulary, strengthening interpersonal skills and reminding your child how much you believe in them. All combined media is limited to less than one-and-one-half hours per day.
- Students who are making growth learn from their mistakes as well as their successes. Discuss and celebrate all of these.
- Student who are making growth know they can learn and make friends in an environment that is supportive, responsive, fair, and values mutual respect among individuals.
- Student who are making growth are coached (use role play to help with this) in how to problem-solve in a variety of peaceful ways.
- Students who are making growth know that each day they come to school; they have access to the core grade level standards with activities that support their diverse learning needs in order to be successful and build on their knowledge, skills and creativity.

**Thank you, Bancroft Community for giving our children a healthy, calm, and organized start to each day in their jobs as learners at Bancroft School.**

The month of December brings us to the beginning of our Measure C Solar Panel project. After many meetings to plan the construction, as well as the timeline for each phase, what we can now expect is to have some of the construction begin during the winter break in the south parking lot -

with more follow-up during the spring break. The major construction that will temporarily close the south parking lot will take place during the summer months, after school is over. I am grateful to our project managers, Peder Pedersen, Mitchell Stark and Superintendent, Steven Lawrence who have been working with me in all aspects of the project. It is clear by the final decision to postpone construction to the summer months, that student safety and day-to-day school operations were their highest priority.

Solar Panel construction phase time lines:

- Foundations (drilling holes and pouring the concrete) will be done in the south parking lot during winter break. This area will be fenced-off during this time, but reopened with all fencing removed by January 3. The foundations holes will have temporary plugs placed in them until the next phase of work.
- During spring break, April 9-13, 2012, the contractors will return to erect the steel structures into the foundations holes created in December. The parking lot will be closed and fenced-off. The expectation is that this phase will be completed and the parking lot reopened in time for school to resume after spring break.
- The remaining electrical and structural construction activities will be completed during the summer of 2012.

During the past several months we have had many opportunities for community involvement and building school pride. The Walk-a-Thon was a great success, bringing in close to \$16,000.00 that will go towards budgeted expenses for this school year. The largest PFC budget allocations are for Instructional Assistants, technology, and instructional supplies for classrooms. Your PFC executive board, many committee chairpersons, and volunteers such as yourselves, putting in countless hours of service, all contribute to the generosity, passion and vision that puts student safety, success and achievement as the highest of priorities. The Fall Fest, with Haunted House was another wonderful success. The day could not have been more spectacular- it almost felt more like a mild summer afternoon rather than the fall season. Games, food, costumes, friendship - all made the day memorable. While the Fall Fest and Haunted House decorations came down, the Book Fair went up, giving students, families and teachers their first of two Book Fair events planned for this school year.

Thank you to our parent leadership for these extraordinary events:

- **Jill Collins for the Walk-a-Thon**
- **Michelle Allison for the Fall Fest**
- **Tracy Watson for the Book Fair**

November 15-18, we sent forth our amazing and fabulous fifth graders to the Exploring New Horizons science-based school program. This is an annual four day, three night field trip. Our fifth grade teachers take time away from their families in order to provide this extraordinary experience. I, too, join our students and fifth grade teachers for a day-and-a-half. I completely enjoyed sharing time with them in this environment. I have known most of our fifth-graders since they began here as Kindergarten or first grade students. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of the tremendous growth they are making, and to witness their enthusiasm and knowledge about the world around them on this special trip. New friendships and new self-discoveries were among some of the

changes experienced during this time. Thank you to our parents who support this program. Thanks also to the PFC, which provides financial aid in the form of scholarships for this program each year.

A night for parents who are preparing to enroll their Kindergarten children for the 2012-2013 school year has been planned at Bancroft School for **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**. This will be held in the B-Pod Center, beginning at 6:00 pm. Bancroft School will begin accepting Kindergarten registrations on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, for students who are five years old by **November 1, 2012**. Registration packets will be available beginning January 18, 2012, in the school office. Packets will also be on hand at the parent orientation night. A Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program will be offered next school year for students who are turning five between November 2-December 2, 2012. More information on this program and which school sites will be assigned TK's will be provided after January 2012.

Parents seeking to obtain an Inter- or Intradistrict Transfer for the 2012-2013 school year must apply now, during the open application window. Applications are accepted through January 15, 2012. These applications may be obtained and turned in at the Bancroft school office. The requests will then be sent to the Student Services Department in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. If you are currently attending a MDUSD school on a transfer for this school year, you do not need to renew or re-file an application unless you wish to apply to a different school.

Please be looking for after school enrichment class sign-ups for the winter session. More information will be available to students and parents about our school musical, following the winter break.

As we prepare for the winter school break during this lovely holiday season, in which we all focus a little more than usual on the life skill of caring, I want to take a moment to tell you that I honor the care you give to your parenting work. I see your efforts in the commitment you give to our school, in the comments that you share with me, and in the smiles of your children. I wish you and your families a joyous vacation! Let's all remember during this time of caring that, "Our children need our presence more than they need our presents."

Happy holidays and memorable family time to you all!

Warmest Regards,

Linda Schuler, Principal

**School Contact Information:**

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

**Linda Schuler, Principal: [schulerl@mdusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:schulerl@mdusd.k12.ca.us)**

**Linell Rooney, Office manager: [rooneyl@mdusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:rooneyl@mdusd.k12.ca.us)**

**Parent Faculty Club: [bancroftpfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bancroftpfc@yahoo.com)**

# Walk-A-Thon Results

By Jill Collins

We did it! Bancroft families stepped up for education on October 11<sup>th</sup> and made this year's event a huge success. Because of your hard work and generosity, we surpassed our goal and made just under \$17,000 for Bancroft!

The Bancroft Parent Faculty Club would like to thank our parent volunteers, teachers and staff and most of all, our amazing kids for making this year's Walk-A-Thon such a great success. Additionally, we would like to thank our event sponsors who helped make this event possible – **Clif Bar, Fresh & Easy, Safeway, Sports Basement, Simply Selling Shirts, CVS Pharmacy, Costco, Nob Hill, Trader Joe's and Yogurt Station.**

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 45 minutes, some logging over 4 miles. Another impressive goal executed in typical Bancroft style.

All participants received a snack bag and Walk-A-Thon pencil for their hard work and participation. Additionally, those students that logged the most laps during their event time won a Sports Basement water bottle and a pedometer. Those students include:

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</u>
Juan Pirajon Ariza	Jack Malki	George Lund
William Gonzalez	Tyler Sauvajot	Jason Ma
Ryan Collins	Ryan Tobin	Kyle Flora
Caitlin Kennamer	Elden Huynh	Jacob Mitkov
Trey Schultz		

<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>
Samantha Melin	Katie Volynets	Skyler Knoflick
Quinn Brandt	Brian Wong	Marat Devyatyh
Julien Lutz	Peter Bushbaker	Sung Wook Kim
Jared Collins		Viviana Castro
Cayden Friedman		

Prizes were also awarded to the top three students with the most pledge money collected. Our top 10 students brought in an amazing \$3,104 collectively:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner: **Peter Jorgensen** (\$150 gift card to Toys R Us)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: **Gianna Abbotts** (\$100 gift card to Toys R Us)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: **Victoria Fong** (\$50 gift card to Toys R Us)

4<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: **Charles Walters**

5<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: **Meg Chaffee**

6<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: **Frances Lofranco**

7<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: **Isaiah Valadez**

8<sup>th</sup> Place Winners: **Alana Wiggan & Lily Moore**

9<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: **Elyssa Dela Pena**

Congratulations to our class prize winners:

Mrs. Burke's Class – Greatest event day participation

Mrs. Haberman's Class – Most pledge envelopes returned

Mrs. Grunert's Class – Most pledge money collected: \$2,057

Finally, a **HUGE** thank you to our parent volunteers that helped on event day and our Walk-A-Thon Committee that made this event possible – Julie Fustok, Sharlene Welday, Joanne Schneider, Eileen Saldana and Amy Weiderhold, You all did an absolutely amazing job!!!!

## **Open Enrollment and Transfers**

Intradistrict applications are available at the District Office in Student Services, Wing D, James W. Dent Education Center, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, CA 94519.

**Completed applications for grades 1-12 must be submitted by January 15, for the following school year. No applications will be accepted after the January 15th deadline.**

Applications for Kindergarten are accepted beginning with Kindergarten registration Day, February 1, 2012 through February 29, 2012.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.mdusd.org/Departments/studentervices/Pages/OpenEnrollmentTransfers.aspx>

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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."



## FALL FEST 2011: A Big Thank You!

By Michelle Allison

Fall Fest 2011 was a huge success! Sunshine and warmth on event day, made it possible for a lot of our Bancroft families and friends to attend and enjoy such all the wonderful festivities.

New this year we added The Bancroft Spooky Pumpkin Patch which was loved by all as well as a few new carnival games. Our All Star Hoops showed much talent for our future Bancroft NBA players and making a big blast for all was the Balloon Boom Blaster!

Lines filled the walkways for those who dared to enter into our ever so famous Haunted House where each twist and turn took you through a maze of restless souls waiting to greet you. You step foot in the graveyard but prefer that this not be your final resting place so you run down the hall only to find you are stuck in the dungeon along with some of our Bancroft students and ghouls who forgot their homework and are paying the price. You quietly slip out the side door thinking you are safe but find yourself in the middle of a coven of witches with dancing brooms who are conjuring up the latest Bobcat spells and are eagerly wanting you to try the potion, Just as you are about to take a sip you hear in the faint distance the sound of circus music. Everyone loves a circus and you begin to think you are merely in a dream. However, through all the fun mirrors and laughter you get a sense that these crazy clowns with glowing eyes are definitely not part of Barnum and Bailey! Distracted by a glowing light and the sounds of chatter and music as if there was a party going on you ask yourself, "Could this be your way out?" You slowly walk down the narrow fire lit hall, feeling a slight breeze on your back which makes you shiver. You turn the final corner and realize you have just boarded the MDUSD Pirate Ship! You happily join these swashbuckling pirates for a bit of a feast but they soon realize you've decided to take a souvenir gold piece and make you walk the plank! SPLASH!

I'd like to thank the entire Fall Fest Committee for your endless hours and time to help make this event possible. This day would not have been possible without all of you! I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work and dedication.

*Kim Friedman* – My wonderful Co-Chair. Thank you for all your endless hours and running around gathering pumpkins, tickets, supplies and the list goes on. I couldn't have done this without you!

*Mrs. Schuler* for taking the time to open up the school grounds on the weekend, approving numerous Fall Fest Flyers and asking *Mr. Schuler* for Fall Fest Ice Cream donations. Thank you both for donating all the ice cream!

*Linell Rooney* for always being on top of things, helping make copies and laminating. Also to *Linell and Tammy* a big thank you for collecting all the advanced ticket sale forms for us.

*Jose Cancio & Carol Hammon* for making sure we have all the tools the week before for the haunted house, finding and moving all the needed tables and chairs to set up the event and cleaning the school afterwards.

*Candi Mannoni* for doing a fabulous job on the Cake Walk and for all her hard work with decorating and making sure we had donations of baked goodies coming in.

*Mrs. Giffin (Prizes)* Thanks to *Mrs. Giffin* for her never ending support in purchasing prizes, setting up the prize booth and making sure there were enough volunteers for the event. Even with her busy schedule and not being able to attend that day she was willing to assist the Fall Fest committee.

*To my wonderful and crazy Haunted House Crew* – Thank you for giving up an entire week of your nights with the family and for all your hard work. *Kim Friedman, Kim Powleson, Pauline Tobin, Christy Paloutzian, Tai Chang, Joanne Cooper, Katie Pierceall & Jennifer Shealor* – you’re truly the best. Thanks for all the fun times and many laughs too. To all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and parents who worked the haunted house the day of. You did a fabulous job! Last but not least, a super big thank you to *Kemal Batu, Brett Paloutzian, Cass Pierceall, Kim Friedman, Kim Powleson and Pauline Tobin* for helping load 6 SUV’s full of my HH props and unloading them at my house. You’re all life savers!

*Room Parents* for making sure there were enough volunteers to staff the booths and for *Yana Bazulin* who kept on top of everything.

*Parent Volunteers* a special thank you to all of those volunteers who generously donated their time to help stuff tickets, set up, run the ticket booth, games, pumpkin patch, food and cleaned up after the event. To the *Special Group of volunteers* – you know who you are – always willing to help when needed to fill in the gaps, whether it is ticket stuffing, baked goods, staffing booths, etc.

*Simply Selling Shirts* – *Barron & Dawn Zielinski* for designing and donating our Fall Fest t-shirts!

*THE CREPEVINE!* – There are not enough words to describe the amazing generosity of *Raed (Ray) Al-Hejazin and Rula Hattar* for donating all of the food for our spaghetti feed! Thank you for all your time, effort and support you’ve given to Bancroft and the Fall Fest event!

If I forgot to thank someone, please excuse my forgetfulness and know that we’re thankful for you, your time and assistance.

I hope everyone truly enjoyed Fall Fest 2011. Here’s to yet another successful event made possible by all of our Bancroft Families!



## FALL FEST 2011 SPECIAL THANK YOU

To all our sponsors who donated food, goods and services to our event:

The Crepevine – <http://crepevine.com>

Crepevine Family - Raed (Ray) Al-Hejazin and Rula Hattar

The Zielinski Family

Mrs. Schuler and Family

The Pierceall Family

Simply Selling Shirts

Grocery Outlet

Fresh and Easy

**Pete's Pumpkins**

CVS

Trader Joes

# **Bancroft Dollar-a-Day Bobcats ROCK!**

By Julia Moreland

The Bancroft PFC Dollar-a-Day committee just wanted to send a roaring thanks to everyone who contributed to the Dollar-a-Day fundraisers last Spring and at InfoDays in August. We collected around \$50,000 which was less than our goal of \$75,000, but we were still able to keep nine of our awesome Instructional Assistants to help with our classrooms, deliver new whiteboards to the teachers (and those cost more than you'd expect!), provide class and office supplies to the teachers and staff, buy a new PA system for the Walk-a-thon and lunchtime activities, and offer scholarships for the 5th grade Outdoor Education program. And coming in January, all of the classes will have new RedCat amplification systems offering clear auditory input for our students. These systems come with a microphone for student use during discussions and public speaking assignments. Your contributions are making a difference in our wonderful Bancroft community!

If you haven't become a Dollar-a-Day Bobcat contributor yet and would like to, please drop us a line at [bancroftpfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bancroftpfc@yahoo.com). And to those of you who have already donated, keep those matching contributions coming! We continue to see generous checks come in the mail from all of your employers.

The next Dollar-a-Day fundraiser will be in the Spring, and we would love your ideas, thoughts, suggestions, and of course - your help! Please feel free to send us a note to [bancroftpfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bancroftpfc@yahoo.com) <<mailto:bancroftpfc@yahoo.com>>. Thank you all Bancroft community! You rock! (or should we say, you ROAR!).

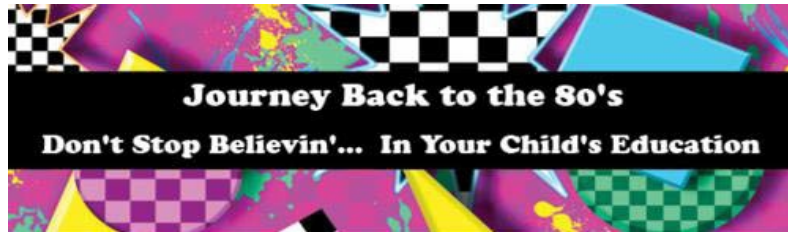
## **Book Fair Thank You! To the Book Fair and Beyond**

by Tracy Watson

This year's book fair was a success! We made \$8,600; of that amount our school will receive approximately 30% of that money (excluding sales tax) in books and resource materials for the library.

A big 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!! We could not have done it without the help of: Lisa Guarnaccia (big applause for Lisa - she helped with everything!) Kim Friedman, Carol Berger, Katie Pierceall, Christine Drayton, Sandy Sauvajot, Jennifer McCulloch, Ivana Kalvacheva, Yana Bazulina, Jo Ann Cooper, Chris Fong, Eileen Saldana, Vicky Brandt, Paige Lane, Stan Johnson, Stacy Hovey, Pauline Tobin, Katy Schultz, Celia Wortman, Joanne Schneider, Julia Moreland, Mrs. Barber, Sarah Hansell, and Lynn Yee. My apologies if I missed anyone.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to Mrs. Schuler for her leadership and to our fabulous teachers for picking out recommended book for the event this year. Thanks again for everyone's help!



## PARENT DONATIONS NEEDED!

RE: **BANCROFT ANNUAL PFC AUCTION/BENEFIT**

Dear Parent & Friend of Education,

The Bancroft Parent Faculty Club (PFC) is sponsoring our "80's themed" Annual Auction/Benefit on **Saturday, March 17, 2012**. Our *totally tubular* Benefit Committee is reaching out to all of our parents for help with a tax deductible donation for use in our Online, Silent and or Live Auctions. This year, we're looking for "*Simply Irresistible*" items that will make donating to our school not only easy for our parents, but will leave lucky auction winners "*Dancing on the Ceiling*". Here are some examples of what our generous parent community has contributed in the past:

Concert or Theater Tickets	Gift Certificates (dining, movies, salons, etc.)
Bay Area pro sports tickets or packages	Jewelry or fun accessories
Rounds of golf	Fun & unique gift baskets
Autographed sports memorabilia	Sign-up parties (Bunko, Poker, BBQ, etc.)
Weekend stays at a vacation home	Clothing and Apparel
A day with (a local celebrity, sports pro, chef, etc.)	Anything creative, fun or useful
Airline Miles/Tickets	

Please talk to family, friends and co-workers who might be able to help contribute to our auction. We are also asking local businesses and corporations tied to our community to demonstrate their support for education in our community with donations. Please let us know of any business owners and/or executives who would be willing to lend support to our school.

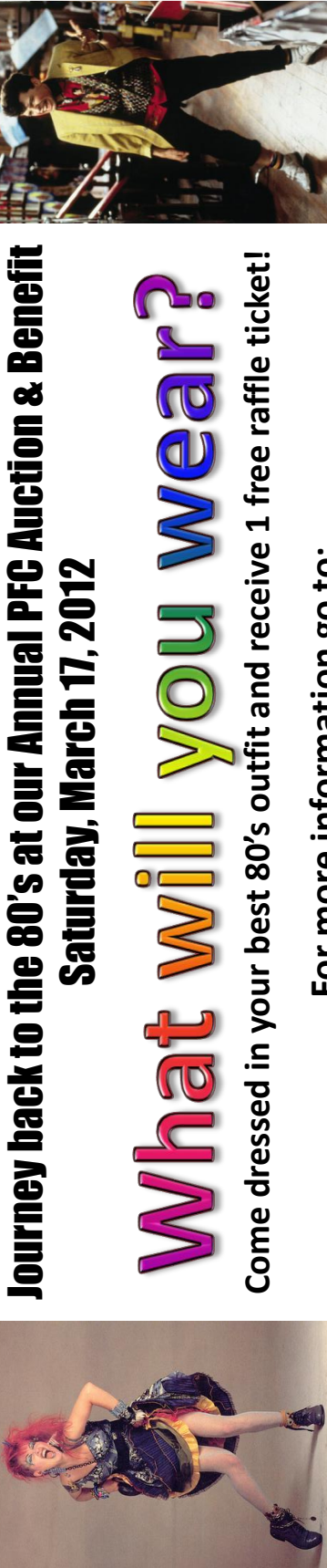
If you have an item you'd like to donate to the Auction/Benefit, please complete a donor form located in the school office and return it to your child's teacher by **Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. For added convenience, you can donate directly online by going to <https://besptfc.ejoinme.org/bancroft>

A receipt for tax purposes will be forthcoming. Donated items can be dropped off in the school office or please contact Michelle Allison at [m\\_allison99@yahoo.com](mailto:m_allison99@yahoo.com) or Chris Fong at [cfong1017@yahoo.com](mailto:cfong1017@yahoo.com) to arrange for pick up at your convenience. Your generous donation will also be recognized in our auction booklet. Please feel free to contact either one of us with any questions.

With your support, the 2011 PFC Auction/Benefit will be on its way to funding new programs, equipment and tools for our school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Allison, PFC Auction/Benefit Chair [925-212-6363]



**Journey back to the 80's at our Annual PFC Auction & Benefit  
Saturday, March 17, 2012**

# What will you wear?

Come dressed in your best 80's outfit and receive 1 free raffle ticket!

For more information go to:

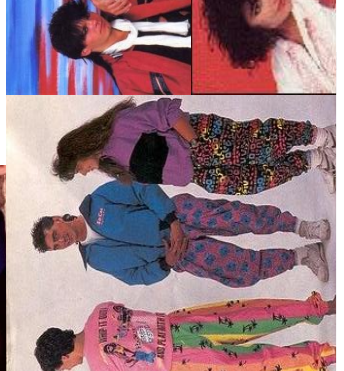
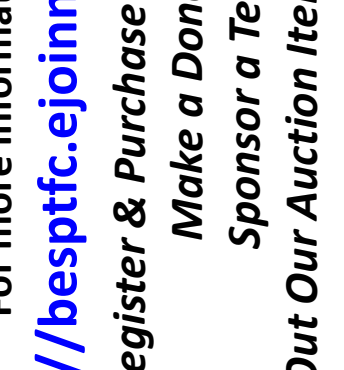
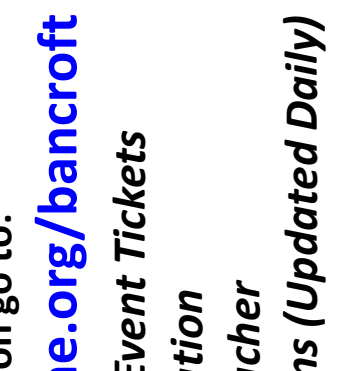
<https://besptfc.ejoinme.org/bancroft>

*Register & Purchase Event Tickets*

*Make a Donation*

*Sponsor a Teacher*

*Check Out Our Auction Items (Updated Daily)*





## **Fresh & Easy Fundraiser – Final Two Weeks!**

Thanks to Bancroft Parents and Faculty for participating in our first Fresh & Easy Shop for Schools fundraiser! But it's not quite over yet!

Go to Fresh & Easy for your last minute holiday needs:

- Party platters
  
- Prepared meals
  
- Baked goods (by Il Fornaio – yum!)
  
- Baking supplies
  
- Gift cards for those last minute gifts (Starbucks, Nordstrom, Home Depot for example)
  
- Fresh flowers

**Continue to save your receipts throughout the winter break and turn them into the office when school starts back in January.**

**Receipts over \$20 that are dated before December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 are eligible.**

**Thank you again for your participation and have a wonderful holiday!**