



Bobcat Tracks Newsletter: January 2012

Principal's Message

Happy New Year, Bancroft Community. It is evident from the smiles and refreshed moods and faces of our children, staff and families that most everyone had a restful and memorable winter break. The time with family and opportunity to rest our minds, spirits and souls was a treat. While I had a remarkable holiday and time off with my new grandson, I was very ready by the 3rd to return to our students and work with renewed joy, sense of purpose and belief in all that is possible in our loving and generous community.

During the first few days of the new year, we have been finalizing our orders for **new classroom technology**. The RedCat laser audio systems are on their way, new computers have been order. Exploration of other classroom technology has begun. On January 25 and again on January 30 our teachers will be engaged in professional developments in the area of supporting our **English Language Learners and in the Writing Workshop Project** for all our students. January 30 will be a non-student professional day, which means the children are off, but teachers will be here learning and designing new writing lessons. Your children will benefit immediately from this professional day.

We are deeply appreciative to our PFC and all the parents who generously support all the fundraising done each year. The parent leadership and volunteers in planning these fundraisers as well as the response of the community is never simple, it is however what brings us through these tough times with a passion and dedication to never scrimp or shave back when it comes to our students' education. PFC dollars continue to support the nine instructional assistants, technology, classroom supplies, play equipment, safety equipment, the arts and musical programs. Check with your employers as many companies have a matching funds program, where they will match up to a certain amount any parent makes to their child's school. If you are not signed up for the SCRIPT program (you shop at Safeway, and a percentage goes to Bancroft), please check this out via the Bancroft WEB site or by contacting the PFC. Every effort makes a difference. Please watch for communications coming to you via your classroom room parents and chairperson about the annual school auction, to be held March 17. Auction baskets and teacher outings will be discussed. Please find ways to contribute in ways that make sense for your situation and family. As always, thank you for generous donations of time and resources to our community school.

A night for parents preparing to enroll their **Kindergarten** children for the 2012-2013 school year has been planned at Bancroft School on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012** in B Pod Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bancroft School will begin accepting Kindergarten registrations on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 for students turning 5 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.

Parents seeking to obtain an **Inter or Intra District Transfer** for the 2012-2013 school year must apply now during the open application window. Applications are accepted through January 17, 2012 (extended from the 15). Students who move into the district after this deadline or Kindergarten students registering in February or thereafter are not part of this transfer window. Applications can be obtained and turned into the Bancroft school office. These will 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.

I hope that 2012 is off to a good start for all of you and wish you all the best as we continue forward in our school year.

Warmest Regards,
Linda Schuler

PFC President's Message

Dear Bancroft Families,

Happy New Year. The PFC's financial support of numerous projects, events and classroom support is vital to our school. One of many key focus area of improvement this year is to replace older computers in the lab and also to put two computers into each classroom.

This year we will have **Odyssey of the Mind (OotM)** Spontania-Mania Regional Meet on February 25, 2012. Our OotM students are working hard on their projects to finish them on time and get ready for the meet.

We are looking forward to our annual **Benefit/Auction** on March 17, 2012. We will need extra help from parent volunteers before, during and after the event, as well as getting the many items donated through class baskets, teacher outing and from the community. We hope to raise enough funds from the auction to meet our 2011-2012 budgeted areas of instructional support and improvements for our children's education. We must work more strategically than even as we battle the loss of educational funding within the state, district and to school sites.

Your participation in our school community is vital to the continued success of the excellent ranking Bancroft Elementary School receives each year.

Thank you,
Mirko Danilović

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

Parent Faculty Club: bancroftpfc@yahoo.com



“Journey Back to the 80’s”

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Join us at our Annual Auction & Benefit
and relive this crazy decade!

Visit our website

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

for more information on our auction items (Updated Daily),
check out our awesome “*Build Your Own Wine Cellar*” raffle,
order event tickets or make a donation.

Volunteers still needed!

Please contact Michelle Allison at m_allison99@yahoo.com or at 925-212-6363 for further
information or with any questions you may have.



You know you're a "Child/Fan of the 80's" if you...

You wanted to be on StarSearch. (Come on, we all did)

You own any cassettes.

You know where to go if "you wanna go where everybody knows your name."

You know what leg warmers are and probably had a pair.

You remember when ATARI was a state of the art video game system. (Remember Pong)

You have ever said, "Gag me with a spoon."

"Bueller?"

You had Wonder Woman or Superman Underoos.

You can name at least half of the members of the elite "Brat Pack."

You had to get up to change the channel.

You remember when Saturday Night Live was funny.

You HAD to have your MTV.

You knew what Willis was "talkin' 'bout."

You wore biker shorts underneath a short skirt and felt stylish.

You have ever wondered what happened to Saturday morning cartoons.

Partying "like it's 1999" seemed SO far away.

You had a Swatch Watch with the Swatch Guard.

You wanted to be a Goonie ("Goonies never say die.")

You loved the "Where's the beef?" Wendy's commercial

You know what "Sike" means.

You heard "I've fallen and I can't get up!" at least 100 times.

You had "big hair" and used AquaNet hairspray or a banana clip.

You know who Mr. T is.

You can still sing 1 to 12 from the Pinball machine on Sesame Street.

You pegged the bottom of your splatter painted or acid washed jeans.

You can sing the McDonald's Big Mac, Filet-o-Fish, Quarter Pounder and French Fry song.

You actually spent countless hours trying to perfect the care-bear stare.

You remember the first time you went into a video store to rent a movie.

You know what a "Whammy" is. ("No Whammy! No Whammy! Stop!!!")

"Wax on, Wax off." Need I say more?

You had a Dukes of Hazards, Knight Rider, Strawberry Shortcake or A-Team lunch box.

You remember boom boxes and walking around with one on your shoulder like you were all that.

I bet you're still singing the McDonald's Big Mac, Filet-o-Fish, Quarter Pounder and French Fry song!

Help build a wine cellar for the Bancroft Auction & Benefit.

No tools required!



There's an exciting new opportunity in place at the *Bancroft Auction and Benefit*. You are being offered the chance to bring home a wine collection that rivals those of the very finest restaurants in the Bay Area! In order to build the cellar, we need donations from generous parents like you. Please consider donating a bottle or two. And who knows ... on March 17th, you may become the owner of this treasure trove!

All donations can be dropped off at the school office no later than **Friday, March 9th**. Please

note: Wine donations MUST be dropped off in a bag by parents ONLY. DO NOT send your donation to school with your child.

Tickets for the "Build Your Own Wine Cellar" Raffle are \$25 each or 6 for \$100 (That's 2 free tickets). Tickets can be purchased online and also with your invitation and at the live event. Winner need not be present. For more information on the "Build Your Own Wine Cellar" Raffle and making a donation please visit our auction website at <https://besptfc.ejoinme.org/bancroft>. While you're there, check out our auction items and grab a couple of event tickets to this exciting and fun evening!



Computers, Basketballs and Handwriting, Oh My! Another Parent Faculty Club (PFC) Dollar-A-Day Update

Hello again from the Bancroft PFC Dollar-a-Day Committee. We wanted to let you know that Bancroft's students continue to see dividends from your generous contributions to the Bancroft PFC Dollar-A-Day program. The big news this month is that 25 new desktop computers have been purchased for the computer lab and classrooms using funds from your contributions to the Bancroft PFC and the Mt. Diablo School District. You'll also see new recess equipment, including new balls and basketball nets on the playground. And this month our wonderful Kindergarteners will start using the "Handwriting Without Tears" program to learn how to hold a pencil correctly and form letters and numbers.

These items were paid for by your contributions to the Bancroft PFC's Dollar-A-Day drive and other fundraising programs. We know how hard it is to contribute—especially right now—but your donations are making a difference.

The Dollar-a-Day fundraising drive for the 2012-2013 school year starts on March 30th. If you'd like to help or provide suggestions, please send us a note at bancroftpfc@yahoo.com. Thanks again!

Dear Pat Noonan, Lisa Guarnaccia, Anthony Quinn and Paul Oakley,

A famous peace activist once said, "Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it." You are all obviously both wise and virtuous. On behalf of parents and Bancroft Community, please accept our sincere appreciation for volunteering your time to help out with the traffic at our school. Your generosity benefited countless others.

May this New Year filled with peace, good health, success and happiness.

*Thank you,
Alphina Zapantis
Parent and PFC VP Communications*

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."



PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Pennies for Patients has started again at Bancroft Elementary. Throughout the month of January we will be collecting your spare change and dollars. Since 2004 Bancroft Bobcats have been participating in this very worthwhile cause to help raise funds for Leukemia and Lymphoma cancer research and patient services. In those years Bancroft has helped raise over \$7000! We want to continue to make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling with this cancer.

Thank you for your donations and contributions.

Mrs. Davis and the P4P Committee:

*Minty
Mahalakshmi
Brianna
Rachel
Brock
Nicolas*

Deadline for BoxTops Coming Soon! Keep Clipping!

The final deadline for turning in Box Tops for Education will be announced any day now. Teachers, Parents, Students: If you have been storing up Box Tops for this school year please get them ready. We had a very small number for our October submission so are really hoping for a WHOPPING number for our February submission! Each Box Top equals 10¢ for Bancroft and they really add up quickly. Thank you for doing your part!

