

January 2023



January Events and Information

Annual Andover Service Day

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on **Monday, January 16**, marks the 28th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

With that spirit, we're proud to support the 3rd annual Andover Service Day. This is an ideal way to model to our kids the importance of service and helping others.

Visit the website at <https://andoverserviceday.org/> for more information or to signup today! If you have an idea for a new service opportunity, or if you have any questions, please contact info@andoverserviceday.org.

ANDOVER SERVICE DAY

A Day On, Not a Day Off

M O N D A Y
JANUARY 16, 2023

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we hope you'll join us for the 3rd annual Andover Community Service Day, an event that is a "day on" to give back to our community by volunteering for a service project. **How can you help?**



SCAN ME

- **Review the service projects available** at our website, www.andoverserviceday.org, to determine how you can volunteer.
- If you're with an organization (PTO/PAC or other community-based group), **consider helping to coordinate and host efforts amongst your group.**
- **Forward this flyer** amongst your groups/networks, share via social media or established communication methods.
- Don't see a project that interests you? **Submit suggestions for volunteer projects** to add, either at our website or email us at info@andoverserviceday.org.



www.andoverserviceday.org

Bancroft Science Fair



Please join us as we welcome back the annual Bancroft Science Fair on **Thursday, February 8** in the Bancroft Cafeteria from 6:00-7:00pm (Snow makeup day is 2/15). Students of all ages are encouraged to showcase their unique, innovative, and creative science projects, experiments, and inventions.

Registration closes on **Friday, January 20**, so sign-up now! The fee is \$15/child, which fee covers the cost of a T-shirt and a project posterboard. Please note that it is the project, not each child, that is registered, and each project can have between one, two, and three participants.

For more information or to sign-up now, please click [here](#). Please contact Justin Baker at jbaker618@gmail.com with any questions. To view photos and videos from our 2020 Science Fair, please click [here](#).

The Bancroft Play is Back!



Bancroft used to do a play every year with a traveling theater company. It was a wonderful experience for students who were new to theater or experienced in theater to have the opportunity to be in a play at Bancroft that their fellow students and families could watch. This year, we are bringing back this tradition with a local theater company, ACT Infusion, who will be directing the show.

The play will be open to students in Grades 3-5 at Bancroft and rehearsals will take place over a two-week period after school at Bancroft from **Monday, March 13 to Thursday, March 23**, culminating in two performances on **Friday, March 24** (one during school hours for Bancroft students and one evening performance for the Bancroft community).

In order to participate in the play, students must commit to attending the after school rehearsals every day for two weeks (one missed rehearsal is fine, but please don't commit if you need to miss more than one). The exact schedule is still being finalized, but we anticipate rehearsals will be 3:30-5:30pm.

Students will need to audition in order to participate, however, all students who audition will be guaranteed a role in the play. Auditions will take place on **Sunday, February 12**, at ACT Infusion/Dance Infusion (19 Lupine Rd.) from 2:00-5:00pm. Students should each sign up for a 10-minute audition slot using the button below:

[SIGN UP TO AUDITION](#)

There is a \$100 fee per student to participate in the production, which includes the auditions, rehearsals, costumes, sets, programs, etc. We are asking that this fee be paid before the audition, however, families have until the day after the audition to ask for a full refund if a student decides not to participate. After that time, we can no longer accept refunds because students will be cast in their roles in the play. Registration for auditions will be open through **Friday, February 10**.

As always, the PTO has scholarships and can help coordinate rides for children with financial needs. For more information about scholarships, please contact Sara Blais and Stephanie Barry at president@bancroftpto.org. Also please reach out to

communications@bancroftpto.org with any other questions about the Bancroft play. We're excited to bring back this wonderful tradition!

Environmental Update: Recycle Your Textiles!



Did you know that last November, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection added textiles and mattresses to the list of materials banned from waste disposal? In other words, it's now illegal to throw things like socks, t-shirts, sneakers, bed sheets, and stuffed animals into your household trash, even if they're ripped, stained or unusable! They don't belong in your curbside recycling either, so where can you dispose of them?

At Bancroft! Our school has a partnership with Helpsy, a textile collection company with a mission to keep clothes out of the landfills and reuse, recycle and upcycle them instead.

Look for the big blue Helpsy bin in the faculty parking lot across the street from the visitor lot/drop-off area. Simply place your clean, dry and odorless unwanted items into a closed plastic bag and drop them in the bin. Helpsy accepts clothing (including socks and underwear), footwear, accessories (hats, gloves, belts, bags, backpacks, jewelry), linens, luggage, and stuffed animals. For a full list of accepted items, click [here](#).

Helpsy also has drop off bins at Sanborn Elementary, Project Home Again, and dozens of other schools and locations across the state, so spread the word!

If you're looking for other options to donate new or used goods of all types, consider [Project Home Again](#) (furniture, small appliances and household goods), [Uncommon Threads](#) (women's clothing), and [The Andover Thrift Shop](#) (clothing and household goods).

Almost all textiles can be given a second life, we just need to do our part to keep them out of the trash! Click [here](#) for more information on the new waste disposal bans.

For questions, comments, or if you notice that the Helpsy bin is full, please contact Caroline Hughes Wilder carolinehugheswilder@gmail.com.

Holiday Faculty Luncheon: Thank YOU!



Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate the winter holiday season at Bancroft. Bancroft's teachers and staff thoroughly enjoyed the holiday lunch hosted by the PTO right before the winter break. We couldn't have done it without your contributions, so thank you!

Cultural Arts Volunteers



Cultural Arts Volunteers Needed!

Come give us a helping hand and get a front row seat to the amazing programs your kids get to take part in!

Want to see the planets up close, touch a wild animal, or learn a cool science experiment? The PTO is in need of volunteers to work with the great performers and educators coming to school this year. The cultural arts committee has booked great in-school events for every grade level, including a traveling planetarium, the Discovery Museum, authors, and scientists.

We need a few people to serve as liaisons between our guests and the school for the following upcoming events (and more):

- **Thursday, January 19:** Top Secret Science, Electricity, Grade 4
- **Thursday, March 2:** Techsploration, MagLev, Grade 5
- **Thursday, March 9:** Sheryl Faye Presents, Grades 2 & 4
- **Wednesday, March 29:** Origamido, Grade 4

To learn more about the opportunities available, see a complete list of events, and to volunteer please sign up, click the button below:

VOLUNTEER

Library Volunteers

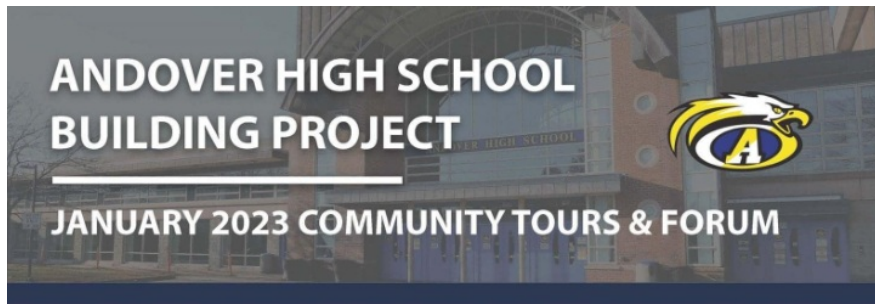
Are you interested in volunteering in the library this year? If you already have an approved CORI (see below under Important Reminders) and are able to help please click [here](#) to sign up.

If you have not completed a CORI yet and would like to volunteer this school year, [please complete one as soon as possible](#) (see the Important Reminders section at the end of this email for more information).



Upcoming Community Events

Andover High School Building Plans



Plans are underway to improve Andover High School and the town is soliciting community input and providing tours of the current facility. The next public tour is scheduled for **Saturday, January 21**, running continuously between 9:30-11:00am.

For additional information about the project and to receive future project updates, please visit <https://andoverhighbuildingproject.org/>.

Andover Parent to Parent Speaker Series



UPCOMING SPEAKER

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



SpeakOUT Boston presents:

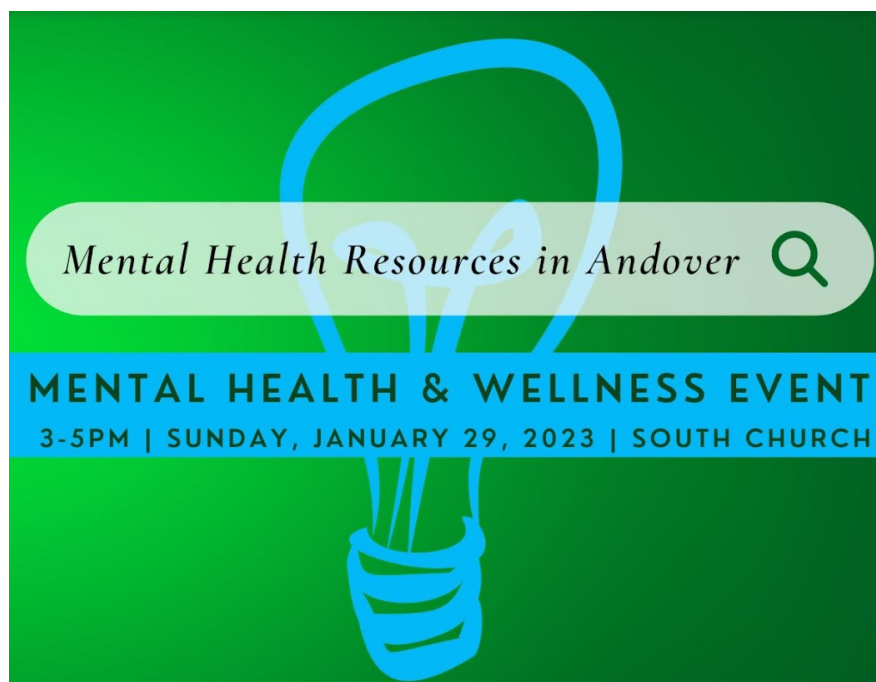
**How to be an Ally to the
LGBTQ+ Community**

January 25, 2023 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Ever wonder how you can best support your kids, their friends, neighbors, co-workers or other family members who are questioning coming out or exploring their identities? In partnership with SpeakOUT Boston, this online panel event will help you increase your understanding and comfort with LGBTQ+ issues. Panelists will share personal stories on various topics to help you learn how to be a better ally.

SpeakOUT Boston has been telling the stories of LGBTQ+ lives for almost 50 years. Since 1972, SpeakOUT has shared personal stories in an engaging way and fostered dialogues within middle and high schools, colleges, businesses, faith communities, nonprofit organizations and more. Join SpeakOUT for an evening of sharing about the LGBTQ+ community in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

South Church Mental Health and Wellness Event



South Church is hosting a Mental Health and Wellness Event that will focus on the many mental health resources that are already in our community and explain how to access them. There will be a one hour discussion/Q&A followed by a one hour Mental Health Resource Fair. Speakers will join us from Andover Public Schools as well as local mental health organizations including Samaritans, Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services, and Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project.

The event is scheduled for **Sunday, January 29** from 3:00-5:00pm at South Church Andover (41 Central St.) and will also be livestreamed at youtube.com/southchurch.

Andover Recreation

Winter/Spring registration is now open! Please note that Andover Recreation is using a new software platform to facilitate registrations. To see available programs, create an account, or to learn more, please visit <https://andoverma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

Important Reminders

Andover Public Schools require a new Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check every school year for anyone who volunteers at a school or school event (i.e. field trip chaperones, volunteers for class parties, library duty, etc.). If you would like to volunteer during the 2022-2023 school year, please fill out the [APS CORI check form](#) and return it in person to a school administrator with an original government issued ID. Blank forms are also available at the front office. It can take 2-3 weeks for your

application to process and you will not receive a notification once it's complete. You can confirm your status with the front office.

Upcoming Calendar Items

[Click here to access the full Bancroft PTO Calendar](#)
[Click here to view the full APS 2022/2033 calendar on the APS Website.](#)

- **January 16:** No School — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Andover Service Day
- **January 18:** Top Secret Science, Physics, for Grade 3
- **January 19:** Top Secret Science, Electricity, for Grade 4
- **January 20:** Johnny the K, Character Building, for Grades K-2
- **February 3:** Bancroft Spiritwear Day; Sheryl Faye Presents, for Grade 3
- **February 10:** Techsploration, Structural Engineering, for Grade 3
- **February 20-24:** No School — Presidents' Day and Winter Break
- **PTO Meeting Dates:** 3/14, 5/9 (7:00pm at Bancroft)

HAVE NEWS TO SUBMIT TO THE BOBCAT? Email us at communications@bancroftpto.org. All submissions must be received by the end of the month to be included in the next monthly update.

15 Bancroft Rd, 01810, Andover

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