



August 2024



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Signup for the Classroom Locator

Add your child's teacher assignment to the
CLASSMATE LOCATOR
to see who will be in their room with them this year!



Class assignments will be released on Monday, August 12th (be sure to update your Aspen account beforehand!). We know that families want to know who is in their child's class as soon as possible, so we decided to make it easier for everyone and create a sign-up. If you are interested in knowing who will be in your child's class, please sign your child up under their respective class, and wait to see who else signs up as well!

[Click here for the Classroom Locator sign up!](#)

[Annual Backpack Drive Kick Off](#)

Seeking Donations for our Annual Backpack Drive

**WE'RE TRYING
SOMETHING NEW
THIS YEAR!**

We're seeking monetary donations, which will go towards a brand new LL Bean backpack for each student, as well as grade-level supply boxes. The PTO will also contribute grade-appropriate book and a piece of spiritwear for each bag!



We're kicking off our backpack drive which provides new backpacks and supplies for Bancroft students whose families may need some extra help.

We're doing things a little differently this year! Instead of asking parents to buy backpacks, buy all the supplies, and dropoff before the school year, we are asking for monetary donations and we will do the shopping for you. LLBean is providing large backpacks at a special discounted rate for us, so every student will get an excellent quality backpack. The PTO will also include a piece of spiritwear and a grade level appropriate book for every student. Click the button below to contribute!

If your family could use this extra assistance, please let Bobcat to Bobcat know (Nancy Modlish nancyjo.modlish@andoverma.us, or Anna Ryan anna.ryan@andoverma.us).

Thanks in advance for your contribution and for helping ensure that every Bancroft student has the supplies they need to start the new school year.

[Click here to sign up for the annual Backpack Drive!](#)

Let the PTO Do Your Back to School Shopping

Want to avoid the summer crowds? Keep your kids from trying to sneak all that extra stuff into the cart? Not have to hunt down specific supplies?



Let us help you cross a big item off your list this summer by having the PTO do the back-to-school shopping for you! Avoid the lines, the kids asking for all that extra stuff, and searching for hard to find items. We've got you covered.

We are selling back-to-school boxes which will include all the required supplies for each grade (*boxes do not include backpacks, lunch boxes, snack containers, and water bottles and also do not include the supplies that are marked as optional on the grade level supply lists). By buying in bulk, we are able to keep the prices lower, so even though part of the price will go to the PTO to help pay for cultural arts, field trips, PTO events, etc., you will still be paying less than you would if you shopped for the items individually.

This is an optional fundraiser. [Supply lists have also been published and are available for families who would prefer to shop on their own.](#)

We will hold a pickup night on 8/20 from 6-8pm outside of Bancroft, but are happy to make other arrangements for families not available at that time.

Orders close this Friday (8/9) at 5pm so be sure to place your order soon! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to communications@bancroftpto.org.

[Click here to order school supplies!](#)

Room Parent Signup



SO YOU WANT TO BE A BANCROFT ROOM PARENT?



WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

- Collecting classroom funds
- Communicating with the teacher
- Coordinating classroom parties & activities
- Sourcing teacher gifts from the class
- Sending out communications on behalf of the PTO

With class assignments being released early next week, we're taking the first steps in seeking out room parent volunteers. Two parents per classroom will be in charge of communication with the teacher and coordinating classroom parties, teacher gifts and other classroom needs. **Please note that you do not need to be a room parent to volunteer in your child's classroom.** Room parents are predominately the people in charge of coordinating with the teachers directly then working with the other parents to divvy up responsibilities.

Want to learn more about what the position involves? [Check out this flyer here](#) or the [website FAQ](#) for more information.

Room parent selection is at the discretion of Bancroft's staff and administration. The PTO provides the school support for the process by providing the sign up form, from which volunteer names are delivered directly to the school for them to select and notify room parents for each classroom. Traditionally two individuals are chosen per classroom; signing up does not guarantee you one of these spots. **This is a blind sign up; you will not see your name after adding it to the list, please do not sign up multiple times.**

After room parents have been chosen, the PTO then provides additional support with a virtual training session, [access to an online Frequently Asked Questions](#), and a room parent coordinator who will be your "go to" person throughout the year with any additional questions that come up, as well as the person who provides PTO related communications for you to forward to the other classroom parents.

[Click here to add your name to the room parent volunteer list!](#)

[Bancroft Bucks Has Begun!](#)

Bancroft Bucks is Back!!

Direct donations are now open!

Click the button below to learn more or to donate today!



Bancroft Bucks is the largest PTO fundraiser to support and enrich our school academics and environment. Funds raised through Bancroft Bucks provide 50% of the PTO budget that supports student activities throughout the year, like field trips, cultural arts events, and more. We need everyone's help to make Bancroft Bucks a success!

Packets with more information as well as raffle tickets will be sent home the first full week of school. **Want to get a jump on the new school year?** Many parents have requested a way to donate directly without having to fill out the raffle tickets. Your child will still earn the Bancroft prizes from online donations just as they would have if they had sold tickets. Direct donations also count toward the totals for the classroom pizza party.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

We spend approximately \$150 per student throughout the school year!

- CULTURAL ARTS**
Full school and grade specific presentations and demonstrations that enrich their existing curriculum, including storytellers, hands on science, historical reenactments, and more!
- FIELD TRIPS**
We pay for ALL admission costs and related expenses for each grade to attend an amazing field trip every year.
- CLASS SUPPORT**
Staff receive discretionary funds for special purchases throughout the year, like magazine subscriptions, translation support, curriculum enrichment, and more.
- AND MORE!**
Staff luncheons & appreciation, tissues & cleaning wipes, special requests (gaga pit, AV enhancements, ADA compliant picnic benches), subsidies & scholarships.

Click the link in the post to read this year's fundraising newsletter for more details!

We need everyone's help to make Bancroft Bucks a success! [To see how your donation is used click here for more information.](#) We also strongly encourage parents to attend our first PTO meeting of the year (9/17 at 7pm) where our budget for the 2024-2025 school year will be presented.

[Click here to donate to Bancroft Bucks!](#)

Help Support the Staff Breakfast



Each year the PTO hosts a "welcome back" breakfast for the Bancroft staff the day before the students return. This year we're seeking donations to help bring it all together. Click the button below to help us bring them some tasty treats in a few weeks!

[Click here to donate to the Beginning of the Year Staff Breakfast!](#)

One More Kindergarten Playdate!



Join us on the Bancroft playground this summer to meet all the incoming Kindergarteners! We'll be getting together one more time, with popsicles on site for the kids:

- Sunday, August 25 at 4:00 p.m.

CUSTOM STAMPS AND LABELS
FOR YOUR KID'S FAVORITE ITEMS

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- ✓ Dishwasher Safe
- ✓ Free Standard Shipping
- ✓ 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

SHOP TODAY AT:
[HTTPS://MABELSLABELS.COM/FUNDRAISING/SUPPORT](https://mabelslabels.com/fundraising/support)
BEFORE YOU SHOP - ENTER:
"BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO (ANDOVER)"

PTO Positions for 2024-2025 Still Needed

THE PTO IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR!

- Board Positions
- Halloween Festival
- Art Coordinator
- Garden Committee
- Learning Labs
- Science Fair
- Family to Family
- School Supplies
- Backpack Drive
- 5th Grade Graduation
- Yearbook
- Kindergarten Welcome
- Staff Luncheons
- Bancroft Bucks
- Heritage Night
- Hospitality Committee
- Spring Fling
- Kids' Theater Program
- School Photographer
- Cultural Arts
- School Directory
- Fun Run & Ice Cream
- Scarecrow Festival
- Talent Show
- Spiritwear
- ... and more!

We're actively seeking volunteers for the upcoming school year. There are quite a few positions still open that we need to fill, such as:

- **Communications:** Room Parent Coordinator, Website Administration. No experience necessary, we'll train you!
- **Cultural Arts Coordinators,**
- **Learning Lab Coordinators,**
- **Theater Coordinators,**
- **5th Grade Moving Up Day Ceremony Planning** (traditionally taken on by a 4th grade parent so the 5th grade parents can enjoy the morning),
- **Events Planning** (Heritage Night, Scarecrow Festival, Science Fair, Silent Auction, Sports Night, Talent Show),
- **Staff Appreciation** (SAW week and end of year luncheon).

We detailed out what every volunteer opportunity entails, including time commitments, and we're here to support you. If you know of a way to help that isn't listed on our signup, scroll to the bottom and you'll find a choice for you!

Please reach out to president@bancroftpto.org with any questions.

[Click here to volunteer for the PTO in 2024-2025!](#)

Important Reminders: CORI

Andover Public Schools require a new Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check every 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 2024-2025 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 office.

Community Event: AYS Field Hockey

Calling incoming 3rd and 4th graders! Andover Youth Field Hockey still has openings for its fall clinics. This fun and inclusive program is a great opportunity to learn a new sport! More experienced players are also welcome to practice skills and to get involved in the town program and prepare for league play. Questions? Email andoveryouthfieldhockey@gmail.com

To register, go to:

https://andoverma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30093



FIELD HOCKEY CLINICS & LEAGUES



CLINIC	BAYSTATE LEAGUE TEAMS	
3RD & 4TH GRADE September 19- October 29 Tuesday & Thursday 4:30-5:30pm	5TH & 6TH GRADE September 8- November 3 2 Weekday Practices (TBD) Sunday Games	 7TH & 8TH GRADE September 8- November 3 Mon & Wed Practice with Sunday Games

Community Event: Remy's Walk And Block Party



Join us for a walk & block party to raise awareness for HNRNPH2 and to fundraise for the Rare Road Foundation inclusive playground project.

Wear something yellow and meet us at the Town Center Gazebo at 36 Bartlet Street, Andover, MA. We will walk a 1-mile loop around downtown Andover ending on Howell Drive, where the block party will commence.

Ticket options:

- Walk + Block Party: join our walk and block party. This ticket gives you access to games, crafts, face painting, temporary tattoos, light refreshments, touch-a-truck, Rare Road drawstring bag, and more!
- Walk only: join us for the walk only, in person or virtual with this ticket.
- Block party only - access to the block party for your entire group.

Time & Location

Aug 10, 2024, 10:00 AM

Walk starts at Town Gazebo:

36 Bartlet Street, Andover, MA

Followed by block party at Howell Drive.

[Donate or buy tickets here.](#)

Coming Soon: Destination Imagination



CHALLENGE ME, INC.
The Destination Imagination Community of Andover, MA and beyond

Parent Information & Team Formation Meeting

Time and Location TBD - Stay Tuned!

challengemeinc.org Facebook.com/challengemeinc

How about a Creativity Break? The 2024 Destination Imagination (DI) Season is ready, are you?

Destination Imagination is an extra-curricular activity where teams with up to 7 students (K-12) unleash their imaginations using **creativity, inquiry, and teamwork** to problem solve open-ended STEAM-based challenges which they present at our regional tournament in March. CMI is proud to have supported our DI kids and team managers for over two decades.



Learn about CMI & DI!

Questions? Reach out to us at: andoverkids@gmail.com

CREATING | BUILDING | ACTING | HAVING FUN!

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.

Bancroft PTO

15 Bancroft Rd, 01810, Andover

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