



September 2024



## A Welcome Note from the PTO



Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are excited to welcome both returning families and those who are joining us for the first time.

Bancroft PTO is dedicated to enriching the educational experience for our students by [organizing fun events](#), supporting teachers, and [funding programs that directly benefit our children](#). From coordinating family activities to providing additional classroom resources, we work to make the school year a great one for everyone.

We rely on parent involvement to make this possible, and there are many ways to get involved — whether you have a little time or a lot! Please keep an eye out for opportunities to volunteer (many included in this jam-packed newsletter!), attend meetings (full schedule below!), or [simply share your ideas with us](#).

We look forward to another fantastic year at Bancroft!

---

**Click on a link below to jump to that section of the newsletter:**

- [Bancroft Bucks is back! Packets going home this week, due back 10/10](#)
- [Get involved with the PTO: Volunteer positions still open!](#)
- [PTO Meeting - 9/17 at 7:00pm in the Bancroft Media Center or virtually.](#)
- [Room Parents: Last call for signups](#)
- [Classroom Contributions: Funds for classroom specific events & gifts](#)
- [Student Directory: Coming soon, online and print options!](#)
- [New Communication Option: Text Messages](#)
- [Rescheduled Yard Sale is coming up on 10/5](#)
- [First Parent Walk & Talk of the season happening on 9/27](#)
- [Need a car visor for parent pickup?](#)
- [Seeking donations for our Fall Silent Auction](#)
- [Spiritwear now available, and new designs coming soon!](#)
- [CORI checks are needed EVERY school year, submit yours today.](#)
- [Community Events & Announcements \(Destination Imagination, Girl Scouts, Sidney's Rainbow Runners\).](#)
- [Upcoming Calendar Events](#)

---

## Bancroft Bucks



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, including field trips, cultural arts events, teacher and staff discretionary funds, and more. We need everyone's help to make Bancroft Bucks a success!

Bancroft Bucks packages are being sent home with children this week and are **due back by October 10**. Each student receives 13 tickets in their take home packet. Raffle tickets can be sold to friends, family, neighbors for a chance to win a cash prize. Bancroft Bucks winners will be announced Tuesday, October 15 through Friday, October 18 with one winner per grade for each of the four days (six winners daily!). You can see the winners on our [website](#) as well as [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#). **Please be sure to return whatever you do not sell at the end of the fundraiser.**

Additionally, many parents have requested a way to [donate directly](#) without having to fill out the raffle tickets, so we are pleased to offer that option. Your child will still earn the Bancroft prizes just as they would have if they had sold tickets. Direct donations also count toward the totals for the classroom pizza party.

**Does your company offer corporate matches for donations?** Double your donation by requesting a match! And don't forget that your donation is also tax deductible.

To see how your donation is used, click [here](#) for more information.

[Click here to make an online donation!](#)

---

## Get Involved with the PTO

Being active in the PTO is a great way to support the school, Bancroft's amazing teachers, and all of the kids in our community. There are many ways to get involved and we have quite a few positions still open for this school year. Click the button below to see the full list or signup today. **Here are a few of the positions we are especially eager to fill:**

- Cultural Arts Coordinators
- Learning Labs Coordinators
- Theater Coordinators
- Website Administration (no previous experience necessary!)

Reach out to [communications@bancroftpto.org](mailto:communications@bancroftpto.org) at any time with questions, or [see a list of position descriptions here for more details](#).

[Signup to volunteer with the PTO today!](#)

---

## PTO Meetings

Mark your calendar for the following in-person PTO meetings at 7:00pm at the Bancroft Media Center. Where possible, Principal Leavitt and/or other administration/faculty will attend:

- Wednesday, September 17
- Tuesday, November 12
- Tuesday, January 14
- Tuesday, March 11
- Tuesday, May 13

Virtual meeting links will also be circulated in advance of each meeting via our social media channels if you aren't able to attend in person. Hope to see you there!

---

## Room Parents: Signups Closing 1PM Friday



**Signups for room parents will be closing this week and we still have several classrooms that need 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 parent selection is at the discretion of Bancroft's staff and administration.** The PTO provides the school support for the process by providing the signup 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



We're working hard on preparing the student directory and hope to have it published in the next few weeks. We appreciate all your help in updating your contact information.

**New this year, the student directory will be published online!** We've fielded many requests over the years to provide the directory electronically, and this comes with many benefits:

- Information can now be updated in real-time, so if your contact information changes, a new student joins Bancroft, or there are staff changes, we can update the online version to give you the latest and greatest information.
- Some directory information is gathered after it is published, like Room Parent contacts for each classroom, and we'll now be able to update that as soon as the final list is available instead of distributing it separately.
- The directory is available to access on your phone or tablet, so long as you have the password available (we recommend storing it in a secure password database).
- Email addresses are all active links, so if you need to email an individual, simply click on the link and it will open in your default mail client.
- All content is now searchable, so if you need to find a particular parent but don't know what classroom that child is in for instance, you can easily search for it in the expanded view.
- There will now be a linked table of contents at the beginning of the directory, so you don't have to scroll through the pages to get to what you want, and can jump automatically to the section desired.
- We have several advertisers that help defer the cost of providing the directory, their ads are now linked directly to their businesses for you to easily access.

We recognize the concerns about posting personally identifiable information online and have taken several precautions to keep the risk the same as providing a printed copy. We do not host the file directly on our website, instead it is on a secure file share and we link to it through a password-protected page on our site. There are several security restrictions in place: copying/pasting is disabled, downloading and printing are prohibited. We understand that may be inconvenient, but we defaulted to keeping our information as safe as possible. We ask Bancroft families to exercise caution and not share the password to the Student Directory page with anyone outside of Bancroft, do not store the password in an unsecure location (under your keyboard, in your mail contacts), and do not share the link to the document itself at any time.

Providing the directory online also allows us to save on printing costs and help bring our budget down. However, we will still be providing a printed copy to families who request it, for a small fee (at cost from our printer). More information on how to request a printed copy will be coming home soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at [studentdirectory@bancroftpto.org](mailto:studentdirectory@bancroftpto.org).

---

## PTO Text Messages Now Available!

Also new this year, we have added another contact method to our repertoire... due to popular demand, text messaging is now available! This is entirely optional and you must sign yourself up to receive alerts, and you can unsubscribe at any time. We have broken up the options into three categories that you can choose from:

- **Event Reminders** (include alerts when signups open for an event, 24 hours prior to the close of an event signup, as well as a reminder 1-2 days prior to the event start. This encompasses all in-person events sponsored by the PTO (ie. parent socials, Halloween Festival, talent show, school play, PTO meetings, Spring Fling, etc.).
- **Spirit Day Reminders** (first one is tomorrow, text will come out tonight!)
- **Other PTO Updates** (will include volunteering and fundraising opportunities, and any other timely PTO-related notifications)

Click the button below to subscribe today!

[Click here to subscribe to PTO text messages!](#)

---

## Bancroft Yard Sale: Rescheduled to 10/5



**BANCROFT PTO  
YARD  
SALE  
FUNDRAISER**  
GET MORE. SAVE MORE!

**Hunting and finding  
treasures at  
unbeatable prices!**

**All proceeds go to the  
Bancroft PTO and support  
our school and students.**

**NEW  
DATE!**

**SATURDAY  
OCT 5TH, 2024  
9 AM TO 2PM**

The poster features various icons of school supplies and electronics, including headphones, a backpack, a game console, and books.

The PTO attempted to host a community yard sale last June, but the weather did not cooperate with us and we were forced to postpone. It has been rescheduled for **Saturday, October 5 from 9:00am-2:00pm at Bancroft.**

You can participate in the following ways:

1. **Donate items for sale.** Click on the link below to see a list of items being accepted for donation.
2. **Volunteer your time.** Help run the yard sale, 50/50 raffle, and food sales that will be taking place at the yard sale!
3. **Shop** anytime from 9:00am-2:00pm on Saturday, October 5.
4. **Stop by** to purchase a cup of lemonade, donut, pizza, snack, or raffle ticket!

Proceeds from all of the above go to our kids and school!

Donations can be dropped off on Friday, October 4 at Bancroft from 4:00pm-6:00pm and on Saturday, October 5 from 7:00am-9:00am. Volunteers will be there to greet you at the front entrance! **Please don't drop off items inside the school or outside these hours.** For more drop off options, click the link below.

This event is still weather dependent and will continue through light rain, but heavy storms will sadly cause us to cancel. To gauge inventory and help with planning, it would be appreciated if you could RSVP via the SUG (click the button below) with a brief summary of your donation type and, if it is substantial, please text a picture to Laura Rubin. If you are volunteering or donating goods, you will receive an email with further instructions as we get closer to the sale date. **If you signed up for the yard sale in June, your entry is still there - please be sure to edit it on the SUG if your circumstances have changed** (or reach out to us at [communications@bancroftpto.org](mailto:communications@bancroftpto.org) for help).

We're looking forward to a great day that will not only help our Bancroft community, but the planet too!

[Click here to sign up for the Bancroft Yard Sale!](#)

---

**[First Parent Walk & Talk Coming on 9/27!](#)**





Grab hold of the last moments of summer with our Parents' "Walk & Talk" event on **Friday, September 27 at 9:30am**. We'll meet at Ultimate Perk and will take a 3-mile (or so) stroll around downtown. Feel free to bring younger siblings in strollers.

So we can have an approximate headcount and reach out if we need to reschedule due to weather, please click the button below to register.

[Signup for the Parent Walk & Talk!](#)

---

## Car Visors



Do you need a car visor for student pickup at Bancroft? If you haven't received a visor for parent pickup, please reach out to [president@bancroftpto.org](mailto:president@bancroftpto.org).

---

## Silent Auction Donations

Back by popular demand, the Bancroft PTO silent auction will be held online, kicking off at the start of our annual Halloween Festival. Your generous support of the Bancroft PTO can make a difference in our children's education. We hope you can help us by considering a donation of a gift certificate, item, and/or service(s). Popular auction items in the past include restaurant gift cards, vacation home rentals, sports memorabilia, photography sessions, and so much more.

If you are able to make a donation, please contact [silentauction@bancroftpto.org](mailto:silentauction@bancroftpto.org).



---

## Stock up on Spiritwear!

Bancroft PTO is continued to offer our wide range of Spiritwear throughout the school year, with options for both online ordering and direct shipping, as well as items that we keep in stock and can deliver right away.

We are experiencing some difficulties with our SUG Spiritwear specifically. Our distributor had some supply chain challenges and they have not been able to fulfill our refresh order. We still have existing stock available, but supplies are limited. We are working hard to find an alternative that can offer similar products and hope to have our inventory increased soon. In the meantime, our Zazzle store is still open, and we hope to have some new designs available in the coming weeks!

[See all of our amazing Spiritwear options and make purchases here.](#) The first Spiritwear Day of the year is tomorrow!



---

## Important Reminders: CORI Checks

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 front office.

## Community Events & Announcements



**Parent Information & Team Formation Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 1st 7:00 - 8:30pm Doherty Middle School

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 [andoverdiids@gmail.com](mailto:andoverdiids@gmail.com)

We want kids to get back into the swing of:  
**CREATING | BUILDING | ACTING | HAVING FUN!**

Learn how the program works and the role you can play as an involved parent or perhaps a team manager. Afterwards, we will begin the Team Formation Process for interested families.



Scan the code or go to [challengemeinc.org/rsvp](https://challengemeinc.org/rsvp) to register.

[challengemeinc.org](https://challengemeinc.org)  
[facebook.com/challengemeinc](https://facebook.com/challengemeinc)

[Destination Imagination Parent Info Night 10/1](#)



### Your Year of Adventure

- ✓ Have fun with new friends.
- ✓ Earn badges, help others, and try new things.
- ✓ Explore the nature and the outdoors.

Join Girl Scouts in Andover, North Andover, or North Reading!

We are excited to welcome you! Girl Scout troops meet during the school year, and the annual membership dues are \$50 for youth members. We offer financial aid, too.

Try a sample Girl Scout meeting to learn more about joining and volunteering: September 8 • 2-3 PM  
Camp Maude Eaton  
141 Abbott Street, Andover

Each day as a Girl Scout brings thrills and out-of-this-world experiences. Don't miss your chance to make new friends and be part of a journey you'll never forget! Find your squad and get ready for amazing adventures.

Be a Girl Scout



Scan the code or visit [gsema.org/trygirlscouts](https://gsema.org/trygirlscouts) to RSVP to a Try Girl Scouts event



©2023 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved.

[Try Girl Scouts event this Sunday, Sept 8](#)

## Sidney's Rainbow Runners Fall Sessions



This fall, Sidney's Rainbow Runners is back with two running sessions:

**Wednesday Afternoons:** 4:30-5:30pm at SHED Children's Campus. Geared towards more casual runners, this session will feature games and active play.

**Sunday Afternoons:** 2:00-3:00pm at the Shawsheen Track. Aimed at more competitive runners. this session will work on strength and endurance with the goal of running two XC races as a team.

For more information, please click [here](#).

---

## Upcoming Calendar Items

Click here to access the full Bancroft PTO Calendar

Click here to view the full APS 2024/2025 calendar on the APS Website.

- **September 3-6:** Bancroft Bucks Packages Home
- **September 6:** Bancroft Spiritwear Day
- **September 11:** Open House
- **September 17:** PTO Meeting (7PM, Bancroft Media Center or Virtual)
- **September 19-20:** Nature's Classroom for Grade 5
- **September 25:** School Picture Day
- **September 27:** Parents' Walk & Talk (9:30am at Ultimate Perk)
- **PTO Meeting Dates:** 9/17, 11/12, 1/14, 3/11, 5/13 (7:00pm)

---

**HAVE NEWS TO SUBMIT TO THE BOBCAT?** Email us at [communications@bancroftpto.org](mailto: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

Copyright © 2022 Bancroft PTO, All rights reserved.

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}  
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

