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Upcoming Events

Jump Rope for Heart
November 24
9:30 to 10:30AM
Bancroft School
Gymnasium
Contact: Sylvie Moran



At the awards ceremony, from left: Bancroft's Linda Miller, volunteer Peter Fisher, NBC10 news anchor Dawn Timmeney, and Bancroft President Toni Pergolin.

Bancroft receives cultural access award

An organization that promotes access to arts and culture honored Bancroft recently. Philadelphia-based Art-Reach presented its 2010 Commitment to Cultural Access Award to Bancroft during its annual Jazz Brunch at the Hyatt Philadelphia Bellevue.

With nearly 300 people in attendance, NBC 10 News anchor Dawn Timmeney gave Art-Reach's award to Bancroft President Toni Pergolin.

In presenting the award, Ms. Timmeney spoke of her recent visit to our school. She had interviewed student Dalton Stilts about his trip to the Special Olympics National Games in Nebraska, to play on New Jersey's Flag Football team. She got to know Dalton, his mom,

(856) 524-7033

Scholastic Book Fair

Nov. 29-Dec. 3
Bancroft Hall, Room 1,
Haddonfield Campus
Contact: Deb Conner
(856) 524-7023

**Flicker Program
Holiday Bazaar**

December 1
10 AM to 2 PM
Flicker Residences
Voorhees, NJ
Contact: Mike Pierce,
(856) 651-9510, ext. 102

**Community Services
for Adults**

Holiday Dinner and
Recognition Gala
December 5
Lucien's Manor
Berlin, NJ
Contact: Jeanne Bozicek
(856) 428-0685,
ext. 128

**Overview of Cognitive
Rehabilitation**

*part of Bancroft's free
workshop series on
topics related to brain
injuries*

December 9
Lebensfeld Building
Cherry Hill, NJ
Contact: Jeanne Allison,
(856) 524-7371

**Friends of Bancroft
Raffle Drawing**

December 14
1PM
201 Kings Hwy. South
Cherry Hill, NJ
Winner will be notified by
phone.
To buy tickets:
Deb Conner
(856) 524-7023

coach Steven Paul and other Bancroft staff members that morning, and left with a good feeling about Bancroft.

In her remarks, she noted, "Access to cultural and lifelong learning opportunities is critical to personal fulfillment and good health for everyone - children and adults, people with disabilities and without... so we are very fortunate to have organizations like Bancroft and Art-Reach for making this a priority."

Ms. Pergolin gratefully accepted the honor on behalf of Bancroft, and acknowledged staff member Linda Miller's efforts to promote Art-Reach opportunities within both her program - the Flicker Residences - and throughout the organization. Ms. Pergolin also recognized Peter Fisher, a man supported by Bancroft and an ardent Art-Reach supporter. Mr. Fisher's photographs were displayed in a slide show at the event.

The awards brunch was also a fund-raiser for Art-Reach, garnering more than \$85,000 for the nonprofit organization.

Plus, it was a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about Bancroft and our mission to make it one world for everyone.

Congratulations to everyone who supports cultural activities for the children and adults in our programs every day - and thank you!



Speakers at Bancroft's assistive-technology event, from left: Bancroft's Dennis Morgan, Teresa Owens of the N.J. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Fred Tchang of the Assistive

Technology Center, international AT expert Joy Zabala, and Harry Pizutelli, traumatic brain injury fund manager of the N.J. Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Assistive-technology event draws hundreds



Sarah Kerns (right) of DynaVox Mayer-Johnson demonstrates a piece of assistive technology to occupational therapist Karen Schroeder, during Bancroft's recent vendor fair on assistive technology.

Bancroft's day-long event on assistive technology (AT) was a big hit, drawing hundreds of staff, family members, people with disabilities, and professionals from other organizations.

Keynote speaker Joy Zabala - an international expert on AT - "was excellent," noted Bancroft teacher Barbara Bell. "It was the best presentation I've attended in years."

Coworker Dave Checchio also praised Dr. Zabala's lecture, where he learned "to look at the student first and [choose] the technology after. Don't just bring the technology in."

Indeed, Dr. Zabala emphasized that the person and his/her needs should be at the center of

all AT decisions, and that the simplest solutions should be tried first. For instance, she knew one woman whose AT consisted of a shoelace that helped her lift something over the arm of her wheelchair. In other cases, higher-tech devices help people learn and do many different tasks.

Two representatives from state agencies and one from a statewide AT resource center also presented useful information to the audience.

At the same time, a dozen AT vendors and other resource providers displayed their devices and services throughout the day at Bancroft's Haddonfield Campus. Exhibitors at the Vendor Fair offered everything from individualized AT consultations, to special apps for iPads, to "readers" - machines that scan documents and read

them aloud.

"It was a great day," says Beth Greer, Bancroft's AT specialist and an organizer of the event. "I think everyone came away with a much better understanding of how AT can help people overcome barriers and increase their abilities - and how we can all best make that happen."

Titled "Breaking Through: Advances in Assistive Technology," the event was part of Bancroft's semi-annual Clarence York Lecture Series.

New autism documentary available free online

A documentary on autism that recently aired on NJN-TV is now available online. [Click here](#) for a description of the film - titled "Decoding Autism" -- and a link to view it.



Help kids and adults for the holidays

Would you like to brighten the holidays for a child or adult who may not otherwise receive holiday gifts, due to financial hardship or lack of family involvement?

If so, please consider giving to Bancroft's Holiday Wish List!

You can make holiday wishes come true in any of the following ways:

- Adopt one or more individuals. We will provide you with the age, gender and wish list for the person(s). We ask that you purchase three to five gifts on the person's wish list.
- Buy individual gifts that will help us fill a wish list.
- Donate money so that we can purchase gifts.

Our staff has already identified 115 Bancroft students and 50 adults for this year's Wish List. We hope to continue our tradition of fulfilling every person's wish list, through the generosity of our staff, local organizations, family members and friends.

In this very special season, please consider spreading your joy to others through Bancroft's Holiday Wish List. Please call Deb Conner at (856) 524-7023 or email dconner@bnh.org.



A group of corporate volunteers poses in Bancroft's Butterfly Garden on the Haddonfield Campus, where they spent the day doing some heavy-duty gardening.

Corporate volunteers make a difference

Employees from several big companies have lent many

helping hands to Bancroft recently.

In the previous issue of Family Buzz, we told you about a dozen volunteers from Wegmans supermarket in Cherry Hill, who made wonderful improvements on our Haddonfield campus. Here's a snapshot of two other service groups and how they helped us this fall:

Holman Enterprises sent us two volunteer groups. One group of 12 did landscaping work at our Flicker Residences in Voorhees, N.J. They planted a memorial tree, weeded and mulched. They also dug trenches and lined them with stones to create a rain garden, to improve drainage and reduce watering needs. This hard work is paying off: when it rains now, the gardens fill with water and the roads no longer flood!

The second Holman group worked on the Haddonfield campus in the Butterfly Garden, where they removed boxwoods that were damaged by heavy snow last winter. Although it seemed like an overwhelming project, the volunteers had the boxwoods down before lunchtime, and then helped to dispose of the trees -- saving Bancroft about \$750! Thank you, Holman volunteers!

Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors sent about ten volunteers into the Butterfly Garden on the Haddonfield campus to help get the rest of the garden in order. The summer heat made it difficult for our students to weed and trim, but these volunteers jumped in and made everything look lovely.

"All of these groups are making a beautiful difference in our world," says Deb Conner, Bancroft's volunteer manager. "And the opportunity to meet people at Bancroft and get to know some of us is making an impact on their world, too."

Thanks to everyone who supported these efforts. You are appreciated!!

[Click here](#) for more photos of our corporate volunteers.

Lunch - and more - with Joyful Noise

Two fundraisers will help Joyful Noise - a choir of adults

with disabilities - visit Chicago in March, where they're slated to sing at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference. Joyful Noise includes many adults who receive services from Bancroft.

The first fundraiser is this Saturday, Nov. 20, from noon to 4 p.m. at Passariello's Pizzeria Italian Eatery, 111 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees, N.J. (856-784-7272; www.passariellos.com)

Simply bring this [flyer](#) or mention Joyful Noise when you pay your bill, and Passariello's will donate 15% of your lunch cost for Joyful Noise's trip. Joyful Noise will also sell raffle tickets during the lunch, and offer prize drawings at 1:30 pm (see flyer for details).

A second fundraiser will be a spaghetti dinner and concert:

When: Saturday Jan. 22, 4:30-8:30 pm
(a dress rehearsal will be held Friday Jan. 21, 7 - 8:30 pm)

Where: First Methodist Church
446 Camden Ave. (corner of Pleasant Valley Ave.)
Moorestown NJ 08057

For more information or tickets, contact Cathy Sonnenberg at (215) 771-1003 or email Cathy@JoyfulNoiseChorus.org

Piano Man update

Remember Walter Rotzell from our previous issue? As you may recall, he recently gave a piano concert at an assisted living center in West Berlin, N.J. Well, it's now a regular gig! The facility has asked Mr. Rotzell to perform every week - and he's happy to comply.

Farmer brings bounty to Bancroft

Thanks to a thoughtful farmer and winemaker, people who live on Bancroft's Mullica Hill Campus recently got a tasty and healthy treat.

Robert K. Clark had an abundance of apples he couldn't use for his production of wine. So he donated them to us. He presented 15 baskets of apples, which the Mullica Hill staff divided among the 16 campus apartments and the vocational day program. Some of the fruit was washed during vocational time and eaten right away.

"I know a few people couldn't wait to bite into them!" says staff member Kathy Warren.

Years ago, Mr. Clark says, he donated peaches to the program. Perhaps seeing all the activity and construction on the campus also piqued his interest.

Notes Ms. Warren: "Mr. Clark plans to stay in touch with us here in Mullica Hill."

Thank you, Robert Clark and Chestnut Run Farm in Pilesgrove!

Company's used computers a boon

When a Philadelphia-based company got new computers recently, it sent the old ones to Bancroft - where they're making a big impact.

NELSON, an international design and consulting firm, provided 21 used computers and 33 used monitors to the organization, where they're replacing older models and, in some cases, being recycled.

"Many of the used computers are more up-to-date than some of our older machines," says Ken Wolstenholme, Bancroft's senior director of Management Information Systems. "They will save Bancroft over \$5,000, in terms of computers we won't have to buy."

In fact, the day the computers were delivered, two Bancroft employees' computers broke down. Thanks to NELSON's donation, they got replacements more quickly than if Bancroft had needed to purchase new machines.

In addition, some of the equipment isn't usable by Bancroft employees - but it's ideal for our vocational partnership with Magnum Computer Recycling. That partnership employs 13 Bancroft students, who

disassemble electronic equipment for recycling.

"This arrangement offers so many advantages," says Michael McLaughlin, Bancroft's director of annual giving. "NELSON gets the benefit of donating all of its extra equipment to us, our staff gets upgraded computers, our students get more work opportunities, and we all help protect the environment."

If your company has spare computers or other equipment available for donation, please contact Mr. McLaughlin at mmclaughlin@bnh.org or call (856) 348-1171.



Police visit for Anti-Violence Awareness Week

Bancroft students got some tips from the Haddonfield police recently, in recognition of Anti-Violence Awareness Week.

Officer Lou Boselice and Detective Jose Ortez spoke to three classes in The Bancroft School's secondary program. They discussed bullying, violence, and what to do if you're the target of such acts.

"The students responded great," says teacher Jennifer Lucania. "They answered questions and gave examples of the types of violence they might see."

Adds Ms. Lucania: "This was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn how they can protect themselves, and to learn about the police and their role in the community."

Families invited to N.J. budget forum on Nov. 30

We encourage families to attend and provide testimony at the N.J. Department of Human Services' upcoming budget forum, regarding the FY 2012 state budget. Testimony can be provided orally or in writing.

When: Tuesday Nov. 30 from 9:30 am to noon

Where: DHS - Division of Developmental Disabilities
Gateway 195
5 Commerce Way, Suite 100
Hamilton Township, NJ 08691

For those who'd like assistance with their testimony, [click here](#) for talking points from the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities. To testify, simply sign up during the budget forum.

For more information, [click here](#) for a flyer on the event. You can also call (609) 292-3703 or email Sandra.Graves@dhs.state.nj.us

To speak with a Bancroft representative about the forum, contact Dan Keating at (856) 524-7372 or email dkeating@bnh.org.

CART, assistive-listening devices, and sign-language interpreters will be available for people with hearing loss.

Shopping fundraiser at Five Below

Several Five Below stores will donate 10% of the money you spend back to Bancroft, from November 26 (Black Friday) through December 24.

The following stores are participating:

- 1618 North Kings Highway (Ellisburg Circle shopping center)
- Deptford Crossing, 1800 Clements Bridge Road
- 42 Centerton Road, Mount Laurel
- Marlton Crossing Shopping Center on Rt. 73

When you check out, be sure to present this [flyer](#), so 10% of your total will be donated to Bancroft.

Thanks to Lillian Wilson, a manager in the Pediatric and Adolescent Community Residential Program, for connecting us with this great opportunity!

Questions? Contact Deb Conner at (856) 524-7023 or dconner@bnh.org.

Free workshop on older adults with developmental disabilities

Trinitas Regional Medical Center will present a free workshop titled "Cognitive Decline in Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities." Presenters Seth Keller, MD, and Lucille Esralew, Ph.D., will address assessment, treatment and community-based supports.

When: Friday December 3, 11 am - 2 pm

Where: Cherry Hill Public Library
1100 Kings Hwy North
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

RSVP: Call Fatu Bangura at (908) 497-9636, x201, or email fbangura@trinitas.org

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