

Welcome to Winter!

Quick Dates for December and January:

12/5, 4-5 pm	Science Fair Club Informational Meeting
12/8, 6:30 - 8:30	Family Art Night
12/14, 12:15- 12:50	Info meeting: Trip to Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Dramatic Lit
12/14, 7 pm	<i>Gulliver Unlimited</i> , 6-8th Grade Theater, Broadway Playhouse
12/15	Drop off gifts for Adopt-A-Family at AFE
12/15, 7pm	<i>Gulliver Unlimited</i> , 6-8th Grade Theater, Broadway Playhouse
12/16, 2 & 4 pm	<i>Gulliver Unlimited</i> , 6-8th Grade Theater, Broadway Playhouse
12/17, 11 & 1pm	<i>Gulliver Unlimited</i> , 6-8th Grade Theater, Broadway Playhouse
12/21	Last School Day for 2017
12/22-1/7	Winter Break, AFE closed
1/8	Classes Resume
1/15	MLK Day; AFE Closed
1/17	Follywood Film Submissions Due!
1/17, 5:30	Parent Planning and Pizza Party
1/22- 1/26	No AFE Classes Across All Grades -- Semester Transition
1/27-1/28	<i>Geoffrey Chaucer's Flying Circus</i> , 9-12th, Broadway Playhouse
1/29	New Classes Begin for Middle and High School Students
1/30, 1pm	AFE Community Council

This month at AFE

Science Fair Club

December 5th, 4 - 5 pm at AFE

It's time to start thinking about Science Fair again! This year Patty Freedman (parent of Max Freedman, Grade 11) will be leading an Online Science Fair Club (OSFC). Patty is a Senior Judge at Santa Cruz County Science Fair and both her children (Max and Emma) have competed for 10 years at the County, State and International Science Fairs. Come learn why science fair is especially great for homeschooling students.

Table of Contents

- [Science Fair Club](#)
- [Family Art Night](#)
- [Informational Meeting for the 17th Annual Trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival \(OSF\) and Dramatic Literature Class](#)
- [Gulliver Unlimited](#)
- [Santa Cruz Adopt-a-Family Holiday Project](#)
- [AFE Closed for](#)

To welcome new families and encourage kids who are not too sure about the whole "competition thing," we are holding an information meeting on Tuesday, December 5th from 4:00-5:00 pm at AFE. At this info session students and their parents will get to know more about science fair, why it's fun, and who should do it. They will also get all the details about OSFC. For more info about "Why Science Fair" see the flyers posted around school.

The OSFC is designed to support parents and kids as they move through the science fair process. Mentoring sessions will be held online in a "google hangout" style setting. Patty will be hosting and presenting on different topics including:

How to pick project • How to design & test experiment • How to deal with mistakes, errors and perfectionism • How to enter science fair expectations, deadlines & logistics • How to write report & display data • How to make a presentation board • How to prepare speech & practice questions • Our goal is to get more students excited and participating in science fair this year. If you have questions about OSFC email pattyfreedman@gmail.com. Hope you can join us!

Family Art Night

December 8, 6:30-8:30 pm

We invite your whole family to come to AFE and create with us. We'll have art projects set up in 2 classrooms with materials for you to explore, no need to bring anything with you. This is a chance for those of us who don't feel artistic to have fun alongside more confident artists. There will be projects for every age and ability. This year's theme is ***Starry Nights***, which will get us

Holidays!

- [Follywood Film Festival 2018!](#)
- [Parent Planning and Pizza Party](#)
- [The Canterbury Tales, or Geoffrey Chaucer's Flying Circus](#)
- [AFE Community Council](#)
- [Other AFE Offerings](#)
- [AFE Community News](#)
- [FREE Math Tutoring for High School Students at BSSC](#)
- [Attention Cabrillo Students!](#)
- [Around Town](#)
- [Cultura Caliente!](#)
- [Nutcracker Ballet](#)
- [Cabrillo Running Start](#)
- [AFE Parent Club](#)
- [Newsletter submissions](#)

Communication at AFE:

- [Staff directory](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Class information](#)
- [Online Bulletin Board](#)

Parent Club

Support AFE! Visit [the Parent Club box](#) at the bottom of this page.

in the mood to welcome winter using a variety of art media led by Spectra artist Claudia Stevens. We will also make tin art "regalos", do printmaking, and other star-making stations. Come and make a wish upon a star! You are also welcome to just come by and have a cup of tea while you chat with others from our community. Feel free to bring snacks or treats to share if you'd like to. I also am looking for a few parents who can help with set up and clean up for this event. Call Nancy Aylsworth for more information. 429-3898 x334

Community Photos

[Click here for photos](#)

Informational Meeting for the 17th Annual Trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) and Dramatic Literature Class

Thursday December 14, 12:15-12:50 pm

All High School students interested in studying the plays and attending a trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland this spring (**Monday April 30th - Thursday night May 3rd**) are invited to get information and/or sign up in on Thursday December 14, 12:15-12:50 pm. At this meeting, families and interested high school students* will get details, see pictures from past trips, hear from students who have gone in years past, and sign up for this year's trip.

In addition to seeing four plays, our group will have the opportunity to participate in an Actor's Workshop, attend prologues, and ask questions during post show discussions with an actor. Cost of the trip will be around \$500, depending on the number of students & parents attending. This includes all events and plays, three nights in The Stratford Inn with breakfast, and charter bus transportation. Starting in February, high school students will prepare for the trip by studying the plays in the Dramatic Literature class which will meet Thursday mornings 10:00 - 12:15 starting Feb. 1st. *Mature middle schoolers are welcome to attend the trip, if they have studied the plays and are accompanied by an adult chaperone.

Gulliver Unlimited

6th-8th Grade AFE Theater Production

Thursday, Dec 14, at 7 pm

Friday, Dec 15, at 7 pm

Saturday, Dec 16, at 2 pm & 4 pm

Sunday, Dec 17, at 11 am & 1 pm

Follow Samantha Gulliver in this coming of age story based in a steampunk industrial revolution. Written by AFE parent Bryn Kanar and loosely based on the book Gulliver Travels by Jonathon Swift.

We've added two shows! This production is double-cast, so you might want to see it twice!

Advance Tickets: \$6 Youth, \$8 Adult

At the Door: \$10

At the Broadway Playhouse

[526 Broadway, Santa Cruz](#)

Questions? Contact [Zan](#).

Santa Cruz Adopt-a-Family Holiday Project

December 15th at AFE

AFE has chosen to participate in the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz' Adopt-A-Family Holiday Project again this year. The volunteer center has matched us up with a family with four children, including a special needs teenager, in need of our support. We invite you to sign up to purchase a gift and deliver it, wrapped and labeled, to the AFE resource center on **Friday, December 15th** (to arrange early or late delivery please email Therese at tjohannesson@sccs.net. Please do not drop items off in the Resource Center on other days without prearranging it with Therese). Please sign up for the gift(s) you plan to bring [here](#). If you are unable to access the Google spreadsheet, please email Therese for gift information and to sign up.

Important Gift Buying and Wrapping Guidelines:

- Put gift cards in a clearly marked envelope with name of child or marked as "for the family."
- Try to aim for gifts that are about \$25 each.
- NO RED OR BLUE CLOTHING (these can be mistaken for gang colors).
- Please wrap and clearly label your gift before delivering it. Ensure the label will not fall off.

AFE Closed for Holidays!

December 22-January 7th

Martin Luther King, Jr Day, January 15th

The semester break is January 22-26, and teacher-led classes will not be offered.

Be sure to ask if other weekly activities are happening during the semester transition.

Follywood Film Festival 2018!

Submissions due January 17th

Follywood is one of the biggest events in the AFE school year. It brings our community together to witness the creativity of the many students who submit their films. It is truly an amazing experience! However, in order for this event to be the best it can be, we need something very important: your films! We need short films that are three minutes (or less) long, and we need them by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17. Your films can be about anything: in the past we've had documentaries, experimental art films, animations, sketch comedy, commercials, and everything in between! Our only request is that you keep it appropriate; this is a family event, and small children will be present. You can submit your films on a flash drive in a box at the RC, or contact follywood2018@gmail.com. **Parents, please share this information with your students!** The event itself will be on **March 3rd**, so save the date! We're looking forward to seeing what everyone comes up with.

-Isaac and the Follywood team

Parent Planning and Pizza Party

(the meeting formally known as Town Hall)

January 17, 5:30

Pizza and community building 5:30-6:30

Planning starts at 6:30

This is a twice-yearly meeting where we review our budget, allocate funds for the coming semester and build community.

The Canterbury Tales, or Geoffrey Chaucer's Flying Circus

High School AFE Theater Production

Saturday, Jan 27 at 7 pm

Sunday, Jan 28 at 2 pm & 6pm

Written by Burton Bumgartner containing Monty Python-like humor. Save the date!

Questions? Contact [Zan](#) or [Jasmin](#)

AFE Community Council

January 30th, 1pm

AFE Community Council welcomes you to attend our January meeting on 1/30 at 1 pm in Palazzo Studio.

The AFE Community Council is made up of parents, teachers, and students and serves as part of the governance of our school. Its purpose is to offer an opportunity for direct communication between staff and administration to make plans for community functions,

discuss concerns, and celebrate our community. All students and family members are welcome to these meetings! You may attend one meeting or become a monthly participant. Join Nancy and Lysa for a cup of tea in the RC. Contact Nancy Aylsworth if you have questions or agenda request at 429-3898 x334.

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#)

Other AFE Offerings

See the August/September Issue for descriptions for AFE enrichment class offerings. Spring semester classes will be detailed in the next newsletter.

Basketball

Basketball for everyone in grades 6-12 returns in January! Last year we had a great team that had a lot of fun at practices & games. Everyone is welcome regardless of basketball experience. Games will be on Friday mornings. Practice times to be decided. We need at least one parent volunteer to help run one of the afternoon practices. For more info contact Mark [831-566-0631](tel:831-566-0631).

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#)

AFE Community News

Theater News

Congratulations to our Robin Hood cast! They gave two awesome and fun performances! Not only did every actor show real growth and theatrical development, but they all came together as an ensemble. Well done!

Thank you to Jasmin Gerer, the AFE Staff and our 3rd - 6th grade parent co-ordinators: Hiranya Kliesch, Gwin Hight, and Zan LaHara.

Message from your Principal:

FREE Math Tutoring for High School Students at BSSC

AFE high school students are invited to FREE math tutoring Mon 11:00-1:00 (one tutor available) and Tues 11:00-2:00 (two tutors available). Tutors can meet with more than one student at a time. Students meet with tutors in room 7, the Ark classroom in the main building. A third and fourth tutor will soon be added. Stay tuned for the new schedule additions in January.

Attention Cabrillo Students!

Do you attend Cabrillo? Are you planning to take classes this spring semester? Let's connect! Please visit the [Homeschoolers at Cabrillo](#) spreadsheet to network with other

high schoolers!

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#)

Around Town

Cultura Caliente!

Friday, December 8th, 7:30 pm at the Mello Center

High schooler Aliya Glatt, AFE mom Rena Dubin, and many other familiar faces are performing in a collection of dances from around the world! Enjoy Bellydancing, African, Circus Arts, Ballet, Modern, Tahitian, and many other local dance troupes. This is the 15th Annual Fundraiser for college scholarships for Watsonville High School Students. Prices are \$5 for youth and \$10 for adults. The Mello Center for the Performing Arts is at [250 Beach Street](#) in Watsonville. Rena says, "I always love being a part of this show. The overall quality is generally very good, and it is wonderful to see the diversity of dance styles in Santa Cruz County."

Nutcracker Ballet

December 16, 2pm and 7pm

December 17, 1:30 and 4:30

Join AFE students Aliya Glatt and Arden Emhoff for the classic holiday ballet, the Nutcracker! This rendition by Agape Ballet Academy features beautiful professional dancers, amazing choreography, and stunning costumes. Performances are at the Mello Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets and more information can be found [here](#), although contact [Rena](#) for potentially discounted tickets!

Cabrillo Running Start

Seniors who are headed to Cabrillo mark your calendars! The Cabrillo College Assessment for AFE seniors will take place on **Tuesday February 13th at 1:00pm at the Cabrillo College Assessment Center**. Check in with your consultant teacher regarding this Running Start admissions and registration in the coming months.

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#)

AFE Parent Club

AFE's Parent Club meeting

The AFE Parent Club usually meets on the second Tuesday of every month, from 12-2. We usually meet in the textbook room. All are welcome!

What's the Parent Club?

The AFE Parent Club financially supports AFE, enabling or enhancing programs, activities, events, supplies and resources. Some of the things that have been supported by the AFE Parent Club in the past include: Theater for all ages, sports teams for grades 6-12, Clay Studio, Games Group, Orff music, family poetry workshops, field trips, staffing for the resource center, Family Art Night; resources—books, games, audio CDs, DVDs—for the resource center; classroom supplies for teacher-led classes; art supplies for the Palazzo Studio; and lots more.

The Parent Club relies on donations and fundraising in order to offer support for all these things. **Without fundraising, these programs, classes, activities, and resources will no longer be available at AFE.** Read the Everyday Fundraising Checklist [here](#).

Thank you for supporting the AFE Parent Club. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit!

AFE's Everyday Fundraiser Checklist

Our ongoing fundraisers are all ways to make money for AFE doing the things you already do! Click [here](#) for details.

- **New Leaf eCard:** New Leaf Markets donates 5% of the order to our school! More info [here](#). Contact [Linda here](#).
- **Staff of Life Scrip:** Contact Sadie [here](#) to purchase green paper credit slips in \$20 denominations and Staff of Life will give AFE Parent Club 5%!
- **eScrip and eScrip Online Shopping Mall**
- **Whole Foods Gift Cards**
- **ScripNOW Electronic gift cards**

More information about these and other fundraisers is available [here](#).

Newsletter submissions

Parents, staff, and students are encouraged to submit content for our newsletter. The submission deadline is 1 week before the first day of each month. We especially need content from parents about their children's activities. [Email Rena](#). To submit photos, please [email Gabriella](#).

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