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Class Dismissed Movie Screening

We are so excited to co-host this powerful documentary! The film follows the lives of a homeschool family from the point where they are just deciding to homeschool. Sharing their struggles and joys with honesty, it is the first feature-length documentary on homeschooling.

Class Dismissed: A Film About Learning Outside of the Classroom

Rio Theatre

December 10th, 7pm

\$10 Advance Tickets Only!

Tickets available in the RC, or online at [Brown Paper Tickets](#)



Jeremy Stuart—the director, and a homeschooler himself—will be hosting a Q&A in the theatre after the film! While homeschoolers will definitely want to see it, the film's focus on learning and 21st century education makes it a film for everyone.

Help spread the word and invite all your friends! For more info, [visit the Facebook event page](#).

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Quick Dates for December:

Date	Event	Time
12/5	All-Stars volleyball games and picnic	12-2:30
12/10	Class Dismissed at the Rio	7 pm
12/12	AFE Family Art Night	7-9 pm
12/16	Spring class proposals due	
12/19	Winter holiday begins	
1/5/15	Classes resume	
1/9/15	Follywood submissions due	

Coming attractions:

Theater performances: **January 24th @ 7 pm**, **January 25th @ 2pm**, and **January 31st @ 7 pm**.

Communication at AFE:

- [Staff directory with office hours](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Class information](#)
- [AFE Online Bulletin Board](#)

This month at AFE Family Art Night

December 12, 7-9 pm. We invite your whole family to come and play with us. We'll have art projects in 3 classrooms with materials for you to explore. This is a chance for those of us who don't feel artistic at all to have fun, while the more confident artists create nearby as well. You don't have to bring anything, just yourselves. There will be projects for every age and every ability. Some of our projects will be: create candle holders, make led light pictures or cards, and light photography art. 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.

Call Nancy Aylsworth for more information 429-3898 x334



Town Hall Meeting and Kids Night Out

Jan 8th 6:30 - 8:30pm

Our next Town Hall meeting will include childcare! Parents, attend the Town Hall meeting while, weather permitting, your kids enjoy supervised outside play—yes, in the dark! (If the weather doesn't co-operate some

AFE Community Classes Theater

Theater is happening at AFE!

Currently students rehearse weekly in small multi-age groups, but they'll all be coming together to entertain us with a full-length production of A Night in the Wax Museum in January. Over 55 actors from grades K-12 will transform our multipurpose room into a museum where characters from history come alive. Several AFE musicians will join this production as well. Mark your calendars for our performances now, so you can be sure not to miss this hilarious production of our theatrical community.

Performances: **January 24th @ 7 pm, January 25th @ 2pm,** and **January 31st @ 7 pm!!!**

AFE Volleyball

Outstanding Season!



AFE charged forward into the playoffs on 11/21/14 and all 3 teams took on that challenge and played their best team volleyball. This is the best finish we have ever had across all three teams and the

indoor fun will be provided instead.) Town Hall meetings are how we approve funds for activities and classes. If you have an idea for a spring activity you would like to see the parent club help fund, please fill out a Class/Activity/Materials proposal form. The forms are in the RC on the book checkout counter. **Completed proposals are due by December 16th.** At the town hall meeting we will choose, as a community, what activities and materials to fund for the spring. Tea and cookies provided.

Parent Club

As we head into the holiday season here are some easy ways to help raise money for AFE:

- **Do you shop online?** Please use the eScrip Online Shopping Mall when making online purchases. When you go through this portal up to **16%** of your purchases will be donated to AFE. [Sign up instructions are here.](#)
- **Do you use credit or debit cards?** Register your cards through eScrip and a portion of your purchases at participating merchants is donated to AFE. [Registration instructions are here.](#)
- **Are you worried about security?** Keep in mind that

individual players and whole teams should really be proud of their effort, their spirit and the success that came from all the hard work!!

- Our AFE **Team 1 won the Division 1 Championship and 1st place in the league.**
- Team 2 made it into a tough Division 1 playoff and took 4th place in the league.
- Team 3 improved all season and made it into the Division 2 playoff and took 8th place in the league.

Here is the schedule for the last event of the season: **Friday 12/5** 12:00 - 2:30 will be the All-Stars games and picnic. The entire Team 1 will go as the league champs and then several players each from Teams 2 and 3 will also be invited. (All-Stars, if you can, please save time **Friday 12/12** in case 12/5 is rainy and the game is postponed.)

A BIG THANK YOU to: all of our AFE volleyball players, Kathleen and Ayala for doing some great coaching in my absence and to the parents (especially Milton, Laura, Janice, Doug, Jay, Becky and everyone who brought snacks and washed the Jerseys to support the teams and players)!

Please remember to support AFE and AFE sports, including

most businesses require 5 pieces of information to make an online credit card transaction: name as it appears on the card, card number, expiration date, security number, and billing address. The eScrip system only collects your name (doesn't have to be the same as on the card) and the credit card number. And they use encryption and other security measures to keep your info private.

Remember your friends and family can also sign up for eScrip or use the Online Shopping Mall.

Don't forget to visit [the Parent Club box](#) at the bottom of this page. Parent Club supports theater, music, clay studio, sports, and more!

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AFE Community News

New Resources

We have several "junior" games newly arrived or on order. These should all be ready for checkout



soon: Rush Hour Jr, Mastermind for Kids, Scavenger Hunt for Kids, Pathwords Jr, The Best of Charades for Kids, Catan Jr, Blokus Jr, CashFlow for Kids, SET Junior, and Spot It!

Volleyball. The Team and [Parent Club](#) asks students/families to help with AFE fundraising efforts to cover the costs for our league dues. If you have not yet, please do make a donation of your own or participate in ongoing fundraising efforts.

[Click here for more photos!](#) Any questions contact me directly at 429-3898 ext 330 or [email](#). Thanks, Peter

High School Health

Mondays from 10-12 in room 2, taught by Amanda Clark. We explore physical and mental health issues including strategies for managing stress as well as finding personal balance and physical fitness, healthy eating habits, drug issues, relationships, reproductive health and many other things. This is a candid and honest class and I ask that any interested students be willing to help create a safe environment for all participants. Amanda Clark, ilovefog@sonic.net

ADVANCED Rocketry

Thanks to the folks who are building and flying higher powered rockets with us! Just a reminder that our schedule through the end of the semester is:

- Wed. 12/3/14, 1:30pm - 3:00pm (Build Class #2)
- Wed. 12/17/14,



Junior Animals.

Sweeten Up Your Calendar with Follywood!

AFE's annual student film festival is coming up in only a few months. All submissions are due by **January 9th**, so be sure to get a camera and some friends together over winter break.

Help with organization, script writing, presenting, and decorating would also be greatly appreciated. If you are interested or would like more information feel free to talk to Otto in person or email afefollywood2015@gmail.com.

AFE Co-ed Basketball team starts back up in January!

For all 6-12th graders, of all skill levels, come join us. Whether you have played for years, or have never dribbled or shot a basketball, join the fun! Practice will start in January; Friday games in the second part of January. The Season lasts for 12 weeks. You are welcome to come check it out. Thanks, Mark

New High School Classes for the Spring Semester Topics in Ecology

1:30pm - 3:00pm (Build Class #3)

- Sat. 12/20/14, 9:00am - 1:00pm LUNAR Launch @ Moffett Field (Launch #1)
- Wed. 1/7/15, 1:30pm - 3:00pm (Build Class #4 -- note this is a week later than usual due to winter break)
- Wed. 1/14/15, 1:30pm - 3:00pm (Build Class #5)
- Sat. 1/17/15, 9:00am - 1:00pm LUNAR Launch @ Moffett Field (Launch #2)

Thanks again to everyone who built and launched water bottle rockets, built custom birdie rockets, and even braved the drive over 17 to Moffett Field for a busy launch on 11/15. [See photos here.](#)

Questions?

Email: jay@cinemagic.com

Glee Club

The goal of Glee Club is to have fun by creating a safe environment for self expression. Under the guidance of an AFE

parent, Glee Club participants have the opportunity to sing each week, perform together as a group, learn about movement, and support others in their experiences. Grades 5-12 are welcome to participate. **Wednesdays**



What is ecology, anyway?

The relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.

A life science course for high school students

Up to 5 credits

Teacher: Joanne Brown

Have you ever wondered what's going on in the redwood canopy? Did you know that there's a whole other world happening up there? Do you know why wolves are so important in Yellowstone and how the different wolf packs get along (or don't!)? Do you think of California as a diversity hotspot? What's the butterfly's key to success? If you were a mountain lion would you rather run across a highway or use an underpass made just for you? How did the condors return to Big Sur? These are just a few of the topics that we'll explore together in this class. There will be several fascinating guest speakers. We'll be going on at least three field trips to get a first hand look at local ecosystem ecology. There will be weekly homework assignments, two projects, and a final exam.

Global Environmental Challenges 10th-12th Grade

Tentatively Monday & Wednesdays

10:30-11:45

Taught by AFE Alum Barak Wouk

How might climate change affect you? What could it mean for society? How might society respond to

from 1:30-3:15pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. This class is FREE.

Thanks to the AFE Parent Club for allocating funds for us this year! Glee Club is currently looking for a piano accompanist for the year. Parent contact: Lucia Paxton (luciasciarpa@yahoo.com) If there are any questions, please connect with me directly. [Click on the photo for a larger view!](#)

Economics for 11th and 12th graders

Thursdays 1-3pm. Fall only. Room 4, big building

In our third month, we learned about global problems and possible solutions. Do trade agreements and loans really help emerging economies and poor countries? Is China the new superpower? What about climate change? We explored the history of money and the banking system, alternative currencies, and how investment banking's inherent flaws contribute to financial crises. We are moving on into personal finances, budgeting, credit and debt, and taxes. Contact: Dorothee Ledbetter, dledbetter@calcentral.com.

Games Group

Come over to Room 2 **every Friday between 12 and 3** for good times with friends old and new, and AFE's very

this kind of challenge? In this class we will explore these types of questions using the latest science.

Barak studied Sustainable Development at Columbia University and Ecological Design at Prescott College. Contact him at barakwouk@gmail.com, if you are interested in signing up or have any questions.

Dramatic Literature/ Shakespeare Class & Ashland Trip

In preparation for a four day trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in May, high schoolers will be studying the following plays this year:

Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* and an audience favorite *Pericles*, a contemporary Chinese drama *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* directed by the playwright Stan Lai, and the musical *Guys and Dolls*. The class to study these plays meets **Thursday mornings**, 10:00am–12:15 noon Feb 5th–May 14th. Our four day adventure to see the productions in Ashland departs **Tues. May 5th** and returns late night **Fri. May 8th**. If you are interested, but did not attend the October planning meeting, please contact Jasmin Gerer for more information at jgerer@sccs.net or by leaving a message at 429-3898 x332.

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large collection of award-winning and classic games for all ages (K - 100+)! Games Group is facilitated by emeritus mom Tané.

Bring your own games and/or snacks to share as well! The youngest among us can often be found sitting in the middle of the room playing with Lego or blocks, or outside playing tag, in addition to the games, and parents can usually be found socializing, knitting, etc. while playing games, so truly something for everyone!

High schoolers, please sign yourselves in and out on the form at the checkout counter in the RC.

As our middle schoolers and younger students need to be supervised by an adult while they are at AFE and not in a class, we need 2 parents to sign up for every Games Group to hang out in the yard, keep an eye on the kids, and have fun themselves (getting to know other parents, play a game themselves, knit...).

There will be a sign-up sheet at Games Group, or you can sign up online with [Sign-Up Genius](#).

AFE Family Choir

The AFE Family choir, meeting **Fridays at 3:30-4:45** has been meeting in room 1 and will continue to do so, as another group has moved into the Palazzo. Join us for caroling songs including "Good

Enrichment Classes

Music, Movement and Art

Kindergarten-Second Grade

Mondays & Thursdays, 10:00–12:30

Thérèse Johannesson

Maker Monday: In November, our Maker Monday class had fun making puppets and puppet theaters with parents Bryn and Zan and teacher Therese. In December our Maker Monday teacher is Mark, who is holding a clay studio class just for us!

Magical Mystery Tour Thursday: We began November with a theme of gratitude and discussions of our family's cultures which we will continue in December. We are looking forward to a family presentation on Poland and Ethiopia on Dec. 4. We also began our celebration of the Spanish Language, by singing songs in Spanish, learning numbers and colors. We are continuing the "Russian Dance" from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite with sticks. We continue our exploration of whole body music with more Orff inspired singing, movement and instrument playing. We will be taking another trip to our BSS library on December 11.

In the Garden: We've planted our tulips and daffodils in anticipation of a glorious spring!

A Journey Through the Incredible Human Body

King Wenceslaus," "Oh Chanuka," "Carol of the Bells," "Deck the Hall," and a couple of fun Winter Rounds, "Sing, Oh You Falling Rain," and "The Merry Christmas Round." Please contact Therese with any questions: tjohannesson@sccs.net

Madrigal Singers

The AFE Madrigal Group is a group of musicians who read music and have learned the skill of singing in ensemble. We sing moderately challenging early music and meet informally in members' homes. We formed last Spring in order to "busk" or sing for donations. We will be singing for the Shakespeare Friday Women's Group on Friday December 19th. The Friday Women's Shakespeare group gave a generous donation to the Judy Reveaux-Wright Ashland Shakespeare Trip Scholarship Fund last year. Let us know if you have an event for which you'd like us to sing! Huzzah! Please contact Therese with any questions: tjohannesson@sccs.net

Scottish Country Dance

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, in the Branciforte multi-purpose room. Come try it once for free! Ages 8 and up. It's great exercise for the brain and the body, and fun too!

Contact: meridith.a.cook@gmail.com

3rd–5th Graders

Wednesdays 10:00–12:30

Peter Deutsch

In December our class will continue to explore the nervous system, including the brain, the senses and our sense organs. Students are all beginning to plan and work on a home project of their choice to share at the end of the class on 1/21/15. Be sure to ask me questions if you have them and get any support you need to make this successful.

Please remember that parents need to sign their student in and out of class. It really helps me if you can do that in a timely way. We will continue to take a short break for nutrition in the middle of class each week so please send a healthy snack for your child. Students should also wear comfortable clothes and shoes since we will play active games and some PE every class.

The Brain Explorer

Middle School

Tuesdays 10:00–12:30

Jasmin Gerer

A great group of enthusiastic students are exploring the inner workings of their brains!

This month we will be using the study and time management skills we learned as we work on a research report on mental disorders. Furthermore, we will listen to presenters from NAMI share their

Origami Club

Please drop in to the Origami Club **Fridays 12–3** during Games Group. Rowan will be there with a fabulous collection of origami books, plenty of paper, and awesome sample models. Fold everything from penguins to bunnies to winged unicorns -- and many more. No experience necessary; Rowan will guide you through fold by fold if desired!

Shawn's Super Sewing Class

Do you have an interest in learning to sew using a sewing machine? If you have never sewed before but want to...this is the class for you. We start with paper sewing and move slowly from there. Projects include coasters, to fabric shopping sacs to jammie pants. Shawn's Super Sewing Class is scheduled for Fall, **Thursdays 1:00 to 3:00**. Please contact Shawn by email, shawnlurette@mac.com or by phone, 831-426-2004. Students provide their own sewing machines, scissors and fabric. There is a small class fee of \$5.00 each class.

Water the Weeds Teen Improv

4-5:30 on Wednesdays until Nov. 19, Room 2 at AFE. Show on **Sunday Nov. 16**, location TBA. There's one class after the show. \$100 (\$80 each

experiences with mental illness. We'll also discuss how our nervous system reacts when our emotions are triggered, learn how to relieve stress when we are in the grips of it, and discuss the importance of sleep and nutrition for brain health.

For questions contact Jasmin at jgerer@sccs.net or leave a message at 429-3898 ext 332.

Express Yourself

Middle School

Tuesday 10-12:30

Nancy Aylsworth

Our weekly classes are an opportunity to express ourselves through oral and written language, with art woven into each day. What a creative group of students this is! Stories students wrote this month revealed rich imaginations and interesting ideas. We have dabbled in science fiction writing too. We were given a presentation on Zentangles from parent Nicole Gardner, and several students have reported enjoying continued doodling in this form at home. THANK YOU NICOLE!

Students explored the art of Gustav Klimt, with an activity focused on his piece called "The Tree of Life". Thanksgiving week gave us an opportunity to share our gratitude for living in a world full of things we enjoy. For more information please call Nancy at 429-3898 x334.

for sibs). It's liberating, social and fun! To register, call Joya at 831-426-2935. This art form is personal, collaborative, tender, playful, relaxing, adventuresome and a true gift to the audience. The first class is free if you're new to Water the Weeds.

Rainbow Alliance

The Rainbow Alliance meets **Fridays from 3-4 pm** at the Branciforte Small Schools main building in room #9. All teens from the Small Schools (including AFE, Ark, Costanoa, Delta, and Cypress) are welcome! This club is for all students interested in discussing issues important and/or related to LGBTQIA rights and expression, and that want to get involved in the community. Come and check it out! [E-mail Caitlin](mailto:Caitlin) or check out the "[Small Schools Rainbow Alliance](#)" Facebook page for more updates!

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Homeschool Highlights

Waldorf Revolution!



Arriana Roos follows a multi-disciplinary Waldorf curriculum

The Plot Thickens— Creative Writing

High School

Thursdays 1-3:00

Joanne Brown

“A story should have a beginning, a middle and an end, but not necessarily in that order.”

Jean-Luc Godard

Beginnings, endings, names, dialogue, and details were some this month's creative writing topics. Our authors learned how to use dialogue to reveal the character's relationships, increase tension, and move the story forward. We practiced adding specific details to bring stories to life. We explored the various ways to start a story, including in medias res (in the middle of things). Story discussions this month included a look at the snappy dialogue in Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and the startling details in the short story, The Yellow Wallpaper. As examples of classic beginnings and endings, we watched the beginning of Citizen Kane and the ending of Casablanca. In addition to in-class and weekly writing assignments, our authors completed first drafts of their short stories. Volunteers will have their stories discussed during class in a workshop format during the second part of the semester.

for much of her homeschooling. This month Arriana and her mother, Karen, learned about the Renaissance, including the Reformation, Copernican Heliocentric Theory, scientists and artists of the era, King Henry VIII and much more. [Click on the thumbnail](#) to see a few of the many beautiful pages she created to reflect her studies.

Support our actors

Max and Spencer Kanar will be performing in WEST's production of *How To Train Your Dragon* on Dec 19 and 20. [See the WEST website](#) for times and ticket info.

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Resources

Homeschooling can generate chaos unlike anything else if you do not have some sort of **planning and record keeping system**. There are a variety of homeschool planners and organizers available online, both free and for purchase. The one that is best will depend on your family, your organization style, and the ages and learning styles of your children. [Read more.](#)

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Around Town Ramblin' Adventure Club

Ages 6 to 11, Mondays 9:30-1:30
Every Monday morning AFE students

American Government

11-12th grade

Thursdays 10-12:00

Mark Thomas

This month features the preparation and presentation of student research reports that detail the role of the Am Gov't in an event or topic of choice. These 3-5 page published reports are due the first Thursday of December.

December also marks the passage into the third part of the AM Govt textbook. All 3 parts of the textbook will be game for the final exam Thursday, January 16th. & of course, we will continue our research and reflection of current events. Thank you for all of your interesting reflections!

Mark

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leave from Ocean View Park and head on the road toward adventure. For more

info: ramblinadventureclub.com or call or text (831) 334-8455.

IRIS Science Academy

IRIS is offering December-only classes for homeschoolers—Myth-Busting and Archery. [Click here for more information and registration.](#)

Holiday events

Looking for holiday events in December? [Find listings of local kid-friendly holiday events here.](#)

Aquarium for Locals

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is celebrating its 30th anniversary with free admission for tri-county residents from Dec. 6 to 14. [More info.](#)

Support Youth Radio

Support a commercial-free radio program for SC youth, [info here.](#)

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AFE Parent Club

What's the Parent Club?

The AFE Parent Club financially supports the AFE community. In the past, we have provided funds to enable or enhance programs, activities, and events. We also help with supplies and resources. Some of the things that have been supported by the AFE Parent Club in the past few years include: Theater for all ages, sports teams for grades 6-12, Clay Studio, Games Group, Economics class for high schoolers, Orff music for elementary students, family poetry workshops, field trips, staffing for the resource center. We

also have donated supplies for 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. Please take the time to see how you can help by reading and following the Everyday Fundraising Checklist below that will help you help the Parent Club with as little hassle as possible.

Thank you for supporting the AFE Parent Club.

—The Parent Club Board

AFE's Everyday Fundraiser Checklist

Our ongoing fundraiser are all ways to make money for AFE doing the things you already do! We believe that if everyone at AFE participated in, and encouraged their friends and family to participate in these easy programs it will go a long way towards our fundraising needs.

- **eScrip and eScrip Online Shopping Mall:**
 - Register online so that a portion of your purchases is donated to AFE. *See details below.*
- **Staff of Life Scrip:**
 - Use Staff of Life Scrip whenever you shop there. *See details below.*
- **New Leaf eCard:**
 - Pre-purchase a New Leaf eCard. *See details below.*
 - Ask your friends and family to purchase Staff Scrip or eCards from AFE.

More information about these and other fundraisers is available on the [AFE Website's Fundraising page](#):

Escrip

Escrip is an easy way to donate to AFE. Follow these instructions to get registered:

- **eScrip:**
 - Register your credit, debit, and grocery cards so that a portion of your purchases is donated to AFE. Go to www.escrip.com to register your cards. The AFE Parent Club's group # is 500007112.
 - Ask your friends and family to register their cards for AFE.
- **eScrip Online Shopping Mall:**
 - [Sign up and go through the eScrip online portal whenever you shop online](#) and up to 16% of purchases will be donated to AFE. You can also sign up for Auto Earn so you don't have to go through the Mall every time.
 - Ask your friends and family to use the [Online Shopping Mall portal for AFE](#).

Staff of Life Scrip

Please contact Melisa Schwarm to buy Staff of Life Scrip: Use the contact info on the roster for Otto or [send email](#). I am happy to answer any questions and explain how you can contribute to AFE fundraising just by using scrip to buy anything from Staff. There is NO cost to you, the donation to AFE comes from Staff of Life when you use scrip for your purchases!

New Leaf eCards

Leaf Community Markets offers natural and organic foods and a convenient way to raise money for our school. Use your eCard when paying for groceries and feel good knowing you and New Leaf are supporting the education of our children. There are 3 New Leaf stores where your cards will work:

- 41st. Ave., Capitola
- Pacific Ave., downtown Santa Cruz
- Fair Ave., on the Westside

There are 3 NL locations your card will NOT work:

- Felton
- Halfmoon Bay
- Boulder Creek

This is how it works...

Purchase a New Leaf Gift Card (eCard) from me (with a check made out to the AFE parent club or cash) and a percentage of that amount goes directly back to AFE:

- 4% on \$50
- 5% on \$100,\$250,and \$500

You may also order \$150, \$200, or even \$1,000. The amount must be in increments of \$100's or \$50's.

I will place the order, deliver your card to the RC, and maintain the last 6 digits of your card number. When you use your card, select gift card as your method of payment. Once your card is empty DON'T THROW IT AWAY. Your card may be refilled with those 6 digits.

Orders will be placed once a month. Please email or call when you are ready to order or refill your card. Payment must be received ASAP. You can put a check or cash in the New Leaf envelope at Molly's desk in the resource center. Please make checks out to AFE PARENT CLUB. I'll be placing the order on Thursday, September 11th. Payment must be in by Wednesday, September 10th no later than 3pm.

Please respond by email directly, NOT TO THE BULLETIN BOARD.

Thank you very much for participating, we can use every bit of support right now.

Victoria Harder, vharter@yahoo.com



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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 for **AFE News**, **Homeschool Highlights**, **Homeschoolers Abroad**, and **Student Showcase**. If you would like to write a short piece on any homeschooling-related topic, please do! [Email Suki](#).

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