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Welcome to December!

Quick Dates for this month:

Date	Event	Time
12/3	John Moir presentation, Ecology	1pm
12/4	GLOW [details]	6:30-8:30pm
12/6	Water the Weeds Teen Improv Show, Tannery Rm. 111	4pm
12/10	Science Fair Seminar [details]	3pm
12/11-13	Middle School play [details]	
12/17	Last day of classes	
12/18-1/3	Resource Center Closed	
1/4	Classes start	
1/5	Middle School Aquarium Field Trip	
1/14	Town Hall Meeting	7-9pm
1/18	Beautification Day	10-3pm

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This month at AFE

Important Reminder

Please make sure that all foods brought on the AFE campus and to all AFE events are **peanut and peanut oil free**. This includes lunches, snacks, food projects, bake sale items, and all potluck dishes. Thanks so much for your cooperation. We strive to make all of our AFE events accessible to everyone.

Hanna supports the Parent Club

Hi everyone, Please forgive me for taking editorial privilege and putting a little promotion in here for my new book, *Hanna, Homeschooler*. During the month of December, purchases of my book will support the AFE Parent Club!

Some of you know that I started homeschooling in crisis. My five-year-old daughter was having difficulties in school, and I knew nothing about homeschooling. I enrolled her at Ocean Alternative more for *me* than for her—I didn't know any homeschoolers or the least bit about homeschooling. Like AFE, Ocean nurtures a community of homeschoolers, and within Ocean's embrace we came to love homeschooling.

One day we were in the library and she stood in front of the chapter book section and asked an insightful question: *Why are all chapter books about school?* She was right: Not only are all the popular chapter book series about kids who go to school, but the central conflicts in the books always revolve around school. I decided that day to write a chapter book in which homeschooling was the norm.

Hanna, Homeschooler is that book. I am offering

Parent Club

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!



it to the AFE parent community as a fundraiser for the Parent Club. I am taking orders right now and am planning to fulfill them in mid-December.

For more information, check out *Hanna* in the RC. Also [take a look at my website](#).

To order your copy, [please fill out this form](#) (no money necessary until the books arrive). I am selling *Hanna* for \$10, 30% of which will go to the AFE Parent Club as a recognition of the priceless support my daughter I received during a time of crisis. Thank you.

–Suki

GLOW

@ the AFE Annual Art Night 2015

Friday, December 4, 6:30-8:30 pm.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

We invite your whole family to come and GLOW (in-the-dark) with us. Wear white if you can so you'll stand out in the black lights we'll have set up in one of the rooms. We'll have numerous art projects set up in the classrooms with materials for you to explore. This is a chance for those of us who don't feel artistic to have fun, while the more confident artists create as well. Some of our projects will be: snowflakes, origami, drawing on shirts, splatter painting (generated by riding a bike), face painting, and ornament making. You are also welcome to just come by and have a cup of tea while you chat with others from our community. Please bring a white shirt you can draw on if you want to make your own glow shirt. Feel free to bring snacks or treats to share if you'd like to, otherwise just bring yourselves. [Email Nancy](#) for more information.

AFE Science & Engineering Fair



Check out the Middle School Play, [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#).

Seminar

How Homeschoolers Can Create Great Projects

December 10th, 3pm, Palazzo Room

One of the great things about homeschooling is the ability to let your child follow their passion and explore concepts deeply. If your student loves science or engineering, whether they are in elementary grades or high school, the Santa Cruz County Science & Engineering Fair is a unique opportunity for them to do a “deep dive” with project based learning.

Jay Friedland and Patty Freedman, both past Science Fair judges (and AFE parents), will help you understand the process and provide you resources to help your students conceive and execute Science Fair projects. We'll have some examples of winning projects and how to make it happen even with limited time available.

This seminar is open to both students and parents in all grades who want to learn more about Science Fair. It will be held on December 10, 2015 at 3:00pm in the AFE Palazzo Room. The Santa Cruz County Science Fair submission deadline is February 12, 2016 and the County Science Fair itself will be held on March 12, 2016.

Students not only get to show off their hard work, but if they are in middle or high school, they could get to go on to the California State Science Fair. In past years AFE students have won several medals and prizes at both the Santa Cruz County Science Fair and California State Science Fair.

Please join us and we look forward to a lively discussion and Q&A.

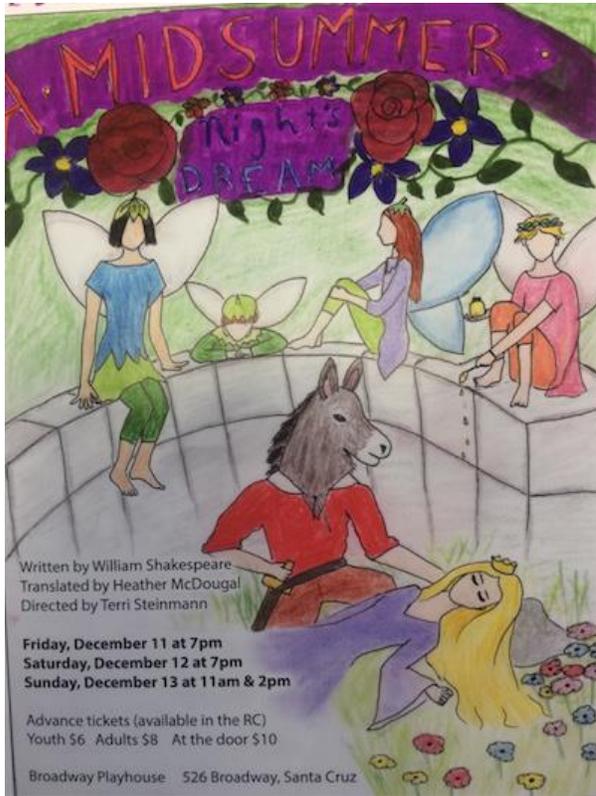


AFE Theater

A Midsummer Night's Dream, performed by the AFE Middle School, blends one of Shakespeare's most popular works for the stage with 1980's pop culture. It's only part-verse so it's a fantastic way to introduce kids to Shakespeare.

- December 11 at 7pm
- December 12 at 7pm (sold out)
- December 13 at 11am & 2pm

Advance tickets (\$6 youth, \$8 adult) available in the Resource Center. Performs at the Broadway Playhouse.



SAVE THE DATE

Town Hall, January 14, 2016, 7-9pm

Town Hall meetings are a chance to connect with other AFE families and also how we approve funds for activities and classes. We will follow last year's successful format where we start the meeting with snacks and time to socialize, engage in some community envisioning activities, and then make some decisions together about how to spend our fund-raised money. Kids will play in Palazzo and outside (on the big field) as parents meet in room 2.

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 January 4th, 2016.** At the town hall meeting we

will choose, as a community, what activities and materials to fund for the spring. **Tea, cookies, and childcare provided.**

AFE Appreciation/Beautification Day, January 18, 2016, 10am-3pm

On Monday **January 18th** (Martin Luther King day) 10 am-3 pm come to AFE to help beautify and organize our classrooms, our resource center and our outside area.

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AFE Community News

News from the RC

New materials are, thanks to Mollie, on the New Arrivals shelf! Reminder for checking out materials: Please write the student's name both on the card and on the sleeve in the book or game you are checking out. Due date is one month from check-out day for white cards, semester or year for yellow cards. Happy holidays! Dorothee & Mollie

Yearbook Help Wanted

It is time to start getting ready for the yearbook. Taking photos, making pages, choosing a theme, etc. I would like to have a meeting sometime in January. If you are interested in helping in any way please let me know via zannaboo@gmail.com.

You do not have to have taken the photography class, nor do you have to take the design class (starting in Feb) in order to work on the yearbook. Younger kids can help out, too.

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Enrichment Classes

K-2 Enrichment

Kindergarten-Second Grade

Thérèse Johannesson

Maker Monday Parent Co-op: Paper Airplanes, Circuit Art, Felted Soap and Thankful Flags have been some of our Maker Monday activities in November. Thanks so much to parents Esther, Eric, Moondance and Candi for such great ideas and superb leadership. Also thanks to other parents, like Hiranya, for inspiring [Andy](#)



[Goldsworthy leaf art](#), and Ryan who helped John Rible with the "People Sweeping" cooperative game. Also many thanks to our student volunteers, Faith Burns and Indy Lindley. In December, Maker Monday activities will include Kinetic Sand, Kazoo making, Slingshot Making, and Shaving Cream Art wrapping paper. [Click here for Maker Monday photos.](#) [Click here for MORE Maker Monday photos!](#)

Thursday Movers and Shakers w/Therese: November has been a month of Celebrations! We had a Pumpkin Soup Gratitude Feast including our harvested pumpkins and "Spanish Music Beans." We also celebrated 5 November birthdays in our class. We read about Native American tribes and respect for nature, chanting "Wendeyaho" in honor of the life of butterflies. We played xylophones and other percussion. In December we will be reviewing our multi-cultural Winter Songs and Dances, as well as our amazing stick choreography of the Russian Dance from the Nutcracker.

In the Garden: We've planted fava beans to enrich the soil in our garden beds. They are growing so tall! We've also cleared our pumpkin patch and have planted spring bulbs in its place. Many thanks to Iris Russel, our student volunteer, and to all of the parents who helped with our feast, especially Moon for bringing the gluten free chocolate birthday cupcakes! Also Brooke who brought gluten free bread, Alicia who brought drinks, and Hiranya who brought bread and butter.



The Monday students took part in an impromptu Andrew Goldsworthy-inspired leaf art project led by Hiranya Kliesch! The kids collected leaves from the Maple and Sycamore trees behind the school and arranged them according to color. Then the high school photography class came out and took pictures of our process. So fun! [Click here to see photos.](#)

California History

Grades 3-5

Wednesdays 10:00–12:30

Nancy Aylsworth

This month we explored California's history from the mission to the rancho time periods, and attended a field trip to the Santa Cruz Mission. We looked at the start of Santa Cruz right here where at Villa de Branciforte, which was one of three civilian settlements (San Jose and Los Angeles are the other two) that the Spanish government encouraged in order to establish communities that would keep other countries from settling in Alta California. The first residents moved here in 1797 and were known to be men that had broken the law and got offered their freedom in exchange for moving here with their families. Branciforte Ave. was a mile long dirt road where our first residents bet on horse races!

We also played some of the games played by children who lived here in those days. Next we will look at the Westward Migration into California.

Call Nancy Aylsworth for more information at 429-3898 x334.

Marine Science

Grades 6-8

Tuesdays from 10-12:30

Mark Thomas

Marine Science continues to meet Tuesday from 10-12:30 in the Palazzo studio. December 1st is the due date for Marine Science book reports and student presentations. Books may be either fiction or non-fiction. No field trip in December. However we visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium the first Tuesday after we return from Winter Break 1/5/16. [Click here for photos](#). Thanks, Mark
Any questions, drop me a line or give me a call, 566-0631.



Science Fiction Literature

Grades 6-8, fall or spring semester

Tuesdays, 10:00–12:30pm in Room 2

Peter Deutsch

In addition to our in class work and short story readings, students just finished working on their own creative Sci Fi story and are finishing reading a novel at home. They will share their novel analysis and review on 12/15 or 1/12/16. Small teams are in the middle of a simulation of traveling to another planet to establish a colony. Later we will address some challenges our world faces and design an aspect of an "ideal society."

We will go on an **all middle school field trip** (both classes) to the **Monterey Bay Aquarium on 1/5/16** and will return to AFE later on that afternoon. Please be sure to get the paperwork done this month.

We are looking at the common questions and issues that are addressed in this genre (What might the future be like? How might technology and science discoveries affect us? What if....?). In class we will: read short stories, view science fiction films and shows, discuss and analyze the materials, work in teams to design alien worlds and fictional stories, and share this work through art, performance and writing. Active learning, games and some PE will be a regular part of the class. We will also have a short break for snacks in the middle of the class time.

Questions? Contact Peter at 429-3898 x330 or pdeutsch@sccs.net

Topics in Ecology, Part 2

High School

Thursdays, 1-3pm AFE Room 2

Joanne Brown

Up to 5 high school credits in life science upon completion

California State Parks ranger, Scott Sikes, shared the fascinating world of fire ecology with our class. He discussed the essential role of fire in many of our local ecosystems and the way prescribed burning is used to enhance local habitats.

We spent an afternoon at Natural Bridges with UCSC researcher Monica Moritsch. Her research focuses on sea star wasting and the changes going on at the edges of the mussel beds in response to changes in sea star populations. She shared her research with us and everyone had an opportunity check out marine organisms in the tidepools and help with data collection. [Click here for photos.](#)



Students presented research projects on a variety of local environmental issues. Sophie discussed the effects of El Niño on Santa Cruz County.

Jonah and Parker tackled the dangers of ice plant to coastal ecosystems and what we can do to eradicate it. Audrey explained the hazards of plastic pollution to organisms living in the ocean. Did you know that we only recover 5-10% of the plastic we use? Saskia presented information from the [Beach Flats Community Garden](#) and the importance of protecting this biodiverse Santa Cruz community garden. Levi shared an ecological success story from his recent visit to the Hula Valley Bird Reserve in Israel. Bria talked about the deep water desalination project proposed for Moss Landing. Nathalie discussed the many lesser known sources of pollution in our local streams and rivers. Molly gave us interesting information on the secretive and endangered marbled murrelet. It turns out that we have several hundred of these birds living in Santa Cruz County. Zephyra discussed the role of fire in local ecosystems and its effects in urban areas. Max shared his work as a beekeeper, the important role bees play in pollination, and the current dangers they face due to pesticides.

On a positive note, we looked at an environmental success story—the world's largest dam removal project on the Elwah River in Washington and the subsequent return of salmon, other wildlife, and vegetation to the ecosystem. [Here's a link to a time lapse video of the project.](#)

We'll welcome back author John Moir as our guest speaker when we meet again on **December 3rd at 1:00**. His presentation is entitled "The Sixth Extinction." Everyone is invited to join us for this presentation even if you aren't in our ecology class.

Contact Joanne Brown jvbrown@sccs.net 429-3898 ext. 237.

Leadership & Communication

High School

Grades 9–12. Thursdays, 10am to noon, Room 2

Jasmin Gerer

Last month we learned a lot from each other as students gave 4-6 minute informational speeches about a wide variety of topics that were of interest: bird intelligence, a comparison of Ancient Rome and the US, diabetes, the history of the labor unions, hurricanes, peer pressure, pugs, puzzles, global warming, the preparation required to becoming a physician, the Pacific Crest Trail, stress, and happiness!

The coming three Thursdays in December, we'll be hearing a few remaining informative speeches, discussing ethos, logos, and pathos, writing and giving persuasive speeches, putting together resumes, learning how to best present oneself in a job interview, and working on our leadership/communication projects. Whew, this month will be zooming by! For questions contact Jasmin Gerer at 429-3898 x332 or by email at jgerer@sccs.net.

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AFE Community Classes

Puzzles Group - NEW!

Fridays 12-3, Room 2; beginning Friday, December 11

I am starting an all-ages puzzles group, focusing mainly on mechanical puzzles like the Rubik's Cube. I will be teaching people how to solve puzzles and understand the solution patterns. People can drop in any time during the 3 hours. Please bring your own puzzles! I will have several Rubik's cubes available. Puzzles, especially mechanical puzzles, have been proven to:

- increase a multitude of brain functions like short-term and long-term memory, pattern recognition, logical and step-by-step thinking,
- expand brain power by keeping newly formed brain cells alive,
- strengthen the prefrontal cortex (control center) and thus persistence, resilience, and patience, and the ability to deal with mistakes and failures,
- boost hand-eye coordination, dexterity and fine-motor skills, and spatial awareness,
- build social skills like team building, confidence, leadership, and teaching skills.

Erik Ledbetter

Defying Physics

Designing and Constructing Catapults, Bridges, and Towers

Grades 6-8

Mondays 9:30-11:20

Over the past few weeks, the students worked in small groups to



design and construct catapults to launch a cork projectile. The group with the longest distance attained over 40 ft. That was farther than any student could even throw a cork with their arm! Also, the catapult with the highest accuracy could make it in a small bucket 10ft away about 20% of the time! Up next is designing and constructing bridges. [[Click for more photos.](#)]

Contact Dusten at: dustend@gmail.com

Basketball

Basketball Season is around the corner! Starting in January once again AFE will field a co-ed basketball team for 6-12th graders. We will have 2 practices and one Friday game each week. The teams we compete against are often from the same schools represented in the Volleyball league. Everyone, male and female, is welcome! Any questions, talk to Mark 566-0631

AFE Volleyball



Congratulation to all the players!

We had a fantastic season and I want to send my appreciation to all the players as well as the parents for their effort and support!! Special thanks for the great help with coaching to Doug, Moondance, Leisl, Ginaia, and Ellen.

Team 1 won the Division 1 League Championship and finished the season undefeated (only the second time that has happened in our League – 2007 by AFE also!).

Team 2 won the Division 2 Championship with two very close victories at the playoffs.

Team 3 continued to play well, improve skills, and handle the adversity of being beginning players in our league with two tough matches against Cypress Team 2.

The All-Stars will have one final set of matches for a fun celebration on **12/4/15** (may be postponed to 12/11/15 if there is rain). Our All-Stars include all of Team 1 as League Champions, and from Teams 2 and 3 they will be Mircea, Rory, Eric, Orion, Dylan, Iris, and Stephanie.

Go AFE!!!!!!

[Click here for photos of our players.](#) Any questions contact me directly at 429-3898 ext 330 or pdeutsch@sccs.net. Thanks, Peter

AFE 15/16 TARC Team Off to a Great Start

The AFE TARC Team (ATT) was off to a fast launch in November for the Team America Rocketry Contest (TARC), a national competition of thousands of middle- and high-school students. AFE's team of eight students has already built their first two rockets and tested them at Moffett Field on Saturday 11/21. With a goal of carrying two raw eggs to 850 feet and bringing them back down safely in a 44-46 second window, their first two flights came in at 830 feet/42 seconds and 865 feet/43 seconds. Now they'll work on refining their design for the next launch in December. Their stretch goal is to place in the top 100 teams nationwide after a regional competition in March and go on to nationals in May. As team co-captain Keith Veditz observed, "In order to make an omelette, you have to launch a few eggs." [Click here for photos.](#)



Family Art Studio

Palazzo Art Studio

Fridays noon - 3pm

Feel like exercising your artistic muscles and getting those creative juices flowing? Then come join us in the Palazzo Art Studio on Friday afternoons from noon until 3. Family Art Studio is set up as a non-structured time for all members of the AFE community to come together and pool our creative juices. Each week I will have something set up to draw from life, whether it be a still life, a model, an interior scene or some interesting or unusual object. If drawing from life is not your cup of tea, there will also be plenty of space and supplies available to work on anything that may interest you. All the supplies in the Palazzo studio will be available to work with: watercolor, colored pencils, shrinky plastic, zentangles, collage, paints, pastels, and more. Whether you're a student, parent, or teacher, whether you're a seasoned artist or "can't draw a stick figure", you're all encouraged to participate! Come for 3 hours or 30 minutes, whatever works for you. I hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or if you would like to donate supplies to the art studio, contact Karylann Love at karylannlove@gmail.com.

AFE Theater

Return to [This Month at AFE](#) for details about *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed by the

AFE Middle School.

Photography

Instructor: Zan LaHara zannaboo@ymail.com

Photography is finishing up this month. The students will display their prints on the Artist of the Week Board in the RC the week of December 7th. Make sure to check them out!

AFE Guitar/Ukelele Group

Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 Palazzo

This is a parent led class. Please consider joining us!



We are continuing with our October repertoire and adding "12 bar blues," "Count on Me," and "Let it Be." In addition, our musicians have begun creating their own chord progressions and songs! Very exciting. If you are interested in joining us please contact Therese at tjohannesson@sccs.net.

AFE Madrigal Singers

We've begun singing in Italian and will continue with some Spanish *Villancicos* (carols) as well as our usual "Old Fox Wassail" and "Gaudete" in Latin. We'll be performing for the Friday Women's Shakespeare group on December 18. This generous group has asked us to sing for them in the past and have given generous contributions to our Ashland Trip. If you are an experienced choral singer with an affinity for early music and would like to join our group, please contact Therese at tjohannesson@sccs.net.

AFE High School Acapella Group

We will get started! Look for a start date second semester. We are looking at rehearsing in a student home, since the facilities at BSS are tight. Are you a moderately experienced High

School singer that would like to branch out into more challenging music, like covers that the group "Pentatonix" does? Please consider joining this group. Contact Thérèse at tjohannesson@sccs.net.

Clay Studio

CLAY STUDIO for ALL AGES, **Tuesdays from 1-3pm!!** If you like to get your hands dirty then this is the place for you! AFE's open clay studio meets once a week for 2 hours. You can come every week, you can come for half the class, you can bring your parent, or NOT, unless of course you are under 9 years old then they have to tag along.

The class is unstructured which allows you to work on whatever project you like once you have the basics down, which most of you do. For newbies to clay I will get you up to speed and you will be making cool sculptures or cups or bowls in no time at all. The class is mostly hand building, we have a slab roller and lots of texture tools and we do have wheels that you can try, and try, and try until you are throwing like an animal. Of course wheel work brings the hands dirty up another level, sometimes to head to toe messy.

The cost is \$35 per student per semester, which pays for clay, glazes and firings. However, no one will be turned away. Any questions, you can call me at 818-8660. Ciao, Kathleen

Sustainable Design

The course explores whether society could fulfill our needs in ways which regenerate the environment we depend on. We will focus on water systems, but will also explore topics such as solar energy, sustainable architecture, restorative food systems and alternative social institutions. Fridays, 9:15

For more information, [email me](#) or call 831-334-2750. Thanks! Barak Wouk

Games Group

Come over to Classroom 2 every **Friday from noon to three** (or whatever part of those three hours work for you) for good times with friends old and new, and AFE's very large collection of award-winning and classic games for all ages! 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! There is also a group of young artists who like to come and sketch and show each other their artwork in addition to playing games.

JSA

JSA (Junior State of America) is a student-run organization focused on politics and current events, and AFE students can participate! Our chapter meets **every Wednesday at 1:00pm** in

Room 2, with a variety of activities such as debates, thought talks, and crisis scenarios. JSA is predominantly a high school club, but interested eighth graders are welcome to attend!

An Introduction to Money

Time: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Instructor: Elizabeth Andrews

Price: Free. Students should bring a scientific calculator to class.

Course Description: In this mixture of personal finance and economics, we will explore how money moves through our lives, businesses, and societies, through hands-on activities, real-world simulations, and class discussions. Because the class is designed to be a challenging and engaging application of mathematics to social science, it is open to middle school and high school students who are already proficient with prealgebra skills including exponents, the use of variables in equations, and calculations with negative numbers and percents. Optional homework will consist of videos and/or podcasts reinforcing the topics discussed in class. Topics will build on each other, so it would be best if students can plan to attend regularly. Feel free to email me with questions: elizandrews24@gmail.com.

Water the Weeds Improv

9 classes and a show \$100, \$80 each for siblings. The show is on Sun Nov. 15. Adults/\$5 Teens and Under/FREE. There's one class after the show so we can reflect on it. There will be 3 10-week sessions, one in each season. Questions? Call me, Joya, 831-426-2935. [Email Joya](#).

Water the Weeds Teen Improv Show is **Sunday Dec. 6** Location TBA

3-5 Adults/\$5 Teens and Under/FREE

Actors please come at 2:30 to warm up. Solids no prints in the clothing.

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Homeschool Highlights

Halloween Costume Winner

Stephanie in her award-winning costume, made by Mom.



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Around Town

Children's Holiday Gift and Food Fair

Saturday, December 5, 11 to 2 pm

The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Cruz invites all creative and entrepreneurial children who enjoy crafts, cooking, selling and raising money, and all who appreciate youthful creativity and originality. [Click here for details on how to reserve a table.](#)

Museum of Natural History

Free Open House

You're invited! Join us on December 5th from 11am-4pm for a special free family open house. Festivities will include winter nature craft activity stations, up-close examination of specimens and artifacts from the Museum's collection, free holiday treats, and, of course, unlimited exploration of the Museum galleries and our new hands-on Investigation Stations.

Two Special Drop-in Events

offered by MAH this month

December 4th-27th: our Annual Trains Exhibition

11:00-5:00 Tuesdays-Sundays at the MAH*

*Fridays until 9:00pm

Join us for a rotating cavalcade of operating toy trains from the 1920s to the 21st century. Toy trains have come a long way over the last century, but new or old, the emphasis is on fun!

December 18th: 3rd Friday – Winterpalooza

4:00-8:00pm

Join us for an evening filled with the chilliest hands-on crafts and activities. Explore the opening of the Toy Trains exhibit, make your own gift wrap & crafty cards, and buy any last minute holiday gifts from our Teen Art Market hosted by Subjects to Change.

Aquarium Free Admission

Let the Monterey Bay Aquarium treat you this holiday season! Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito County residents receive free aquarium admission between Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 13 during its annual Community Open House.

Featured in Growing Up in Santa Cruz

- [Click here](#) for lots of local holiday-related events.
- [Click here](#) for a list of ways that your family can volunteer to help others during the holiday season.

Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

Monthly Homeschool Discount Days

Dec 2nd, Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st

If there are fewer than 10 individuals in your homeschool family, Homeschool Discount Days are your opportunity to visit the Museum and take advantage of discounted admission (\$7 vs \$13for adults and children) normally reserved for groups of 10 or more. To receive discounted admission, you must enroll as a homeschool family with Children's Discovery Museum a minimum of 2 weeks in advance. Offer restricted to California residents.

Enrolled homeschool families are eligible for discounted admission on all Homeschool Discount Days; no reservations are required. [More details 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. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit!

[Donate](#)



—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.
- **Whole Foods Gift Cards:**

- Buy \$100 gift cards to pay for groceries

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.

This month's deadlines are: [Contact Victoria]

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

Victoria Harder, vlharder@yahoo.com

Whole Foods Gift Cards

The Parent Club sells Whole Foods gift cards for \$100 each. The value on the card is \$100 so there is no additional cost to the buyer for supporting AFE. Use the card to pay for any of your purchases at any of their stores. Please keep the card and load more money onto it with a check or on-line transfer, up to \$400 at a time.

AFE gets 3% of the money our community members pay for gift cards and loading them. If you shop at Whole Foods this is a great way that you can contribute to AFE. [Contact Melisa](#).

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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The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font on a dark gray rectangular background.