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Welcome to another year at AFE!

It's exciting to start another year of community home schooling. Our September newsletter is full of information about classes, events, resources, and ways you can help keep our vibrant community alive. Don't miss the descriptions of your students' enrichment classes, all the great community class offerings (including some new ones!), the Communication section which tells you how to get information, and the new Parent Club feature at the bottom of the newsletter. Above all, don't forget that tomorrow is our Welcome Back gathering! We're looking forward to seeing our friends from last year and the new friends we're going to make this year.

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Quick Dates for September:

Date	Event	Time
3	Welcome back gathering	1:30-4pm
5	Beach Potluck & Bonfire	5-10pm
5	Sign up for Fair	
9	AFE Site Council	1:30-2:30pm
10	Fieldtrip to the Fair	9:30am
12	Camping registration	noon
12-14	Camping	3pm
15	Enrichment classes begin	
17	Drive for Schools starts	
27	Campus clean-up	9-11am

This month at AFE Welcome Back Gathering, 9/3, 1:30-4pm

Welcome to the 2014-2015 AFE school year! We hope that this letter finds you relaxed and ready for a new year of learning.

Please join us for our school-wide gathering...

AFE Community Gathering
at Branciforte Small Schools Campus

Wednesday, September 3

1:30-4:00

This is an opportunity to start off our homeschooling year as a community, meet with our staff, welcome new families, and sign up for classes. It will be a great opportunity to find out about upcoming events and network with other homeschooling families.

Welcome back! From AFE Staff

It is a pleasure to begin my fifth year at AFE and



my twenty-fifth year in education. A warm welcome to both new and returning families. I look forward to sharing a fun filled and exciting year with everyone.

For those of you who are new to AFE, I have been in alternative education for eleven years. Prior to teaching at AFE, I taught at Monarch Community School on our campus. Before my career in

If you have a class, workshop, apprenticeship, study group, or an event of any kind, please come prepared to set up information and sign-up sheets at one of the tables. We will also have blank sign up sheets available, in case you are inspired to network or offer a group or activity.

Please contact Joanne Brown at 429-3898 x 237 to reserve classroom space for classes or events you would like to host on our school site.

Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on and snacks to share while we gather in small groups to share our plans and dreams for this homeschooling year. Your participation enriches the program for everyone!

Beach Potluck & Bonfire, 9/5

Everyone is invited to a Beach Party on **Friday, September 5** at Twin Lakes Beach (at the end of 7th Ave.) from **5:00–10:00pm**. Bring your own water bottle and dinnerware. Please bring food to share with others, but if you prefer to bring dinner just for your own family, feel free to do so. We want you to come! I'll bring skewers for folks to use. Bring: firewood, beach toys, instruments, warm clothes, blankets, chairs, or whatever else you think would make for a fun evening.

Call Nancy for more info 429-3898 x334

AFE Site Council, 9/9

Our Site Council meets monthly as a liaison between parents and staff to inform and guide decision making, promote family and student needs, and organize family efforts in support of

education, I worked as a field biologist.

My husband and I are blessed to have a large blended family, with five children and two (so far) grandchildren. Two of our children attended AFE. As a matter of fact, at the end of eighth grade, our daughter wrote us a thoughtful letter stating the reasons why she should homeschool. She was very convincing and got her wish. Our youngest son is attending Delta High School as well as studying sound engineering at Indigital Studio in Santa Cruz.

Some of my favorite things in life include (but are not limited to) travel, hiking, camping, reading, yoga, art, movies, all animals, nature, chocolate, meeting people, friends, family, writing, and having fun. Last summer our family enjoyed camping in the Northwest, Vancouver Island, and Arizona. We also spent time with family in New Mexico.

This year I look forward to teaching high school creative writing in the fall and ecology in the spring. I am also excited to work with my consultant families and share the homeschool journey with you all.

—Joanne Brown

AFE. We have not decided when our regular monthly meeting will be, but our first meeting will be **Tuesday, September 9th, 1:30-2:30**, in Room 1. All students and family members are welcome! Current participants are Ellen Baker, Zan LaHara, Suzanne Tuescher, Ruthie Yarme, Meridith Cook, Nancy Aylsworth, Mollie Jarrow, and Daniel Denton.

Field Trip to the Fair, 9/10

For those of you who have gone to the fair on Education Day before, please note that there are some changes this year: We have 30 FREE tickets for students grades 2–4 and one free adult chaperone ticket with every 4 students. Younger students will be able to get in free on this day because it's Kids Day. Additional adults and students ages 12 and up will need to pay \$5 to get in. (This is still a great savings from the regular prices). There is a \$5 fee for parking, so carpooling is recommended.

Sign up and at the RC by **Friday, September 5th**. When signing up, please list each person attending on a separate line to make it easier to count the participants and fill out a field trip permission slip.

I'll be able to drive and chaperone 3 students. Free tickets will become available when we receive them, which could be the week of the trip or earlier. Older students and adults who are paying can get the tickets at the entrance.

On **Wednesday, September 10th**, we will depart from the RC at **9:30am** and carpool (sign up at the RC) to the fair or meet there around **10:00am** (depending on traffic). You are welcome to explore the fair as you wish, but if you'd like to join other AFE families, we'll first



Looking forward to my 24th year of connecting with community

and learning at AFE! This year in the fall, I'm excited to be working with middle schoolers on exploring how our brains work and then in the spring studying plays and seeing them performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. I also look forward to supporting filmmakers and our community for our 11th annual Follywood Film Festival.

For those who don't already know, I grew up in Bavaria where I started my career teaching English and German, moved to Santa Cruz to attend UCSC, and then to Madrid to learn Spanish in order to get a California bilingual teaching credential. After returning to California, I worked with migrant students and the GATE program in Pajaro Valley. That was 27 years ago, when I met my husband Clark. Once we had children and knew we wanted to homeschool them, I was fortunate to join AFE where both my kids were homeschooled from Kindergarten through highschool. We are

visit the Crosetti Building (that's at the carnival end) where the collections, education displays, and photography exhibits are housed, then see the Harvest and Art and Poetry buildings before having lunch at the horseshow grounds at noon.

It is better to head to the animal areas to see the baby pigs, newborn calves, cows, goats, sheep and more after lunch when that area is not crowded. Bring sunscreen, water, and a lunch, or money to purchase food at the fair. The 4H group has a great food and milk shake booth by the cow barns.

For directions and a schedule of events including the canine & horse show, pig races, pottery, carving, woodcutting and other demonstrations check the fair website, <http://www.santacruzcountyfair.com/>.

Contact Therese with questions: tjohannesson@sccs.net

Camping, 9/12-14

COME PLAY WITH US IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS!

September 12-14

Join us for our annual camping trip to Camp Loma, located at 29650 Highland Way, which is a continuation of Summit Road off HWY 17. You can also come up on Soquel San Jose Road, or Eureka Canyon Road. This campout is for families who have one or more students enrolled in AFE only. Students must have a responsible adult accompany them to attend.

- ARRIVE beginning at 3:00pm on Friday and get your tent set up. You can also

delighted that our daughter, Amelia, got her Masters in Education this year and is now starting her career as a teacher while our son Ian, is happy working for a startup in San Francisco. Seeing my own two and so many other students over the years grow up to be thriving adults regularly reinforces my enthusiasm for homeschooling and the AFE community. Happy to be learning with and from you all.

—Jasmin Gerer

How fortunate I am to get to work in this community! Having been with AFE since its inception means that in some ways this feels like a large extended family that I have been a part of for generations. I especially enjoy the Kindergarten through 12th grade span of AFE that allows me to connect with children and their families in so many different phases. Students graduate and while I really miss them and their families, when I meet a new family I'm excited for our journey together to begin.

I am moved by the commitment of parents to giving their children rich educational opportunities and life experiences; and inspired by the way youth learn,

- come up just for the day on Saturday.
- DINNER Friday & Saturday nights will be potluck style at 6:00pm. You can cook in the industrial-sized enclosed kitchen (all utensils, pots, pans and large bowls provided), so no need to bring your camp stove. Washable plates and silverware are provided with outdoor dishwashing facilities. (No alcohol, please!) Bring dishtowels, and toilet paper for flush toilets.
 - Bring your own breakfast and lunch.
 - CAMPFIRE for playing music (bring your instruments) & telling stories (bring makings for s'mores anyone?). Firewood is provided.
 - Bring flashlights because it is wonderfully dark up there!
 - ACTIVITIES: Relax, play volleyball, tetherball, and ping pong (equipment provided). A large open meadow adjacent to the recreation/ dining area lends itself well to all sorts of games. A covered open-sided dining area with picnic tables has lights, so you can play board games and cards at night. Do bring your favorite games!
 - There are opportunities for hikes in the area too. We may be able to open the pool for a couple of hours on Saturday afternoon (still working on a lifeguard).
 - Sunday morning plan to breakfast, pack up, and help us clean camp. Many hands make light work.
 - Check-out is at noon on Sunday. Cellphones do not work at Camp Loma, but the telephone for emergencies (in

grow, and teach me and each other.

I was born in Detroit, but grew up in Campinas, Brazil. At 19, I moved to California to attend college and met my beloved husband, Ric. We have two grown kids we delight in and that seem to still like us as well! My mother, who turned 90 last year, lives with Ric and me and her care is my second job. In my free time you will likely find me reading, cooking, gardening or going for a walk on the beach.

This year I will be teaching a class for middle school students on Tuesday mornings (see more in Enrichment Classes) and hosting a number of family events everyone is invited to participate in. I look forward to meeting new families, and seeing all of you returning ones.

—Nancy Aylsworth

Wow, it's the start of my eighth year of teaching at AFE and I feel so fortunate to be here! This community provides so many positive, rewarding and fun experiences and challenges for me and I love the work with students, families and staff. As always, I look forward to connecting with my consulting families, getting to know more

kitchen) is 831-724-8355. We need to take care of all our trash, recyclables and compost to avoid the \$250 dumpster fee.

Cost is **\$9.00/person/night**. Limited scholarships are available. You must complete field trip forms to attend and turn in to Mollie or Dorothee by **Friday the 12th at noon**.

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

Enrichment classes start 9/15

Enrichment classes for different age groups start this week. [Check out our calendar](#) for more information.

Please note that Juniors and Seniors will be given priority in selecting high school courses if space becomes limited. Thank you for your understanding.

Drive for Schools starts 9/17

Please take part in this very important Parent Club fundraiser. To read more about **Drive for Schools** and the **Parent Club**, [visit the Parent Club box](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sign up for the NEW newsletter

If you're reading this newsletter on the Web, you need to sign up to receive it in your email inbox. To do so, [visit our Newsletter page](#) and fill in the form. Please note that you will receive a confirmation message in your email. You have to reply to the message or your registration will not be complete.

students and families, coaching the AFE volleyball team, and working with the 3rd - 5th grade class focusing on the human body in the Fall and the Middle School Brain explorer class in the Spring.

For those who don't know me yet, my teaching background has focused mostly around science and experiential field study but has also included multiple subject teaching positions and coaching in basketball, volleyball and ultimate frisbee. I have also worked as a journeyman carpenter, a sea kayaking guide and trip leader (in Santa Cruz and the Sea of Cortez, Baja), and an Outward Bound instructor in the wilderness of Minnesota, Ontario, and Texas.

My family had great opportunities to spend wonderful and some sad time together this summer. My mother's path with her cancer ended peacefully while I was with her at the end of July and her Memorial two weeks ago was beautiful and heart wrenching. It was so special that we had lots of time with extended family in the Seattle, Eugene, and Petaluma (including weddings of two nieces and a nephew!). That was balanced with time at our home and on the

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Communication at AFE

To keep up with current events, to make your voice heard, to get in touch with fellow travelers on this journey, and to document our homeschooling time, there are several avenues at AFE.

Resource Center Bulletin Boards

Sign-up sheets for teacher-led classes and events are on the cork board to the left of the parking lot door (seen from the inside). Parent- and student-led groups, classes, and events can be found on the board directly to the right of the door. Fliers by third parties can be handed to Mollie or Dorothee, who will post them above the parent/student copier. Newspaper articles and other newsworthy events are posted between the courtyard windows.

AFE Website

Cindy Baxter maintains our AFE website, including a calendar, family handbook, classes schedule, site council minutes. Check the site often for updates and schedule changes. www.afe.santacruz.k12.ca.us

AFE Online Bulletin Board

The bulletin board is the best short-term avenue for announcements. If you haven't done so already, please sign up for our AFE Online Bulletin Board e-mail list, which supplements

beaches and in the ocean and forest here. We also squeezed in a great backpacking trip to the central Sierra where we had 4 days on the San Joaquin all by ourselves. Susie continues to love teaching in Palo Alto, Max has just started 9th grade at SLVHS and Teo is in 7th grade in the Nature Academy. Wow does time fly! A big challenge for me has been the osteo-arthritis in my hips and I planning to continue care with the next step being hip replacements. I look forward to feeling better and being able to be more active!!

—Peter Deutsch

I've been at AFE for more than a decade and I love my work. Helping families find the best educational opportunities for their children is as challenging as it is rewarding.

Once again, I will be working at AFE part-time, 70%. This year I look forward to offering a American Government core course for High School in the Fall, and an Animals course for 3-5 graders in the Spring. Of course I will also coach our AFE Coed basketball team for grades 6-12 starting in January.

My wife, Meghan, and my kids keep me busy and happy.

the monthly newsletter so that you can receive time-sensitive information. Sign up online by going to [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/AFE_Online Bulletin Board/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/AFE_Online_Bulletin_Board/info) and clicking the “Join This Group” button on the right. If you have any questions or would like help with signing up, send e-mail to Tané at tachyon@tachyonlabs.com.

AFE Newsletter

The AFE Newsletter is now delivered to your email inbox. Sign up on the AFE website at <http://www.afe.santacruz.k12.ca.us/website/newsletter/newsletter.html>. (Please note that after you sign up, you will need to find the confirmation email, which may be in your spam folder, in order to confirm your sign-up.) A link to a PDF of the newsletter is posted on the website, but the best way to access it is to receive it in your email. There will be a few printed issues that will be available in the RC. Newsletter submissions can be sent to Suki Wessling via e-mail at suki@sukiwessling.com (you will be sent a reply letting you know that it’s been received). Deadline for submissions is the 20th of every month.

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Fall Enrichment Classes Music, Movement and Art

Kindergarten-Second Grade

Mondays & Thursdays, 10:00–12:30, starting 9/15

Thérèse Johannesson

Zander, 19, attends CSU Chico; Summer, 16, and River, 14, go to Santa Cruz High. I have a soft spot for animals and my wife and kids exploit it mercilessly. Besides caring for our many pets (dogs, cat, tortoise), our lives are filled with love, friends, and lots of fun. We enjoy soccer, lacrosse, canoeing, surfing, rafting, and bicycling as a family.

In the other 30% of my professional life, I work as a realtor for Lighthouse Realty. I really enjoy helping folks find their dream home or sell a home. I am also trained as a lawyer which helps me read between the lines of the many legal papers one encounters in modern real estate transactions. Both my mother and grandmother were into real estate as well, so I grew up learning the trade, as well as the importance of the awesome yet wonderful ethical responsibility. If you have a real estate question or concern, I’d be happy to help.

—Mark Thomas

It has been 23 years (almost the beginning) since I have been working with AFE in the Resource Center. I consider myself lucky to be involved with such committed parents,

This year our K-2 enrichment class is broken up into two different kinds of activities. Monday will be a combination of **Maker's Group** with rotational open-ended activities led by parents and an AFE teacher. (All of our wonderful teachers will take a 4 week session so all K-2 parents will have a chance to get to know all of us and we will get to know you!)

If you are a K-2 parent and would like to lead an activity (with lots of support) please let Therese know. Thursday will be the **Magical Mystery Tour** where we will tour different countries with stories, songs, dances and musical games. We will discuss this further at the Welcome Back Gathering.

Please contact Therese with any questions tjohannesson@sccs.net

A Journey Through the Incredible Human Body

3rd–5th Graders

Wednesdays 10:00–12:30, Palazzo Studio, starting 9/17

During the Fall semester please join Peter Deutsch on a journey of discovery and investigation about our bodies. We will look at body systems, body parts and their functions, and all the components that make us what we are. The class will emphasize hands-on, creative and group based projects and activities, bringing the investigation “to life”.

We will 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

incredible students and also working with the whole family. The community that grows here is absolutely amazing.

My role here involves assisting students and parents selecting curriculum based on their teacher’s suggestions and on the student’s need and interests. In addition to this, I manage the day-to-day operation of our Library Resource Center. I feel very strongly about providing curriculum based on what children want to learn and what their interests and dreams are. I am always amazed by how many different ways children can learn.

Outside of work I love spending time with my wonderful husband, George, and my 3 adult children, Jesse, Kaitlyn and Maya, and 4 grandchildren (age 1 year to 6 years). Also for fun I love to read, hang out in our beautiful Santa Cruz area and of course travel anytime I can.

I’m looking forward to meeting new families and seeing old friends.

—Mollie Jarrow

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AFE Community Classes

class.

The Brain Explorer

Middle School

Tuesdays 10:00–12:30, starting 9/16

Jasmin Gerer

Middle school students: Here's a chance to stretch your brain by exploring its different parts, strengthening your memory and practicing creative thinking. We will learn about different types of intelligence and hope to participate in Stanford's Brainology program. You'll also study psychology and research how to keep your brain healthy. Topics will include mental illness and the impacts of drugs and alcohol on our brains. Our culminating event at the end of the class will include the creation of a Mind Museum where you'll share projects and your learning with families. Peter Deutsch will be teaching this same class in the spring.

Express Yourself

Middle School

Tuesday 10-12:30, starting 9/16

Nancy Aylsworth

Express Yourself will be offered to middle schoolers, once in the fall and again in the spring. In this class students will have the opportunity to develop skills in various forms of self-expression, from writing to the arts. There will also be team building, games and collaborative projects throughout the semester. We will meet Tuesday mornings from 10-12:30. In the spring, Nancy will be teaching the same class again.

Theater

We value and support theater at AFE. Staff and parents often see the benefits of students participating in a theater production evident in many ways, from confidence and creative expression to community building and leadership development. For many years we have hired Terri Steinmann, from WEST theater company to direct our plays. Her gift of supporting actors in their individual process and development is quite amazing. We trust her to guide our actors on a journey from script to stage, while creating a unified troupe. This year Terri will be doing something we have numerous times before, but not recently, which is that we will be producing a school-wide play.

Night at the Wax Museum is a script where hysterical meets the historical in this comic romp through the craziest wax museum in history! Students will rehearse in somewhat of similar age blocks until we pull it all together at the end. Rehearsals will be at AFE on Mondays starting September 15th until tech week. Performances will be at the end of January in our Multipurpose Room. Please sign up for this production in the RC

The Plot Thickens—Creative Writing

High School

Thursdays 1-3:00, starting 9/18

Joanne Brown

Here's your chance to sharpen your creative writing skills by exploring and practicing writing techniques from successful authors. You'll learn how to engage your readers in new and exciting ways. Some of the things we'll be doing in class include:

- reading and discussing ten (maybe more) well known short stories
- learning strategies to create well-developed characters, plot, setting, and dialogue
- participating in writing workshops to give and receive helpful feedback on your writing

Our two main projects will be the completion of an idea journal and one edited short story ready for publication. Plan to spend at least three hours per week on homework assignments. We will celebrate and share our stories with a Reading Event at the end of the semester.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Joanne Brown

jvbrown@sccs.net

429-3898 ext. 237

"If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot."

--Steven King--

and the deadline is **Friday, September 13th**. Specific time of rehearsal has not yet been clarified. ACTORS and a PARENT must attend an informational meeting on **September 8th** from 12-1 pm in order to be included in production.

Volleyball

Our Coed Volleyball teams compete in the Alternative Schools Sports League (mostly High Schools). The teams are open to students in 6th – 8th grade as well as our highschoolers.

The practice schedule is **Monday 1:00 – 3:00** and **Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00**. I also really encourage students to organize a regular informal practice. These practices and our games will be on the beach courts between the wharf and the Boardwalk. Games are on Fridays between 12 and 2 and players need to arrive by 11:45. Games start on 9/12 and go through 12/5.

I really encourage any parents who can to volunteer and assist with practices and/or coaching. It makes a big difference! We will also need to recruit one or more parent(s) who are able and

American Government

11-12th grade

Thursdays 10-12:00, Classroom 1, starting 9/18

Mark Thomas

This course will introduce the forms, functions and fascinating flaws of the three branches of US government and the widely disdained yet highly important and sometimes ethical politicians, officials and judges that run the system. Students will be actively engaged by researching, writing, discussing and debating municipal, state and federal issues during the height of the Fall election season.

Enrollment priority will be offered to Juniors and Seniors because this is a class required for graduation.

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Volunteer

Help Clean Up Our Campus

September 27th, 9-11 am

Green Apple Day of Service!

Please join us for a morning of AFE campus beautification on **Saturday, September 27th, from 9-11 am**. Bring garden gloves and hand tools. It will be a fun time to chat and be part of the worldwide Green Apple Day of Service event.

The Green Apple Day of Service, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014, gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform all schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service

willing to help supervise and support the players at the games. Our school needs to have a minimum of one adult supervisor for each team we have in the league at the games. No coaching or volleyball experience is needed to fill this role.

To support AFE and AFE sports, including Volleyball, we ask students/families to help with AFE fundraising efforts to cover the costs for our league dues.

Please be sure to get [onto the email list](#) as this will be how information is going to be distributed. Please complete and sign all parts of the sports forms for volleyball and return them to Peter asap!

Any questions contact me directly at 429-3898 ext 330 or email.

Thanks,

Peter pdeutsch@sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us

High school health class

Mondays from 10-12 in room 2 beginning September 15, taught by Amanda Clark. We will be exploring physical and mental health issues including strategies for managing stress as well as

projects. Read more at: <http://www.mygreenapple.org/dayofservice>

For more info about our campus clean up, contact Joanne Brown, jvbrown@sccs.net.

A Request for Animal Books for Children in Liberia and Ghana

A dear friend of mine will be traveling to Liberia and Ghana in October and has asked for donations of animal books for local humane organizations that she is helping there. The Liberian town that she is visiting is in an area of the recent Ebola outbreak. A donation of any of the following would be greatly appreciated:

- Books for kids about animals. Coloring books with animals, including information about the animals would be fine (crayons would be good too if you get coloring books).
- Workbooks about animals and fun books to read. These can be for kids from 5-15, even older. Books about dogs and cats are most appreciated, but books on any animals are welcome. Books that focus on human/animal bond-interactions are especially welcome.

You can leave books for Joanne at the AFE Resource Center. Thank you!!!

For more information, contact Joanne Brown at jvbrown@sccs.net.

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Around Town

finding personal balance and physical fitness, healthy eating habits, drug issues, relationships, reproductive health and many other things. This will be a candid and honest class and I ask that any interested students be willing to help create a safe environment for all participants.

We will also have guest speakers including representatives of Planned Parenthood. I will have a sign-up sheet on campus next Wednesday, and feel free to email me personally with any questions or to sign up.

Thank you-

Amanda Clark

ilovefog@sonic.net

Economics for 11th and 12th graders

Thursdays 1-3pm, beginning 9/18.

Fall only. Location TBA

With games, debates, and presentations, we will explore economic principles, current questions, and future developments.

Questions? Contact Dorothee Ledbetter, dledbetter@calcentral.com.

Scottish Country

Natural Science Illustration

I'm so excited to announce that I will be teaching two (possibly three) teen classes and one new adult class of Natural Science Illustration this Autumn. In addition, my daughter-in-law, Alisha, whom many of you have met, will be teaching a fun and creative Autumn Craft Class for 9-11 year old students. All three class fliers are attached to this email. If you can't access the fliers please email me and I'll send you the text.

(NOTE: THE MONDAY TEEN CLASS IS FULL AND THE WEDNESDAY CLASS FILLING; IF BOTH FILL I WILL BE ADDING A WED. 4:00-6:00 TEEN CLASS) If you wish to reserve a place in any of the classes, please send a check for \$100 made out to Peggy Edwards, P.O. Box 66644, Scotts Valley, CA 95067. If you have already sent in your deposit, there's no need to do anything more but show up!

Classes:

Autumn Craft Classes for Ages 9-11: Tuesdays 10:00-12:00 Sept. 30 to Nov. 25, 2014, cost \$232 (eight class sessions)

Natural Science Illustration for Adults: Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 Sept. 30 to Dec. 2, 2014, cost \$290 (ten class sessions)

Natural Science Illustration for Teens: Mondays 4:00-6:00 Sept. 29 to Dec. 1, 2014, cost \$290 (ten class sessions)

Natural Science Illustration for Teens: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 Oct. 1 to Dec. 3, 2014, cost \$290 (ten class sessions)

(TENTATIVE: Natural Science Illustration for Teens: Wednesdays 4:00-6:00 Oct. 1 to Dec. 3, 2014, cost \$290 (ten class sessions))

Dance

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, in the Branciforte multi-purpose room. \$5—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

AFE Family Choir

If you love to sing in harmony and would like to work with some exciting chorale literature for the beginning to experienced choral singer please consider joining AFE Family Choir. Some of the songs we will be doing this year are "Breaths" by Sweet Honey and the Rock, "La Andina," a rhythmically challenging Nueva Canción song, "One Voice," made popular by the Wailin' Jennies, and "True Colors." We will have a couple of performances in the year. Our Choir will rehearse on **Fridays from 3:00-4:00**, conveniently scheduled right after games. This group is best for middle school-high school and adults and alumni are more than welcome! Location TBA. Please contact Therese with any questions: tjohannesson@sccs.net

Science of Living Well

\$200 for fifteen 1.5 hour classes.

Please make checks payable

to: Transformative Learning Center

*scholarships are available

Thursdays, Sept 4th to Dec 18th

Middle School: 1:30 to 3:00

High School: 4:00 to 5:30 *please see your consultant teacher for credit options.

Located at the Santa Cruz Learning

Center: 2560 Soquel Ave #200, Santa Cruz

Bring research alive with your own experiences and thoughts!

Science of Living Well looks at Psychology from a different lens. Rather than studying the deficits in life, we will use empirical studies that examine the most successful approaches to living. Bring your wisdom and critical minds to engage in class discussions and participate in class activities.

Topics include:

- Link between Thoughts and Feelings
- Thinking Styles - Learned Optimism
- Resilience, staying buoyant in a stressful world
- Crafting a Satisfying Life
- Building Relationships
- Exploring your Strengths and Talents - how they interact
- Mind/Body Connection

Openings in Teen Riekes program

Usually, the amazing Riekes Nature Awareness

Madrigal Singers

Our Madrigal Singers group is for more experienced singers and focuses on music literature of the Renaissance, with composers like Dowland, Morley, Vittoria, etc. We usually rotate rehearsals in people's homes. We are a performance group and our mission is to have fun, share music from the Renaissance, raise money for the AFE Ashland Trip in Spring! Please contact Therese with any questions: tjohannesson@sccs.net

Glee Club

Glee Club returns this Fall for its 4th year! 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.

Weekly meetings begin **Wednesday, September 17th**. Grades 5-12 are welcome to participate.

Wednesdays from 1:30-3:15pm in the Multi- Purpose

Program is full, but they have some unexpected openings in their new teen program! This is an incredible program and a great opportunity. To find out more about Riekes, go to: <http://riekes.org/nature-awareness/homeschool-programs/> or contact Anole at: anolelita@gmail.com. The teen program is for 13 - 18 yr olds and meets Wednesdays from 9 - 3.

Santa Cruz County Nonviolent Communication Parenting Practice Group

For parents interested in nonviolent communication and parenting -- we will be meeting this Thursday, the **4th of September** from 1-4 pm in Soquel. Learn more [on our Facebook page](#).

Wild Fun and Crafts Day

With Wild Child Santa Cruz
2-4pm, Wednesday, September 3rd
Discovery Learning Center
111 Errett Circle Santa Cruz
\$5 suggested donation for materials
Join the guides of Wild Child Santa Cruz for fun games and crafts for kids of all ages!

New Music Works presents WATER MUSIC:

Celebrations of the San Lorenzo River & John Cage's 102 birthday
Friday, **Sept 5, 2014; 12 noon - 3pm**
Duck Island - San Lorenzo Bridge - Pacific Garden Mall

Room. Please sign up at our Welcome Back Gathering. 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.

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 **Mondays, 1:00 to 3:00**.

Please contact Shawn by email, shawnlorette@mac.com or by phone, 831-426-2004, or plan to sign up on **Wednesday, 9/3**. Students provide their own sewing machines, scissors and fabric. There is a small class fee of \$5.00 each class.

Daydream Club

FREE TO PUBLIC

More

information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/810007202354911/>

NASA Ames Research Center Open House

Tickets for the first Open House in 17 years at NASA's Ames Research Center are now open for reservations! Visit this website for more information: <http://www.nasa.gov/ames/openhouse2014/>. Tickets are free. The event happens on **October 18**.

Hawk Talks

Golden Gate National Parks
Conservancy Hawk Talks and Banding
Demonstrations occur every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 2pm (weather permitting – heavy fog or rain cancels) during September and October. The Hawk Talk begins at noon, when a GGRO volunteer speaks about hawk migration and identification, and what we do here at the GGRO. Midway through, a banding volunteer brings up a newly banded hawk, talks about the banding program, shows everyone the hawk, and lets it go in front of the crowd. It's a great way to learn about hawks and see one up close. For more info, visit <http://www.parksconservancy.org/events/ggro-events/hawk-talk-banding-demonstration-1.html>

Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee Championship

Please join us for the all-new
Daydream Club!!

How often do you lay under the sky and daydream? When you get a chance to relax, feel the breeze, and listen to the birds tweet, do you find yourself saying, "gee, I wish I could do this more often". We may have a club for you!

We plan on meeting at AFE (possibly after Sewing) to lay on the lawn and daydream. Bring a blanket or towel & your dreams and join us to watch the clouds travel by, relax, and daydream!

More information: Nicole or Hana Gardner 831-295-6239, nicolekgardner@icloud.com.

Fall ROCKETRY BASICS

Basics Class:

- Join new parent and student (Jay and Ben) in the fun of building and flying rockets:
 - build and launch model rockets (A or B engines)
 - build and launch water rockets
 - plus safety, physical science
- Build two model rockets (1 kit rocket & 1 custom "birdie" from parts, 2 engines per rocket) and 1-2 water rockets

Saturday, January 31, 2015

12:00pm – 3:30pm

UCSC

Who Can Participate?

- All public and private schools in Santa Cruz County can register their top two spellers.
- Spelling bee championship has two divisions in which to participate:
 - Elementary Division – 4th – 6th grade
 - Junior Division – 7th – 9th grade

Participating Schools MUST:

- Register your students on-line.
- An adult proctor needs to register and attend the day of event.

Online Registration Opens: **Monday, October 6, 2014**

Registration Deadline: **Monday, December 15, 2014**

AFE parents: If your child would like to participate, please contact Jasmin at jgerer@sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us.

The Discovery Learning Center

Check out the wide array of volunteer-led classes being offered at the DLC this fall, including crafts, history through literature, Crazy 8s Math, sewing and storytelling, cells, Minecraft Club, and more! <http://www.dlcsantacruz.org/>

Online resources & events Santa Cruz County Student

- Learn & build at AFE, then get to launch twice at LUNAR monthly rocket flight event (more about LUNAR at <http://lunar.org/>)

Who:

- All grades/ages, but under 12 requires adult supervision to help with Xacto knives, glue, safety information

Timing/Schedule

- 3 Classes **2pm-3:45pm on Wednesdays**, Palazzo Room (9/17, 10/29, & 11/12) & 2 Launches/**Saturdays 9:30am-Noon** at NASA Moffett Field, Mountain View (9/20 & 11/15)

Materials Fee:

- \$20 per attendee for 1 model rocket, 1 kit/rocket parts, 4 engines (2 for each model) Contact Jasmin for information on partial scholarships.

More Info:

- email jay@cinemagic.com



ADVANCED Rocketry Class

Advanced Class:

- Grades 7-12, with previous model rocket experience
 - build and launch larger model rockets (D-F engines) with National Association of

Support Services

For the first time, Santa Cruz County youth and parents looking for support have a user-friendly online directory of local resources such as nutrition, mentoring and health. Please take a moment to explore the site: www.sccstudentresources.org

Santa Cruz Homeschooling

If you want to find out what's happening in local homeschooling outside of AFE, check out these two great resources:

- [The Santa Cruz Homeschooling Yahoo email list](#) is a vibrant resource for information and discussion
- [Homecruzers on Facebook](#) is a group of local homeschooling families who meet for field trips and activities

Free Education Webinar From NASA Educator Professional Development

NASA Resources for Homeschoolers

Join NASA Educator Professional Development on **Sept. 3, 2014, at 7 p.m. EDT**, for a look at NASA resources relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics designed to get students actively engaged while building content knowledge. Participants in this hour long webinar will get an overview of resources and join a discussion of modifications to accommodate small groups or individual students. Connections to the Next Generation Science Standards will also be discussed.

For more information and to register

Rocketry curriculum highlights

for physics and math fans & those with interests in aerodynamics, advanced construction techniques, modeling

- Join new parent and student team (Jay and Ben) in exploring serious model rocketry: learn & build at AFE, launch at LUNAR monthly rocket flight event (more at LUNAR at <http://lunar.org/>)
- If students are interested, a TARC team may be formed to participate in the Team America Rocketry Challenge (11/19/14 deadline for signup).

Who:

- Grades 7-12 & purchasing a membership to NAR (\$25 to join; info. at <http://www.nar.org/>)

Timing/Schedule

- Classes begin 11/19, **2pm-3:45pm on Wednesdays**, Palazzo Room -- additional Wednesdays tbd).

Launches on 3rd Saturday of month 9:30am-Noon at NASA Moffett Field, Mountain View

Materials Fee:

- Minimum for 1 rocket kit and 3 D-F engines for 2-3 launch days is \$50-\$75 in addition to \$25 NAR membership. (Contact Jasmin for information on partial scholarships.)

More Info:

online, [visit the registration page](#).

SciSchmooze Bay Area Science Newsletter

This weekly newsletter features science events around the Bay Area, and is put out by the folks who run the yearly science festival. To sign up, visit: <http://www.bayareascience.org/email-subscription/>

San Francisco Film Society

The SFFS has a fabulous, free program for kids interested in film. Visit their website to sign up for their email newsletter. <http://www.sffs.org/education>

Khan Academy says "You can learn anything!"

Khan Academy has joined Carol Dweck's Mindset movement with their You Can Learn Anything campaign. Learn more about the mindset research and Khan Academy's campaign at <https://www.khanacademy.org/youcanlearnanything>.

• email jay@cinemagic.com

Water the Weeds Teen Improv

4-5:30 on Wednesdays

Who and what: Water the Weeds Teen Improv class

Where: Room 2 at AFE

When: 10 week session - 9 classes and a show

Dates and times: Wednesdays - Sept. 24 'til Nov. 19 Show on Sunday on Sunday Nov. 16 Location TBA. There's one class after the show.

How much? \$100 (\$80 each for sibs)

Why? It's liberating, social and fun!

To register: Call Joya 831-426-2935

We'll be touching on Duo Improv this session. This art form is personal, collaborative, tender, playful, relaxing, adventuresome and a true gift to the audience. The 1st class is free if you're new to Water the Weeds.

Games Group

Come over to Room 2 every Friday from 12 - 3 (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

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and classic games for all ages (K - 100+)! Again this year, Games Group is facilitated by Tané, even though Sam and Arthur have graduated from AFE years ago. Thank you, 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. PARENTS NEEDED FOR YARD SUPERVISION!

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 at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49A9AE29A3F49-afegames

Rainbow Alliance at BSSC!

The Rainbow Alliance meets Fridays from 3-4 pm at the Branciforte Small Schools main building, room #9. All teens from the Small Schools (including AFE, ARK, Costanoa, Delta and Cypress) are welcome! This club is for all lesbians, bisexuals, gay, transgender, questioning folks and their allies. Come and check it out! Email Caitlin-Jane at caitlinjane@ptbservices.com or check out the Small Schools Rainbow Alliance for more information: (831) 423--3925. Our first meeting will be on **September 19th!!**

Origami Club

My name is Sadie and my son's name is Rowan and we are starting 5th grade at AFE this year. Rowan is very interested in starting an Origami club that would spend a little time folding together during part of the Friday Games Group time.

He can bring origami paper and books, and can guide less experienced folders in creating everything from cranes to triceratops to dragons to acorns

(and much more). All levels welcome!

Please email us if you would like to join the fun! We look forward to meeting each of you and to a great year of learning and growing together!

Sadie (on behalf of myself and Rowan), sadiereynolds@gmail.com

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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

Fall Fundraiser: Drive for Schools Car Giveaway

Every year Capitola Auto Mall Group and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk team up to offer a fundraiser for schools in our county. This year the Grand Prize winner gets to choose between a brand new Toyota Prius, a Subaru Outback (tax, title and license included for either car), or \$25,000 in cash!

Tickets are priced at only \$5 each. **100% of the money from every ticket sold by AFE goes directly to the AFE Parent Club!**

This year the money all goes into the Parent Club general fund. So if you are wanting to make a donation to cover some of your child's activities —like Clay Studio, theater, or sports — please feel free to buy (and sell) tickets as your way of increasing Parent Club funds.

We are allotted a limited number of tickets each year so get yours early before we sell out! Ticket sales are from September 17 through October 19, 2014. The drawing will be held at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on Sunday, October 26. Tickets will be available in the RC.

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:**
 - 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:**
 - 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: www.afe.santacruz.k12.ca.us/website/fundraising/fundraising.html

Staff of Life Scrip

Please contact Melisa to buy Staff of Life Scrip. My contact info is on the roster. 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:

- Boulder Creek
- Felton
- Halfmoon Bay

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, vlharder@yahoo.com

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