

Welcome to February

Events past and events future...

It's been an action-packed winter. Be sure to check out the many photos and accounts of the great learning, art, and performance our students did to end the fall semester. Looking ahead, don't forget about Follywood, coming soon to a Multi-Purpose Room near you! Also, please note the many changes to our Enrichment Classes and Community Classes in this new semester.

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Quick Dates for February:

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Date	Event	Time
11	Glee Club Valentine's Recital	2:15
		MPR
14	Follywood [details]	7 pm MPR
9,16	Monday holidays, no classes	
16	New Leaf payments due [details]	3 pm
22	Extra Games Group!	2 pm

Communication at AFE:

- Staff directory with office hours
- Calendar
- Class information
- AFE Online Bulletin Board

This month at AFE Sweeten up your Calendar with Follywood

AFE's annual student film festival is coming up soon! Any and all ages are welcome to attend. It'll be a fun evening of independent films made by AFE students and alumni. This year's Follywood will be on **February 14th**, **Valentine's Day!** So bring your friends and family, and spend Valentine's Day with us. There will be a

AFE Community News CAHSEE Test

The CAHSEE Test for ALL 10th Graders and only 12th Graders who still need to pass is next week.

Tuesday, Feb 3rd – ELA (English Language Arts)

Wednesday, Feb 4th – Math Beginning at 9:00 in Room 4 in the basement of the Big Building. snack potluck, so please bring something to share! Follywood will be held in the Multipurpose Room on the BSSC campus, starting at **7:00pm**.

If you are interested in presenting an award for a film, there will be a signup sheet on the RC wall. The spots are filling fast, so sign up soon. If you would like more information, talk to Oliver Mueller-Tuescher in person or by email at afefollywood2015@gmail.com.

LemonAid Meeting

At our last meeting, our first order of business was to try to recruit more help. With this in mind, representatives from this group will be going to the AFE enrichment classes this week to try to get more student and family support. We will then meet again next Friday, 2/6/15, in the Palazzo Studio at 3:00. Please mark your calendars! We have so much to offer our world! See Fundraisingbelow for more details.

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!

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Fall Semester Wrapup Night at the Wax Museum

Students please come early to get seated, checked in and ready. The tests take about 3-4 hours each day.

Smart but Scattered Teens—RC News

We received a wonderful gift from one of our former families, a subscription for *Make Magazine*! Even if you are not a tech fan this magazine has incredible do it yourself projects that are amazing! Perfect for home schooling families!

Some of the new arrival book donations we have received are:

Smart But Scattered Teens; Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome; Attention Deficit Disorder: the Unfocused Mind in Children and Adults

For students interested in art, check out the *Norman Rockwell's America*.

For young people into chapter biographies we have: Who Was Marco Polo? Who was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?, Who was Anne Frank?, Take a Giant Leap, Neil Armstrong! For our science fantasy fans we have Dandelion Fire by N.D. Wilson; Nancy Farmer's The Sea of Trolls; The Mammoth Book of Science Fiction Stories by Women; Young Samurai and The Ring of Earth by Chris Bradford. We also have Joy Hakim's Freedom: A History of US.

Kudos to our actors who performed in this year's play. Click here to see photos.



A Rousing End to the Plot Thickens

Congratulations to students in our creative writing class for their impressive literary accomplishments this semester. Their writing was showcased during our writing celebration on January 21st. Students read selections from favorite pieces written during the semester. They have become community of writers who feel comfortable sharing and discussing their work with one another. May they continue to flourish!

Express Yourself

During the month students edited and revised their stories and wrote poems (click here to read the poems and see



some art). They explored watercolors and made mono prints they had carved into styrofoam. A BIG thank you to AFE grandparent, Patricia Shubeck, for coming in to share her passion for art and support students in experiencing watercolors, and to AFE parent alumna, Wendy Traber, who led students in a creating prints. This class ended with a student organized potluck and an art show of student work. It has been a delight to work with this group of

Last but not least we have 3 CO-OPERATIVE GAMES: Sleeping Grump, Max, and Harvest Time which are such good family games or when you have friends over!

Did you know that we have some great magazines to read while you wait for something? WIRED, Nature Conservancy, Scientific American, SN (Science New Magazine) and UTNE Reader. We also have various children's magazines.

If you are interested in helping me in the RC please let me know! There are plenty of jobs waiting for you that will only take a small amount of time. Come on in and enjoy reading!

3d Printer Donated!

AFE now has a 3-D printer! thank you to the Veditz family for making this donation to AFE possible.



We are now looking for families and students who would like to use this printer and teach others how to do projects on it. If interested, contact your consultant teacher.

Talent Sharing

Take out your guitars, ukeleles,

students who will be learning about the human brain next semester. Nancy

Brain Explorer Mind Museum

Brain Explorer students culminated their studies with a Mind Museum where the students shared exhibits and knowledge gained



about the brain and about the mental illnesses they had researched. Visitors got to engage in a variety of hands-on exhibits testing their memory, ability to read facial expressions, reaction time, color sensitivity, sense of smell and taste, along with solving brain teasers, logic puzzles, and participating in a variety of experiments. [Click here to read more and see photos and videos.]

Fundraising Lemonaid

For the uninitiated, LemonAid is AFEe's carnival-type event usually held downtown to raise money for Doctors Without Borders. This event usually takes place on the first weekend in June. It includes fun carnival games, delectable pastries, a book sale, a petting zoo, live music from the AFE community, a raffle of great prizes and, of course, LEMONADE.

This event has been traditionally managed almost completely by students, usually from the middle school group, but

dance routines, jokes, and skits!
Talent Sharing will take place on **May 15th**this year. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for how you can sign up, individually or in groups!

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AFE Community Classes Global Environmental Challenges

10th-12th Grade Monday & Wednesdays 10:30-11:45, beginning 2/2

Taught by AFE Alum Barak Wouk How might climate change affect you? What could it mean for society? How might society respond to 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.

Philosophy Discussion Group?

I am a high school student interested in starting a group for high school students to discuss ideas and questions of a philosophical nature. I in recent history, high school students have been contributing a great deal of time.

Doctors without Borders has worked tirelessly in the last few months, putting many health care practitioners in high risk communities fighting the Ebola virus. This would be a good year for us to have a really successful fundraiser! Contact Therese for more information.

Human Race

AFE will participate in the Community Fundraiser, the Human Race. We would like to have a large turn out this year. All proceeds benefit AFE. This year the Human Race will take place on **May 9**, the day before Mother's Day. Please stay tuned in for details on how you can participate.

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Enrichment Classes Music, Movement and Art

Kindergarten-Second Grade Mondays & Thursdays, 10:00–12:30

Thérèse Johannesson
Many of us have finished the first two of
three presentations of AFE's "Night at the
Wax Museum." What a fantastic
experience.

Maker Monday: Starting on February 2 we will have our own Clay Class teacher, Kathleen Peppard, teaching a variety of activities, including cooking and clay work. Kathleen will be subbing for Peter Deutsch, who will be out for his second surgery.

am fascinated by life's deep questions and the answers humanity has proposed and debated through the ages in philosophy, religion, and elsewhere, and how those ideas have led to different societies, governments, and values. I envision a space in which we would feel safe and comfortable discussing, debating, and disagreeing with one another. I don't yet have a meeting time in mind; this also can be figured out based on the schedules of those who would like to be involved. -Eleanor Littlestone [email]

Glee Club

AFE Glee Club is hosting its 2nd annual Valentine's Recital on Wednesday, February 11th. Performance



time is from 2:15-3:15 in the Multi-Purpose room. Everyone is welcome to come see what Glee Club has been up to this year. We will have light refreshments.

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

Please remember that Mondays 2/9 & 2/16 are holidays.

Magical Mystery Tour Thursday: We will continue with our celebration of the cultures that represent our own families. Thanks to all who have signed up to share family-of-origin presentations: 2/4 We will learn about Germany and New Orleans We will also celebrate a few February Celebrations, Ground Hog day, Mardi Gras and Chinese New Year.

In the Garden: We will continue our work in the garden with soil testing, adding amendments as necessary and planting as we watch our tulips and daffodils begin to emerge. We will also begin to plant our Spring Vegetables and Flowers.

Animals

3rd-5th Graders Wednesdays 10:00-12:30

Mark Thomas

We will explore the fascinating & wonderful world of animals, their adaptations, behaviors and habitats not only in North America but around the world. We will also work with clay, bones, feathers, and crafting materials to make models of certain specie. The last Wednesday of each month we will have a field trip. Our first field trip will be on Feb.25th to Tropaquarium Pet Shop to see and hold the reptiles in their collection. Parents please come to the beginning of our first class on Weds Feb.4th to pick up the field trip permission forms to fill out. Thanks, Mark

participate. **Wednesdays from 1:30-3:15pm** in the Multi-Purpose Room. This class is FREE. Parent contact: Lucia Paxton

(<u>luciasciarpa@yahoo.com</u>) If there are any questions, please connect with me directly.

Rocketry

AFE's Advanced Rocketry class finally got to fly their rockets on Saturday January 17, 2014--on the

last day of the class! They had to wait out a fog delay at Moffett Field for two hours before they were



ready to launch. The 1st picture (click here to see them) captures a "drag race" between five of the student-built rockets as they took off. Photo 2 was shot from one of the rockets looking down, with a mini-camera taped to its side.

What's next? A few students have formed a TARC team and will compete in the Team America Rocketry Contest. Wish them luck as they fire eggs into the air and hope to bring them back intact and on time! We'll keep you posted here.

Extra Games Group!

(For adults too!) Can't get enough of

The Brain Explorer

Middle School

Tuesdays 10:00–12:30, Room 2, starting 2/3/15

Peter Deutsch

Get to know that gray matter in your head. Explore the parts of the brain, strengthen your memory, practice creative thinking, learn about different types of intelligence and ways to keep your brain healthy. Additional topics include the effects of drugs and mental illness on brain function. Become part neuroscientist, part psychologist, and part sociologist as we uncover the mysteries and intricacies of the powerful brain. *Note: Peter Deutsch* will be out on medical leave and only working part time for the first 8 weeks of the course. Ayala Younger will join us as Guest Teacher during that time as we probe into the mind.

Topics in Ecology

High School
Up to 5 credits
Thursdays 1-3:00, beginning February
5th

Joanne Brown

Note: Field trips may run longer than scheduled class time.

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

games group? Or maybe Fridays don't work for you? Come to the extra games group to play games and meet with friends. (Non-AFE people who are friends and family of AFE people are welcome.)

Where: Tomas and Kristin's (and Katherine and John's) House 209
Majors Street Santa Cruz, CA 831-466-9223 831-207-6172

What: Games! Board games, roleplaying, cards?

When: Late in the month Sundays, Feb 22, March 22, April 19, May 17, June 14

2:00 PM to about 6:00 PM Bring a potluck snack or dish to share, as well as any game you might want to play!

Basketball

Season is Underway

The AFE Basketball Team is off to a great start! We won our first 2 games and had a great time! We are still open to accepting new players of any skill level, especially girls for our Coed team! Practices will be Tuesday from 1:30 to 3 at AFE & 1:30 to 3 on Wednesdays at PCS. Games are on Fridays in Watsonville. Any questions, feel free to contact Mark. Thanks.

Shawn's Super Sewing Class—Taking new

different wolf packs get along (or don't!)? Do you think of California as a diversity hotspot? What's the botfly's key to success? If you were a mountain lion would you rather run across a highway or use an underpass?

This course will include four field trips, guest lecturers, and habitat restoration opportunities.

Sign up in the RC or contact Joanne at: topicsinecology@gmail.com.

Dramatic Literature

Shakespeare Class and Ashland Trip High School

Thursdays, 10:00-12, starting 2/5 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 Landdirected by the playwright Stan Lai, and the musical Guys and Dolls. The class, in which we 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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students!

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 **Thursdays 1:00 to 3:00**. Please contact Shawn by email, shawnlorette@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.

AFE Family Choir now High School A Cappella

After our lovely Winter Offerings, our family choir will now be disbanding. Instead I will be offering a High School A Cappella Group. This is an audition group for students who are really interested in singing in harmony. We will do songs from other a cappella groups such as "Pentatonix," Please contact Therese if interested. Together we will create a rehearsal schedule.

Please contact

Therese: tjohannesson@sccs.net

Games Group

Come over to Room 2 every Friday between 12 and 3 for good times

Thanks Rock on!

A big thank you to our former student, **Jesse Cook**, for donating his Yamaha keyboard on a stand and with a seat! It is in room 1. Jesse is now studying physics and starting an internship at NASA!

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Homeschool Highlights Costa Rican Adventure

Naturalist **Kelly McCandless** and her family got to see a three-toed sloth, a great kiskadee, a tropical kingbird, owl face butterflies, a crested guan, howler and spider monkeys, basilisks, bats, anhingas, northern jacanas, toucans, a white-nosed coatis, pecarries (rainforest wild pigs), a motmot, leafcutter ants and many unique plants in Costa Rica!

Volunteers Lauded

Madeline Callahan and Bria
Steinbrunerwere interviewed by Edible
Monterey about their work with the Teen
Kitchen project. Volunteering 4-5 hours
every Monday they prepare healthy
organic free meals for cancer victims and
their families.

Futuristic Homeschoolers

AFE grads **Abe Karplus** and **Zohar Wouk**and current student **Abe**

with friends old and new, and AFE's very 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.

Clay Studio with Kathleen Peppard

Tuesdays, 1-3 pm. Clay Studio is an open studio environment, all ages. Students under 9 must be

Jellinek were featured in the Santa Cruz



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Around Town Teen Lit Circle

AFE mom Suki Wessling is leading a group of teens in a twice-a-month literature discussion group. We are meeting alternate Monday afternoons. For more information, please <u>contact Suki</u>.

Natural Science Illustration Class

Who: TEENS Ages 12-18

What: An eight-week course exploring the wonders of nature through applied art,

starting Feb. 2.

Where: Sierra Nature Prints Studio, 1600 Mount Hermon Road, Scotts Valley Contact Peg Edwards for more information.

Family Concert

On **March 1st**, at 2pm, the Santa Cruz County Symphony invites people to "bring your entire family to a fun and educational accompanied by an adult. The materials fee is \$35 per student per semester (less than \$3 a week). This pays for the clay, glazes, and firings. Partial scholarships are available; talk to your consultant teacher—no one will be turned away.

Guitar Group

(Previously called, "Acoustic Jam.") At the request of many families, AFE will have a guitar group meeting on Fridays during games group, from 12:00-1:00, starting February **6th.** The group will be led by Therese in her parent role. Beginning guitar players welcome, and advanced guitar players strongly encouraged to come and take turns doing a "teaching." Please contact Therese for information and if you would be willing to teach a lesson. This group will be meeting in the AFE Patio, unless it is raining in which case we will try to meet in the Palazzo studio.

Madrigal Singers

This group continues to meet informally at members' homes. The Friday Women's Shakespeare group gave us another generous donation to the AFE Ashland Shakespeare Trip Scholarship Fund for this year. Let us know if you have an event for which you'd like us to sing! Huzzah! The AFE Madrigal Group is a group

concert" at the Civic Auditorium. The concert will feature special guest collaborations with the Santa Cruz Ballet Theater, Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony, Kuumbwa Honor Jazz Band, and award-winning Shakespearean actor Paul Whitworth. Click here for more info.

DLC Moves into New Digs

The <u>Discovery Learning Center</u> has moved...down the hall! The new space has more room for classes, and very importantly, its own bathroom. <u>Check out the DLC's current calendar of classes here</u>. The DLC is a member-supported nonprofit offering free and fee-based classes to the

Water Treatment Plant Tour

homeschooling community.

The Coastal Watershed Council and Soquel Creek Water District will be teaming up on March 21 to offer a family-friendly tour of the Rosedale water treatment plant and offer various educational stations. Topics will include water quality, ground water conservation, edible aquifers, low impact development gardens, ground water and watershed management and a walk to Soquel Creek. This is a free event. Please RSVP to the Coastal Watershed.

Computer History Museum

The Computer History Museum in Mountain View -

of musicians who read music and have learned the skill of singing in ensemble. We sing moderately challenging early music. We meet informally in members' homes. We formed last Spring in order to "busk" or sing for donations. 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

Water the Weeds Teen Improv

4-5:30 on Wednesdays until Nov. 19, Room 2 at AFE. 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

http://www.computerhistory.org/ - is worth a visit. Right now they have a self-driving car on display, along with their usual display of computers from ancient to modern and playable vintage video games.

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Online

How to Learn Math is a free class for learners of all levels of mathematics. There are 6 sessions, the first three are approximately 10 minutes long and the last three approximately 20 mins long. It combines really important information on the brain and learning with new evidence on the best ways to approach and learn math effectively. This class will give learners of math the information they need to become powerful math learners, it will correct any misconceptions they have about what math is, and it will teach them about their own potential to succeed and the strategies needed to approach math effectively. More info here.

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 or check out the "Small Schools Rainbow Alliance" Facebook page for more updates!

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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.

—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 <u>Online Shopping Mall portal for AFE</u>.

Staff of Life Scrip

Please contact Melisa Schwarm to buy Staff of Life Scrip: Use the contact info on the roster for Otto or <u>send email</u>. 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 Monday, February 16th. Payment must be in by Friday, February 13th no later than 3pm.

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