

Dear Families,

In an effort to improve communication with our enrolled families, we at HomeLink are providing a newsletter twice a month. Through this media, you will learn about what goes on in many of our classes, the list of up and coming events, tips on homeschooling, stories of students and biographies of instructors. We hope you find this useful!

April Thome  
HomeLink Director



## Events

## LOVE AWAY HUNGER

IGNITE Valentine's Dessert & Dance for World Vision is Monday, February 14th from 7:00-10:00 pm. This event takes place at Fontaine Estate Winery, in Naches. Featuring The Village Musicians with desserts by Chef Brad Massit of Birchfield Manor.

You can purchase tickets for \$15 at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or pay \$20 at the door. All proceeds benefit World Vision. Two tickets will feed a child for 30 days! For more information phone 509.966.8525. Sponsored by Ignite Youth Ministry of Connections Church.

## [ Teacher Appreciation ]

HomeLink Teacher Appreciation Days --March 8 & 10.  
Watch your email for more info to come.



## Writing

SAT Essay Preparation Workshop, Friday, February 25, 10:00-2:30 at HomeLink. Cost is \$25. Registration and fee must be received by Monday, February 21st.

In this one day workshop, students will understand what the SAT essays are really testing for, develop organization and structure skills, learn strategies to make their essays shine, and learn what NOT to do on test day. Students will have the opportunity to practice essay prompts. This class will be taught by Kim Votry who has her degree in Creative Writing from UW and is currently an English coach for the Shoreline School District, working primarily with homeschooling students.

## [ Engineering Day for Kids ]

Yakima Valley Community College is hosting "Engineering Day for Kids," February 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at YVCC's Hopf Union Building (HUB) for grades K-8.

Students are invited to attend this free event and get experience with hands-on activities that will help the student explore connections between math, science and engineering. Visit the robotics display, exhibits, and hands-on experiments in engineering. Concession stand available. No RSVP necessary.

No registration is required. If you have questions, contact Benji Tornberg at 509-966-7000 or [btornberg@hlcivil.com](mailto:btornberg@hlcivil.com).



Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra  
 KinderKonzert  
 February 27 at 3 pm  
 Capitol Theatre

## Music

The Youth Symphony Orchestra, along with Yakima Ensemble for Strings (YES!) provides an opportunity for young musicians around the Yakima Valley to play in a full orchestral ensemble setting.

The Kinderkonzert is February 27, which will include an instrument “petting zoo” downstairs in the Robertson Room of the Capital Theatre after the concert. This is a great opportunity for kids to explore the instruments, while the YYSO players are on hand to guide them.

For concert schedule please see [yyso.org](http://yyso.org) or email [yyso.yes@gmail.com](mailto:yyso.yes@gmail.com). For more information see HomeLink advisor Laurel Smith.



Have you noticed the “Pennies Bank” on Mrs. Johnson’s desk? Pennies for Peace teaches children the rewards of sharing and working together to bring hope and educational opportunities to children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. A penny in the United States is virtually worthless, but in Pakistan and Afghanistan a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy.

## Service

We collect pennies to help build schools for children in the remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Started by Greg Mortenson, co-author of the #1 NY Times Best-seller, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School At A Time*.

Please join us in Pennies for Peace! For more information see HomeLink advisor Rebecca Whitmore.

### Dates to Remember

- Feb 14: Valentine’s Dessert & Dance
- Feb 26: Engineering Day
- Feb 27: YYSO KinderKonzert
- Feb 21: SAT Workshop Registration Due
- Feb 25: SAT Workshop
- Mar 8 & 10: Teacher Appreciation
- Mar 28-Apr 1: Spring Break
- April 18, 19, & 20: Annual Assessments



## Dates

## S P C T LIGHT...

He’s hooked. Junior Olympics Gold medal winner, Athlete of the Year for the Pacific Northwest by PNSA Freestyle Association and USA Olympic Team tryout contender, Leif Harfst loves the sport. “It’s fun, it’s a good past time, an adrenaline rush, and I like being out with nature in the mountains, plus my friends are doing it.”

“Believe it or not, I began skiing in my backyard. One weekend my dad suggested giving White Pass a try.” His dad enjoyed skiing, but it had been a long time. Leif took beginning ski classes at the White Pass Ski School from Mike Hayes. “He taught me everything.”

In 2007, at the age of 12, he won the Gold at the Jr. Olympics in Steamboat Springs, CO. The event: Slope Style - which is “a series of jumps and flips, like on a skateboard.” Since, he has focused on Mogul racing which is a series of bumps and jumps. Mom, Susanne Harfst-HomeLink advisor, says she likes this better because “Leif spends less time in the air.”

Leif belongs to the White Pass Freestyle Skiing Team. The team is coached by Johann Furr.

What are Leif’s hopes? “To have a good and satisfying competitive career.” He’s hoping to make the US or German Ski Team. He leaves tomorrow for Deer Valley, Utah, to compete on the same course as the World Champions.



Leif Harfst - Freestyle