



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



BEYOND DIFFERENCES CALENDAR

A quick and handy monthly listing of important dates for parents who need to juggle many schedules!

January 17th: Assembly at Hall Middle School

- 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
- 200 Doherty Drive, Larkspur

January 22nd: Phone-A-Thon!

- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Laura's house in Kentfield

January 23rd: Assembly at Elmhurst Community Prep

- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- 1800 98th Avenue, Oakland

January 26: Shut Down Ask.fm Planning Meeting

- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- 30 North San Pedro, San Rafael

January 26: Teen Board Retreat!

- 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
- 111 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley

February 2: Shut Down Ask.fm Planning Meeting

- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- 30 North San Pedro, San Rafael

February 3: Bullying and Disability Conference

- 9:00 am- 12:00 pm
- Marin County Office of Education, 1111 Las Gallinas Avenue, San Rafael

February 14th: Assembly at Family Montessori

- 9:00 AM
- 7075 Cutting Boulevard, El Cerrito

February 14th: National No One Eats Alone Day: SPREAD THE LOVE!

- Celebrating differences at lunchtime across the country!

February 28th: Assembly at Hall Middle School

- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- 200 Doherty Drive, Larkspur

March 10th: Assembly in Burlingame

- 11:40 AM - 1:40 PM

TAKE ACTION!

...a few other easy ways you can support
Beyond Differences

Parents! We are looking for dedicated adults who are interested in leadership positions with the **Beyond Differences** Board of Directors! Those who are eager to fund-raise, plan events, organize, and help shape the future of **Beyond Differences** should contact Board Member Marit Bakken at Marit.Bakken@me.com. *Help us get ready for the Annual Event!*

Students! We need your activist minds! **Beyond Differences** is committed to shutting down the harmful social website, ask.fm. If you're interested in being part of the movement please attend our next meeting on **Sunday, January 26th at 1:00 PM**. The meeting will be held at the Teen Board clubhouse at 111 Seminary Avenue in Mill Valley (off of the Strawberry shopping center).

BRING NATIONAL NO ONE EATS ALONE TO YOUR SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 14TH!



Beyonddifferences.org

Ways you can get involved!

1. Send a letter out to your contacts and encourage them to bring No One Eats Alone to their school on February 14th.
2. Post our flyer on your organizations' website or page!
3. Spread the word on social media: twitter, Facebook, instagram, etc! You can also share postings from our own page.
4. Participate in an upcoming training phone call. Reach out to christine.highet@gmail.com if you're interested and we'll give you the call-in time and number!

PARENT PORTAL!

Explore the Parent Portal at beyonddifferencesportal.org (password "beyond differences").

Questions or suggestions? Please contact Chrissy Highet at christine.highet@gmail.com or AK Kramer at akramer17@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UPDATES



A glimpse into the life of an L ATP student this month!

The entire L ATP participated in a **Winter Retreat** on **Sunday, January 5th** at the Mill Valley Community Center. Students practiced **yoga, meditation, and studied both mindfulness and body language when interacting with peers.**

Davidson: Students were visited by improv extraordinaire, Abie, this week! The group really enjoyed the game "freeze" - it encouraged participants to collaborate with fellow peers and think quickly on their feet! We were able to connect this practice to the work we do with **Beyond Differences** - acknowledging the importance of 'saying yes' when collaborating with and getting to know new people.

Hall: Students had a blast learning about and playing improv games with special guest, Abie. The group seriously loved being silly and it was awesome to see our middle schoolers really shine in this element!

Kent: Students are excited to participate in their first **No One Eats Alone** event on February 14th! They also collaborated with Hall Middle School for the improv workshop with Abie. Kent kids dove right in!

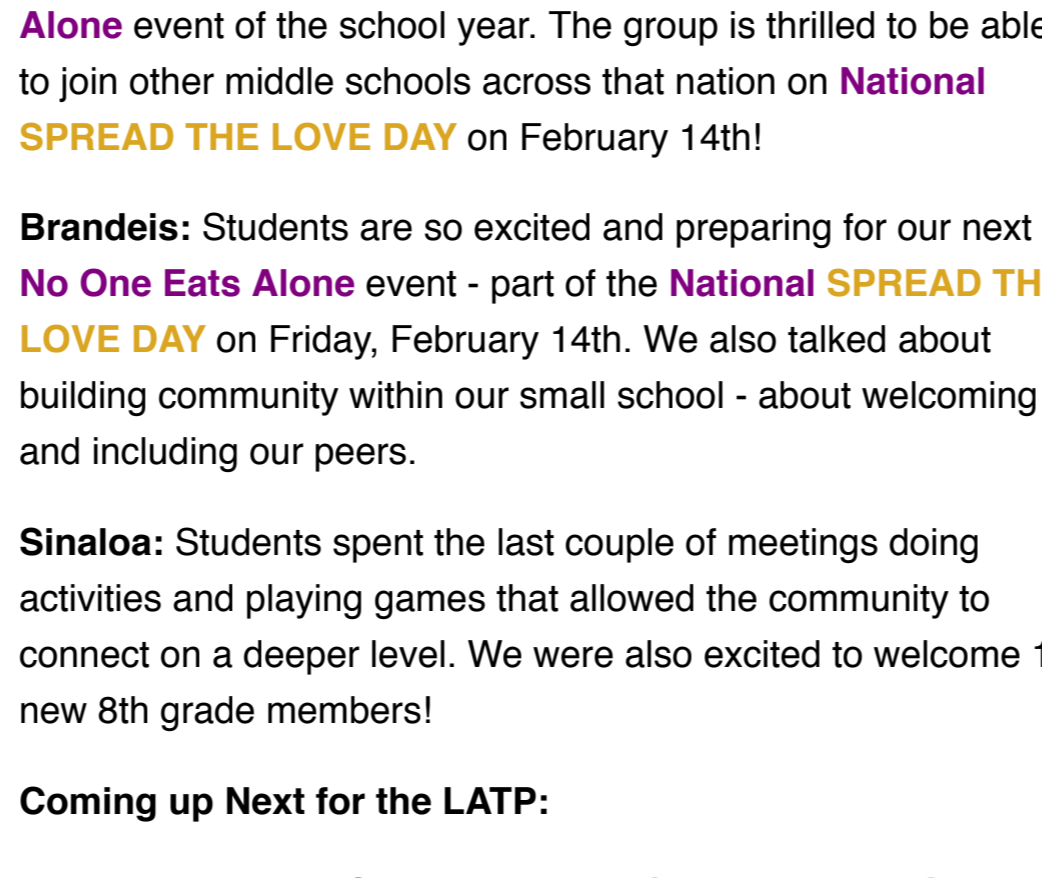
White Hill: Students geared up for their second **No One Eats Alone** event of the school year. The group is thrilled to be able to join other middle schools across that nation on **National SPREAD THE LOVE DAY** on February 14th!

Brandeis: Students are so excited and preparing for our next **No One Eats Alone** event - part of the **National SPREAD THE LOVE DAY** on Friday, February 14th. We also talked about building community within our small school - about welcoming and including our peers.

Sinaloa: Students spent the last couple of meetings doing activities and playing games that allowed the community to connect on a deeper level. We were also excited to welcome 10 new 8th grade members!

Coming up Next for the L ATP:

- **National No One Eats Alone: SPREAD THE LOVE** on February 14th! planning sessions with AK and Chrissy



TEEN BOARD CORNER

What do you want to let go of as you move forward into 2014? What do you hope to take with you?

Our meeting in January emphasized growth, both personally and as an organization. **Beyond Differences** is taking on two MAJOR initiatives:

1. Shutting down ask.fm (Next meeting is January 12th at 1:00 PM)
2. **National No One Eats Alone Day** (February 14th).

The **Teen Board** is taking action on both of these campaigns! This is what we're here for; to change the dynamic of middle school and to create a safer space for kids both on and offline.

We were also visited by a special guest, Jeff Leiken, who spoke with us about human behavior, needs, and deepest fears - and how they affect the ways in which we interact with the world.

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