



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

September 25, 2009

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday	September 28	Bus Safety
Tuesday	September 29	PTO Meeting at 1500
Tuesday	September 29	First Volleyball Game, 1900 in the high school gym. Lajes vs. Praia
Month of October		Energy Awareness Month
Monday-Friday	October 5	Fire Prevention Week
Friday	October 9	No School for Students - Teacher Training Day (CSI)
Monday	October 12	Columbus Day (Federal Holiday)
Wednesday	October 14	Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

**PTO MEETING** - The PTO will be holding our first meeting on September 29th, at 1500 in the school cafeteria. Daycare will be provided in the elementary gym for ages three and up. We need parent and teacher support for the PTO to succeed. Mrs. Blacks' 5th grade class will perform two folk dances at the parent meeting on Tuesday Sept.29th at 3:00. In addition, a "surprise party" will be given for the elementary classroom and the middle/high school grade with the greatest percentage of parents who join the PTO. Fees are \$5 per family. We have a lot of great ideas for the school year, but we need your help. Please email us at [lajespto@yahoo.com](mailto:lajespto@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

**CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (CSI)** - While some of you may be familiar with our School Improvement Plan (SIP) as our school improvement was formerly called, the name has changed this year. We are now "CSI Lajes" (Continuous School Improvement). What does that mean for our teachers, our students and our community? It means we as a community are committed continuous school improvement and highest student achievement.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, teachers and parent representatives will be looking at Terra Nova results and individual student progress. Teachers will be looking at standardized assessments and investigating new strategies to better meet the needs of our students. Our target areas are to improve their vocabulary and develop problem solving skills in order to better prepare them for twenty first century work and life.

**BUS SAFETY** - Bus safety is very important for all of our students. Some of our students ride the buses to school, but all of them ride the bus when going on a study trip. This week we have been reviewing bus safety and would like for you to emphasize the rules with your child. Please review the bus safety rules with your student. You will find them on page 19 in our handbook at <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>.

**COACHES CORNER:** The girls' volleyball team has been working very hard to prepare for their first volleyball game against Praia. The game will be this Tuesday, September 29 at 7pm in the Lajes H.S. Gym. Please come out and show your Falcon Spirit.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER:** The middle school students met with the Environmental Program Manager during Advisory this week. The students learned about the importance of recycling and the process of doing so on the island. This event served as an opener for the joint elementary and middle school recycling project beginning next week.

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** - The Fire Department will be conducting several activities during the week of October 5. The fire truck will be at the school on October 6 at 9:30 to present fire safety and related information to different classes. Spokesmen for the fire department will be available to speak in classrooms. Sparky, the fire dog will make an appearance. Classes will be visiting the fire station too.

**ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH** - October is Energy Awareness Month. We plan to help students focus on energy awareness and solutions to one of the world's current problems. During the month of October, Lajes Elementary High School will partner with the Base to sponsor various activities at our school on the topic of Energy Awareness for the month of October. Students at the elementary level will be creating mats that will publicize the need to conserve or find alternate sources of energy. Students will be working on these mats during Art class. The finished products will be out on display across the Base to remind people to think about energy conservation and energy awareness. Fourth and fifth grade students will be contributing by predicting future sources of energy and future means of transportation. All the different entries will be placed inside a container and become part of a time capsule that will be symbolically buried in locus for posterity. A study trip of our Eco-Island club members to the Serra do Cume to view the wind farm will take place on Thursday, October 22.

**FUNDING EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL** - the 52 page Guide to Federal Student Aid, 2009-2010 booklets is available for student and parent use. If you would like to have a free copy, just come by the School Office and ask the school counselor for your copy. This publication is a useful resource to identify the many different sources of federal and public student aid programs.

**DODEA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** - DoDEA Regulation 2000.1 outlines the graduation requirements, specifying the number of credits to be earned in each Subject Area and the minimum 2.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) needed to graduate. If you have questions concerning the credits needed and/or the 2.0 GPA requirement, please contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

**PARENT COMMUNICATION** - Communicating with your child's teacher or the school administrators is easy. The email addresses are listed at the top of the page. Teachers' email addresses are [FirstName.LastName@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:FirstName.LastName@eu.dodea.edu) Please email us with any questions and/or feedback.

**GRADESPEED** - DoDEA is using an online gradebook application which helps parents and students' access assignments and grades online. Go to <http://www.eu.dodea.edu/gradespeed/> to find out further information or go to

<https://dodea.gradespeed.net/gs/> to request a password. Please note: The "Notes to Teachers" feature does not notify teachers about incoming messages. Therefore, to contact your child's teacher please send a written note, call or use their DoDEA email address.

**FAMILY LEAVES POLICY** -To ensure middle school and high school students do not fall behind academically due to being out of school on family leave, sponsors are asked to notify the school two weeks in advance (if possible) of their planned family leave. Students will be given a *Student Leave Form* on which their teachers will write-in any assignments to be accomplished during the period of time they are out of school. All assigned work is due on the first class meeting after the student returns from leave.

**SCHOOL LUNCHES** - AAFES will continue to provide school lunches for students. Parents are encouraged to open lunch accounts for their children at the BX. Information regarding the lunch program can also be obtained there. AAFES will allow a student to charge a lunch if there is no money in his/her lunch account, but this should rarely happen. Please ensure your child has a sack lunch or money in their account each day.

**STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK** - The Student/Parent Handbook is posted on our website for your reference. <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>

**NURSES CORNER** - As you may know flu is spread easily from person to person and school-age children are among the groups most affected. The flu season will soon be upon us and we are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu within our school. We need your help to do this.

Here are a few things you can do to help minimize the spread of flu within your family, our school and our community:

Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.

Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.

Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

Don't send children to school if they are sick. Children should be fever free for 24 hours without any fever reducing medication being given before they return to school.

For more information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) for the most current information about the flu.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the school nurse at 295-57-6108.

**COUNSELOR NEWS -PSAT/NMSQT Exam at Lajes** - The Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered on Wednesday, October 14 to all Lajes juniors, sophomores, and to selected 7th, 8th and 9th grade students. All students taking the PSAT Exam will have the opportunity to participate in a PSAT Orientation activity to fully familiarize them with PSAT Exam. Students will also receive a copy of the *Student Guide to the PSAT* and an actual PSAT Practice Test they can use to help them prepare for the exam. Parents of the students taking the PSAT Exam will receive a mailing containing explanatory information about the testing their child will be taking. The PSAT Exam will be administered off-campus (at the Community Activity Center) from 0800 - 1130. The \$13 testing fee will be paid by DoDEA for all 10th and 11th grade students and for AVID students in 8th and 9th grades. Any 7th grade students and non-AVID 8th and 9th grade students wanting to take the PSAT Exam must pay the \$13 Testing fee. To find out more about the PSAT Exam, go to the PSAT/NMSQT website <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html> for more details. You may also contact the counselor at 295-57-4228 if you have any further questions.

**Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for Juniors and Seniors** - Will be administered to interested juniors and seniors in early November. Parents interested in having their son or daughter take this exam should contact the counselor at 295-57-4228. The results from a student's ASVAB will be reviewed by the Air Force Recruiter and used to appraise students of possible career field opportunities in the Air Force.

**OPT-OUT MILITARY RECRUITERS FORM** - If you and/or your senior do not want Military Recruiters to receive requested student data for your senior student, please come by our office and pick up the Opt-Out Military Recruiters Form. The data is to be completed and returned to the counselor. If you have any questions, please call 295-57-4228.

**Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Resources for Military Families** - The MCEC's work is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition. The MCEC website <http://www.militarychild.org/> offers many valuable resources for parents relating to virtually all aspects of their child's education. Comprehensive "military parent" information and support is provided at this address: <http://www.militarychild.org/military-parent/>.