



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

January 22, 2010

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday	January 25-28	Middle and High School Semester Exams
Tuesday	January 26	PTO Meeting at 1500 "Sounds Like Fun" Presentation at 1445, in Room 108
Thursday	January 28	GBB v Boa Viagem at 1830, HS Gym BBB v Angra Basket at 2000, HS Gym
Friday	January 29	No School for Students (Teacher Work Day)
Monday	February 1	GBB v TAC at 1900, HS Gym BBB v Terceira at 2030, HS Gym
Thursday	February 4	Job Shadow Day at 0900 - 1030 GBB V Boa Viagem, at 1830, HS Gym BBB v Angra Basket, at 2000, HS Gym
Friday	February 5	Elementary Parent Conferences Portuguese Student Shadow Day at 1000
Monday	February 8	No School for Students (CSI Day) GBB v TAC at 1900, HS Gym BBB v Terceira at 2030, HS Gym

**COACHES CORNER** - You may now access the most up-to-date Varsity sport schedule at the Lajes Elementary High School website. Select the Activities/Clubs tab on the left and then click the link to the Sports Schedule - January and February. <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/> Due to scheduling issues with local basketball teams there have been numerous changes to the Varsity sports schedule. We sincerely apologize for any inconveniences these changes may have caused.

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS** - Reminder that students in the middle and high school will have exams to end the semester. Please encourage your student to do his or her best and if possible, please ensure their attendance.

**PTO NEWS** - The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26, at 1500, in the library. We will be discussing upcoming events and selling new Spirit Wear.

The middle and high school movie night on January 15 went over well! We want to thank all the volunteers for coming and supporting the PTO and the base theater and their staff for allowing us to have the movie nights for our students.

Popcorn money for elementary will be collected until Monday, February 1. Popcorn will be delivered to each classroom for those who have paid the last day of each week, starting February 5. Cost is \$5 for 10 weeks. Please drop your money off in the nurse's office.

The new Spirit Wear is almost sold out! Thank you to all staff members and families for purchasing the new shirts and hoodies. More have been ordered and we will send out a note when it gets to the island.

Thank you to all the parents and students for collecting Box Tops. We will be planning another contest this spring, so start saving your Box Tops. We hope the top three classrooms with the most Box Tops enjoyed their parties.

**CSI COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** - One of the goals of our CRS, or continuous school improvement, is to improve reading comprehension across the curriculum. One way we measure student achievement is by administering the Scholastic Reading Inventory three times a year. Scholastic Reading Inventory. Middle school and high school students are taking this test in their language arts/English for the second time this year. This is a computerized test that adjusts to the level of each student, according to his or her correct or incorrect responses. In other words, as a student answers questions correctly, the reading passages and questions become more challenging. If, however, the student answers incorrectly, easier passages and questions appear. Students receive their scores in "lexiles." Students can select books to match their reading level using these lexiles.

**CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY (CSI)** - On February 8<sup>th</sup>, teachers will discuss interventions and make revisions on our CSI plan to best meet the needs of our students. It is this process that makes our school continue to grow and improve.

**YOUTH CENTER NEWS** - LYP Basketball/Cheerleading registrations are happening at the CAC until January 25.

**JOB SHADOW DAY** - High School students at Lajes E/H School have been invited to participate in a Job Shadow Day on base on Thursday, February 4. Permission slips containing detailed information and a student's choices form have been emailed to parents. Permission slips and student's choices forms must be returned to us no later than Wednesday, January 27 so that we can match students up with sponsors. Forms can be turned in to the school's main office or returned via email to: [LajesEHS.Principal@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:LajesEHS.Principal@eu.dodea.edu). Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 295-57-3357/4151.

**PORTUGUESE STUDENT SHADOW DAY** - On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, Lajes Elementary High School will be the host for the School of Biscoitos 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes. About 41 students are coming to school for a Student Shadow Day. Portuguese students will be shadowing the American students for the school day, going to classes with them and interacting with them during their activities. Four Teachers will come with them also and the teachers will shadow the American teachers. The Portuguese and Americans will share experiences and knowledge. This activity will not only complete our curriculum activities but at the same time help to establish cordial relations.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER** - Middle School teachers are using GradeSpeed as an academic support tool for students and parents. Assignments are listed and some have attachments containing a digital copy of the assignment. All middle students have received passwords to access their GradeSpeed accounts. Parents who have not received their GradeSpeed password can contact the school counselor at 295-57-4151. As a reminder, all

assignments are written on daily basis in the student's planner. Nightly checks of students' planners are a great way for parents to support their child's academic progress.

**VALENTINE GRAMS (PRE-K TO 12 GRADE)** - Would you like to send a special message to your son or daughter this Valentine's Day? Would you like them to have a little treat to brighten their day? Do you want them to know you care enough to send the very best? Then send them a Valentine Gram! The Sophomore class is sponsoring Valentine's Grams for Lajes school. For the low, low cost of one for \$1.25 or two for \$2, you can send a message with a candy treat attached to family and loved ones. Parents are invited to send one to children. Students may want to say "thanks" to a teacher, friend or family member. You may just want to let someone know you appreciate them. All proceeds go to the sophomore class. Valentine Grams will be sold during lunch and during basketball games, or send your money and message in an envelope to the school in care of room 306. Don't miss this easy opportunity to let them know you care! Delivery will take place on Friday, February 12.

**VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE** - Volunteers needed. Adult chaperones are needed at the high school St. Valentine's Day Dance. Come out and impress the teens of Lajes High School with your dance moves! They'll love it! You can volunteer to chaperone the whole dance, Friday, February 12, from 1900-2200, at Fiddler's Green, or just work a one hour shift. Either way, Lajes is counting on you, and you wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to get a glimpse into the lives of teenagers! Just think of all the glamour and excitement, call 295-57-6498 for a shift.

**PARENT FORUM** - Parent Forums are held monthly. These forums are a way to develop our communication and partnership with the parents, and community. In February, we will be conducting another new parent orientation for all of our new parents. Be looking forward to our March Forum where parents and teachers will come together to learn more about autism. Dates and more information will be forthcoming.

**MENTORING PROGRAM** - The M & M's Mentoring Program is back again. All Lajes students are eligible to enroll. This wonderful and effective program will provide your son/daughter with a volunteer mentor. Middle School students can benefit greatly from participation in this program. Our mentors are willing to provide academic, social, and emotional support to our student. This program takes place in the school's Information Center, on Thursdays from 1430 until 1530, each week. Please contact the Mentoring coordinator at 295-57-4151 for additional information.

**NO SCHOOL** - There will be no school for students on Friday, January 29, due to a teacher workday.

**MATH TIPS** - Parents: You can help your children learn their multiplication facts at [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com). Click on the middle box "New!...", then click on the left box "Self Correcting Quiz." Your children can type in the answers, click "Finished" and find out which ones were missed! The site also has flashcards and more.

**"SCIENCE MATTERS"** - a program by the National Science Teachers' Association, is an internet site dedicated to promoting science education at home. "Tips for busy parents" lists easy, concrete ways that parents can encourage science learning. Check out the link: <http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx>  
Here is an example from the website.

Myth #3: I'm not a scientist and don't know enough about science to help my kids.

You do not have to be a scientist to help your children learn science. The majority of parents in this country are not scientists, but it doesn't mean they can't help their children learn science. Questions like Why is the sky blue? Why

does ice float? Or how does a Frisbee soar through the air? are just a few examples of science questions you can explore with your children. The most important starting point is to ask: "Why?"

**LIBRARY MOMENT** - Hello Parents, Take a deep breath, let the troubles of the day go, and enjoy some reading time with your youngsters. Young children especially enjoy having you to themselves - it calms them, and you may also find devoting your full attention to this simple act is calming for you as well:) Enjoy!

**LAJES ES/HS PRESENTATION** - "Sounds Like Fun 2"- This workshop is offered to help parents support their child's speech sound development and is a follow-up to the first session. However, you are welcome to enroll even if you did not attend the first workshop. It will be held on Tuesday, January 26, from 1445 to 1545 in Room 108 (Speech Room)

For more information or to reserve a spot (adults only, please), please call the Speech Pathologist at 295-57-4151 no later than January 22.

**NURSE'S NOTES** - I try to keep spare changes of clothing for our younger students (K-2nd grade) who may slip in a puddle, experience "exploding" ketchup packets at lunch, or not make it to the restroom in time. Over the past few months clothing has been borrowed for such emergencies yet not returned after being laundered. If your child needs to borrow clothing, please return it as soon as possible after laundry day. As you are cleaning out children's closets, know I welcome clothing that fit these needs, especially in sizes 5 to 8. Sweatpants are gender-generic and easily span several sizes. Pants and underwear are borrowed the most often, shirts and socks occasionally.

**COUNSELOR NEWS** -

**DEPLOYMENT** - If you or your spouse will be deploying, please call the ES and/or HS counselors at 295-57-4228. We want to provide extra support to all of the children of our deployed service members. These service members are indeed heroes and we want to do everything possible to support their children.

**Lajes DECA Commissary Scholarship** - seniors who are dependents of a military sponsor are eligible to apply for the local Lajes DECA Commissary Scholarship. This annual scholarship is worth \$1,500. Interested seniors may pick-up a copy of the application form from the Lajes Commissary, or download the application online:

<https://www.commissaries.com> or from <http://militaryscholar.org> All eligibility requirements are listed on the application form. The deadline to submit the completed application to the Lajes Commissary is close of business on February 17.

**Air Force Excellence Scholarship** - The Air Force Association is currently accepting applications for the 2010 AF Excellence Scholarship. Applications must be received no later than April 30 2010. Go to <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/afexcel.asp> to learn more about this scholarship.

**The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Resource Center** - The Military Child Education Coalition website contains a wealth of resources for military families. MCEC provides information to parents who are PCSing back to the states. The "Checklist for Transferring Students", go to <http://www.militarychild.org/military-parent/checklist-for-transferring-students/> To find specific information about schools and educational resources in a specific state, go to <http://www.militarychild.org/education-resourcecenter/> where you can select any of the 50 states to locate schools and educational resources applicable to that state.

**ACT & SAT Exams** - The last ACT Exam will be administered on April 10 (deadline to register online <http://www.actstudent.org> is March 5). The last SAT Exam will be administered on May 1 (deadline to register

online <http://collegeboard.com/sat-register> is March 25). Applicants for the ACT can save the \$26 International fee by obtaining the ACT voucher form from their counselor. Students or parents needing assistance with the online registration can contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

**Military OneSource.Com** - "A 24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Family". The DoDEA website has a special link for patrons to access the Military OneSource.Com website. The site contains a wide variety of resources for the military family (including a special Deployment CD, *These Boots: A spouse's guide to stepping up and standing tall during deployment*, along with many education related links applicable to dependents and spouses). To learn more about this resource website, go to <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

**2.0 GPA Requirement for Students Baggers** - One important requirement for students (14 years of age or older) who would like to bag groceries at the commissary is that they must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA). Parents can monitor their child's grades via the online GradeSpeed program. Students can also monitor their grades online by using their assigned GradeSpeed account. If parents or students need information as to how they can access GradeSpeed to monitor grades, please contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

**Career Explorer** - <http://www.careerexplorer.net/> This website provides a great tool for students and/or parents to learn about careers and to search for information about educational programs within various career fields. This site provides an online *Career Aptitude Test* that will provide the user with feedback as to potential careers and occupations to research further. Career Explorer will also help the user search for the colleges, universities or vocational schools offering the programs the user is interested in. Other free online assessments include a *Job Diagnosis* program to assess one's skills, interests and abilities to identify the career(s) suitable for the individual taking the assessment.

**Parent GradeSpeed Accounts** - GradeSpeed is the online grading program used in all schools in DoDDS (4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade). Parents can create an online GradeSpeed account and have access to view their child's current grades. If you have not created your Parent GradeSpeed Account yet, please contact the counselor at 295-57-4228 to receive the information needed to create the account.

**Student-2-Student Program at Lajes to help PCSing Students** - If your family will be PCSing during the school year, and you would like to have your child communicate with students and/or counselor from the school they will be going to, please contact the middle school and high school counselor at 295-57-4228. An important facet of the Student-2-Student Program is to assist student transitioning in and out of DoDDS schools. Learning about one's new school before leaving Lajes would lessen the student's anxiety about moving and going to a new school.

**A LETTER TO PARENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR, DoDDS-EUROPE -**

**DoDDS Europe**

**Dr. Nancy Bresell**

Director, DoDDS-Europe

[Director.DoDDS.Europe@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Director.DoDDS.Europe@eu.dodea.edu)

**January 2010**

Greetings Parents,

Happy New Year! We are almost at the half way mark for School Year 2009-2010. Thursday, January 28, marks the end of the second quarter and the first semester, and the following day, January 29, is a teacher work day, so students will not be in school.

In many cases, especially in the upper grades, the weeks leading to the end of the semester are filled with reviews and tests. The result of these end-of-semester assessments could have a significant impact on your student's grades.

Although most students do not enjoy tests, they are "not so bad" if the students are well prepared. As a parent, here are some suggestions for how you can help your children prepare for exams:

- Take several days to ensure that your children review subjects which they find to be more challenging.
- Before the test talk to your children about what they have learned, review notes, handouts and textbooks.
- Make sure your children go to bed timely. They should not cram the night before.
- Ensure they have a good breakfast. On their way out the door congratulate them for being prepared and wish them good luck.
- When they come home, let them express feelings about the test. Show support and understanding without criticizing them.

Good test scores may not come easily for some students, but preparation is one key to academic success. Another key aspect to your child's success at school is your help, support, and encouragement. If you have concerns or questions regarding your child's progress, please contact the teacher.

We are here to help support quality learning for all students.

Dr. Nancy Bresell