



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

February 19, 2010

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	February 1-28	National African American History Month (Events are listed below.)
Saturday-Sunday	February 23-28	Basketball and Cheer Europeans and Jr. Leadership Seminar
Tuesday	February 23	PTO Meeting at 1500 in School Library
Friday	March 5	Middle/High School Conferences, no school For MS/HS
Monday	March 22	"Can I Kiss You" Presentation at 1045 and 1530 at the Community Activity Center (CAC)

**CAN I KISS YOU?** - USAFE along with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), the School Liaison Officer (SLO) and Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Europe invite you and your dependent to participate in "Can I Kiss You?" Several books including *Help! My Teen is Dating* and *May I Kiss You* will be facilitated by the author. The founder and Executive Director of The Date Safe Project is located at <http://www.thedatesafeproject.org/index.html>. The project is committed to being the nation's leading organization for creating healthier dating environments, a clearer understanding of "consent" and for raising awareness of the many issues surrounding sexual assault.

The forum will address communication, dating, and sometimes the violence that comes with relationships. The intent is to help your student get more comfortable with these topics and develop skills for making the right choices.

"*May I Kiss You*" will be presented on **March 22 at 1045**. Please complete the attached permission form and return it to school no later than February 26th.

**PTO NEWS** - PTO will be selling Spirit Wear from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of next week from 1415-1445

**COACH'S CORNER** -- The Lajes Boys' Varsity Basketball team will represent Lajes E/HS at this year's DoDEA-Europe Basketball and Cheer Championships. The event will take place in Mannheim, Germany, from February 24-27. The championship games will be televised on AFN on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**CSI COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** - Do you or does your child ever need a good definition or just the right synonym or antonym for a word? If so, try [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) and its sister site [www.thesarus.com](http://www.thesarus.com). These sites are user-friendly and can help improve vocabulary. Of course, improving vocabulary is part of our school-wide goal of improving reading comprehension across the curriculum.

### **COUNSELOR NEWS** -

**Student Course Requests for 2010-2011** - Middle school and high school students will be given a set of forms in late February to take home and share with their parent concerning their course requests for School Year 2010-2011. Parents will sign the cover letter indicating whether their child will be returning and enrolled starting in August 2010. The set of forms will include explanatory information needed by the students and their parents to make course selections for next school year. Please note: DoDEA has instructed schools to require course requests of students who will be PCS'ing out during the summer. This requirement is to provide a statistical projection of a "full enrollment" and to help the school develop a Master Schedule of courses to be offered. Contact information will be provided to parents if they need additional information about course selections for their children.

**Spring ACT & SAT Exams** - The ACT Exam will be administered on April 10<sup>th</sup> (deadline to register online <http://www.actstudent.org> is March 5<sup>th</sup>). The SAT Exam will be administered on May 1<sup>st</sup> (deadline to register online <http://collegeboard.com/sat-register> is March 25<sup>th</sup>). 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 required online registration can contact the counselor at 535-4228.

**TerraNova Testing** - All students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking the TerraNova Achievement exam during the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. This annual exam is administered to students in all DoDDS schools and in many stateside schools. Parents will receive a *Home Report* copy of their child's test results in May (along with explanatory information concerning their child's achievement). Additional information regarding the TerraNova testing at Lajes will be routinely provided to students and parents before the scheduled week of testing.

**Parent GradeSpeed Accounts** - GradeSpeed is the DoDEA 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 535-4228 to receive the information needed to create your account.

**Student GradeSpeed Accounts** - All middle school and high school students have access to the online GradeSpeed program, and have the ability to check their grades and assignments. To access the program, students need to use their assigned student GradeSpeed login. If students have forgotten their logins and/or are unsure as to whether they have a login, they should see our school's ET or the counselor who will quickly get them into their GradeSpeed account.

**Student Cumulative GPA** - DoDEA policy regarding a student's official cumulative grade point average specifies that one's GPA begins only with classes taken in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Middle school students taking a foreign language, algebra I or geometry class will earn high school credit for these classes; however, the grades received for these classes are not calculated into their GPA. Only semester grades are used to calculate one's cumulative GPA. A student's official cumulative GPA is listed on their transcript, not on their report card. If you have questions regarding your child's credit status and/or GPA status, please contact the counselor at 535-4228

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER** – MS Corner - To facilitate parents' busy schedules, the Middle School teachers cordially invite parents to meet with them during Middle School Team Time Monday through Friday between 10:55 and 11:25. You may meet with one teacher or all, to discuss specific concerns or just check on your child's progress. Feel free to bring your lunch! Please contact Middle School Coordinator at 535-4151 to schedule your meeting.

**International Student Leadership Institute** - On February 26, two of our students will head for Oberwesel, Germany. ISLI is a unique opportunity for young leaders from DoDDS to meet with their counterparts from schools throughout Europe. Each Institute grapples with an important contemporary issue - this year the topic is "Euthanasia" - in workshops, panel discussions, and debates. There will also be time to socialize and showcase special interests in a talent show.

**SAC** - The School Advisory Committee is where we can address concerns about student welfare, academic success, and other school related business. Our parents and teachers have come together to address one issue of concern brought up at our meeting about the weight of backpacks. If you have concerns about your child's backpack, there are several options available for addressing this. Perhaps only the textbooks for the classes for that day should be brought home. In some cases, a home copy of a textbook may be issued and routine cleanout of binders and backpacks is also helpful. In coordination with medical professionals from the base, it is recommended that children should have at most 10 to 15% of their body weight in their backpacks. Heavy loads are more common in high school, where academic requirements are often met with the use of heavy textbooks. If you are concerned about the amount of weight being carried, please communicate this to your student's teachers. For any questions, please contact the school office or use the link to our SAC on the Lajes School Website.

**LAJES EHS INTERNET SITE**- Our internet site (<http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>) is a source for information about LEHS. There is now a link on our internet home page to email any comment/concern you have about LEHS to our School Advisory Council. Every Monday the school newsletter and calendar are updated on our site also. There are also links for students and parents as well as other information about our school. If you have questions or comments about our internet site, please email the webmaster - also on the home page.

**DOD TUTOR** - All U.S. military families have unlimited access to Tutor.com provided by the Department of Defense. Military service members and their dependents around the world can work with a certified, professional tutor online 24/7 to get help with homework, studying, test prep, resume writing and more. For more information, please visit <http://www.tutor.com/military-programs>

**NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH** - National African American History Month, also called Black History Month, is celebrated each year in the month of February to recognize and appreciate the contributions African Americans have made to this nation in their struggles for freedom and equality. The DoD theme for 2010 is "The History of Black Economic Empowerment." Please join the Cultural Diversity Awareness Committee (CDAC) and the (NAAHM) committee in sharing African American history with our youth and telling the story of African Americans.

In conjunction with the base, in the school:

- A Trivia Contest for the upper elementary students which was due 19 February.

- An essay contest for the middle and high school with the topic: "African Americans in History" or "Contributions of African American Scientist, Poet, Inventor, Educator, Artist, Musician" which was due 19 February.
- Library Speaker on 24 February

**2010 HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK** -If you have fun pictures of things you have done with your families and/or friends—outside of school—we would like to put some of them in the 2010 High School / Middle School Yearbook. We are dedicating a few pages to "Summer Fun" or other "Life Outside the School" for a feature in the 2010 Falcon yearbook. Beach parties from summer, outings you have taken around the island, vacations you have been on away from here, other things that keep you busy while you are in the Azores. These pictures should feature middle and high school students and should be 2009 or 2010 vintage. You may send or bring the photos or digital files to me by hand or via email - [neata.wiley@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:neata.wiley@eu.dodea.edu). All pictures need to be identified as high school or middle school photos and be turned in by Wednesday, February 10. Help us make the 2010 Falcon Yearbook a real memory for you. ALSO if you haven't ordered your yearbook, be sure to reserve one for \$45.00. The cost will be \$50.00 when they come in May.

**PARENT FORUM** - Parent Forums are held monthly. These forums are a way to develop our communication and partnership with the parents, and community.

**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.