



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

October 23, 2009

Principal: Ms. Mary Waller  
Assistant Principal: Ms. Daisy Weddle  
Phone: 295 57 6216/ 4151  
DSN 535-4151  
e-mail: [Elizabeth.Walker@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Walker@eu.dodea.edu)  
[Mary.Waller@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Mary.Waller@eu.dodea.edu)  
[Daisy.Weddle@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Daisy.Weddle@eu.dodea.edu)

Mediterranean District Superintendent: Dr. Elizabeth Walker  
DSN Phone: 634-8460

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday-Friday	October 26-30	Spirit and Red Ribbon Week
Tuesday	October 27	Lajes VS Praia Juniors Volleyball at 1900 in the HS Gym
Wednesday	October 28	Pep Rally at 1415 Drama Auditions for the Fall Production ECO-Island Club Time Capsule Event
Thursday	October 29	Deadline to Register On-Line for Dec 5 SAT Exam
Friday	October 30	Lajes VS Praia Seniors Volleyball at 1830 in the HS Gym
Thursday	November 5	European Championships-Volleyball
Friday	November 6	No School for Students (Teacher Work Day) Deadline to Register On-Line for Dec 12 ACT Exam ASVAB Exam Administered to Registered Students
Wednesday	November 11	Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)

**COMMUNICATIONS INTERVENTION COMMITTEE NEWS** - What used to be called the School Improvement Plan, or SIP, has been renamed Continuous School Improvement, or CSI. Through CSI, we work toward the mission of the Department of Defense Education Activity: to provide, in military communities worldwide, exemplary educational programs that inspire and prepare all students for success in a global environment.

**THE FALCON YEARBOOK** - of Lajes Middle School / High School is on sale every morning, at 0745 in the lobby. This year's book will be filled with memories, activities, academics, superlatives, and so much more to get middle and high school students "in the picture." The initial cost to reserve a book is \$45.00. However, the price will increase as the year goes on. Be one of the first to reserve your copy at the lowest price available!

**PARENT-CHILD PROJECT** - Are you looking for ways to enjoy learning with your children? How about writing a book together? It's easy, it's fun, and it supports your child's education. One of our math teachers thought of the idea and

wrote a rhyming alphabet book with his daughter, who is in kindergarten. He added her artwork through Kodak.com, and had it printed at Amazon.com for just a few dollars. This idea could fit any age or activity such as sports, family vacations, hobbies, etc. You can use original art or photos, and collaborate on the text. This activity teaches kids that writing and reading are valuable skills that provide a ton of enjoyment!

**CREATIVE CONNECTIONS** - Four Lajes students have been selected to participate in the 2009 Creative Connections program. Creative Connections is a five-day symposium of visual and performing arts workshops offered each year to 150 high school students selected from across Europe. This is the largest number of artists ever selected from our school. Congrats again!

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND** - Their first practice was Thursday, October 22 at 1445 in the school cafeteria. All registered participants and interested students may attend as well. We would love to add new members to this year's OM team!

**TECHNOLOGY HINT** - Social networking sites are becoming very popular around the world. Sites like facebook.com and myspace.com let us keep in touch with family and friends in a timely manner. While sites like these are not allowed on a DoDEA computer it is important that everyone know these sites come with their own hazards. Personal information shared with family can at times be distributed to unintended people. Employers are searching social networking sites to gain information about prospective employees. If you or your children frequent social networking sites you might want to check out this following article from the New York Times. This article gives specific information about staying safe (and private) on Facebook.

<http://www.nytimes.com/external/readwriteweb/2009/09/16/16readwriteweb-5-easy-steps-to-stay-safe-and-private-on-fac-6393.html?em>

**SPIRIT WEEK** - Will be held from October 26-30 for the Lajes Middle and High School students. The schedule is as follows: Monday - Costume Day; Tuesday - PJ Day; Wednesday - Spirit Day (9<sup>th</sup> Graders wear white, 10<sup>th</sup> graders wear red, 11<sup>th</sup> graders wear gold, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders wear blue); Thursday - Hippie Day; and Friday - Everyone wears red for Red Ribbon Week. Please encourage your children to participate in the festivities!

**RED RIBBON WEEK** - launches at Lajes ES/HS beginning Monday, October 26. The purpose of this week is to heighten awareness about drugs and alcohol use in our own community and to increase prevention at our school. Students will participate in presentations and activities to learn about the danger of drugs and alcohol and learn skills to make healthy choices.

On Tuesday, October 27, students are asked to wear pajamas/cozy clothes for our "dream to be drug free" day. Parents are asked to ensure appropriate attire. We are also asking students to wear something red on Friday, October 30th to show their pledge to be drug-free.

This week, parents are encouraged to talk to their kids about being drug free and making positive choices for their future. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your ASACS Counselor at 295-57-3963.

<http://www.timetotalk.org/>

**ECO-ISLAND CLUB** - The Lajes ES/HS fifth grade visited the geothermic site in Agualva and the Serra do Cume Mountain wind farm on Tuesday, October 20. This study trip was sponsored by the Energy Management 65 CES / CEAO in conjunction with the Eco-Island Club. Another project being sponsored is Energy Awareness mats in which students K-5 are working on during their art classes. Fourth and fifth grade classes are also working on a time capsule which will be put in place on Thursday, October 29 at 1300 outside in the inner-court yard by the fourth and fifth grade classes. This time capsule will include student entries and artifacts that show where we are in terms of

energy uses. The capsule will open in 10 years from now. Anyone interested in attending or contributing to this project, feel free to attend this event. The Eco-Island Club will also have another session after school on Thursday, October 29. The topic of discussion is again on Energy Awareness. Second through fifth grade students are welcome to attend.

**DRAMA AUDITIONS** - The Drama Class is holding auditions for the High School Fall Production of the play John Lennon and Me. This is a very realistic story of a girl with a terrible disease and how she learns to hope and to cope with the effects of it in her teenage life.

There are parts for ten characters, an assistant director, set design, and various production assistants. High School students are invited to attend the auditions Wednesday after school October 28

Rehearsal schedules will try to work around other activities of the school. Most rehearsals will be immediately after school in the afternoons. Please direct any questions to the drama educator, in room 132.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER** - Students from all types of backgrounds with wide ranges of abilities and skills fill today's classroom with diversity. In Lajes Middle School classrooms, where diversity is embraced, students are the focus from which the curriculum develops. Differentiated instruction scaffolds student understanding on previous learning and the realization that not all students possess the same educational backgrounds. Differentiated instruction provides multiple approaches to content, process, product, and assessment providing a blend of whole-class, group, and individual instruction.

**MUSIC NEWS** - Intermediate Chorus has had a very successful beginning with rehearsals for our Winter Concert. There is room for about 10 more singers in grades 4 and 5. If you're interested in joining Intermediate Chorus please contact the music educator, at 295-57-4151 ASAP.

**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.

**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.

**COUNSELOR NEWS** - The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Exam will be administered to interested juniors and seniors on Friday, November 6. Students will not be in attendance this day, as it is the end-of-quarter Teacher Records Keeping Day. Parents interested in having their son/daughter take the ASVAB should contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

- The annual Military Career Day event will be scheduled for mid-November. The Air Force Recruiter from Mildenhall AFB will visit Lajes to meet with interested students and parents. Parents and the Lajes Community will receive more information about this event in early November.

- Parents who wish to get a head start on finding ways to help pay for their child's post-secondary education can pick-up a copy of the **2009-2010 Funding Education Beyond High School - The Guide to Federal Student Aid** magazine. This magazine is published by the U.S. Department of Education and contains the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on the Federal Student Aid Program. To get your free copy, come by the counselor's office.

**SAT/ACT** - If parents have questions concerning any of the testing items listed below, please contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

1. The ACT Exam will be administered on Saturday, October 24.
2. Students wanting to take the December 5 SAT Exam must register online by October 30. Students wanting to take the December 12 ACT Exam must register online by November 6. Specific information about online registration for either the SAT and/or the ACT can be obtained by contacting the counselor at 295-57-4228

**DoDEA Course Descriptions** - Parents who want a description of a middle school or high school course their child is taking (or possibly plans to take), go to <http://dodea.edu/curriculum/courses.cfm> for detailed course descriptions of all DoDEA courses.

**MilitaryOneSource.com** - "A 24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Families". Check out this outstanding website at <http://MilitaryOneSource.com> and review the wealth of information and resources pertinent to all members of the military family. This site provides search and comprehensive databases to locate information on financial aid and scholarships, applying to college toolkits, and resources for families affected by deployment and/or PCS reassignments.

**Free Online ASVAB Test-Prep** - juniors and/or seniors interested in a possible career in the military can go to <http://www.military.com/ASVAB> to learn about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a general aptitude test used by all military branches for enlistment purposes. Interested students can take a series of diagnostic practice tests that will provide feedback as to areas of strengths and areas needing improvement. Interested students can also learn what kinds of scores they would need to qualify for specific career fields.

**SY 2009-2010 GRADUATION AND BEYOND** - DoDEA schools have recently received copies of the 6-page brochure, *DODEA'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS*, to be distributed to all students and faculty members. This comprehensive brochure contains a wealth of information about many of the DoDEA initiatives and programs in place to ensure highest student achievement. If you would like to review or download this document go to the DoDEA website at <http://www.dodea.edu/students/>