



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

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7 September 2007

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday	September 10	SAT Registration Deadline
Wednesday	September 12	School Advisory Committee meeting at 1500 pm in Admin Offices
Monday	September 17	First Day of school for Sure Start
Friday	September 21	Early Dismissal at 1115 for all students

MS & HS OPEN HOUSE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT 1530 PM

Thank you for attending the Open House. Please send a quick e-mail with input on how we can improve the process.

SCHOOL VISITORS are required to get a pass when they come to the building. This is a part of security regulation and we appreciate your support.

PARENT ALERT - JOLT Caffeine Energy Gum is sold in a pack of 12 pieces with 2 pieces containing as much caffeine as a cup of coffee. Some students have experimented with ingesting 4 to 6 pieces at a time (equal to 2 to 3 cups of coffee) and have also dared their classmates to ingest multiple pieces in order to feel the physical affects. This high intake of caffeine has a potential for more serious physical impacts than a quick "buzz" and we hope you will reinforce with your children the need to avoid this practice.

ASBESTOS - Every three years DoDDS has certified inspectors who come to the Lajes American School and conduct a thorough and complete asbestos inspection. We are happy to report that during past inspections, only minor traces of non-friable asbestos were found - none harmful to children or adults. As required by the EPA, a periodic surveillance program is in effect for these materials and their conditions are closely monitored. Copies of inspection reports and the school's Asbestos Management Plan are available for your review. Talk directly to one of the principals if you have any questions.

SURE START CLASS - Selection of Sure Start students were made during the week of September 4. Remember that Sure Start classes start on Sept 17.

START OF SCHOOL DAY - For students in grades 6-12, the entry bell rings at 0745 am and the first class starts at 0750 am. Students in grades 6-12 should not arrive on campus prior to 0740. Students in grades 1-5 (unless they ride the school bus) should not arrive on campus prior to 0745 since there is no supervision prior to that time.

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK - The Parent Student Handbook is being prepared mailing to PSC boxes. You can also view the handbook on the website at the following address: <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu>

LAJES SIP (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN) - Problem Solving Entry

Last week you learned about the Word of the Week and Word Walls, two activities LAS teachers use to improve students' vocabulary. To develop students' problem-solving abilities (our other School Improvement Plan goal), we emphasize a five-step problem-solving process:

1. Identify the problem.
2. Gather and analyze relevant information.
3. Select and explain an appropriate strategy.
4. Solve the problem.
5. Evaluate the solution.

Since you are associated with the military community, then you must be familiar with acronyms. Get together as a family and be part of our SIP process by creating a catchy, memorable acronym for the problem-solving process. Just jot down a key word for each step, and make sure the first letters of those words spell an appealing acronym. Everyone is encouraged to participate because we value the input of the community we support. Send your acronyms to Mrs. Brown by September 21 at patricia.brown@eu.dodea.edu. The winner will be announced in the weekly bulletin and AFN/Crossroads. Join our effort to improve LAS, and have fun! This could be a great family activity.

COUNSELORS' CORNER - Any senior wanting to register for the October 27 ACT Exam will need to see Mr. Gronke for the needed *ACT International Surcharge Voucher* form. The Registration Deadline = Sept. 21st (Late Registration will cost an additional \$19)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- If you are interested in being a library volunteer at the Lajes E/HS, contact the school at 295-5768548 or visit the Information Center (library) in room 200 on the top floor of the elementary school wing.

PTO News - PTO voting takes place 10 Sept-14 Sept via email. The new board will be announced at the first meeting 18 Sept at 530 in the cafeteria.

Box Tops Contest Begins 4 Sept-12 Oct. Elementary classes compete against each other and the top three classes will win a party. MS & HS will compete against each other for an ice cream float party.

All parents are encouraged to visit BOXTOPS4EDUCATION.COM and register to earn cash for our school.



Math Matters!

***Office of the Director, DoDDS-Europe
Diana J. Ohman, Director***

Welcome to School Year 2007-2008!

It is the time of the year when students and parents are eager to learn what students will be asked to accomplish during the upcoming school year. Parents want to know what help is available to them to plan for the future of their children's education. In addition to assistance from school guidance counselors and teachers, there are four tools parents should know about: Parents Guides, The Six Year Plan, "My Road", and new graduation requirements.

Parents Guides to Instruction for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6 are online and in book form at schools. These Guides outline DoDEA's expectations for students in the four major curriculum areas for each grade level. They provide examples of what students are learning in the classroom, and what they should know and be able to accomplish at each particular grade level. In addition, they provide suggestions on how parents can help at home.

DoDEA's Six-Year Education/Career Plan assists parents and students in focusing student classes and experiences in order to meet college and career goals. The plan begins in Grade 7 and continues through Grade 12. This tool tracks the student's school and educational experiences and creates a meaningful record for advanced studies, work applications, military service, or other post-secondary endeavors.

"My Road" is a free online site developed by the College Board, the organization that administers the Standard Aptitude Tests (SAT) and Advanced Placement classes. "My Road" enables students, with the participation of their parents and educators, to develop online interest inventories, and view career paths and job clusters of value to them. Students chart the steps necessary to turn their interests into actual academic programs and career aspirations. "My Road" is appropriate for students beginning at the Grade 8 level.

Seniors will need 26 credits to graduate this year. The old standard was 24 credits. The 26-credit implementation was gradual and started with 9th grade classes in 2004. Returning DoDDS students know of the requirement, but new students and parents may be surprised. Earning the needed credits should not be a problem. A student can take up to seven credits a year. If a student passes every class, he or she should have a minimum of 28 credits. Nonetheless, counselors will work with students and schedule the classes needed.

At home and at school, we are a team. We look forward to another exciting year.

Thank you.

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe