



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

30 November 2007

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AAFES LUNCH MENU FOR DEC 3- DEC 7 and BLUE/GOLD Day Schedule (B=Blue Day, G=Gold Day)

B - Monday	Hamburger on a Bun, Oven Fries, Chilled Peaches, Goldfish Pretzels
G - Tuesday	Turkey & Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Fresh Fruit, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream Cup
B - Wednesday	Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Chilled Pineapple, Garlic Toast, Vanilla Pudding
G - Thursday	Chicken Fries, Macaroni & Cheese, Cucumbers & Carrots, Applesauce, Animal Crackers
B - Friday	Pizza, Garden Salad W/Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Apple Stroodlz

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon-Thurs	3-6 Dec	Carl Albrecht, Assistant Superintendent visits Lajes American School
Wednesday	12 December	School Advisory Committee Meeting at 1500 in Admin Offices
Wednesday	12 December	Winter Concert for <u>student body only</u> at 1330 in ES gym
Thursday	13 December	Winter Concert Rehearsal at 1445 - 1715 in Praia
Thursday	13 December	Winter Concert for <u>family and friends</u> at 2000 in Ramo Grande Theater in Praia
Thursday	13 December	Acceleration - Students must attend through end of school day on December 12
Friday	14 December	Second Quarter Mid-term Progress Reports mailed to parents
Thursday	20 December	Parent Forum in Principal's Office at 0930- all parents are invited
Wednesday	21 December	Early Dismissal - Students will be dismissed at 1115
	Dec 21 - Jan 5	Winter Recess
Monday	7 January	Return to school from Winter Recess

WINTER CONCERT/ART EXHIBITION - December 13 at Ramo Grande Theatre in Praia at 8:00 PM. Entrance is free and open to Portuguese and American communities. Since there is no reserved or preferential seating, it is highly recommended that families arrive early enough to get in line and ensure that seating is obtained. Please come support our high school bands, Jazz Band, elementary chorus, and enjoy the Art Exhibit of our students as well.

SCHOOL HOME COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS - The Base Library has partnered with Lajes Elementary High School to reach our SIP goals by offering Reading Enrichment Program (Themed Story Time) on December 13th and 27th for PreK through K. There is Mystery Night on Friday, December 7, 2007 at 1900 for ages 13 through 18. Join student detectives at the Base Library in solving the mystery Heavy Metal Kidnapping. Students must accomplish nine tasks and carefully investigate six clues in order to rescue the children and capture the kidnapper. Pick up a ticket at the Base Library.

Wanted: Air Force member previously deployed to Iraq to speak to World History class about the country's people and culture. Please contact Ms. Grant at angela.grant@eu.dodea.edu.

The School-Home-Community Interventions Committee would like to encourage the community to contribute brainteasers or problems and puzzles to be published in the weekly newsletter for solutions. Email your suggestions to Silverio.DeMelo@eu.dodea.edu

WINTER BREAK VACATION - Families traveling in December need to notify the school two weeks in advance if possible. The procedure is as follows: 1. Get form from counselor. 2. Ask teacher for assignments during absence. 3. All assigned work is due on the **first** class meeting after the student returns.

ACCELERATION - The last day for students accelerating is December 13.

Students whose parents are PCSing have the opportunity to earn semester credit by participating in the acceleration process. DoDEA students may request assignments and tests to earn credit for their classes before the end of the school semester. They may apply for this acceleration if the following conditions apply:

- The sponsor and dependent will be returning to the United States 20 days or less before the end of the semester. A copy of the sponsor's PCS orders must be provided to acknowledge the acceleration request.
- The application for acceleration must be made four weeks prior to the withdrawal date.
- The acceleration request must be completed and returned to the counselor's office within two days so they may receive acceleration contracts.
- If conditions are met, teachers will provide assignments and tests through the end of the semester. These assignments and test must be turned in at least one day prior to withdrawal from school.

When following these conditions, the earliest day a student whose sponsor is PCSing may leave and still receive credit for the semester is December 13, 2007. The student must attend school all day on December 13. In order to accomplish this acceleration, notification must be received one month prior to this date.

PTO NEWS

Continue to collect box tops for our next contest coming in Jan.

Tyson label contest is ongoing until Jan 18. Bring in all Tyson Project A+ labels for your child's class to win a party!

Volunteers needed for the Winter Wonderland Shop in Dec. Please contact lajespto@yahoo.com

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

LAJES SIP (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN) - The next School-Home-Community Interventions problem is: Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, is originally from what country? Please send a response to Mrs. Brown at Patricia.D.Brown@eu.dodea.edu or at DSN Phone 535-6108.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION - We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Noll and Mrs. Cookerly to our staff. Mrs. Noll will be replacing Ms. Joanne Haggard. Mrs. Cookerly will be our new half-time teacher.

BUS PROCEDURE - Lajes American School Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures for Students:

- From 0700-0800 and 1400-1500, the lane in front of the school along the curb is designated for pick-up and drop-off of students only.
- No cars are to be left unattended.
- From 0700-0800 and 1400-1500, there is to be no parking inside the gate except for school personnel.
- Please pull your car all the way up to the front of the line when dropping off students in the front of the school. Please do not pass other cars that are loading or unloading students.
- Younger students are not to cross the main road or walk in front of cars unless they are holding the hand of an adult.

SAFETY IN THE MORNINGS - One of the most dangerous times of day for our children is when they walk to school or drive with parents to school. Here are some things you can do to make it safer for our students:

- Students should always wear some sort of reflective gear or have a reflector on their backpacks. It is dark in the mornings and we want to make sure that students can be seen at all times by passing traffic.
- When you drop students off in front of the school, make sure to pull your car all the way up to the front. Please do not pass other cars that are unloading students.
- Students should NEVER cross the street in front of the school by themselves. Parents should park their cars in the parking lots and walk across the street with the student.
- Students who ride the school bus must remember that traffic does NOT stop for school buses in Europe. Be very careful getting on and off the bus.

Make sure that you discuss safety with your children. If you have younger children, bring them to school and talk to them about safety. Thanks for your support.

WINTER BREAK - School will dismiss at 1115 on Friday, December 21 and will resume on Monday, January 7, 2007. The office will be open Monday-Friday 0800-1500 with the exceptions of December 25 and January 1.

READING COMPREHENSION - As parents, we are so proud when our son or daughter reads through their first book. In their early years we help them to sound out words and assist them with difficult words. However, saying the words correctly is only one part of reading. The next part is the most difficult - comprehension. Students who can read the words quickly but do not understand what they are reading are still considered non-readers. You play a vital part in helping your student develop comprehension skills. To help out here is a beginning list of questions to ask your child about the book they are reading.

BEFORE READING

Look through the book and table of contents. What do you think will happen in this book? What do you know about this topic? What do you think this article/section/chapter will be about? How can you use the pictures, tables, and/or charts in the book to help you think about the subject? What else have you read by this author? Have you read any other books on this topic?

DURING READING

Tell me a summary in your own words. Why does the author say _____? What research do you think the author did for this book? How does this connect to other books you've read on this subject? How has the author made this topic interesting? What is the sequence of events in this book? What's surprising about this book?

AFTER READING

What questions do you have about this book? What did you learn from this book? What would you tell someone about what you just read? Are there any parts you want to reread to help you clarify your thinking?

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

Parent Newsletter Article for December 2007

GIFT GIVING GUIDELINES FOR THE SCHOOLYEAR

The holidays are fast-approaching so this is a good time to take a few minutes to provide families with some helpful gift-giving guidelines if they choose to give gifts during this time or any time of the year.

The Department of Defense Education Activity has a policy regarding gifts to teachers from individual parents or students or groups of parents and students.

Gifts may be given to teachers by individual parents or students during times of the year when gifts are traditionally given or exchanged, such as holiday celebrations, the end of the school year, and special, infrequent occasions such as marriage, illness, birth or adoption of a child, retirement, resignation, or transfer.

Teachers may accept a non-cash gift valued at \$20 or less per occasion, not to exceed \$50 in one school year from an individual parent or student. Non-cash gifts include gift cards that are redeemable for merchandise, but not for cash.

Gifts may be given to teachers from groups of parents or students. Solicitations and contributions for these gifts must be voluntary. Teachers can accept a group gift from parents or students that does not exceed \$150 on special, infrequent occasions, such as recognition of occasions of personal significance such as marriage, illness, birth or adoption of a child, retirement, resignation, or transfer.

Group gifts may not be accepted on other occasions such as holidays and at the end of the school year.

The DoDEA policy letter specifying the guidelines discussed above is available by visiting the following website: http://www.dodea.edu/foia/iod/pdf/07_GC_001.pdf

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