



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

15 February 2008

Lajes American School Mission Statement

To develop responsible students who possess the skills, attitudes, knowledge, and values to succeed in a changing world

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AAFES LUNCH MENU FOR Feb 19-Feb 22 and BLUE/GOLD Day Schedule (B=Blue Day, G=Gold Day)

G	Monday	No School
B	- Tuesday	Meatball Sub Sandwich, Garden Salad w/ dressing, Fresh Fruit, Animal Crackers
G	- Wednesday	Popcorn Chicken Parmesan, Pasta, Veggies w/ dip, Banana, Fruit Cup, Cinnamon Toast
B	- Thursday	Nachos w/ Taco Meat, Vegetable, Refried Beans, Chilled Peaches, Spanish Rice
G	- Friday	Cheese Pizza Dippers, Green Beans, Chilled Pears, Chocolate Pudding, Goldfish Pretzels

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday	15 February	MS Valentines' Dance from 1900-2200 at Fiddlers Green
Saturday	16 February	HS Valentines' Dance from 1900-2200 pm in Fiddler's Green
Monday	18 February	Presidents' Day - Federal Holiday - No School
Monday	18 February	Basketball Teams Travel to Germany
Tuesday	19 February	PTO Meeting in Cafeteria at 1700 in the cafeteria followed by a "Mardi Gras
		Bingo" at 1800
Tues-Sat	19-23 Feb	European Basketball and Cheerleaders' Tournament in Germany

NCA CASI VISIT - LAJES SOARS! NCA CASI, the largest accreditation agency in the United States, has accredited Lajes E/HS until 2013. This is great news for our school! A nine-member team interviewed students and parents, observed classrooms, met with the Command and staff. They validated the School Improvement Process (SIP) and ensured that your children are receiving the highest quality education. The Quality Assurance Review team reported extremely positive findings during the Oral Exit Report on Wednesday. The team awarded our school commendation in three areas: staff commitment to school improvement, exceptional leadership, and communication with stakeholders (students, parents, command, teachers, military community, DoDEA leadership). **GO, FALCONS!**

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY - How to create a culture that nurtures and encourages each other. A successful family is committed and supportive of each other. This workshop will help you create a **mission statement** defining your family goals, and a **flight plan** to reach them. Workshop facilitated by Kathleen Cave, Military & Family Life Consultant. Kathleen has 25 years' experience helping families to be their best. Call 535-4138 to sign up. Space is limited.

When: Wednesday, March 5 1800-2100

Where: Airman & Family Readiness Center

HQ USAFE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE ESSAY CONTEST -The HQ USAFE School Liaison Office will sponsor an essay contest for middle school students in the weeks following Job Shadow Day. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to write an original essay on "What I Learned on Job Shadow Day and How It Will Impact My Future Career." Essay must be typed, double spaced, and at least one page but no more than two pages. In two weeks following Job Shadow Day, students will work on the essay in language arts classes. Students must submit their essay by 19 Feb 08. Lajes will announce the essay winner on 22 Feb 08 and forward the essay to the HQ USAFE School Liaison Office to be considered for the USAFE grand prize.

BUS PROCEDURE - During this coming week, we will be experimenting with different traffic configurations to determine the safest procedure and traffic pattern when picking up our students. We are working with the command and CE to determine the final result. We appreciate your patience.

IMMUNIZATION - We continue to update our students' immunization records at the school and the Immunization Clinic continues to notify parents when various vaccines are available on-island. If you receive a call from Mrs. B., our School Nurse, or receive notification from the Immunization Clinic that your child is due for immunizations, please follow through promptly. The Immunization Clinic will provide you with an updated computer printout of your child's new record for you to provide to the school. This new printout may be dropped off at the main office or given directly to Mrs. B. DoDDS regulations state children must be current with their immunizations or have a waiver on file stating why they are not in compliance in order to attend a DoDDS school. Please help us assure your child meets this requirement. The Immunization Clinic is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 0900-1130 and 1300-1645. No appointments are necessary.

COACHES CORNER - With a last minute cancellation by the Praia Vitorinos, the Lajes Boy's Basketball team faced a more challenging OSS base team on Thursday, February 14. The score was close all game and at a few points Lajes found themselves behind their opponents. Tied at 33 going into the 4th quarter, the Falcons turned up their defense and ignited their offense and pulled out the 52-45 win. J. T. had his breakout game of the season with 21 points and 6 rebounds earning him the offensive player of the game. R. C. was once again named defensive player of the game with 8 steals and 8 points. The entire team wants to extend a big thank you to all the fans that have cheered us on to an undefeated regular season.

The Lajes boy's basketball team played Terceira Basket last night for Senior Night. All three of the team's seniors started the game and C. S. gave the Falcon's their first two points. It was a rough start for the Falcons, who only managed to lead 18 to 11 at half time. The boy's came out strong in the third quarter, however, scoring 21 points with impressive defense and teamwork. In the end, Lajes prevailed 59 to 35 and were able to add one more win to their undefeated season. R. C. led the game with 14 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals and 3 assists earning him the offensive player of the game. M. J. and T. T. shared the defensive player of the game. M. had 6 steals, 2 rebounds and 10 points and T. had a 8 rebounds and 4 points.

The team leaves for Germany this Monday to compete in the DoDDS European Basketball Tournament. GO FALCONS!

LAST WEEK OF BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADING - Our basketball players and cheerleaders will be traveling to the 2008 Basketball & Cheerleading Championships in Germany. While they are at the tournament, you can keep up with the Falcon game scores on the official website. <http://eurobbchamps.com/>
GO FALCONS!!

ABSENCE REPORTING POLICY - Parents are required to notify the school unplanned absences (illness, appointments, etc.) or late arrivals by 0900. The phone number to report absences are 535-3357 or 535-4151. This policy requires parents/sponsors to ensure current contact information is on file at the school. This allows the school staff to contact parents/sponsors in the event that the child is not scheduled to be absent and fails to show up to school.

LAJES SIP (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN) -The Home-School-Community Interventions Committee is planning a total school Drop-Everything-and-Read Moment for Friday, February 22 from 1345 to 1420 as an occasion to celebrate the recent 100,000 minutes reached in our Read-A-Thon drive.

Middle School students will be participating on a freerice.com activity at the computer labs. Minutes read during this session will be tallied up for the next quarter minutes.

We encourage all students to keep tallying their reading minutes and bringing them in to be counted for the next quarter minute million.

How far away are we from continental USA? Send your answers to Mrs. B.

PTO NEWS - Welcome new Secretary Desiree Burroughs and new Volunteer Coordinator T. R.

Mardi Gras Bingo Feb 19 starts at 6pm in the cafeteria.

Collect and turn in box tops to your child's teacher for their chance to win a class party. We encourage all parents to visit www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list of products.

Falcon Recipe Book--Submit your recipes at www.fundcraft.com and enter web ID# 2558-08WC--please change you had 2558-28WC

MULTIAGE PRESENTATION - Dr. N. H., Mediterranean Instructional Systems Specialist, presented philosophy and concepts concerning multiage educational best practices to elementary teachers and interested parents this week. The multiage classroom is based on differentiation to meet the needs of each child and his or her readiness and level of performance in each area of learning. In a multiage classroom, students do not receive separate instruction for each grade level but learning is integrated across the curricular areas. In a model multiage classroom, the students remain with the same teacher for up to three years. Given our mobile population, multiage classrooms at Lajes are population dependent. However, many of the best practices are used in single grade classrooms.

SCHOLASTIC ANY TIME!! While Scholastic book flyers go home with students every few weeks, our Scholastic web page is available any time to browse or shop for books. The books available on-line will match the current flyers. To shop Scholastic, go to www.Scholastic.com/parentordering. Our USER NAME is **LajesAmericanSchool**. Our PASSWORD is **Falcons**. To assist with delivery, please enter you child's first name and your TEACHER'S LAST NAME where it requests student name. The website also offers a link to e-mail B. H. with your questions or comments.