



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

April 3, 2009

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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) GOALS

All students will improve their problem-solving skills across the curriculum.
All students will improve their reading strategies in all areas of the curriculum.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday-Friday	April 6-10	Spring Break (No School) Spring Registration
Wednesday	April 15	Spring Music Concert
Friday	April 17	Elementary School Parent Conferences
Thursday	May 7	PTO Meeting at 1545

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS (SIP) - What is SIP? SIP is a critical part of our school's accreditation process. To be accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, we work toward improving our school on a five-year cycle. Two years ago we assessed our student's academic needs and set goals. Then we designed lessons and activities to help students meet those goals. Last year we began implementing the activities, and the process continues in this, the third year of the cycle.

SIP MOMENT - "No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance." Confucius.

BREAKFAST ALERT - It seems some students are coming to school complaining of headaches and stomachaches because they didn't eat before starting their day. Some healthy, quick, and portable make-ahead breakfasts include:

Fruit -- apple, banana, clementine

Protein (keeps 'em going all morning) - cheese stick, pb & j sandwich, pizza slice, sausage biscuit, boiled eggs.

We know that mornings can be hectic, but research has shown, that kids who eat breakfast get better grades!

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

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - DoDEA Class of 2008 and Beyond Graduation Requirements - Go to <http://www.dodea.edu/parents/graduation.cfm?print=y&> to see the listing of required courses and the specified number of credits needed to graduate from DoDDS schools (in accordance with DS Regulation 2000.1). In addition to

the specified 26 credits needed to graduate, the student must also have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.

DoDEA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - If you want a description of a middle school or high school course your child is taking (or possibly plans to take), go to <http://dodea.edu/curriculum/courses.cfm> for detailed course descriptions of all DoDEA courses.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) - The SAC, which is comprised of elected parent and educator representatives, is looking for parents to run for election as a parent representative for the 2009-2010 school year. This is yet another way the Lajes Elementary/High School community can voice their opinions and make suggestions regarding school improvement. If you would like to have your name on the ballot or more information, please contact the school office at 295-57-4151, as soon as possible.

MENTORS AND MENTEES PROGRAM - The Mentors and Mentees Program focuses on educational achievement through academic, social and emotional support.

Who can be a mentor? A mentor is a caring adult who is willing to spend time helping our students excel. Mentors are sincere, committed individuals who are positive role models.

Interested individuals can look forward to more information, coming soon, or contact the Lajes School POC 295-57-3694/295-57-4151.

ELECTRONIC TOYS/IPODS - Students are reminded not to bring non-educational high value items to school. Please understand if these items are lost or stolen, we will not investigate those incidences. Students are not allowed to have IPODS, cell phones, Gameboys, etc. in the classrooms.

SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010 MANDATORY SCHOOL REGISTRATION - Please remember that registration for the 2009-2010 school year is mandatory for all returning students. We are therefore requesting that all parents who have children who will be returning for next school year, including Sure Start students coming back for Kindergarten, to come by the school and re-register. Registration will take place April 6-10 from 0900-1230 and 1330-1500. If you have a child or know of a child who will be 5 by September 1, 2009 he/she too should be registered for Kindergarten during this time. If you have extended, we will require documentation noting sponsor name, social security number, and new DEROS. If, on the other hand, you are leaving Lajes, please let us know by giving us a call at 295-57-3357.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND - The Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Team placed 2nd, in Division II, for the Earth Trek problem, in the DoDDS European competition. This qualifies the team to compete in the World Finals in Ames, Iowa, in May 2009. We are very proud of their success and hard work!

ECO ISLAND CLUB NEWS - Water Tips: Grocery stores and restaurants offer varieties of water that are difficult to keep up with. Flavored, artesian, mineral, sparkling—what do these watery terms mean? Isn't water...water? The Food and Drug Administration has developed definitions for each of these types of water, and more:

Artesian Water - is a certain type of well water, collected without mechanical pumping. The well must tap a confined aquifer (an underground layer of rock or sand with water) that has water standing much higher than the rock, gravel, or sand.

Mineral Water - contains standard quantities of minerals that must be naturally present, not added.

Purified Water - has been processed to remove minerals and other solids. (Purified doesn't mean it is better for you than any other kind.)

Sparkling Water - is water with a "fizz," either with added carbon dioxide or naturally carbonated. (Seltzer, tonic, and club soda are not sparkling waters, they are considered soft drinks.)

Spring Water - comes from an underground source and naturally flows to the surface. It must be collected at the spring or through a bored hole that taps an underground source of the spring. (Source: ADA)

ART NEWS - THANK YOU to all of you who have been donating recyclable materials! We have been able to fill our closets with fun materials. Please check back here for the updated request list. THANK YOU!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need volunteers in the art room to make copies, cut out stencils, and prepare materials for upcoming projects. If you would like to lend a hand please call 295-57-3861 or 6858

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED: The art room is collecting the following supplies for upcoming projects. We are in need of:

- Egg Cartons
- Oatmeal Containers
- Nails
- House Paint
- Shoe Boxes with removable lids
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Frozen Juice Concentrate Cans (+ the metal lid that you remove to open them)
- Bleach Bottles

SURE START, KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE ENTRANCE AGE CUT-OFF: Effective for School Year 2009-2010, DoDEA schools will implement a change in the entrance age cut-off date for Early Childhood Education Programs. Regulation is as follows:

- A child must be 4 years of age by September 1 to be eligible to attend the DoDEA Sure Start Program and Pre-Kindergarten Program.
- A child must be 5 years of age by September 1 to be eligible to attend Kindergarten in DoDEA Schools.
- A child must be 6 years of age by September 1 to be eligible to attend first grade in DoDEA Schools.

Please refer to the DoDEA site, www.dodea.edu, for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL 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 1055 and 1125. 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 the Middle School Coordinator to schedule your meeting at 295-57-4151.

PTO NEWS - This month, the Scholastic Book club offers some great books and software at terrific values. You may place your book orders online at www.scholastic.com/parentordering The Class User Name is: lajesamericanschools and the Password is: Falcons.

- Please come join us for our next PTO meeting on May 7, at 1545, in the cafeteria.

SPRING MUSIC CONCERT - There will be a spring music concert on April 15 at 1900, for middle/high school students. More information will be forthcoming.

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.

BUS MONITORS NEEDED - Volunteer bus monitors are needed. It's only one hour out of your day and anyone 18 or over can do it. Please contact the MSG office at 295-57-1314 for more information.

LUNCH MONITORS NEEDED - Lunch monitors are needed. This is a paid position for about 1.5 hours Mon-Fri. Please call 295-57-4151 for more information.

SCHOOL WANT ADS - Wanted: Volunteers to speak about their personal experience with interesting careers for 8th grade Pathways to Careers class. Career can be past or present. The class meets every other day from 1225 to 1350. We would like to hear from a diverse range of careers. Contact 295-57-6498 to volunteer.

PCSing? Want to get rid of old junk? The Booster Club is looking for all of your unwanted items (i.e., clothes, toys, books, ANYTHING!) to be sold at the monthly Flea Markets. All proceeds will help to offset the cost of the high school sports team's travels to tournaments in Germany. We will be more than happy to pick up your donations, or they can be dropped off at the school office. Please call 295-549-206 or e-mail Lajes15@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

SCHOLARSHIP, GRANTS AND FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES -

Air Force Excellence Scholarship (worth \$3,000). Deadline for submission is April 30, 2009.

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/afexcel.asp>

Lt. Col Romeo & Josephine Bass Ferretti Scholarship (worth \$2,500) Deadline for submission is June 30, 2009.

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/ferretti.asp>

Lajes Community Scholarship Program - Reminder: April 13 is the deadline for graduating seniors of the Lajes community to apply for scholarships being offered by various Lajes Organizations. Applicants and their parents have been notified of this program and the application materials have been made available to them. Final recipients of the local scholarships will be officially announced at the Senior Breakfast event on May 30.

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

SCHOOL LUNCHES - AAFES Lunch Menu can be viewed by visiting the school website

<http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>

SPRING BREAK - We wish all of you a fun, relaxing, and most importantly safe spring break. We look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and ready to finish up the school year with the usual Falcon Enthusiasm!!