



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

5 December 2008

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Tuesday & Thursday | December 11 | Winter Production |
| Thursday | December 11 | Acceleration |
| Friday | December 19 | Early Dismissal @1115 |
| Monday | December 22 - January 5 | Winter Break |
| Monday | January 5 | Return to School From Winter Break |
| Wednesday | January 14 | School Advisory Council Meeting at 1500 |

EARLY DISMISSAL - There will be an early dismissal on Friday, December 19th at 1100.

WINTER BREAK - School will dismiss at 1100 on Friday, December 19th and will resume on Monday, January 5th, 2009. The office will be open Monday-Friday 0800-1500, with the exceptions of December 25th and January 1st.

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(s) for assignments during absence. 3. All assigned work is due on the **first** class meeting after the student returns.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED!! - Becoming a substitute teacher is easier than you think and it can be a very rewarding experience. A degree is not required and it pays \$95 per day. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, please contact the school office at 295-57-4151 to find out more information.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING (SAC) - There will be a SAC meeting on January 14th, at 1500, in room 302A (the principal's office).

NURSE'S NOTES - We are reaching the time of year when our weather becomes very unpredictable. A sunny sky can turn to wind and rain within a few hours and catch our students unprepared for the suddenly cooler temperatures. Even on a clear day a shift in wind direction can change the outdoor temperatures very quickly. Please make sure your child has a jacket or sweatshirt available each school day.

If you will be off island and friends will be caring for your children, don't forget to let the front office know who your children are staying with. Also remember to let the front office know who has power of attorney for medical care in your absence.

Cold season is gearing up and more and more students and staff are reaching for tissues. The following general guidelines will help parents determine if their child should stay home due to cold symptoms: a fever over 100 degrees, nagging cough or sneezing that will be disruptive to classmates and prevent the child from being a productive student in the classroom, excessive need for tissues, general malaise and lethargy, and/or not being well enough to go outside during recess time for fresh air.

LAJES ES/HS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - Wondering how to keep your student in the learning zone over the holidays? Lajes ES/HS Technology Committee would like to suggest the following websites that will definitely have your student moving toward their educational goal:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/> - Official White House page

<http://www.si.edu/> - Smithsonian Institute

<http://www.candlelightstories.com/Homepage.php> - online audio stories

<http://www.20q.net/> - online 20 questions game in which the computer asks the questions (AI?)

<http://www.gamequarium.com/index.htm> - various games and activities

http://www.professorgarfield.org/pgf_home.html variety of educational games

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html> math site for students K-12

<http://www.uen.org/tours/fieldtrips2.shtml> take a virtual field trip sitting at your computer

ART NEWS: Lajes art students have been busy, busy, busy creating artwork for our winter show. Outstanding student artwork will be displayed in the lobby of the Ramo Grande Theater during the performance of the winter musical on December 11th. Artwork is also being collected to submit to the 2009 edition of SHOWCASE, the DoDDS literary magazine. Call 295-57-4151 for details.

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 BIG GIVE - Calling all students and parents! It's time for the first annual Lajes BIG GIVE necessities drive! The BIG GIVE is a competition between all the grades to collect donations of food, clothing, toiletries, household goods, toys & school supplies for local charities. This is your chance to do something that makes a difference in the lives of others. Plus, the grade that collects the most donations will win an ice-cream party for their whole class! For more information call 295-57-4151. All donations are welcome, including both new and gently used items, so start bringing in your donations today!

WINTER PRODUCTION "WITCH WAY CHRISTMAS" - The Lajes E/H School combined musical production, "Witch Way Christmas" will be performed at the Auditorio do Ramo Grande in Praia on Thursday, December 11 at 1930. Students are involved in two other performances scheduled for Lajes E/H School on December 9 and for Portuguese school children on December 11. Everyone is welcome to the public performance on Thursday evening, at 1930. The Lajes Art Department will also be sponsoring an art exhibit of student work during the evening performance on Thursday. (To get to the Auditorio do Ramo Grande from the base, take a left turn at the Modelo entrance round-about and follow the road to the end. Park in the parking lot and walk toward Praia's city center. The auditorium is a white building on the left about one block from the car park.)

ACCELERATION - The last day for students accelerating is December 11th. Students whose parents are PCSing have the opportunity to earn semester credit by participating in the acceleration process. DoDEA students may request assignments and test 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 US 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 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 tests 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 11, 2008. The student must attend school all day on December 11th.

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

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

DoDEA CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY - is available from November 1 through February 28, 2009. It takes about 20 minutes to complete and is available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link). Please contact the school at 295-57-4151, if you need to use a school computer or receive a paper copy to complete the survey. We encourage all parents to participate in this valuable project.

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 295-57-6104 for more information.

REMINDERS - PLEASE READ!

Visitors - Please check in at the front office to get a visitor's pass prior to going anywhere in the building.

Doors - Outer perimeter doors will be locked during school hours to ensure the safety of students, everyone must enter through the front entrance.

Nuisance Items - Ipods, electronic toys and equipment/cell phones are not to be out during the instructional day (before and after school and during lunch, they are permitted). Please remind your student of this.

Valuables - We advise that you do not send items of value to school with your child as we have had some items taken.

SCHOOL WANT ADS - Wanted: Bowling ball for physics. The science teacher would like to have a bowling ball for classroom demonstrations. A bowling ball in any condition is acceptable. The bowling ball will be given a loving home and be a star in demonstrations on such topics as momentum, angular momentum, forces, etc. Please call 295-57-6498 if can help.

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.

COUNSELOR NEWS - **Final ACT & SAT I Exams.** The final ACT Exam this school year will be administered on April 4th, and the final SAT I Exam will be administered on May 2nd. The online registration deadline for the ACT Exam is February 27th, and the online registration deadline for the SAT I Exam is March 31st. Students wanting to take the ACT Exam are reminded to obtain the ACT Voucher form from the guidance counselor, as this will exempt them from the additional \$25 International Processing fee. For more information about either the ACT or the SAT I Exam, please contact the high school guidance counselor ,at 535-4228.

Student-2-Student Program at Lajes helping PCSing students: If your family will be PCSing during the school year, and you would like to have your child communicate with another student and/or counselor from the school they will be going to, please contact the middle and high school counselor, at 535-4228). An important facet of the Student-2-Student program is to assist student transitioning in and out of DoDDS schools. Learning about one's new school before leaving Lajes would lessen the student's anxiety about moving and going to a new school.

MCEC Education Resource Center: The Military Child Education Coalition website contains a wealth of resources for military families. One of the most useful features of this site is to provide information to parents PCSing back to the states. To review the "Checklist for Transferring Students", go to <http://www.militarychild.org/military->

[parent/checklist-for-transferring-students/](#) To find specific information about schools and educational resources in a specific state, go to <http://www.militarychild.org/education-resource-center/> where you can select any of the 50 states to locate schools and educational resources applicable to that state.

Lajes Commissary DECA Scholarship for Seniors: The deadline for eligible seniors to submit a completed application and essay for the 2009 DECA Scholarship (worth \$2000) is February 18th. Eligibility requirements for interested seniors include applicant must be a dependent of a military parent/sponsor, applicant must have 3.0 or higher cumulative *GPA* (grade point average), applicant must intend to apply to a 4-year college or university, and the completed application must be submitted to the Lajes Commissary NLT February 18, 2009. Interested seniors can pick-up a copy of the application form from the guidance counselor or ask for a copy in the Lajes Commissary Office. A copy may also be downloaded from www.militaryscholar.org