



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

February 20, 2009

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### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) GOALS

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	Nov 1-Feb 28	DODEA Customer Satisfaction Survey
Saturday-Friday	February 22-27	Winter Interval Break-No Sports Practice
Friday	February 27	Parent Conferences (Grades 6-12)
Friday	February 27	No School for Grades 6-12
Thursday	March 5	PTO Meeting
Wednesday	March 11	School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Friday	March 13	SIP In Service Day (No School)

**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** - "Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers." Harry S. Truman

**CHESS CLUB** – The Lajes E/H School Chess Club will begin on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The club is open to beginner and expert players, grades 5-12. We will meet in room 319, from 1500 to 1600 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Come on out to challenge your mind and have some fun!

**HONOR & HIGH HONOR ROLL** -We would like to congratulate all of our students who made the Honor & High Honor Rolls for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of this school year! All those students who made it should soon be receiving their certificate in the mail.

For our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, the criteria for the Honor Roll is that they receive all A's and B's in the core subjects, all exceeds or meets grade-level expectations in specials and all consistently observed in learning skills. The criteria for the High Honor Roll is all A's in the core subjects, all exceeds grade-level expectations in specials and all consistently observed in learning skills.

For our M/HS students, the criteria for the Honor Roll is that they receive all A's and B's. For the High Honor Roll, students must receive all A's.

It is apparent that hard work and dedication to studies has paid off. It is our hope that we can continue to work together to help our students maintain these high standards for continued success.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES** - Parent Teacher Conferences will be held all day, (0800-1500) in the high school gym on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school for grades 6-12 to accommodate the conferences. Elementary School will be in session.

**SAC MEETING** - There will be a SAC Meeting on March 11, at 1500 in room 302A (principal's office). Please feel free to attend and share your ideas and concerns.

**AVID NEWS:** Students from last year's high school AVID class at Lajes E/H School were featured in the newly published AVID 2008 Year In Review. The photograph and story featured an AVID field trip to Civil Engineering, where students learned about GPS systems and used them for a scavenger hunt. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, and its aim is to prepare students for college success.

**ART NEWS:** Elementary art students have been learning that *Art Can Take You Around The World* in art class. In our continuing journey to discover art and culture from around the globe, students have been "visiting" China and creating artwork to celebrate the Chinese New Year. 2009 is the year of the Ox, and students are making paper maché oxen and other animal sculptures as well as dragon masks & puppets. They are also creating colorful lanterns to celebrate the Chinese Lantern Festival, which falls on February 9th this year. All of their amazing artwork will be on display in the elementary hallway from now until the end of February.

We will soon be "traveling" to other amazing countries of the world including Kenya, Japan, Italy, and the United States. Parents are always welcome to come and join the fun! Have you visited or lived in any of our upcoming countries? We'd love it if you'd come in and share your stories or a special project. Parent volunteers are always needed in the art room, so if you'd like to volunteer please call 295-57-4151 or just come on by!

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

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

**ECO CLUB NEWS** - The Lajes Eco-Island Club visited the Light House of Contendas last week. There were approximately 26 children and 9 parents and a couple of cars that followed the bus. Participants were able to climb to the very top of the lighthouse and from there spied the surrounding coastline. They also took a look at the huge light bulb that sends out a beam of light every single night. After the storms that hit the island, this was a good get-away and break, away from the daily routines. PTO was kind enough to offer everyone who participated a snack. All children are looking forward to yet another one of these study trips into the island's neighborhoods soon. Tune in and join the next Eco-Island Club study trip.

**GRADE SPEED** - Parents needing to set-up their online GradeSpeed Account so they can view their child's grades will have the opportunity to create these accounts when they come in for the Parent Conferences on Friday, February 27th. Parents will be able to use the computers in the science lab (located across the hallway from the gym, in Room # 307). Assistance will be provided, if needed, to help parents set-up their GradeSpeed account so they can easily

check on their child's grades, e-mail teachers, check their child's attendance, check school calendar events, etc. The GradeSpeed program can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

**SAFETY CONCERN** - Parents of elementary students, please remember that as school is dismissed students may not go in between or in front/behind cars without **being escorted by a parent or adult**.

**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](http://www.dodea.edu), for more information.

**REMINDER! REMINDER!** - Windy, rainy weather has become commonplace and occasionally it becomes necessary to end the school day earlier than normal due to incoming weather concerns. Please make sure the school has the updated necessary information to release your child to anyone other than yourself, as it is school policy that students are only released to parents or their designees. While all parents provide the school with contact information at registration, we understand that emergency contacts may have PCS'd, cell phones are upgraded, families move to different homes, etc. Please make sure the following contact information is current:

- \*For parents/sponsors: current home, duty and cell phone numbers
- \*Emergency contact information for those individuals authorized to pick up your child when you cannot be reached.
- \*Names of individuals authorized by you to pick up your child in the event you are unable to do so yourself.

**WITCH WAY CHRISTMAS DVD** - Beginning Monday, February 2, the Lajes Performing Arts Department will be selling DVD's of Witch Way Christmas. The DVD features all three public performances with menus and chapter markings to make it easy to navigate. The price is \$10 and proceeds will go to the Performing Arts Program. If you are interested, please send check (payable to "Lajes American School SAF") or cash to the front office. A receipt will be issued at the time of purchase. Thank you for your support.

**GATE CLOSURE** - The Kindergarten gate on the west (high school) side will be closed until the construction for the new fence is complete.

**DoDEA CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY** - DoDEA wants to hear from you! DoDEA is currently making very important decisions based on the results of their Customer Satisfaction Surveys. These decisions may impact our school and the lives of our students, parents and community. Don't miss this opportunity to make your opinion matter! The DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey ends soon. Visit <https://webapps.dodea.edu/CSS0809/> and submit your

input to the DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey today! 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.

**NAEP TESTING of 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENTS** - All 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in all DoDDS Schools will take the NAEP (*National Assessment of Educational Progress*) exam during the month of February. Lajes Fourth graders will test on February 24 Eighth graders will test on February 25. An explanatory letter will be sent home to parents of Fourth and Eighth graders in early February providing parents with more detailed information about NAEP testing. Parents will have the opportunity to visit the NAEP website and to view sample test questions and to learn more about the NAEP exam. If you should have any questions, the Fourth grade guidance counselor point-of contact's number is 295-57-6475 and the Eighth grade guidance counselor point-of-contact is 295-57-4228.

**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 10:55 and 11:25. 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 Middle School Coordinator to schedule your meeting at 295-57-4151.

**PTO NEWS** - Please come and join us for our next PTO meeting on March 5, at 1500, in the cafeteria. We will be opening our student store very soon. You can call 295-57-6438 if you have any ideas on student store products or if you have any questions.

**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](mailto: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>

Air Force Aid Society Grant Program - Air Force Parents take heart! There is college money out there for your son/daughter. The Air Force Aid Society has a Grant Program in place that will provide \$2000 in grant money per year for a total of \$8000 over four years. To be eligible for this grant (which is free money) for the 2009-1010 academic year, the applicant must be the dependent of an Air Force sponsor, will be a high school graduate enrolled or accepted into a full-time undergraduate college level program, and maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA). Application deadline is March 6, 2009. To find out more about the Air Force Aid Society Grant, go to [http://www.afas.org/Education/body\\_grant.cfm](http://www.afas.org/Education/body_grant.cfm) (note: type underscore\_ between body & grant)

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.

**HONOR SOCIETY:** - Now that the first semester of SY2008-9 is over, the Lajes American School Chapter of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society will be starting the process of extending membership invitations to selected students.

The Society is comprised of students (grades 7-9 for NJHS and grades 10-12 for NHS) who exemplify in their personal and academic lives the attributes valued by the National Honor Society and Lajes American School. These attributes are:

- I. **Character.** NHS and NJHS candidates are expected to demonstrate and maintain the highest standards of character.
- II. **Scholarship.** Students must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.4 based solely on their record at LAS. Students must also have attended LAS for at least six months.
- III. **Leadership.** Students must demonstrate the ability to promote positive leadership in their school and community. NHS candidates must have leadership experience in at least three activities, NJHS candidates must have one.
- IV. **Service.** Our NHS inductees must have been involved in at least three school or community service-related projects within the past three years. NJHS candidates must have completed one such project.

The goal of our Society is "to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools." Questions about NHS or NJHS may be directed the Society's advisor.

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

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

**APRIL 4TH ACT EXAM** - ACT Online Registration Deadline is February 27<sup>th</sup> Students wanting to take the April ACT Exam should contact the high school counselor (or parents can call 295-57-4228) to get the needed information and handout to accomplish the online registration. Each applicant should pick-up an ACT International Surcharge Waiver form, as they will need the Waiver code when applying online to be exempt from the \$25 International fee.

**MAY 2ND SAT I EXAM** - SAT I Online Registration Deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> Students wanting to take the May SAT I Exam should contact the high school counselor to pick-up the needed handout with information needed to accomplish the online registration process.