



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

February 27, 2009

Principal: Ms. Mary Waller  
Assistant Principal: Ms. Daisy Weddle  
Phone: 295 57 6216/4151  
DSN: 535-4151  
e-mail: [Elizabeth.Walker@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Walker@eu.dodea.edu)  
[Mary.Waller@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Mary.Waller@eu.dodea.edu)  
[Daisy.Weddle@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Daisy.Weddle@eu.dodea.edu)

Mediterranean District Superintendent: Dr. Elizabeth Walker  
DSN Phone: 634-8460

### 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

	Nov 1-Feb 28	DODEA Customer Satisfaction Survey
Tuesday	March 3	Progress Reports Mailed
Thursday	March 5	PTO Meeting, 1500, Odyssey of the Mind Performance
Friday, Monday -Thursday	March 6, 9-12	Terra Nova Testing
Wednesday	March 11	School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Friday	March 13	SIP In Service Day (No School)
Sunday-	March 22-27	European Honors Music

**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** - The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read." Abraham Lincoln

**SURE START** - Did you know that March 2 is Dr. Seuss's Birthday?? We are going to have a pajama party that day and read, read, read, Dr. Seuss books. Please send a book if you have one. If you want to come to read with us that would be GREAT, too. For snack we will make funfetti cookies. These are very good and we would love to share with you. Please let Miss Sue or Miss Chris know if you are coming, so we can plan to have enough for everyone.

**PTO NEWS** - Please come and join us for our next PTO meeting on March 5, at 1500, in the cafeteria. There will be an Odyssey of the Mind Presentation. 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.

**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!

**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. The AVID goal is to prepare students for college success.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 midnight, 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.

**NASA SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP** - Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to apply for the annual NASA Space Camp. This popular 8-day event is held each summer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center at Huntsville, Alabama.. The Military Child Education

Coalition (MCEC) funds the *NASA Space Camp Scholarship* and will pay all Space Camp related expenses (including the student's transportation to and from the camp). To learn more about this scholarship opportunity and what forms and requirements an interested student applicant needs to accomplish, go to <http://www.militarychild.org/child-student/space-camp-scholarship/>. Here are the basic requirements of all student applicants: (1) must be child of an active duty military parent, (2) be enrolled in grades 6 through 9, (3) submit a hand-written essay (specific topic instructions are on the application form), (4) submit 2 letters of recommendation, and (5) submit completed application by the March 10 deadline. Go to [www.spacecamp.com](http://www.spacecamp.com) for additional information.



*Math Matters!*

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

**Parent Newsletter Article for March 2009**

*Principals: Please include the following article in your next parent newsletter.*

A well-administered athletic program is an integral part of the total curriculum of our high schools and should enhance the physical, mental, social, and emotional growth of each participant. Good sportsmanship and ethical behavior must be the cornerstones of an athletic program. The National Federation of State High School Associations outlines the following philosophy of good sportsmanship.

*"Good sportsmanship is viewed by the NFHS as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities, which are characterized, by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship."*

Everyone associated with interscholastic sports has an obligation and responsibility to promote good sportsmanship. Of particular concern this year, has been the behavior and response of spectators to the outcomes of some athletic events, actions of the coaches, and decisions of game officials. Principals, coaches, and athletic directors, students, and parents should be working together to ensure compliance with expectations established for high school athletics. The expectations, developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations, are listed below.

**Expectations of Parents, Students and Other Fans or Audience Members**

- \* Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or to be generally obnoxious.
- \* Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- \* Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- \* Respect fans, coaches, directors and participants.
- \* Be a fan... not a fanatic.

When infractions by students occur, coaches and officials should handle them appropriately. An official, the principal, the athletic director or designated alternate has the authority to require spectators to leave the sports area during a game, practice, or contest if they are not following the guidelines for behavior outlined in the school handbook, code of conduct, or National Federation rules and expectations. Our principals need the active support of parents to bring a sense of order, dignity, and fun to all athletic events. I ask for your support and assistance.

**DIANA J. OHMAN  
Director, DoDDS-Europe**