



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

Feb 9, 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
Mary.Waller@eu.dodea.edu
Daisy.Weddle@eu.dodea.edu

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

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
Friday	February 6	Girls' Basketball Game vs TAC at 1930
Monday	February 9	Eco -Island Study Trip, 1430-1700
Tuesday	February 10	Boys' Basketball Game vs Angra at 1930
Wednesday	February 11	Boys' Basketball Game vs Terceira at 1930
Friday	February 13	Middle School Valentine's Dance
Saturday	February 14	High School Valentine's Dance
Monday	February 16	President's Day - Federal Holiday
Wednesday - Friday	February 18-20	European Championships-Basketball
Friday	February 20	Early Dismissal at 1115
Saturday-Friday	February 22-27	Winter Interval Break-No Sports Practice

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

Our SIP Goal #1 is "All students will improve their reading strategies in all areas of the curriculum." Are you a family of readers?

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.

ECO-ISLAND CLUB - Due to the inclement weather of the Azores, the Eco-Island Club cancelled the trip to the hills above Praia and decided to stick to the lower road by visiting the lighthouse in Sao Sebastiao and Porto Martins olive groves instead. This takes place on Monday, February 9 from 2:30 to 5:00. Students who signed up for the earlier study trip are automatically included on this trip. Anyone else interested, fill out a boarding pass and join us. There may still be room.

ART NEWS: Elementary art students have been learning that *Art Can Take You Around The World* in Mrs. Hoff's 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 contact Mrs. H. or just come on by!

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, for more information.

REMINDER! REMINDER! - Parents please update your emergency phone numbers and emergency contacts so that we are able to contact you should an emergency situation occur.

At times you are unable to pick up your child as originally planned and you would like to ask a neighbor or friend for assistance with this. Windy, rainy weather will soon 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 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.

Valentine Grams

Would you like to send a special message to your son or daughter this Valentine's Day? Would you like them to have a little treat to brighten their day? Do you want them to know you care enough to send the very best? Then send them a Valentine's Gram! The sophomore class is sponsoring Valentine's Grams for Lajes School. For the low, low cost of one for \$1.25 or two for \$2, you can send a message with a special treat attached to friends and family. Parents are encouraged to send one to children, students may want to say "thanks" to a teacher, or, friend or family, you may just want to let someone know you appreciate them. All proceeds go to the sophomore class.

Valentine's Grams will be sold during lunch and during basketball games, or send your money and message in an envelope in care of Mr. Stumler. Don't miss this easy opportunity to let them know you care!

Valentine's Day Dance

Parent chaperones are needed at the high school Valentine's Day Dance. Come out and impress your teenager with your dance moves! They'll love it! You can volunteer to chaperone the whole dance, Saturday, February 14 from 7-10 pm, or just work a one-hour shift. Either way, Lajes is counting on you, and you wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to get a glimpse into the life of your teenager! Just think of all the glamour and excitement, then email or call Mr. S. for a shift, 535-6498.

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 4th & 8th GRADE STUDENTS - All 4th and 8th 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 535-4151.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE - The formal dance will be held in the TORC Ballroom February 13, from 1900-2200. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$3 each or \$5 per couple, or they can be purchased at the door, but each ticket price will be increased by \$1.

PTO NEWS - Box Tops winners are Mrs. V, 2nd grade and Mrs. B., 5th grade. They both had 194 BoxTops and 2 Tyson Each. We still have two more weeks for this month's contest, so please continue to send your Box Tops. Scholastic book orders online go to www.scholastic.com/parentordering User Name - lajesamericanschools Password - Falcons. 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 295-57-1314/535-1314 for more information.

LUNCH MONITORS NEEDED - Lunch monitors are needed. This is a paid position for about 1.5 hours Mon-Fri. Please call 295-57-4151/535-4151 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 Randy Stumler for more information or to volunteer, 535-6498.

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 OPPORTUNITIES -

Air Force Excellence Scholarship (worth \$3,000) <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/afexcel.asp>

Lt. Col Romeo & Josephine Bass Ferretti Scholarship (worth \$2,500) <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/ferretti.asp>

Lajes Commissary DECA Scholarship- The deadline for eligible seniors to submit a completed application and essay for the 2009 DECA Scholarship (worth **\$1500**) 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

SCHOOL LUNCHES - AAFES Lunch Menu can be viewed by visiting the school website <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>

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.