



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

16 January 2009

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday - Thursday	January 16-22	Final Exams
Monday	January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Federal Holiday
Wednesday	January 21	Base Pride Day
Wednesday	January 21	GIRLS BB GAME CANCELLED
Thursday	January 22	Girls BB Team vs TAC at 1930
Thursday	January 22	End of Second Quarter
Friday	January 23	No School - Teacher Work Day
Thursday-Friday	January 22-23	Sure Start Conferences
Thursday	January 26	Eco-Island Study Trip (2-12 Grades)
Wednesday	January 28	Girls BB Team vs Vitorinos (HS Gym)
Thursday	January 29	Parent Forum@0930
Friday	January 30	K-5 Parent Conferences
Wednesdays	February 4 and 11	Girls BB Team vs Vitorinos (HS Gym)
Wednesdays	February 4 and 11	Boys BB Team vs Terceira (HS Gym)
Thursday	February 5	PTO Meeting
	Nov 1-Feb 28	DODEA Customer Satisfaction Survey
Friday	February 13	Middle School Valentine Dance
Saturday	February 14	Sophomore Valentine Dance
Monday	February 16	President's Day - Federal Holiday
Friday	February 20	Early Dismissal at 1115

SURE START- Mid-Year Conferences for Sure Start will be held on January 22 and 23. Parents will be contacted to schedule their conference.

K-5 PARENT CONFERENCES - will be held on January 30th. Please mark your calendars. More information will be forthcoming.

LAJES BASKETBALL TEAMS - The girl's basketball team will play the Vitorinos in the high school gym at 1830 on Thursday, 22 January Wednesday, 28 January, and Wednesday, 4 February and 11 February. The boy's basketball team will play Terceira in the high school gym at 1930 on Wednesday, 4 February and 11 February. Come on out to support our teams. **GO FALCONS!**

ECO-ISLAND CLUB is visiting Serra do Cume hills and the Praia marshland on Monday, January 26 at 1500-1730. Grades 2 through 12 are invited. Get your permission slips and return them by Thursday, January 22. We will learn about alternate energy sources, the island's first volcano crater, and the marshland and bird sanctuaries. Come along. Take part in this worthwhile study trip to the lilac island's neighborhood.

GATE CLOSURE - The Kindergarten gate on the west (high school) side will be closed until the construction for the new fence is complete. Target completion date is the end of January.

TEACHER WORK DAY - There will be no school on January 23 due to a scheduled teacher workday.

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.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) - Have you heard your middle school or high school student talking about a reading test on the computer? Middle school and high school students are taking the Scholastic Reading Inventory during their language arts/English classes this week and next. This is a computerized test that adjusts to the level of each student, according to his or her correct or incorrect responses. In other words, as a student answers questions correctly, the reading passages and questions become more challenging. If, however, the student answers incorrectly, easier passages and questions appear. Students receive their scores in "lexiles," which are indicators of reading level. Hopefully the lexile level of each student will increase during the school year and from one year to the next. One of the goals of our SIP is to improve reading comprehension across the curriculum. One way we measure student achievement in these areas is by administering the Scholastic Reading Inventory three times a year.

AIR FORCE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP - The Air Force Association is currently accepting applications for the 2009 AF Excellence Scholarship. Applications must be received by our office no later than 30 Apr 2009. Please go to <http://www.afa.org/afef/aid/afexcel.asp> to learn more about this scholarship.

LAJES COMMISSARY DECA SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIORS - 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

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 - The Middle School will host the third annual Cultural Food Fest on Friday, January 30. The event is open to all middle school students and will take place from 1:50-2:30 in the high school gym. The purpose of the Cultural Food Fest is to celebrate the diversity of our students and teachers through heritage-inspired recipes. Students may bring in food items ranging from the cultural backgrounds of their ancestors, parents, or simply inspired by places they have lived before. Each student's dish should serve about ten people. Please ensure that all food items are delivered to the high school gym no later than 1330 on Friday, January 30. Please contact the Middle School Coordinator at 535-1100 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support in celebration of our cultural diversity!

MIDDLE SCHOOL VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE - The formal dance will be held in the TORC Ballroom 13 February, 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. Please come and join us for our next PTO meeting on the 5th February at 1500, in the cafeteria. We will be opening our student store very soon. You can call 295-58-6438 if you have any ideas on student store products or if you have any questions.

FINAL EXAMS - Final exams for the first semester will begin on 16 January and continue through 22 January.

YEARBOOKS - Buy your middle/high school yearbooks before the semester ends (January 23)! Second semester the cost will increase to \$50, so purchase yours now for the all-time low price of \$45. Make your check payable to Lajes Elementary High School or bring cash in to the office to purchase your book.

ART CLASSES - are in need of the following items: Fabric, Outdoor Paint (spray paint or house paint), Shoe Boxes, Daisy Sour Cream containers, Empty fruit-cups or apple sauce cups. Please send your donations to the art room.

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.

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.

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.

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: 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.

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 295-57-4228. 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.

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



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

Parent Newsletter Article for January 2009

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

As 2009 begins, I send my best wishes to you for a successful new year and my sincere appreciation for the time and effort you have spent in getting our students to this point.

Please remember to participate in our Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS). DoDEA will collect surveys until February 28. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA about the quality of education provided and areas needing improvement. The survey can be found online at www.eu.dodea.edu.

Completing the CSS is but one way to get involved in your child's success. Additionally, I encourage you to become more involved in your child's educational progress through any of the following options:

- Consider signing up to donate items or volunteer your time at your child's school.
- Provide information that will help the teacher get to know your child as an individual. Include relevant information such as allergies, behavior issues (e.g. tendency to be distracted), learning issues, or changes in family life.
- Ask the teacher about expectations regarding homework and what to do if there are problems with homework.
- Find out the best way to contact the teacher. Ask for times when it is convenient to talk. Please don't expect them to be able to talk at length with you if you happen to be at the school and run into them.
- Correspond in writing (note or an e-mail message) and follow up with a phone message to the school if you don't get a response within one week. Be sure to include your phone number and/or e-mail address. Be brief, include only school-related information, and in email communication eliminate graphics, animation.
- Be positive and curious. Open with phrases such as "Can we talk about...?" Use "I" statements such as "I'm confused about...". Talk to other school personnel (counselors, administrators) if needed.
- Be a partner in your child's learning. Assist with homework, help your child learn time management skills, talk about school matters at home.
- Send a note of appreciation to the teacher when things go well in class (and mention this to the principal).

It may be difficult to hear what teachers have to say if they deliver bad news about your child. Try to focus on solutions and work with the teacher to come up with a healthy plan to help your child learn.

Studies have shown that children are more successful in school if their parents are involved in their education and have a positive, cooperative relationship with their teachers. Thank you for your continued support.