



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

January 23, 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

|                    |                |   |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Thursday           | January 26     | Eco-Island Study Trip Cancelled -<br>Rescheduled for February 2, 1430-1700<br>Parent <a href="mailto:Forum@0930">Forum@0930</a> |
| Thursday           | January 29     | Boy's Basketball Game VS Angra at 1930  |
| Tuesday            | January 27     | Girl's Basketball Game VS Vitorinos at 1830   |
| Wednesday          | January 28     | Girl's Basketball Game VS TAC at 1930   |
| Friday             | January 30     | K-5 Parent Conferences  |
| Friday             | January 30     | Job Shadow Day  |
| Thursday           | February 5     | PTO Meeting   |
| Thursday           | February 5     | DODEA Customer Satisfaction Survey  |
|                    | Nov 1-Feb 28   | Math Counts Competition   |
| Monday             | February 2     | Middle School Valentine Dance   |
| Friday             | February 13    | Sophomore Valentine Dance   |
| Saturday           | February 14    | President's Day - Federal Holiday   |
| Monday             | February 16    | European Championships-Basketball   |
| Wednesday - Friday | February 18-20 | Early Dismissal at 1115   |
| Friday             | February 20    | Winter Interval Break-No Sports Practice  |
| Saturday-Friday    | February 22-27 |   |

### 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:** Help improve your child's reading comprehension and love of reading by making reading a family affair. According to First Lady Michelle Obama, her husband, President Barack Obama, has read all six Harry Potter books out loud with his older daughter. Why not follow in presidential footsteps at your house?

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

**K-5 PARENT CONFERENCES** - will be held on January 30. Because conferences are not being held for every student, if you do not receive a conference appointment letter, but feel the need to speak to your child's teacher, please feel free to contact the school at 295-57-4151 to make arrangements.

**JOB SHADOW DAY** - Job Shadowing is designed to give kids an opportunity to "shadow" an adult during their daily work activities. It inspires kids to be enthusiastic about their studies by showing them the correlation between what they learn in school and how it is used in the workplace. Students will get hands-on experience and be able to see how education can be translated into rewarding futures. To volunteer or for more information, please call 535-1314.

**ECO-ISLAND CLUB** The trip to Serra do Cume hills and the Praia marshland has been rescheduled from January 26 to Monday, February 2 at 1430-1700. Grades 2 through 12 have been invited. Students will learn about Terceira's first volcano crater, the Atlantic Middle Ridge activity, alternative energy and the Praia's Marshland/Bird Sanctuary Regaining Project. There is limited seating and will be based on a first come, first served basis. These trips aim at offering students an idea of the Azores and the Atlantic Ocean as one of nature's and earth's vital sites. In the land of explorers, we explore.

**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.

**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 POC for Fourth grade guidance counselor point-of contact's number is 295-57-6475 and the Eighth grade guidance counselor point-of-contact's number 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 1350-1430 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 295-57-1100 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 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Mrs. B., 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They both had 194 Box Tops 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](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering) User Name - lajesamericanschools Password - Falcons. Please come and join us for our next PTO meeting on February 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.

**FRESHMAN CLASS** - Sends thanks to all of those who attended their New Year's Back to School Bash as well as those who helped out! It was a great success! Get ready for more Freshman Fun coming this February!

**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.

**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** - 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 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.militaryscholar.org)

**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES TO "GET PUBLISHED"** - The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) seeks to promote the Arts by featuring the great works of military children. Each year children are asked to submit work that can be utilized in the MCEC's publications, conferences, and other activities. Included in the request for work from military-connected children, kindergarten through high school, are artwork, film, and writing (essays, poetry, and short stories). Go to <http://www.militarychild.org/child-student/arts/> to learn more about the MCEC opportunity for students to get published.

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