



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

24 January 2008

Lajes American School Mission Statement

To develop responsible students who possess the skills, attitudes, knowledge, and values to succeed in a changing world

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AAFES LUNCH MENU FOR Jan 28-Feb 1 and BLUE/GOLD Day Schedule (B=Blue Day, G=Gold Day)

B - Monday	Hamburger, Oven Fries, Chilled Peaches, Goldfish Pretzels
G - Tuesday	Shredded Turkey over Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Orange Wedges, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream
B - Wednesday	Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Chilled Pineapple, Garlic Toast, Vanilla Pudding
G - Thursday	Chicken Fries, Macaroni & cheese, Cucumber & Carrots w/Dip, Applesauce, Animal Crackers
B - Friday (M/HS)	No School for Elementary Cheese Pizza or Chicken Patty on Bun, Garden Salad/Dressing, Fruit, Apple Stroodlz/Nutri-Grain Bar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday	25 January	No school for students - Teacher Workday
Friday	25 January	Girl's Basketball vs. Vitorinos at 1830 BBB vs. Angra Basket at 1945
Monday	28 January	Booster Club Meeting at 1730
Tuesday	29 January	Boy's Basketball vs. Terceira Basket (Angra) at 1930
Thursday	31 January	Parent Forum at 0930 in Admin Offices
Friday	1 February	Parent Teacher Conferences for K-5 students only
Friday	1 February	2008 USAFE Job Shadow Day

2008 USAFE JOB SHADOW DAY: The Job Shadow Day correlates with parent teacher conferences of students in grades K-5. There will be no school for students in grades K-5 due to parent teacher conferences. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in Job Shadow Day by taking their student to work if mission permits.

School is in session for all students in grades 6-12 on February 1. Students in grades 6-8 are also invited to participate in Job Shadow Day from 0930 to 1230 if their parent picks them up and returns them to school in accordance with the designated hours. All parents who plan to have their student participate are asked to notify the office NLT January 30th so that teachers can be notified. Parents are invited to either mentor their student for Job Shadow Day or find a mentor for their child that correlates with the student's interest. This is a great learning experience - and an opportunity for students to understand and appreciate the responsibility that their parents have in their workplace!

PARENT FORUM - The Parent Forum is an opportunity for parents to sit down with the two principals and ask questions, make recommendations, and provide feedback. We are a learning community where students, teachers, parents, and military members join together to support learning and the school's commitment to excellence. The Parent Forum is just one more way we join forces. Please come join us at the Parent Forum on Thursday, January 31 at 9:30 am in the Administrative Offices.

LAJES SIP (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN)-SIP GOALS - Have you ever wondered how we came up with our SIP goals? We reviewed our Terra Nova scores and discovered that over 29% of our students were in the lowest quartiles for problem solving, and nearly 24% were in the lowest quartiles for identifying reading strategies (including vocabulary). These numbers helped shape the following 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. As you can see, our goals are data-driven.

HQ USAFE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE ESSAY CONTEST -The HQ USAFE School Liaison Office will sponsor an essay contest for middle school students in the weeks following Job Shadow Day. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to write an original essay on "What I Learned on Job Shadow Day and How It Will Impact My Future Career." Essay must be typed, double spaced, and at least one page but no more than two pages. In two weeks following Job Shadow Day, students will work on the essay in language arts classes. Students who wish to submit their essay must do so before 19 Feb 08. Lajes will announce the essay winner on 22 Feb 08 and forward the essay to the HQ USAFE School Liaison Office to be considered for the USAFE grand prize.

COACHES CORNER - The Lady Falcons have played two games this past week. They opened up this year with a game on Friday, January 11th against Vitorinos from Praia. We were a bit slow coming out after the holiday and fell behind 6 to 13 in the first quarter. By half time, we trailed 15 to 18. We came out for the second half ready to play a little bit more aggressive. Lajes won the game 41 to 38. A. W. led all scorers with 17 and A. M. had 14. Alexa hit 4 three-point shots to help secure the victory.

On Tuesday, January 15, the Lady Falcons were ready to play when they stepped on the court! They crushed the Praia team 42 to 25. We led 23 to 15 at half time and then shut them out in the 3rd quarter to lead 35 to 15. The Lajes defense shut down the outside shooters by using strong 3-2 and 1-3-1 defenses. A. led the team again with 17 points and A. with 14 points. C. N. was our strong rebounder for the game.

On Friday, January 18th, the Lady Falcons suffered their first lost. Boa Viagem played an aggressive full court man - to - man the entire game to defeat the Falcons 25 to 20. The Falcons played an excellent defensive game, but struggled on the offensive game. M. P. was the high scorer with 7 points and earned offensive player of the game for the Falcons. A. W. earned the defensive player of the game as she led the team with the most rebounds and steals.

Come out and support the Falcons on Friday, January 25th! The girls will play at 1830 against Vitorinos (Praia) and the boys will play at 1945 against Angra Basket (Angra). Tuesday, January 29th, the boys will play Terceira Basket (Angra) at 1930.

START OF SCHOOL DAY - Students in grades 1-5 (unless they ride the school bus) should not arrive on campus prior to 0745 since there is no supervision prior to that time. Students in grades 1-5 who enter through the Kindergarten wing should proceed to the supervised area in front of the elementary wing. They should not be in the hallway before 0800.

LOST AND FOUND - Please check our lost and found located in the office and cafeteria prior to the quarter ending. All items left at the end of the quarter will be donated to local charities.

CYBER BULLYING - "Cyber Bullying" could affect one in three teens and one in six pre-teens. Some leaders estimate that more than 13 million children aged 6 to 17 were victims of cyber bullying. More than 2 million of those victims told no one about the attacks. Cyber bullying is the use of electronic devices and information such as e-mail, instant messaging (IM), text messages, mobile phones, pagers and web sites, to send or post cruel or harmful messages about an individual or a group. More information can be found at <http://www.fightcrime.org/cyberbullying/index.php>

SHCP HELP WANTED - One of the continuing goals of our School Improvement Plan is to "strengthen partnerships that will engage parents, command and our community to support student development." One avenue of communication is the School Home Community Partnership (SHCP) Help Wanted section where parents and interested community members can be made aware of volunteer opportunities. Take a look and see if there is an opportunity or two for you to come and share with us! The girls' basketball team is selling "Falcon spirit" seat cushions for \$8. They are a great way to show your spirit and also to sit more comfortably as you watch all sorts of ball games on the hard bleachers. If you are interested in purchasing one, attend a varsity ball game, ask a varsity girl's b-ball player or contact Coach W at or call 535-6509. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go towards the girls' trip to Germany for the European tournament. There is an example of one in the window in the main office of the school. Thanks & Go Falcons!

PTO NEWS - Box Tops Contest Jan 22- May 9. Box Tops Contest starts Jan 22! Please collect and turn in box tops to your child's teacher for their chance to win a class party. Elementary classes will compete against each other and the MS will compete against the HS. We encourage all parents to visit the website www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list of participating products. Please turn in labels to your students' teacher. Ms Fagundes will be collecting tops for MS.

- Tyson label contest ended Jan 18. Tyson Label Winners!

1--Ms S.

2--Ms D.

3--Ms S.

Middle School

- The "Thank you" banner for the troops is now up and ready for you and your student to sign. If you would like to donate treats to send to the troops, please bring them to the office and PTO will pick them up, box them and send them off.

- Falcon Recipe Book

To submit a recipe go to www.fundcraft.com enter web ID# 2558-28WC

Please remember to include students name and grade. If you would like to pre-order your book visit

LajesPTO@yahoo.com. Books are 10.00 each

- We are in need of a Secretary for our board. If you are interested please email LajesPTO@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support!

SCHOLASTIC ANY TIME!! While Scholastic book flyers go home with students every few weeks, our Scholastic web page is available any time to browse or shop for books. The books available on-line will match the current flyers. To shop Scholastic, go to www.Scholastic.com/parentordering. Our USER NAME is **LajesAmericanSchool**. Our PASSWORD is **Falcons**. To assist with delivery, please enter you child's first name and your TEACHER'S LAST NAME where it requests student name. The website also offers a link to e-mail B. H. with your questions or comments.

ELECTRONIC TOYS/Ipods - Now that the holidays are over students are reminded not to bring non-educational high value items to school. Please understand if these items are lost or stolen, we will not investigate those incidences. Students are not allowed to have iPODS, cell phones, Gameboys, etc in the classroom.



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

Parent Newsletter Article for January 2008

COUNSELORS ASSIST WITH STUDENT TRANSITIONS

Transition is a way of life for most military families, but it can be challenging, especially when living in an overseas environment. Students moving to an overseas location must learn to adjust to new cultures, new languages, and the DoDDS-E school system. All students leave behind friends and family in the US. High school students heading to college will be completing applications, essays and searching for scholarship information thousands of miles from most other students applying for acceptance at the same institutions. One way in which DoDDS-E helps students get through all of these life-changing events is with the help of school counseling services.

DoDDS-Europe school counselors are trained professionals who help students assimilate to a new environment, and adjust to changes in their lives. Counselors at all grade levels are available to assist students with a variety of issues, including deployment, reintegration, PCSing, moving to a new grade/school, and making post graduation plans.

At the secondary level, the Student 2 Student (S2S) program, a transition support program, developed by the Military Child Education Coalition, is being implemented at DoDDS-E high schools. Counselors work closely with student ambassadors to provide peer support during transition. As students work toward graduation, many options are available to them. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the school counselor for assistance with college applications and scholarship information, as well as other post-secondary plans.

Middle school counselors aid students as they transition either from elementary school or to high school. Issues faced by “twens” can be as complex as the students themselves, and school counselors are available to help students facing peer pressure, bullying, and self esteem concerns.

At the elementary level, counselors work with the youngest students to help them make friends, adjust to new teachers, and learn to prepare for standardized testing. Kindergartners work with counselors as they adjust to attending school, many for the first time.

Counselors are an important part of the school community and a valuable resource for students and parents. I encourage parents to get to know their child’s counselors and work with them to assist their child throughout the school year.

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe

DoDEA's Top 4

The Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) has a strict zero tolerance for weapons policy. Please remind your child/children that bringing weapons of any kind, even items which in themselves may not be inherently dangerous but are used to instill fear or cause injury, to school may result in suspension/expulsion from school.

The Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) requires that all allegations of child abuse be reported to local family advocacy officials and to the appropriate DoDDS officials by school employees regardless of where or when the alleged abuse occurred.

The school has established expectations for student behavior while riding school provided transportation. Misbehavior on these buses may result in a loss of this privilege.

We expect that all students treat one another in a courteous and respectful manner. There is a fine line between bullying and teasing, and some students may not be able to distinguish between them. Please remind your child/children of the importance of treating their classmates and peers with respect.