



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

March 13, 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

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

Sunday-Friday	March 22-27	European Honors Music
Sunday	March 29	Daylight Savings (Spring Ahead at 0200 Sunday)
Thursday	April 2	End of Third Quarter
Friday	April 3	Teacher Work Day (No School)
Monday-Friday	April 6-10	Spring Break (No School)
		Spring Registration
Friday	April 17	Elementary School Parent Conferences

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 ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive." Autobiography of Malcom X, 1964.

SCHOOL VISITORS are required to get a pass when they come to the building. This is a part of security regulation and we appreciate your support.

STUDENT COURSE SELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010 - Students at the middle school and high school have received the needed forms to begin selecting courses for next school year. Parents of these students received an electronic courtesy copy of their child's request form to be completed and returned. Students who will not be here next school year will still need to have their parent sign-off on the form, indicating that their child will not be attending Lajes E/H School next August, 2009. If you have questions concerning course selections for your child for next school year, please call the counselor at 295-57-4228.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - DoDEA Class of 2008 and Beyond Graduation Requirements - Go to <http://www.dodea.edu/parents/graduation.cfm?print=y&> to see the listing of required courses and the specified number of credits needed to graduate from DoDDS schools (in accordance with DS Regulation 2000.1). In addition to the specified 26 credits needed to graduate, the student must also have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.

DoDEA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - If you want a description of a middle school or high school course your child is taking (or possibly plans to take), go to <http://dodea.edu/curriculum/courses.cfm> for detailed course descriptions of all DoDEA courses.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) - The SAC (School Advisory Committee), comprised of elected parent and educator representatives, is looking for parents to run for election as a parent representative for the 2009-2010 school year. This is yet another way the Lajes Elementary/High School community can voice their opinions and make suggestions regarding school improvement. If you would like to have your name on the ballot or more information, please contact the school office at 535-6216/4151 as soon as possible.

ELECTRONIC TOYS/Ipods - 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.

SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010 MANDATORY SCHOOL REGISTRATION - Lajes E/H School's registration drive will take place during spring break, April 6-10 from 0900-1230 & 1330-1500 in our main office. At this time we will be requesting that every sponsor of students who will be returning for next school year, including Sure Start students coming back for Kindergarten, to come by the school and register their children for school year 2009-2010. If you have extended, we will require a copy of your extension paperwork. We will also be registering new Kindergarteners for next school year during spring break. Please remember that Kindergarteners must be 5 by September 1, 2009 to be able to enroll for next school year. This registration process must be completed in order for your children to attend Lajes E/H School next school year and it will only take a few minutes of your time. Please notify our Registrar as soon as possible should your children not be returning for next school year. Should you have any questions, please contact our Registrar at 295-57-3357.

ECO CLUB NEWS - A fresh green opportunity has come our way with Arbor Day around the corner. ECO Club is planning to observe Arbor Day this year by having all of our students from third grade and older participate in a tree planting ceremony on base. This annual event will provide students with practical experience in going green, while helping students strengthen relations with Portuguese students who will also participate. It is scheduled to take place from 1400-1500 on Friday, March 20. Participating ECO club members will be excused from classes around 1340. The students will need to be picked up at the school between 1500-1530. By signing the permission slips your son or daughter brings home to participate, you are also agreeing to provide him or her with a ride home from the school no later than 1530

ART & ESSAY CONTEST - March 22 is World Water Day and to celebrate, students in grades K-12 are invited to participate in the World Water Day Essay and/or Poster Contest. Students are encouraged to create a poster and/or write an essay about anything they want to say about water, from water cycles to water conservation. All entries will be displayed at the Base Exchange during Water Week. The first place essay will receive a \$50 prize, the second place essay will receive a \$30 prize, and \$15 will be awarded to the third place essay! There will be a first, second, and third place prize awarded for each of the two grade categories: Grades K-5 and grades 6-12. Third place winners from both categories will each receive \$10, second place winners will receive \$15, and the two first place winners will each receive \$25! Winners for both contests will be announced on Friday, March 27 and the Base Commanders will present the awards, at the Base Exchange, after school. All entries are due no later than 1500 on Friday, March 20.

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED: The art room is collecting the following supplies for upcoming projects. We are in need of:

- Egg Cartons
- Oatmeal Containers
- Nails
- House Paint
- Shoe Boxes with removable lids

THANK YOU to all of you who have been donating recyclable materials! We have been able to fill our closets with fun materials. Please check back here for the updated request list. THANKS!

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER - The Middle School will host the Fifth Annual Potato Day on Tuesday, March 17. Each middle school student has signed-up to bring one item. Please ensure that all items are dropped off in Room 408 no later 1345 on Tuesday.

Thank you to all the middle school parents who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was a great opportunity to learn more about how teachers and parents can team up to help students do their best. As a reminder, parents are invited to meet with MS teachers every day from 1055-1125. Please call 535-4151 to schedule your meeting.

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 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>

Lajes Community Scholarship Program - graduating seniors of the Lajes community are eligible to apply for scholarships being offered by various Lajes Organizations. Applicants and their parents have been notified of this program and the application materials have been made available to them. Final recipients of the local scholarships will be officially announced at the Senior Breakfast event on May 30.

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 LUNCHES - AAFES Lunch Menu can be viewed by visiting the school website

<http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>

MAY 2ND SAT I EXAM - SAT I Online Registration Deadline is March 31. 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.