



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

March 23, 2009

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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
Thursday	April 2	PTO Meeting @1545
Friday	April 3	Teacher Work Day (No School)
Monday-Friday	April 6-10	Spring Break (No School)
		Spring Registration
Wednesday	April 15	Spring Music Concert
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 - "Life-transforming ideas have always come to me through books." Bell Hooks

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

STUDENT COURSE SELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010 - Some students have not yet turned in their forms for course selection, for next school year. It is important to have these forms filled out and turned in as soon as possible to ensure that your child will receive the courses that they need/want. 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, which is 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 295-57-4151, 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 classrooms.

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.

Please notify our Registrar as soon as possible should your children not be returning 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.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Registrar at 295-57-3357.

ART NEWS - 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. THANK YOU!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need volunteers in the art room to make copies, cut out stencils, and prepare materials for upcoming projects. If you would like to lend a hand please call 295-57-3861 or 6858

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
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Frozen Juice Concentrate Cans (+ the metal lid that you remove to open them)
- Bleach Bottles

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.

SURE START - The leprechauns caused some problems for the Sure Start class on St. Patrick's Day. They scattered markers and books around the room and they also left green footprints and turned chairs upside down. The SS students enjoyed leprechaun pudding for snack. It was green and very sweet! The leprechauns left it for them in the fridge. WOW, what an exciting day!

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 1055 and 1125. 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 the Middle School Coordinator to schedule your meeting at 295-57-4151.

PTO NEWS - This month, the Scholastic Book club offers some great books and software at terrific values. You may place your book orders online at www.scholastic.com/parentordering The Class User Name is: lajesamericanschools and the Password is: Falcons.

- Popcorn Friday: Reminder - please send in your form by March 23, so your child will receive popcorn.

- Please come join us for our next PTO meeting on April 2, at 1545, in the cafeteria.

SPRING MUSIC CONCERT - There will be a spring music concert on April 15 at 1900, for middle/high school students. More information will be forthcoming.

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.

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.

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