



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

March 6, 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

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| Monday-Thursday | March 6-12 | Terra Nova Testing (Grades 3-11) |
| Wednesday | March 11 | School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting |
| Friday | March 13 | SIP In Service Day (No School) |
| Sunday-Friday | March 22-27 | European Honors Music |
| Sunday | March 29 | Daylight Savings (Spring Ahead at 0200 Sunday) |
| Friday | April 3 | Teacher Work Day (No School) |
| Monday-Friday | April 6-10 | Spring Break (No School) |
| Monday-Friday | April 6-10 | Spring Registration-SY 2009, 0900-1230, 1330-1500 |

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 - "Give me a man or woman who has read a thousand books and you give me an interesting companion. Give me a man or woman who has read perhaps three and you give me a dangerous enemy indeed." Anne Rice

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 by March 9. 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.

TERRA NOVA TESTING - To ensure your son/daughter does their best during the 5 half-days of *TerraNova* testing, the following suggestions are provided:

- Make sure your child is well rested, has a nourishing breakfast, and attacks each day's testing session with a positive attitude.
- Encourage your children to be attentive and focused, to be prepared each day by bringing two # 2 pencils, and to listen carefully to all instructions read aloud by the teacher.
- Please ensure students arrive on time each morning. Also, avoid scheduling doctor or dental appointments for the student during the a.m. testing sessions, as make-up testing will create additional inconveniences and missed class time for the student.

To ensure all students perform at their best during *TerraNova* testing, teachers will minimize and/or not assign homework. If you have questions concerning the *TerraNova* achievement testing at Lajes E/H School during March 6-12, please contact the Elementary Counselor (295-57-6475) or the middle school / high school counselor (295-57-4228).

CHESS CLUB – The Lajes E/H School Chess Club began on March 2. The club is open to beginner and expert players, grades 5-12, and we still have room for more players. We will meet in room 319, from 1500 to 1600 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Come on out to challenge your mind and have some fun!

ART CONTEST - March 22nd is World Water Day and to celebrate, students in grades K-12 are invited to participate in the World Water Day Poster Contest. Students are encouraged to create a poster 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. Six student winners will also be selected for cash prizes! 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! All entries are due to Mrs. Hoff no later than 3:00 pm on Friday, March 20th.

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 to create with. Please check back here for the updated request list. THANKS!

SAC MEETING - There will be a SAC Meeting on March 11, at 1500 in room 302A (principal's office). Please feel free to attend and share your ideas and concerns.

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 1330. 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.

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.

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.

SAFETY CONCERN - Parents of elementary students, please remember that as school is dismissed students may not go in between or in front/behind cars without **being escorted by a parent or adult**.

REMINDER! REMINDER! - Windy, rainy weather has become commonplace and occasionally it becomes necessary to end the school day earlier than normal due to incoming weather concerns. Please make sure the school has the updated necessary information to release your child to anyone other than yourself, as it is school policy that students are only released to parents or their designees. While all parents provide the school with contact information at registration, we understand that emergency contacts may have PCS'd, cell phones are upgraded, families move to different homes, etc. Please make sure the following contact information is current:

*For parents/sponsors: current home, duty and cell phone numbers

*Emergency contact information for those individuals authorized to pick up your child when you cannot be reached.

*Names of individuals authorized by you to pick up your child in the event you are unable to do so yourself.

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

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 10:55 and 11:25. 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 Middle School Coordinator to schedule your meeting at 295-57-4151.

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>

Air Force Aid Society Grant Program - Air Force Parents take heart! There is college money out there for your son/daughter. The Air Force Aid Society has a Grant Program in place that will provide \$2000 in grant money per year for a total of \$8000 over four years. To be eligible for this grant (which is free money) for the 2009-1010 academic year, the applicant must be the dependent of an Air Force sponsor, will be a high school graduate enrolled or accepted into a full-time undergraduate college level program, and maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA). Application deadline is March 6, 2009. To find out more about the Air Force Aid Society Grant, go to http://www.afas.org/Education/body_grant.cfm (note: type underscore_ between body & grant)

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

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

APRIL 4TH ACT EXAM - ACT Online Registration Deadline is midnight, February 27. Students wanting to take the April ACT Exam should contact the high school counselor (or parents can call 295-57-4228) to get the needed information and handout to accomplish the online registration. Each applicant should pick-up an ACT International Surcharge Waiver form, as they will need the Waiver code when applying online to be exempt from the \$25 International fee.

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.

NASA SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP - Students in grades 6 through 9 are eligible to apply for the annual NASA Space Camp. This popular 8-day event is held each summer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center at Huntsville, Alabama.. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) funds the *NASA Space Camp Scholarship* and will pay all Space Camp related expenses (including the student's transportation to and from the camp). To learn more about this

scholarship opportunity and what forms and requirements an interested student applicant needs to accomplish, go to <http://www.militarychild.org/child-student/space-camp-scholarship/>. Here are the basic requirements of all student applicants: (1) must be child of an active duty military parent, (2) be enrolled in grades 6 through 9, (3) submit a hand-written essay (specific topic instructions are on the application form), (4) submit 2 letters of recommendation, and (5) submit completed application by the March 10 deadline. Go to www.spacecamp.com for additional information.

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 30th.



Math Matters!

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

Parent Newsletter Article for March 2009

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

A well-administered athletic program is an integral part of the total curriculum of our high schools and should enhance the physical, mental, social, and emotional growth of each participant. Good sportsmanship and ethical behavior must be the cornerstones of an athletic program. The National Federation of State High School Associations outlines the following philosophy of good sportsmanship.

"Good sportsmanship is viewed by the NFHS as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities, which are characterized, by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship."

Everyone associated with interscholastic sports has an obligation and responsibility to promote good sportsmanship. Of particular concern this year, has been the behavior and response of spectators to the outcomes of some athletic events, actions of the coaches, and decisions of game officials. Principals, coaches, and athletic directors, students, and parents should be working together to ensure compliance with expectations established for high school athletics. The expectations, developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations, are listed below.

Expectations of Parents, Students and Other Fans or Audience Members

- * Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or to be generally obnoxious.
- * Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- * Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- * Respect fans, coaches, directors and participants.
- * Be a fan... not a fanatic.

When infractions by students occur, coaches and officials should handle them appropriately. An official, the principal, the athletic director or designated alternate has the authority to require spectators to leave the sports area during a game, practice, or contest if they are not following the guidelines for behavior outlined in the school handbook, code of conduct, or

National Federation rules and expectations. Our principals need the active support of parents to bring a sense of order, dignity, and fun to all athletic events. I ask for your support and assistance.

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe