



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

May 8, 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

All Month	May 1-31	Better Hearing and Speech Month
Monday	May 8	Yearbooks Available Until Sold Out
Monday-Friday	May 11-15	Late Spring Registration
Wednesday	May 13	School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting at 1500
Friday	May 11-15	Spirit Week
Friday	May 15	Soccer Game, Security Forces Field, 1530
Friday	May 15	Drama Presentation at 1900 in Elementary Gym
Wednesday-Saturday	May 20-23	European Soccer Championships
Friday	May 22	Early Dismissal at 1100 (Professional Development)
Monday	May 25	Memorial Day Holiday
Friday	May 29	Sports Banquet
Saturday	May 30	Senior Breakfast
Saturday	May 30	High School Prom

**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** - "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." Emilie Buchwald

**BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH** - For over 80 years, May has been designated as Better Hearing and Speech Month by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). This is a time to raise everyone's (our own and our students) awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the various forms of communication impairments to include those of hearing, speech, language and voice. Check out [www.asha.org/bhsm/](http://www.asha.org/bhsm/) to learn more.

**SAC MEETING** - There will be a SAC Meeting on May 13, at 1500 in room 302A (principal's office). Please feel free to attend and share your ideas and concerns.

**SPIRIT WEEK** - Spirit is taking place from May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. The following is a list of the theme days— Monday-Crazy Hair Day, Tuesday-Comfy Day, Wednesday-Twin Day, Thursday-80's Day, Friday-Class Spirit Day--- Class colors for the pep rally. To conclude Spirit Week, LHS will be holding a soccer match (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade vs. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) on Security Forces field from 15:30 until approximately 17:00. Go Falcons!!

**DRAMA PRESENTATION** - Join the Lajes E/H School Drama Department as they present an evening of theatre on Friday, May 15, at 1900 in the elementary school gym. Students will be performing acts from two plays; Vanities by Jack Heifner and Lettice & Lovage by Peter Shaffer.

*Vanities* is a remarkable testament to the way we really grew up--a funny, sad, true depiction of an innocent America coming of age, as seen through the lives of three Texas girls from the early Sixties. The scene is a ballet ablaze with pompons and preparations for pep rallies dancing around droll chatter about which song can best frame a dance after a football game (the soundtrack from "The Apartment" or "Over the Rainbow"?). As the three girls speculate about their future prospects ("I'll probably end up with a degree in nothing," frets Joanne), they learn that President John F. Kennedy has been shot - the time is 1963 - yet no outside realities cloud the horizons of these preoccupied damsels.

*Lettice and Lovage* is a modern British comedy written by Peter Shaffer, the author of *Equus* and *Amadeus*. Lettice Duffet, a Shakespeare and medieval weaponry enthusiast, serves briefly but inventively as a tour guide to Fustian House, one of Britain's duller National Trust Estates. Her career is cut short by Charlotte (Lotte) Schoen, a representative of the National Trust, who is not charmed by Lettice's historical embellishments. The play traces the hilarious results of the unlikely friendship.

In the scene being performed, Lettice is being interviewed in her home by a lawyer, who mentions she is accused of a "peculiarly unpleasant crime." We learn through a series of questions and answers between the two that Lotte and Lettice have become fast friends and taken to enacting famous historical trials and executions in Lettice's flat. It becomes clear that during one of these theatrical displays, Lotte was inadvertently injured, and the lawyer is at Lettice's home informing her of an indictment against her. Lotte again shows up unexpectedly. The lawyer insists on hearing the whole story, claiming Lettice's defense relies upon it.

Whether it's cheerleaders in November of 1963, or two women with an axe in a flat in London, both performances will leave you laughing. Join our young thespians as they present *Lettice & Lovage* and *Vanities* on Friday, May 15, at 1900 in the elementary school gym.

**H1N1 FLU** - Better known as the Swine Flu is the lead story in the news right now and is an area of concern for all of us. Educating ourselves on the signs and symptoms to watch for and on behaviors we can adopt to help protect our families and ourselves is key to minimizing stress and unwarranted panic. The health and wellbeing of the students and staff at Lajes Elementary High School is always a top priority and will remain so during this current flu outbreak. Teachers have been briefed on the signs and symptoms to watch for. Many have taken the opportunity to remind their students of the mode of transmission for this respiratory illness and how to minimize possible exposure to themselves and others through such simple acts as sneezing into a sleeve rather than hands, frequent hand washing, staying home when ill, avoiding direct contact with others who exhibit flu-like symptoms, etc.

As always, should students begin to experience flu-like symptoms in the school setting, these individuals will be seen by our school nurse, and remain isolated in the nurse's office until parents can be contacted to pick up their child. Should the current strain of Swine Flu be identified on Terceira, the school and the 65<sup>th</sup> Medical Group will continue to coordinate our efforts to best provide guidance and care to our students, their families, and our staff. Additional information on swine or pandemic flu can also be accessed on the web at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

**YEARBOOKS** - The 2008-2009 yearbooks have arrived! We have extras, but they will sell out quickly. This is your last opportunity to purchase an annual. Please bring your check for \$50 to room 130. If you've already purchased one, you or your child can pick it up from room 130 beginning Monday, May 4, right after school.

**SURE START HOME VISITS** - Sure Start Home Visits will begin on June 1. In order to allow you enough time to make arrangements for both parents to be present during the visit, we have begun to make out the schedule. You can arrange for a visit on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday afternoon after 1430, or on Friday between 0845 and 1600. Each visit will take about thirty minutes. When you are ready to schedule your visit, stop by the Sure Start Classroom or call the office at 295-57-4151 to set up a time. Thank-you. We look forward to seeing you!

**HIGH SCHOOL PROM AND AFTER PROM "LOCK-IN" PARTY** - The high school prom is being held at the golf course on Saturday, May 30 from 2000-2400. The prom theme is "Late Nights in New York City" and tickets will be \$25 per person, which includes the cost for the after party. We will be hosting an After Prom Party Lock-In from 2400 until 0600 at the CAC. This party is being offered as a safe alternative for students who wish to spend their evening in a supervised, drug and alcohol free place. Permission slips with more information will be sent home when tickets go on sale Tuesday, May 12 during high school Lunch.

- HELP NEEDED FOR PROM AFTER PARTY - Calling all high school parents...We need your help!!! We are looking for a few parent volunteers to plan activities, entertainment, and refreshments for the party. There are lots of jobs to be done, from making phone calls to baking cookies, so if you're willing to help, we can find just the right job for you! We are also seeking donations of food and prizes. We will be hosting games and contests throughout the evening and need prizes of all kinds! If you would like to donate a prize or if you would be willing to help with the event organization please contact 295-57-4151. We will not be able to do this without your help!!!

**POEM SUBMISSION** - If your child submitted a poem to *Showcase Magazine*, his or her work was published in *The Reels of Life*, a collection of Lajes E/H School poetry. Published writers should have received their copies on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> afternoon. Some extras are available in room 130.

**CINCO DE MAYO** - Students in Spanish I, II, III, and V classes celebrated Cinco de Mayo this week by making authentic Mexican food. Students made pico de gallo (like a coarsely chopped salsa) and mixed and rolled out their own flour tortillas. Then they used these two items, along with refried beans and cheese, to make bean burritos. During their cooking lesson, students were told about Cinco de Mayo, which is NOT, as many people think, Mexican Independence Day. Cinco de Mayo commemorates a famous battle in Puebla, Mexico, in which 4,000 Mexicans defeated an army of 8,000 occupying French. Puebla is the only place in Mexico where Cinco de Mayo is really celebrated. It is a much more popular holiday among Mexican-Americans or "chicanos" in the United States.

**PTO NEWS** - If you like to be guaranteed an Elementary School Yearbook, please stop by the PTO Office to fill out the pre-order form. The Yearbook cost is \$11.00.

Popcorn - There are still time left for your child to receive popcorn at the end of each week. Please come by the PTO Office to submit your \$5.00 and fill out the popcorn request form for your child or children.

PTO Board - Are you interested in being a Lajes E/H School Officer? Please e-mail [lajespto@yahoo.com](mailto:lajespto@yahoo.com) We are accepting nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**ART NEWS** - The Art Department is seeking donations of the following items:

- Bags of Dried Beans or Rice
- Cases of Water (with individual, small water bottles)
- House Paint or Spray Paint
- Nails
- Crochet Thread or Embroidery Floss

- Fabric or Ribbon Scraps
- Bird Seed

**We are also collecting the following recyclable items:**

- Milk Cartons
- Egg Cartons
- Bleach Bottles
- Empty Applesauce & Fruit Cups

Please bring your donations to Art Room #117. Thank you!!!

**FUNDING EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL** - *Guide to Federal Student Aid 2009-2010* booklets are now available in the counselor's office. This 53-page document is one of the most comprehensive and useful resources available to students and parents. If you would want to acquire a copy of this booklet to begin researching and planning your child's post-secondary education, please stop by the school office and request a copy.

**AP EXAM TESTING AT LAJES** - Students taking College Board AP (Advanced Placement) courses will take their end-of-course exam in early May. The AP Exams to be administered include AP U.S. Government, AP Spanish, AP Statistics, AP English Literature and AP English Language. These comprehensive exams are administered off-campus and are generally 3-4 hours in length. The scoring of the exam is based on a 5-point scale, with many colleges awarding college credit if the student scores a "3" or higher. AP Courses are on par with many college level courses. All DoDDS high school students taking AP Courses receive a "weighted" grade (i.e., an additional 1.0 point of GPA value is added) that is reflected on the student's transcript. Parents or students wanting to learn more about the AP Courses to be offered during School Year 2009-2010 should contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

**LAJES COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** - Graduating seniors from the Class of 2009 are currently vying for scholarships being offered by 12 Lajes community organizations. The annual Lajes Community Scholarship Program has historically generated generous scholarship awards for our Lajes Alumni. Current applicants have submitted their formal scholarship applications and will be participating in an applicant interview in mid-May. The Senior Breakfast on Saturday, May 30 will be the event at which the Lajes Organizations will publicly announce the recipients selected for their respective scholarship awards. The June Falcon Newsletter will report the highlights of this year's Lajes Community Scholarship program.

**MENTORS AND MENTEES PROGRAM** - The Mentors and Mentees Program will hold an end of the year session, available to students at all grade levels. The program goals focus on educational achievement through academic, social and emotional support.

Who can be a mentor? A mentor is a caring adult who is willing to spend time helping our students excel. Mentors are sincere, committed individuals who are positive role models.

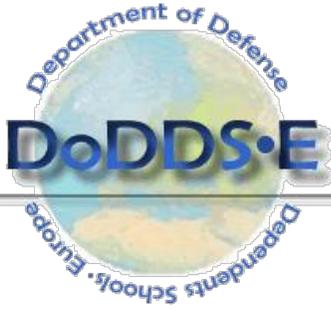
\* Mentors & Mentees End of the Year Session Schedule

Thursday, May 14, 2009: 1430-1530

Thursday, May 21, 2009: 1430-1530

Thursday, May 28, 2009: 1430-1530

Interested individuals can look forward to more information coming soon, or contact the Lajes School at 295-57-4151.



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

**Parent Newsletter Article for May 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 DoDDS-E 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, 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. DoDDS-E 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**