



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

21 November 2008

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday,	November 27	Holiday - Thanksgiving
Friday,	November 28	Thanksgiving Recess
Monday,	December 1	Deadline for Senior Yearbook Ads
Wednesday,	December 3	Progress Reports
Thursday,	December 4	PTO Meeting
Tuesday & Thursday	December 9 & 11	Winter Production
Thursday	December 11	Acceleration
Friday	December 19	Early Dismissal
Monday	December 22 - January 5	Winter Break
Monday	January 5	Return to School From Winter Break

**EARLY DISMISSAL** - There will be an early dismissal on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1100.

**WINTER BREAK** - School will dismiss at 1100 on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The office will be open Monday-Friday 0800-1500, with the exceptions of December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WINTER BREAK VACATION** - Families traveling in December need to notify the school two weeks in advance if possible. The procedure is as follows: 1. Get form from counselor. 2. Ask teacher(s) for assignments during absence. 3. All assigned work is due on the **first** class meeting after the student returns.

**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.

**LAJES BIG GIVE** - Calling all students and parents! It's time for the first annual Lajes ***BIG GIVE*** necessities drive! The ***BIG GIVE*** is a competition between all the grades to collect donations of food, clothing, toiletries, household goods, toys & school supplies for local charities. This is your chance to do something that makes a difference in the lives of others. Plus, the grade that collects the most donations will win an ice-cream party for their whole class! For more information call 295-57-4151. All donations are welcome, including both new and gently used items, so start bringing in your donations today!

**ECO-ISLAND CLUB** - had its neighborhood hike last Monday, November 17. About thirty-four 2nd-5th graders came out to learn about their neighboring environment. For two hours they walked and learned much about the nature of the Azores and the island of Terceira.

A Middle School and High School hike is being offered next, to all the middle and high school students interested. This will take place Monday, November 24 from 1500 to 1700. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the first settlers on these islands, the background of these settlers, their customs and traditions, as well as the nature of the Atlantic Ocean, the tectonic plates and volcanic origins of the Azores. Parent chaperones are welcome to join us.

**LAJES SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)** - One goal of SIP is that students will improve their reading comprehension across the curriculum. To help meet that goal, students in grades six through twelve are now reading books outside of class and taking quizzes on those books through their language arts classes. Please encourage your middle school and high school students to read at least thirty minutes a day at home. Why not make it a family affair, and involve younger siblings and YOU? Family reading can be fun.

**HOMECOMING DANCE** – Thanks to everyone that contributed to the success of the Homecoming Dance. We had a great amount of support from parents and the TORC, as well as some dedicated members of the High School Student Council. Good food and fun was had by all!

**ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)** The Site Team would like to congratulate twenty-two out of twenty-seven AVID students in grades 6 through 12 who qualified for the Honor Roll for quarter 1 at Lajes E/H School. These students each earned a 3.0 or higher, while taking rigorous classes and participating in sports and other extracurricular activities. AVID student tutors had GPA's of 4.0 or higher!

**HS AVID** - Students had the incredible opportunity to meet and talk with F-16 pilots and view and explore their aircraft. This study trip provided students with an experience that increased their knowledge and awareness of another career field and the educational path the pilots took to achieve their dream. This excursion was enjoyed by students and pilots alike! We would like to thank the Command for their support.

**ATTENTION PARENTS OF SENIORS:** If you are planning to buy a yearbook ad for your senior, please submit the ad and the payment by December 1. For more information, call 295-57-6443.

**WINTER PRODUCTION "WITCH WAY CHRISTMAS"** - The Lajes E/H School combined musical production, "Witch Way Christmas" is scheduled for performance at the Auditorium do Ramo Grande in Praia on Thursday, December 11 at 1930. Students are involved in two other performances scheduled for Lajes E/H School on December 9 and for Portuguese school children on December 11. Everyone is welcome to the public performance on Thursday evening.

**ACCELERATION** –Students whose parents are PCSing have the opportunity to earn semester credit by participating in the acceleration process. DoDEA students may request assignments and final tests to earn credit for their classes before the end of the school semester. They may apply for this acceleration if the following conditions apply:

- The sponsor and dependent will be returning to the United States twenty days or less before the end of the semester.
- A copy of the sponsor's PCS orders must be provided to acknowledge the acceleration request.
- The acceleration request must be completed and returned to the counselor's office so they may receive acceleration contracts.
- If conditions are met, teachers will provide assignments and tests through the end of the semester.
- These assignments and tests must be turned in at least one day prior to withdrawal from school.

When following these conditions, the earliest day a student whose sponsor is PCSing may leave and still receive credit for the semester is December 11, 2008. The student must attend school all day on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

**DoDEA CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY** - is available from November 1 through February 28, 2009. It takes about 20 minutes to complete and is available online at [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu) (click on the CSS graphic link). Please contact the school at 295-57-4151, if you need to use a school computer or receive a paper copy to complete the survey. We encourage all parents to participate in this valuable project.

**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 295-57-6104 for more information.

**BUS PROCEDURES** - School Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures for Students:

From 0700-0800 and 1400-1500, the lane in front of the school along the curb is designated for pick-up and drop-off of students only.

No cars are to be left attended

From 0700-0800 and 1400-1500, there is to be no parking inside the gate except for school personnel.

Please do not pass other cars that are loading or unloading students.

Younger students are not to cross the main road or walk in front of cars unless they are holding the hand of an adult.

**DoDDS-EUROPE HONORS DRAMA ENSEMBLE** - will take place February 1-6, 2009, in the Baumholder Playhouse at Baumholder American High School in Baumholder, Germany. The Honors Drama Ensemble offers twenty-five student actors the opportunity to gather for six days to plan, create, and perform an ensemble production of *The Canterbury Tales*. After a period of intensive rehearsals directed by five DoDDS-Europe directors, the students will perform two shows at the Baumholder High School Playhouse. Students will work in core groups to plan and design the performance of a tale, and then bring the rest of the ensemble into the production.

If interested, the students apply through their local high school by submitting a recorded audition. A committee composed of drama teachers from DoDDS-Europe schools selects participants. DoDDS-Europe covers the cost of transportation and supplies. Students pay a registration fee for lodging and meals (currently 220 Euro). Please call 295-57-4151 for an application and any more information.

**BINDER REMINDER** - This year, in order to organize our students and ensure the best possible learning experience, we at Lajes E/H School have created new requirements for our students. The requirements are as follows:

3 inch, 3 ring binder

planner (provided by Lajes E/H School)

dividers for each subject with Cornell notes in each section

papers/pens/pencils and any other supplies needed (pouches are great to organize these supplies)

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MESSAGE** - Concerning vocabulary and reading: English is the richest language with the largest vocabulary—over 1,000,000 words—on earth. Yet the average adult has a vocabulary of only 40,000-50,000 words. Imagine what we're missing! So read, read, and read! The more you expose yourself to new words, the more words you will learn.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER** - MS teachers are making a special effort to ensure polite, respectful behavior between students and teachers. Everyone knows what this is, but sometimes young people need reminders to keep their hands to themselves and to use only positive language. Please reinforce these important rules with your middle school student. Detention is always an option, but we like to keep it as last resort. Thank you for your support!

**REMINDERS - PLEASE READ!**

**Visitors** - Please check in at the front office to get a visitor's pass prior to going anywhere in the building.

**Doors** - Outer perimeter doors will be locked during school hours to ensure the safety of students, everyone must enter through the front entrance.

**Nuisance Items** - Ipods, electronic toys and equipment/cell phones are not to be out during the instructional day (before and after school and during lunch, they are permitted). Please remind your student of this.

**Valuables** - We advise that you do not send items of value to school with your child as we have had some items taken.

**SCHOOL WANT ADS** -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](mailto:Lajes15@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

**ART CLASSES** - are in need of the following items: Fabric, Outdoor Paint (spray paint or house paint), Shoe Boxes, Daisy Sour Cream containers, Empty fruit-cups or apple sauce cups. Please send your donations to the art room.

**TAP-TARDIES AREN'T PERMITTED**-Lajes Elementary High School is a community of dedicated learners. All of our students are expected to demonstrate excellence in their learning. One of the expectations for students in the middle and high school grades is that students arrive in class on time ready to learn. This maximizes their instructional time. Students who are tardy will be assigned a one-hour after school detention (TAP) at 1440 on the day they are tardy. Students will call parent to notify them of assigned TAP.

**LEAP** - Learning Expected Assistance Provided

Middle and High School students who do not turn in assigned work when due will be assigned to a LEAP session. LEAP is held every Tuesday and Thursday in room 305 from 1440 to 1540. Students who fail to show up for assigned LEAP or who are still behind on assignments are then assigned to Saturday Morning LEAP in room 305, from 0800 to 1000. If a student is assigned LEAP, the student will call or the referring teacher will email a parent to inform them of the LEAP session. More information regarding LEAP can be found in the Student Parent Handbook, by communicating with referring teachers or by contacting Ms. Waller, Lajes American School Principal, at 295-57-4151.

**COUNSELOR NEWS** - **GradeSpeed Update:** Parents needing to set-up their online GradeSpeed Account so they can view their child's grades will have the opportunity to create these accounts when they come in for the Parent Conferences on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to use the computers in Mr. Brown Science Lab (located across the hallway from the gym, in Room # 307). Assistance will be provided, if needed, to help parents set-up their GradeSpeed account so they can easily check on their child's grades, e-mail teachers, check their child's attendance, check school calendar events, etc. The GradeSpeed program can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

**SAT I Exam** - The next scheduled exam is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students may register online (with a March 31<sup>st</sup> Registration Deadline).

**ACT Exam** - The next schedule ACT Exam students may register online for is April 4<sup>th</sup> (with a February 27<sup>th</sup> Registration Deadline).