



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

November 20, 2009

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	November 1-30	National American Indian Heritage Month (See events listed in newsletter.)
Monday	November 16 - December 18	Lajes E/H School BIG GIVE Class Competition!
Monday-Wednesday	November 23-25	Pick Up School Pictures
Thursday and Friday	November 26-27	Thanksgiving (Federal Holiday) and Recess
Tuesday	December 8	Parent Workshop (from 1430-1530 in Room 108)
Thursday	December 10	Holiday Concert at the Auditório do Ramo Grande, 1930
	December 21 - January 4	Winter Recess

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION** - Winter weather will soon be upon us, bringing flu and cold season, as well as unexpected weather conditions. Please make sure the school has the following current and correct information: home, work and cell phone numbers, email address, and Emergency Contact Person who is authorized to pick up your child if you are unavailable to do so. This information periodically changes so please make sure we have accurate contact information.

**2009 HOLIDAY CONCERT** - The Lajes E/H School Fine Arts Department will proudly present the 2009 Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 10, 2009. The concert will be held at the Auditório do Ramo Grande in downtown Praia da Victória, beginning at 1930. All musical ensembles at the school will perform. Doors will open at 1900. For further information or directions to the theater, please contact 295-57-4151.

**PARENT WORKSHOP** - "Sounds Like Fun"-Lajes ES/HS presentation. This workshop is offered to help parents support their child's speech sound development. Tuesday, December 8, 2009 from 1430-1530 in Room 108 (Speech Room). For more information or to reserve a spot (adults only please), send an email no later than December 4, 2009 to [diane.mcdaniel@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:diane.mcdaniel@eu.dodea.edu)

**BIG GIVE CLASS COMPETITION** - Students at Lajes are collecting donations for the **20th Annual Lajes BIG GIVE**. Students are collecting new or gently used items to donate to others in need. Each elementary classroom and each grade level at the middle & high school has a collection box in their classroom. Each grade will be tracking how

many pounds of donations that they can collect in order to compete to be the biggest givers at Lajes. We will be collecting food, clothing, toiletries, toys and other necessities for this drive. **-All donations are welcome The class that collects the most pounds of donations will win a Pizza Party!!! SPONSORED BY THE LAJES E/H SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL**

**GRADESPEED** - GradeSpeed has outgrown the San Antonio facility that has housed their technical environment for the past 4 years. On Friday, November 20, they will be transferring their hosted environment to a brand new facility. This transfer will make GradeSpeed inaccessible to users until the transfer is completed. The transfer will begin Friday, November 20 at 1700 EST. Hopefully, access and service will be fully restored by Saturday, November 21 at 1700 EST.

**NURSES CORNER** – There have been several cases of head lice reported by parents and discovered at school over this past week. Please monitor your child's head for any signs over the next two weeks as we work in partnership to break the cycles of transmission. Head lice are common and easily transmitted through direct head to head contact or by sharing brushes and combs, etc. Should you find lice or their eggs (called nits) please call the School Nurse, at 295-57-6108 so she can then screen classmates. You can also call her if you have any questions or concerns.

**SCHOOL PICTURES** - Will be available for pick up on (Monday-Wednesday) November 23-25, from 1410-1510.

**NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH** – November is National American Indian Heritage Month (NAIHM). It is a time to learn and celebrate the history of American Indian peoples. The history of Native peoples is filled with beauty, courage, sadness and triumph. Unfortunately, the rich history of these peoples is fading quickly with the passing of each generation. Please join in with the Cultural Diversity Awareness Committee (CDAC) and the NAIHM committee in sharing American Indian history with our youth and telling the story of American Indians, so they will not be forgotten. In conjunction with the base, here are some events that will occur in the school.

- A reader will be available on 23 November in the AM and PM.
- An essay contest for the middle and high school with the topic: "Famous American Indians in History" or "The Contributions of American Indians to the United States" which are due 24 November. English and History teachers, could you talk this up with your students and possibly offer some credit to the ones who participate??
- Library Speaker on 24 November - Mr. Livingston

**LAJES E/H SCHOOL INTERNET** - The Lajes EHS internet page has been updated with a link directly to Gradespeed. This link will work for students or parents. There is now also a link to the Web Master, who can help with questions about Gradespeed as well as questions/problems with our internet. Links and information are continuously being updated on our site. Check here for the latest edition of the Falcon and the current school calendar. <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND** - has closed registration with six full teams. We will not be accepting any new students due to DoDDS-Europe deadlines and regulations. Thank-you for all of your support.

**COMMUNICATIONS INTERVENTION COMMITTEE NEWS** - Learn vocabulary and feed the world!  
[www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) is a great site for vocabulary practice. As you answer correctly, questions get harder. As you

answer incorrectly, questions get easier. For every correct answer, 10 grains of rice are donated to the UN World Food Program. New subjects on this site include art, chemistry, English grammar, foreign languages, geography, pre-algebra, and multiplication tables.

**INTERNET SAFETY FOR PRETEENS AND TEENS** - Staying connected through social networking site is an important item in the life of today's teens. This article from has good hints about how to keep your teen's and preteen's safe online. <http://lifestyle.msn.com/your-life/family-parenting/articlegh.aspx?cp-documentid=20985104>

**DoDEA CHAT ROOM PROGRAM** - The Public Affairs Office of DoDEA Headquarters is hosting a series of three Chat Room programs that will focus on the College Admissions process. The link to view the first program is <http://www.dodea.edu/pressroom/video/cfm?cld=chatrm>. The featured guest for the first program is Dr. Andrew Flagel, Dean of Admissions at George Mason University. Dr. Flagel provides invaluable tips on applying to schools and an insight into what admissions officers are looking for in the admissions process. The remaining two Chat Room programs will be accessible later in November. The featured presenter for the second Chat Room program is Holly Anderson, a specialist from the U.S. Department of Education outlining the many web resources available for student and parent use relative to career decisions to be made after high school. The third and final Chat Room Program will feature Stephanie Gross, another specialist from the U.S. Department of Education, who will focus on a "walk through" exercise in accomplishing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARBOOK** - Yearbook request forms will be sent home with your children. We will be collecting the yearbook forms and money every Friday.

**THE FALCON YEARBOOK** - of Lajes Middle School / High School is on sale every morning, at 0745 in the lobby. This year's book will be filled with memories, activities, academics, superlatives, and so much more to get middle and high school students "in the picture." The initial cost to reserve a book is \$45.00. However, the price will increase as the year goes on. Be one of the first to reserve your copy at the lowest price available!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER** - The Middle School teachers would like to thank all the parents who attended the Parent-Teacher Conference Day on Friday, November 13. If you were unable to attend, the Middle School teachers cordially invite you 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 any of your child's teachers or the Middle School Coordinator at 295-57-4151 to schedule your meeting. As your child's first teacher, you are definitely an MVP - Most Valuable Parent - on the Middle School team!

**MATH TIPS** - Parents: You can help your children learn their multiplication facts at [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com). Click on the middle box "New!...", then click on the left box "Self Correcting Quiz." Your children can type in the answers, click "Finished" and find out which ones were missed! The site also has flashcards and more.

**COUNSELOR NEWS** -

**SAT/ACT** - If parents have questions concerning any of the testing items listed below, please contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

1. Specific information about online registration for either the SAT and/or the ACT can be obtained by contacting the counselor at 295-57-4228

**Free Online ASVAB Test-Prep** - Juniors and/or seniors interested in a possible career in the military can go to <http://www.military.com/ASVAB> to learn about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a general aptitude test used by all military branches for enlistment purposes. Interested students can take a series of diagnostic practice tests that will provide feedback as to areas of strengths and areas needing improvement. Interested students can also learn what kinds of scores they would need to qualify for specific career fields.

**Free Talk Kit for Parents of Military Families** - <http://www.timetotalk.org/military/> This free "Talk Kit" is specifically designed for military parents of "tweens & teens" providing ideas and ways to start the conversation about drugs and alcohol, scripts to help you find the right words and tips for answering tough questions and getting support from other adults around you. Also from this website, you can download an informative article, "**10 Things Military Teens Want You to Know**". Another useful download for military parents, "**Transitions & Teens: A Guide for Military Parents**" is also available from this website.

**How can DoDEA students and their parents prepare for college during the high school years?** Visit the DoDEA Chat Room at <http://dodea.edu/home/index.cfm> and view the video of Dr. Andrew Flagel, Dean of Admissions at George Mason University, explain what the characteristics and qualities colleges are looking for in student admissions today.

**My College QuickStart Program** - students who took the PSAT Exam earlier this month will receive a special access code to the College Board **My College QuickStart Program** when their PSAT score reports are received in December. Students will be able to access this program (without charge) to research virtually all aspects of their post-secondary educational planning. More information on **My College QuickStart** will be made available in December.