



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

November 9th, 2009

Principal: Ms. Mary Waller
Assistant Principal: Ms. Daisy Weddle
Phone: 295 57 6216/ 4151
DSN 535-4151
e-mail: Elizabeth.Walker@eu.dodea.edu
Mary.Waller@eu.dodea.edu
Daisy.Weddle@eu.dodea.edu

Mediterranean District Superintendent: Dr. Elizabeth Walker
DSN Phone: 634-8460

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| | November 1-30 | National American Indian Heritage Month |
| Wednesday | November 11 | Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday) |
| Thursday | November 12 | School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting at 1500 |
| Thursday and Friday | November 12-13 | Elementary School Conferences, |
| Friday | November 13 | Middle/High School Conferences |
| Saturday | November 14 | High School Homecoming Dance |
| Thursday and Friday | November 26-27 | Thanksgiving (Federal Holiday) and 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.

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. Look for upcoming events in the next newsletter.

PARENT CONFERENCES - are being held Thursday and Friday, November 12-13, for elementary students. Elementary school teachers will schedule individual conferences with their student's parents. Middle and high school conferences will be held only on Friday, November 13 and will proceed as follows: Open visitation will be from 0830-1130 and 1230-1400, in the high school gym, with no appointments needed. Private appointments may also be scheduled and will be from 1400-1500 in teacher's classrooms.

COMMUNICATIONS INTERVENTION COMMITTEE NEWS - Check out www.spellingcity.com to help your child with spelling tests—or just for spelling practice.

YOUTH CENTER NEWS - Flag Football & Cheerleading Registrations are extended until Friday, 13 November. To sign up please go to the Lajes Youth Center!

LOST AND FOUND - Please stop by the office and check out our lost and found box. It is overflowing with everything from backpacks to shirts and jackets.

HOMECOMING DANCE - The Homecoming Dance for Lajes High School students will be held on November 14, from 1800-2230, at the Fiddler's Green. Tickets are \$10 per couple and \$6 for singles and will be available for purchase beginning Monday, November 9, during lunch-time periods. This year we are also offering a \$2 discount per couple and \$1 discount for singles who donate a food dish for the dance.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING CHANGE - Please note that the meeting previously scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, has been moved to **Thursday, November 12**, in room 302A (principal's office). Everyone is welcome to attend to share your ideas and concerns.

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!

PARENT-CHILD PROJECT - Are you looking for ways to enjoy learning with your children? How about writing a book together? It's easy, it's fun, and it supports your child's education. One of our math teachers thought of the idea and wrote a rhyming alphabet book with his daughter, who is in kindergarten. He added her artwork through Kodak.com, and had it printed at Amazon.com for just a few dollars. This idea could fit any age or activity such as sports, family vacations, hobbies, etc. You can use original art or photos, and collaborate on the text. This activity teaches kids that writing and reading are valuable skills that provide a ton of enjoyment!

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS - Four Lajes students have been selected to participate in the 2009 Creative Connections program. Creative Connections is a five-day symposium of visual and performing arts workshops offered each year to 150 high school students selected from across Europe. This is the largest number of artists ever selected from our school. Congrats again!

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND - Their first practice was Thursday, October 22 at 1445 in the school cafeteria. All registered participants and interested students may attend as well. We would love to add new members to this years OM team!

TECHNOLOGY HINT - Social networking sites are becoming very popular around the world. Sites like facebook.com and myspace.com let us keep in touch with family and friends in a timely manner. While sites like these are not allowed on a DoDEA computer it is important that everyone know these sites come with their own hazards. Personal information shared with family can at times be distributed to unintended people. Employers are searching social networking sites to gain information about prospective employees. If you or your children frequent social networking

sites you might want to check out this following article from the New York Times. This article gives specific information about staying safe (and private) on Facebook.

<http://www.nytimes.com/external/readwriteweb/2009/09/16/16readwriteweb-5-easy-steps-to-stay-safe-and-private-on-fac-6393.html?em>

SPORT'S CORNER -The Volleyball Team is at Ramstein for the DODDS European Volleyball Championship. The final tournament will be on Saturday, November 7. Wish them luck!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER - The English classes at Lajes Middle School participated in a Red Ribbon essay contest for Red Ribbon Week. The top three winners received awards donated by the ESC, OSC, and the AAFES.

MATH TIPS - Parents: You can help your children learn their multiplication facts at 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.

NURSES CORNER – We are still waiting for the H1N1 vaccine to arrive on-island - stay tuned for details. In the meantime, you can check out http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/parents_guide_flier.pdf for some helpful flu information, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

COUNSELOR NEWS - The 8th annual Military Career Day at Lajes E/H School is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17. This popular event, first started in school year 2002-2003, draws a lot of community attention and base-wide support. The planning for this year's Military Career Day is being coordinated by the Lajes Career Assistance Advisor. Military personnel from Lajes squadrons and worksites will setup displays and career-related information booths in the school's gymnasium, to showcase the many career fields and military occupations at Lajes. Recruiters from all branches of the military services in Europe have been invited to attend and to participate in the planned activities.

Students will assemble in the gymnasium for a "kick-off" program activity featuring a guest speaker along with key Lajes support personnel. After the assembly, middle school and high school students will have designated times in which they can browse through the many display tables, to talk with the exhibitors and in some instances to have "hands-on" experiences with the work items on display. The displays will be open during both the middle school and the high school lunch periods, allowing students to browse through all the exhibits. Juniors and seniors who wish to speak with a recruiter will be given a pass during their seminar period to do so (or be scheduled to meet after school). Parents who would like to talk with any of the visiting recruiters should contact the Lajes Career Assistance Advisor (295-57-6197) to schedule a meeting.

Military Career Day at Lajes E/H School has always been a popular and worthwhile experience for our students. Parents interested in learning more about this event and/or wanting to volunteer their services to promote Military Career Day, should contact the Lajes Career Assistance Advisor.

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

1. Students wanting to take the December 12 ACT Exam must register online by November 6. 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.