



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

24 October 2008

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                  |                       |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday-Sunday, | October 23-October 26 | Cross Country at Europeans                          |
| Monday-Thursday  | October 27-October 30 | Red Ribbon Week                                     |
| Tuesday-Sunday,  | October 28-November 2 | Volleyball at Europeans                             |
| Thursday,        | October 30            | End of First Quarter                                |
| Friday,          | October 31            | No School for Students - Teacher Workday            |
| Friday,          | October 31            | ASVAB Exam  |
| Tuesday          | November 4            | Mock Elections                                      |
| Thursday         | November 6-7          | Parent Conferences—Grades K-5 (no school for K-5)   |
| Friday           | November 7            | Parent Conferences—Grades 6-12 (no school for K-12) |
| Monday           | November 10           | Early Dismissal Day—Students dismissed at 1115      |
| Tuesday,         | November 11           | Holiday - Veteran's Day                             |
| Friday,          | November 14           | Military Career Day                                 |
| Saturday,        | November 15           | Homecoming Dance                                    |

**HOMECOMING DANCE** - Due to scheduling issues, the Homecoming dance will take place on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 1900-2200 at the TORC.

**AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITY BUS** - If you live off base and have a student who is participating in an afterschool activity such as a club, athletic sport or student council and would have your student utilize this transportation, please call the school and speak to the vice principal for more information. We are trying to see if we can get a late activity van or bus to transport students who live off base and participate in afterschool activities.

### **MOCK ELECTIONS** - Model Presidential Election

On Monday, November 3, students in grades six through 12 will assemble to hear speeches from the Democratic and Republican "presidential candidates" and to learn about the voting process and the history of voting rights in the United States. The speakers will be students in Mr. Sanchez's U.S. Government and Ms. Grant's AP U.S. Government and Politics classes.

On November 4, Election Day, high schoolers, middle schoolers, and older elementary students will cast their votes, and results will be announced at approximately 1600, before the polls even open on the West Coast. Our intent is not to influence CONUS voters, but who knows???

**VOLLEYBALL** - The Lajes Lady Falcons are geared up and ready to head to the DoDDS European Volleyball Championships in Germany next week. They will be competing against seven other Division IV teams from around Europe. The ladies are confident and excited following their first victory last Tuesday. Good luck Lady Falcons!

### **REMINDERS - PLEASE READ!**

**Early Arrivals** - Please ensure that your student does not arrive at school prior to 7:45. Prior to this time, there is no adult supervision and the doors are locked.

**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 are 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.

**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 the Middle School Coordinator at 295-57-4151, to schedule your meeting.

**RED RIBBON WEEK INFO** - This year's Red Ribbon Week activities have begun and will continue through Thursday the 30th. The purpose of this observance is to raise awareness of the consequences of drug abuse and to promote healthy choices. Students at all levels will be presented with information from the school's ASACS and guidance counselors, as well as the base's Demand Reduction and DARE personnel. Students will also receive coaching on handling peer pressure. You can participate by opening (or continuing) a dialogue with your children about your values about living a healthy, drug-free life. Your children are encouraged to observe the following dress code below to show their support for Red Ribbon Week:

Monday, 10/27: "Team Up Day" Wear team jerseys, etc., to remind students that friends don't let friends do drugs.

Tuesday, 10/28: "Give Drugs the Boot" Wear boots.

Wednesday, 10/29: "Living Drug Free Is No Sweat" Wear sweats and/or sweatshirts.

Thursday, 10/30: Wear red.

**INFORMATION CENTER NEWS** - This is the end of Native American Heritage Month and October is Italian American Heritage Month. If you are interested in sharing one of the cultures with LEHS students in a 20-40 minute presentation (with questions and answers), please contact the Information Center (library), at 295-57-6858.

**ECO-ISLAND CLUB NEWS** - The Eco-Island Club met recently with a representative from the L PT Civ USAF USAFE 65 CES/CEV, who came to our school to explain about the need to recycle and how the recycling program works on the island of Terceira. The CES/CEV supports all our environmental programs at school including our Earth Week program in April.

There will be a 6th grade through 12th grade Eco-Island Club meeting next Monday, October 27. The group meets in the Information Center from 1445 to 1545. Any upper grade student wanting to join our club is encouraged to do so.

**CROSS COUNTRY TEAM** - Lajes Girls' Cross Country Team will travel to Heidelberg, Germany for their competition on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We wish them the best of luck!! **GO FALCONS!!!**

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)** - Lajes E/H School teachers and administrators participated in a SIP in-service day on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. SIP is a critical part of our school's accreditation process. In other words, 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. Our two SIP goals are as follows:

All students will improve their problem-solving skills across the curriculum.

All students will improve their reading strategies in all areas of the curriculum.

The staff at Lajes E/H School is working hard to help your children in these areas, and in the future we will be giving you tips on how you can help them, too.

**SCHOOL WANT ADS** - The art department is seeking donations of the following items: (shoe boxes; outdoor paint—spray or house paint; quilting fabric—any scrap will do; large rocks for landscaping borders). Items can be dropped off in room #117. For questions or if you're interested in volunteering in the art room, please call 295-57-3861.

The Elementary School Guidance Counselor is looking for individuals who love their work in the following career fields (artistic—e.g. photography, music, design, etc; entrepreneurship/management; accounting, secretarial, inventory control; mechanic, electrician, or other hands-on trade). If you are interested in providing information on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to elementary aged students, about what you do in your job and why you enjoy it, please call 295-57-6475.

**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** - Websites with resources and useful information for military families: Military Education Coalition - <http://www.militarychild.org> and Military Spouse Organization <http://www.milspouse.org>. Both websites provide a wealth of information and resources for parents and students covering many transition-related issues for families PCS'ing and wanting to learn about stateside schools.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam (ASVAB) will be administered to interested juniors and seniors on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Time is TBD. Students will not be in school this day as it is an end-of-quarter records keeping day for teachers. Parents wanting to know more about the ASVAB exam and/or wanting their child to be signed-up to the ASVAB should call 295-57-4228.

December SAT I and ACT Exams - Interested juniors or seniors wanting to take the SAT I or the ACT Exam in December must register online NLT November 5<sup>th</sup> for the SAT I, and NLT November 7<sup>th</sup> for the ACT. Parents wanting more information about the test or online registration can call the school counselor at 295-57-4228.

Military Career Day is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> for the middle and high school grades. The Lajes Career Advisor, and other school and community personnel are busily planning this event. Many base squadrons are preparing to showcase their military career and occupation specialties. The event will kick-off with a school assembly in the gymnasium, followed by scheduled student and class visits to the displays. Students will have the opportunity to speak with military members and to learn about the many career and educational opportunities available in the Air Force. Military recruiters have also been invited to attend this event.

To graduate from a DoDDS school, a student must have a minimum GPA (grade point average) of 2.0 and have a total of 26 credits. If parents want to learn more about the requirements as outlined in DoDEA Regulation 2000.1 go to <http://dodea.edu/students/graduation.cfm> If you have further questions about graduation requirements, please call the school counselor at 295-574228.