



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

31 October 2008

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday-Sunday,	October 28-November 2	Volleyball at Europeans
Saturday,	November 1	SAT Testing
Sunday,	November 2-9	Fall Interval Break-No Sports
Monday,	November 3	Beginning of 2 nd Quarter
Tuesday,	November 4	Presidential Elections
Tuesday,	November 4	Mock Elections for Students
Thursday & Friday,	November 6-7	Elementary School Parent Conference Day
Friday,	November 7	Elementary and High School Parent Conference Day
Monday,	November 10	Early Dismissal at 1115 No Lunch Provided
Tuesday,	November 11	Holiday - Veteran's Day No School for Students
Wednesday,	November 12	School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting @ 1500
Friday,	November 14	Middle School Dance - HS Gym at 1900
Friday,	November 14	Military Career Day
Saturday,	November 15	Homecoming Dance - TORC at 1900
Thursday,	November 27	Holiday - Thanksgiving
Friday,	November 28	Thanksgiving Recess

VOLLEYBALL AT EUROPEANS UPDATE - The Falcons beat Rota, Alconbury, and Incirlik. Lost to Menwith Hill in quarter finals. Very close games. GO FALCONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES FOR K-5 - The 1st quarter officially ended on Thursday, October 30. Teachers are preparing progress reports and getting ready for Parent Teacher Conferences coming up on Thursday and Friday, November 6 and 7 (grades K-5 only). We encourage all K-5 parents to make every effort possible to attend this scheduled conference with your child's teacher.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES FOR 6-12 - Conferences for students in grades 6-12 will be held on Friday, November 7. All teachers in grades 6-12 will be available in the school gym all morning to conference with parents - no appointment is necessary. You will be able to visit with teachers, as they are available. Please plan on attending.

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.

EUROPEAN CROSS COUNTRY - Congratulations to the Lady Falcons Cross Country Team for taking 2nd place in the Europeans Cross Country Championship this past weekend in Heidelberg, Germany. Also, please pass your congratulations on to Cisalee O. for coming in 3rd in division IV and to Nicole B. who came in 5th, in division IV. Overall Cisalee O. was in 6th place for division III and IV, and Nicole B. was in 9th place in division III and IV. They both received medals for placing.

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, read! The more you expose yourself to new words, the more words you will learn.

SPANISH CLASS NEWS - Middle school and high school Spanish classes have been busy this week with activities centering on Mexico's Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, observances on November 1 and 2. This is a time when it is believed that the souls of deceased loved ones come back to visit the living and partake of the foods and sweets they enjoyed in life. Some Spanish students have assisted with papier mache and other projects in elementary art classes; some have eaten traditional tamales, hot chocolate, and "pan de muerto" (bread of the dead); and others have participated in a webquest to learn more about this Mexican tradition. Our Lajes Spanish students know that Dia de los Muertos is NOT Halloween!

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 from the U.S. Government and Politics Classes.

On November 4, students in grades 3- 12 are invited to cast their votes for the candidate of their choice.

HOMEcoming DANCE - The Homecoming dance will take place on November 15th from 1900-2200 at the TORC.

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.

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 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 - 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.

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 5th for the SAT I, and NLT November 7th 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 14th 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.



Math Matters!

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

Parent Newsletter Article for November 2008

Principals: Please include the following article in your next parent newsletter.

November is a significant month as DoDDS-E celebrates American Education Week and begins administering the biannual DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey. This survey provides valuable feedback from students and parents about the quality of education your child is receiving.

This year's survey represents a departure from tradition in that the survey will be administered to students in grades 4-12 and parents or sponsors for each child enrolled in DoDDS-Europe schools from Pre-kindergarten/SureStart through the 12th grade. As with prior Customer Satisfaction Surveys, participation remains voluntary (but highly encouraged). Administrators, teachers, and educational support staff will participate in a separate survey in a few months.

The surveys were developed through a review process of various groups, including teachers' unions, Teachers of the Year, superintendents, principals, students and the Education Directorate staff members at the DoDEA headquarters. Some questions were adapted from the *Phi Delta Kappa Gallup Poll of Public's Attitudes Toward Schools*. The 2008 CSS contains more parent/student specific questions, particularly with regard to guidance and counseling.

The survey is available November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009, and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. It is available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link). Parents who do not have access to the Internet should contact their child's school to determine other alternatives, such as using the school's computers or receiving a paper copy that can be mailed to DoDEA headquarters.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DoDEA. Schools, districts, and area offices will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students which is one of many measures used for future planning of programs and services DoDDS-Europe and our DoDEA headquarters offers.

The results of the survey have a significant impact on the educational programs your child receives in DoD schools. I strongly encourage everyone to spend 20 minutes on this worthwhile project.

American Education Week 2008 is scheduled for November 16–22, 2008. The theme this year is *Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*. The annual American Education Week (AEW) spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. Please contact your school for more information regarding American Education Week activities.

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe