



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

October 30, 2009

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday	October 30	Lajes VS Praia Seniors Volleyball at 1830 in the HS Gym School Pictures Orders Collected
Friday-Saturday	October 30-31	European Championships-Cross Country
Monday-Wednesday	November 2-4	School Picture Orders Collected
Thursday	November 5	European Championships-Volleyball
Friday	November 6	No School for Students (Teacher Work Day) Deadline to Register On-Line for Dec 12 ACT Exam ASVAB Exam Administered to Registered Students
Wednesday	November 11	Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)
Thursday and Friday	November 12-13	Elementary School Conferences
Friday	November 13	Middle/High School Conferences
Saturday	November 14	High School Homecoming Dance
Wednesday	November 18	School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting at 1500
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.

**COMMUNICATIONS INTERVENTION COMMITTEE NEWS** - What used to be called the School Improvement Plan, or SIP, has been renamed Continuous School Improvement, or CSI. Through CSI, we work toward the mission of the Department of Defense Education Activity: to provide, in military communities worldwide, exemplary educational programs that inspire and prepare all students for success in a global environment.

**LAJES YOUTH CENTER NEWS** - Flag football and Cheerleading registration ends on Monday, Nov 2, at the Lajes Youth Center. Please call 295-57-1192 with any questions.

The following instructional classes are also available for sign-up at the LYP:

- Karate/Martial Arts/Self-Defense Instructional Classes - Mondays and Wednesdays, 1730-1830 (ages 4-7, beginners) and 1830-1930 (ages 6-18, experienced). Cost is \$35 per month and classes are in the LYP Gym.
- Creative Dance Instructional Classes - Wednesdays and Fridays, 1730-1830 (ages 4-8) and 1830-1930 (ages 9-18). Cost is \$35 per month and classes are in the CAC Ballroom.

**SCHOOL PICTURE ORDERS** - Picture order forms and payments will be collected on Friday, October 30 and Monday through Wednesday, November 2-4, from 0730-0830 and 1410-1510, by the school's office.

**HOMECOMING DANCE** - The Homecoming Dance for Lajes High School students will be held on November 14, from 1800-2230, at the Fiddler's Green. More information will be forthcoming.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING** - Will be held on Wednesday, November 18, in room 302A (principal's office). Please feel free to attend to share your ideas and concerns.

**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** - Congratulations to the Lajes High School Girls' Volleyball Team. With the DoDDS European Championship approaching next week, they knew they had to step it up a notch in Tuesday night's match against the Praia Team. The girls won the first game 25-17. The second game ended with a loss 13-25, but then they came back in the third game with tricks up their sleeves, using tips and good placement of spikes. The score was 25-23. Overall, the match was exciting and was a nice preliminary match to the one we have on Friday. Please come out and cheer us on as we play the second Praia Team, Friday at 1830.

The Cross Country team is at their European Tournament October 30-31. The girls will be traveling to Ramstein for the DODDS European Volleyball Championship November 3 with the final tournament on Saturday, November 7. Wish them both luck!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER** - Middle school students at Lajes E/HS celebrated Red Ribbon Week this week. The Middle School held special Advisory activities focusing on alcohol and drug prevention and awareness. There were also special presentations from the school's Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service (ASACS) counselor and the HAWC on tobacco prevention.

**MUSIC NEWS** - Intermediate Chorus has had a very successful beginning with rehearsals for our Winter Concert. There is room for about 10 more singers in grades 4 and 5. If you're interested in joining Intermediate Chorus please contact the music educator, at 295-57-4151 ASAP.

**ECO-CLUB NEWS** - A study trip offered to the fifth grade class by the 65 CES/CEAO to the geothermic site in Aqualva and the wind farm at Serra do Cume as a form of celebrating October Energy Awareness Month, took place last Tuesday October 20.

Thursday, October 29 was Energy Awareness Day at Lajes ES/HS School. The fourth and fifth grades took part in a Time Capsule ceremony in which they entered different artifacts, including reports on the current energy situation and their predictions and views for the future. This Time Capsule was sealed and buried outside the fifth grade classroom in the school's inner courtyard. It will be opened again ten years from now, in 2019.

Certificates were passed out to all the students who participated in the Energy Awareness mat project carried out by the Art teacher and which are on display at the TORC and Subway on base.

Combined with the above activities, the 65 CES/CEAN SOS provided students from 3-5th grade with a presentation of the plight of the Cagarro or the Cory Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea borealis*. Seventy-five percent of these birds nest here in the Azores and are becoming an endangered species. A team from the Ecoteca, an ecological group from Angra, was invited for this occasion.

**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.

**GRADESPEED** - DoDEA is using an online gradebook application which helps parents and students' access assignments and grades online. Go to <http://www.eu.dodea.edu/gradespeed/> to find out further information or go to <https://dodea.gradespeed.net/gs/> to request a password. Please note: The "Notes to Teachers" feature does not notify teachers about incoming messages. Therefore, to contact your child's teacher please send a written note, call or use their DoDEA email address.

**COUNSELOR NEWS** - The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Exam will be administered to interested juniors and seniors on Friday, November 6. Students will not be in attendance this day, as it is the end-of-quarter Teacher Records Keeping Day. Parents interested in having their son/daughter take the ASVAB should contact the counselor at 295-57-4228.

- The annual Military Career Day event will be scheduled for mid-November. The Air Force Recruiter from Mildenhall AFB will visit Lajes to meet with interested students and parents. Parents and the Lajes Community will receive more information about this event in early November.

**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 5 SAT Exam must register online by October 30. 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!