



FALCON PRIDE

LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

19 September 2008

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday-Wednesday	September 22-24	Vision and Hearing Screening
Wednesday	September 24	Junior Varsity Volleyball Game at 1930
Thursday	September 25	Parent Forum at 0930
Thursday	September 25	Varsity Volleyball Game at 1930
Monday	September 29	Eco Club Meeting
Friday,	October 10	No School for Students - Teacher Training Day (SIP)
Monday,	October 13	Columbus Day - Federal Holiday
Thursday	October 16	College Night
Thursday,	October 30	End of First Quarter
Friday,	October 31	No School for Students - Teacher Workday

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH - The Information Center (IC) is helping celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a special book display and some regalia showing Hispanic crafts and arts. K-1 students can check out one book at a time, 2nd grade two books, and 3rd grade and up 3 books. However, if parents visit the IC with their son or daughter, more books can be checked out. Parents can also borrow books from the school IC by checking them out to their son or daughter. If a student has an overdue book, he cannot check out until the overdue is cleared. Call the IC at ext 6858 if there is a problem with a book. Consider volunteering in the IC if you like reading, enjoy working with ages 4-18, want to learn skills that will give you credit for job experience; Help is needed for filing, reshelving, making signs and posters, circulation, helping students find things, and all sorts of special talents. Contact Christine Deisher Cabral, Information Specialist (librarian), up the ramp in the elementary wing or call ext 6858.

CONSTITUTION DAY - Lajes M/HS celebrated Constitution Day on September 17.

In honor of the 219th year of its ratification, students from every grade recited the Preamble and over one hundred signed a wall-size reproduction of the original Constitution set up in the school lobby. The Framers would be proud!

ECO- ISLAND CLUB AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - The 2008-2009 Eco-Island Club is being offered to all 2nd through 12th grades this year. This is a club that will give students a minute to care about nature or the environment; to learn about their immediate surroundings and become aware of such ecological issues as water and air quality, recycling, alternative sources of energy, etc. Students will manage the recycling program at our school, make study trips to different points of interest on the island and take part of the Lajes Earth Week in April. Our first club meeting is Monday, September 29. Everyone is invited to attend. Adult mentors and chaperones are welcomed. Be part of the solution. Join! Ms. Deisher and Mr. DeMelo, Club sponsors

PARENT FORUM – There will be a Parent Forum on September 25 at 0930, in the principal's office - room 302A. Parent Forums are held monthly with the principal so that parents and community members can air their concerns, give suggestions and/or ask questions in regards to the school community. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us.

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 Mr. Brown's Room from 2:40 to 3:40 PM. Students who fail to show up for assigned LEAP or who are still behind on assignments are then assigned to Saturday Morning LEAP in Mr. Brown's room from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. 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.

GRADESPEED - For the 2008-2009 School Year, DoDEA has implemented GradeSpeed in all 4th - 12th grade classrooms worldwide. GradeSpeed is a web-based program that enables parents to log-in to view grades for their student(s). GradeSpeed will be the only authorized and supported grade book used by DoDEA employees in Grades 4-12.

GradeSpeed provides secure parent access via the Parent Portal. Parents must register at:

<http://dodea.gradespeed.net> to establish a personal GradeSpeed access account. After their account has been established, parents will be able to login to view grades only for their student. There is a note feature available in GradeSpeed that parents can use to directly contact their student's teachers.

Since GradeSpeed is web-based, the program can be accessed from anywhere. Parents who are deployed will be able to stay informed and involved in their child's academic life regardless of location. GradeSpeed makes communication between parents and teachers easier, more effective and timelier.

The attached file has instructions on how parents can sign up to use GradeSpeed. Please contact Mr. Ballantine at extension 1380 if you have any questions.



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Wanted!! - Substitute teachers, monitors and aides. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, a cafeteria monitor or an aide, please contact Glenela Rajpaul at 295-57-4151 to find out more information.

OPT-OUT MILITARY RECRUITERS FORM - If you and/or your senior do not want Military Recruiters to receive requested student data for your senior student, please come by our office and pick up the Opt-Out Military Recruiters Form. The data is to be completed and returned to Mr. Gronke. If you have any questions, please call 295-57-4228.

SPORTS SCHEDULES – The girls Varsity Volleyball team played their third and most exciting match against Praia on Thursday night. They started off with a shaky first game, but were able to pull themselves together and work as a team for the second game. The second game was heated as both teams vied for the lead. All the girls had consistent serves and met the challenge of their opponents' mastery of the game. The Lady Falcons stepped it up by setting up for bump, set, spike on their side with a few tricky tips at the net by Co-Captain Laura Goynes and perfect sets by both Laura and Chelsea Nutting. The second game continued to be exhilarating as the youngest player on the team, Britnee Jones showed her talent and Brynne Coleman got in a kill. Alina Lesniak ensured the set-up with perfect passes and Co-Captain Meghan McClain, the 'hammer' of our second game, had several good spikes. Cassidy Clark kept the game alive with great digs while Erica Phillips got two aces on the other team with her powerful serves! The connection and spirit within the team was easily seen on their smiling faces. They barely lost

the second game 22-25 and were only two points behind on the fourth game! Everyone communicated, stayed positive, and motivated and achieved their goal, which was to work cohesively as a team.

Junior Varsity will play on Wednesdays with their first game on Sept. 24 @ 7:30 while the Varsity Girls have their game on Thursday, Sept. 25 @ 7:30. Both are in our HS gym. Come on out and cheer on your Lady Falcons!!!

NURSE'S NOTES - Please review the parent handbook for guidance concerning medications at school. By regulation DoDDS School Nurses are only to administer medications prescribed by a physician and in the original container from the pharmacy. Parents may come to the school to administer any over the counter medications they feel their child may need throughout the school day (Tylenol, cough syrup, etc). Our students are not to carry medications in their backpacks or pockets. Your assistance will help keep our halls and classrooms Drug Free.

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. We began issuing TAPs on September 2. 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.

COUNSELOR NEWS -

The annual Military Career Day event will be scheduled for mid-November. The Air Force recruiter from Aviano, MSgt. Martinoli, will visit Lajes during this time to meet with interested students and parents.

College Night is scheduled for October 16, 2008 in the Education Office Auditorium. More information about this event will be provided in future newsletters.

SAT/ACT/ASVAB- If parents have questions concerning any of the testing items listed below, please call Mr. Gronke at 535-4228

1. The SAT I Exam will be administered on Saturday, October 4, 2008.
2. The ACT Exam will be administered on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Students need to pick-up the \$25 Wavier form from Mr. Gronke and register online by September 19, 2008.
3. All DoDDS 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT Exam on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. A detailed letter was mailed home to parents providing them with detailed information about the PSAT exam. Parents of 8th or 9th grade students who would want their son or daughter to take the PSAT Exam should contact the counselor, Mr. Gronke at 535-4228 or via e-mail david.gronke@eu.dodea.edu
4. The ASVAB Exam is scheduled for October 31, 2008. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Exam will be administered to interested juniors and seniors on Friday, October 31. Students will

not

be in attendance this day, as it is the end-of-quarter Teacher Records Keeping Day. Interested juniors or seniors should contact Mr. Gronke.

CLASS RINGS - Any student interested in ordering a class ring from Jostens should see Mr. Rehak in room 132 for an information packet. Students and parents may also go online at Jostens.com and proceed with ordering. Rings may be ordered at any time this school year and take between 6 and 8 weeks to arrive at an APO address. If you have further questions you may contact our Jostens representative at kerri.dolena@jostens.com.

PTO PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION - "We support our kids & we support our teachers" We would like feedback from you on school portraits, what would you like this year. Also, look for pre-order forms for school shirts and coming in October, we will be operating the student store. And finally, be on the lookout for the PTO membership forms. For any concerns or questions, please e-mail Darlene Ciotuszynski at Lajespto@yahoo.com. Our first meeting will be in September.