



# FALCON PRIDE

## LAJES ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

Lajes, Azores

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14 September 2007

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday	17 Sept	Sure Start Begins
Tuesday	18 Sept	Fire Drill
Tuesday	18 Sept	First PTO meeting at 530 in the cafeteria
Thursday	20 Sept	Bus Safety
Friday	21 Sept	Staff Development Day - <b>Dismissal at 1115</b>

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY** - Don't forget that there is **an early dismissal on Friday, 21 September**. The school staff will be involved in school improvement activities. If you are interested in attending, please contact one of the principals.

**LAJES SIP (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN)** The SIP Word of the Week is *antidote*-a medicine to counteract poison or disease; something that relieves a harmful effect. Surprise your child by using it in a sentence during dinner tonight! Also, remember to submit your acronyms for our problem-solving steps. Check last week's edition for the contest details.

**TARDIES AREN'T PERMITTED (TAP)** - Punctuality is a valuable lifelong skill that will increase students' chances of success in school and in the workplace. The school expects all students to be on time to class. "Tardies Aren't Permitted" (TAP), one of our initiatives for SY 2006-2007, already indicates that students will be on time for their classes when the expectation for them to do so is clear. When a student is tardy to class, the teacher sends the student's name to the administration. We believe that the natural consequence for being tardy (an hour after-school detention) should be immediate...served on the same day. That way, each student starts fresh the next morning, without an impending detention that afternoon for something that occurred the previous day. When a student reports for detention, we have them call you to inform you of the detention. At times, we are unable to contact a parent. If you prefer that your student not stay on the day that the tardy occurs, please notify us via email, and we will ensure that we deal with his/her consequence the following afternoon. We are also aware that there are other circumstances that preclude an immediate consequence (bus transportation, appointments, baby-sitting, etc.) that will require that other arrangements be made. Students who have been assigned a TAP session are to report to the administration right after school. If there is a bona fide reason that the detention be deferred, it is important that your child let us know of these circumstances immediately so that they can be released.

We are keeping statistics on TAP, which we will share at the end of the quarter. There has already been a steady decline of tardies each day for the most part, and very few repeat offenders. As always, we are proud of the way our students rise to the level of expectation.

**THE 10 SCHOOL BUS RULES** - On Thursday, September 20, all students will have a short bus safety orientation. Even though your child may not be riding the bus to and from school each day, they will be riding the bus for school study trips. Please review the following universal school bus rules with your children:

- Obey the driver or adult.
- Enter and exit the bus safely and always show your bus pass.
- Stay properly seated and use seatbelt when available.
- Keep your hands, feet and other body parts to yourself.
- Do not throw things.
- Put nothing out of the window.
- Remain quiet and do not disturb the driver or others.
- No profanity, indecency, smoking, prohibited items, or vandalism.
- Do not eat, drink or chew gum.
- Be responsible, be safe.

**SHCP HELP WANTED** - One of the continuing goals of our School Improvement Plan is to "strengthen partnerships that will engage parents, command and our community to support student development." One avenue of communication can be the School Home Community Partnership (SHCP) Help Wanted section where parents and interested community members can be made aware of volunteer opportunities. Take a look and see if there is an opportunity or two for you to come and share with us! Mrs. S., kindergarten teacher, is looking for dress up clothing for a play center. Donations can be dropped off at her room, #153. Mrs. B., School Nurse, needs assistance October 2-5. Our students will be receiving vision and hearing screenings and several adults are needed to guide students to and from their classrooms and the screening room. Call 535-6108 or stop by her office if you can volunteer on any or all of these days. Anyone experienced in breeding or training dogs, especially cold weather dogs, willing to speak to a 7th grade English class that is studying Jack London's "Call of the Wild", please contact Ms. G. at ext. 4151. Anyone who has spoken personally to a Holocaust survivor and is willing to share the experience with an 8th grade class reading The Diary of Anne Frank, please contact Ms. G. at ext. 4151.

**LAJES GIRL SCOUTS** - are throwing a Welcome Back Bash & potluck for registered Girl Scouts, their families, and those interested in joining Girl Scouts or learning more. Event will take place Sat., Sept. 29th, 5:00 - 7:00 in the Lajes Elementary school cafeteria and is meant to better familiarize scouts and families within the community, as well as welcome in the new Girl Scout year. Hot dogs, drinks and smores will be provided; families are asked to bring a side dish (no desserts please). Please RSVP to C. M.

**PTO** - First PTO meeting Sept 18 at 530 in the cafeteria. Come on out and meet the new board! Bring 10 Box Tops and get entered to win a prize! Bring your membership form and \$10.00 fee and be entered into 1 of 2 drawings for a Falcon Pride T-Shirt! We will have extra forms.

Falcon Pride Gear orders end Sept 18! If you haven't placed your order yet, you can do so at the meeting. There will be no other orders placed this year.

PTO Donut Sale--Sept 24 before school. Drop off your student and pick up a dozen donuts! Donuts will be sold by dozen or individually. We will have a limited number and if you would like to pre-order you can do so by submitting your info (name, squadron, duty phone) along with your selection to [LajesPTO@yahoo.com](mailto:LajesPTO@yahoo.com) by Sept. 21. You can choose from chocolate frosted, glazed or Bavarian cream. Pre-orders by the dozen only. \$5.00 per dozen or 0.75 each.