



LES MISSION STATEMENT –

"Increasing Reading Comprehension & Expressive Writing Across the Curriculum"

Issue 02

5 September 2008

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Lakenheath Elementary School
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Dates to Remember

10 Sep – Rocky's Café, 2nd & KG
11 Sep – Rocky's Café, 1st & 3rd
11 Sep – First day of school for Sure Start
15 Sep – Open House, 5-7pm

The Principal's Column

Charles Yahres, Principal

LES OPEN HOUSE SY08-09



WELCOME BACK! We would like formally to welcome everyone to the new school year on Monday, September 15th at our annual Lakenheath Elementary School **Open House**, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. We will initially gather in the cafeteria for a brief introduction of our teaching staff followed by a Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) membership meeting. At 5:30 parents will be dismissed to visit classrooms.

The evening schedule will be as follows:

5:00-5:15 – Teacher Introductions
5:15-5:25 – PTA Membership Drive and Announcements
5:30-5:55 – Classroom Visitation (Session I)

6:00-6:25 – School Specialist Visitation

6:30-6:55 – Classroom Visitation (Session II)

The format for Open House will be casual as the title "Open House" suggests. We see it as an opportunity for parents to take a good look at our school, meet our staff, and review curricular materials. We ask that you refrain from asking specific questions concerning your child's progress, as it is still early in the school year and all teachers will be trying to meet as many parents as possible.

A PTSO membership sign-up table will be set up throughout the evening, and I encourage you to join. Our PTSO coordinates a wide variety of school programs and activities throughout the year, and your dues are a great resource for support.

LES ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

In order to ensure the safe arrival and dismissal of all LES students, we ask that all parents and students review and follow the procedures outlined below:

8:05 Students may begin arriving on the LES campus. With no adult supervision outside prior to 0805, it is imperative that students and families plan their arrival time accordingly. Students will line up outside the designated doors near their classrooms.

***Front Door and Front Lobby – Arrival for PSCD, Sure Start, and Taxi students ONLY.**

***Side Entrance near the Principal's Office –**

Grade 1, 2, & 3 homeroom students in building 50 ONLY.

***Rear Entrance near bus loading zone –**

Grade 1, 2, & 3 homeroom students in building 51 ONLY.

***Kindergarten Entrance near bus loading zone –**

Line up area for ALL Kindergarten Students

8:10 Doors are open for student entry. Students are not allowed in the building prior to this time.

8:15 Classes Begin

8:20 All doors are secured except for the main entrance to Building 50.

2:35 Students are dismissed

- All students who attend the Lakenheath AYA after school care are escorted to the cafeteria to meet their AYA counselor
- All students who ride the busses are escorted to the bus parking lot.
- All students who are dismissed to their parents should have the same meeting point each day.

2:45 Busses depart the LES parking lot.

If a child's afternoon routine is to change at any time, we require advanced written notification to the classroom teacher from an adult sponsor or care provider. FOR OBVIOUS SECURITY REASONS, PHONE CALLS WITH CHANGE OF AFTER SCHOOL PLANS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

ATTENDANCE REPORTING PROCEDURES



If you need to report your child absent or late, please contact the school's

attendance line on 016138-521293 or 226-1293. This is an answering service. Please leave your child's name, teacher's name and the reason for the absence. Please speak clearly when you leave your message. Thank you for helping us keep track of our students!

TRAFFIC PATTERNS – SAFETY FIRST!



Due to the heavy bus traffic before and after school, all vehicles must enter the school grounds via Lords Walk. At the end of **LORDS WALK make a right, then a left on to CHATHAM ROAD**. Follow Chatham Road to the rear parking lot. If you plan to accompany your child to the school, you may park in either the rear or the front parking lots. The **Kiss and Drop Zone is adjacent to the large flower boxes in the rear parking lot**. Please keep to the left, as close to the flower boxes as possible. Only emergency vehicles and taxis for our special needs students may enter the front gates of the school from Norwich Road. Thank you for your understanding, and please remember to drive carefully on our campus!

LUNCH SCHEDULE 2008 - 2009



1st Grade

Recess 10:50 - 11:10
Lunch 11:15 – 11:35

2nd Grade

Recess 11:15 – 11:35
Lunch 11:40 – 12:00

3rd Grade

Recess 11:40 – 12:00
Lunch 12:05 – 12:25

KG

Recess 12:10 – 12:30
Lunch 12:35 – 1:05

KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CHANGE



The Department of Defense Education Activity has changed eligibility requirements for kindergartners and first graders for next school year, 2009-2010.

Children must be 5 by September 1, 2009 to enroll in kindergarten, and 6 by the same date to attend first grade, according to recent enrollment regulation updates. The previous eligibility birth date was October 31.

The change mirrors a standard applied in school districts throughout the United States.

Beginning next school year, students participating in DoDEA's Sure Start program must be 4 by September 1, 2009, except for those attending kindergarten or a Sure Start program under the DODEA system this year. They will be exempt from the new eligibility rules next year only. Also exempt are children already enrolled in an accredited kindergarten or first grade who transfer to a DODEA school after the start of the academic school year. Contact me at 226-3721 if you have any questions concerning the new regulations.

Assistant Principal Rhonda Bennett

Introduction

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year at Lakenheath Elementary School. My name is Rhonda Bennett. I have been the Assistant Principal at this school since 2005. To the families that are new to this area we welcome you to our community and we welcome back the friendly faces that are returning to RAF Lakenheath. I look forward to a year full of lots of learning and fun activities with your child. I encourage you to be involved with your child's education. The teachers working at Lakenheath Elementary School have created a nurturing environment that is based on exploration and discovery, yet provides structural boundaries as well. All students' benefit from positive adult and peer role models,

acceptance of unique needs and friendships. As a staff we support and encourage students to practice problem-solving skills rather than a sense of competition. Our staff is very eager to meet the parents of their students.

Please keep in mind that the school staff really enjoy, and appreciates parent volunteers. Our PTSO is one of the best group of parents I have worked with and they do an outstanding job organizing special events for our school community throughout the year. They also welcome you to become a member and participate in all the creative activities they have planned.

Your child has many opportunities to participate in high-quality early childhood programs throughout the school day and periodically, classes will be offered after school.

Welcome to a great school year!

Lunch Money

Recently many of our students have been bringing cash to school to pay for their lunch. Consequently, we have had children upset over losing their money. The cafeteria staff has found money by the cash register and has no idea which child left it there. Therefore, the teachers are being tasked with bringing the money to the cafeteria so they can enter it in the child's account. For these reasons, please do not send money to school with your child. You may go to the BX and update your child's lunch account or you may bring the money to school and ask the staff in the cafeteria to enter it into your child's account. Thank you for complying; we really appreciate your support.

INCOME GUIDELINES ADJUSTED FOR FREE, REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS

Jennifer H. Svan, Stars and Stripes, Pacific edition



As a new academic year swings into full speed, military school officials are reminding parents that eligibility for free or reduced-price meals has been adjusted to reflect slightly higher income levels.

This school year, a household of four qualifies with a maximum income of \$34,450. In 2007, a family of four with a household income of \$32,500 or less qualified for a free lunch, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics.

Department of Defense schools in the Pacific and Europe adhere to Alaska income categories. The Alaska guidelines are higher than those used for the 48 contiguous states, which Guam schools follow. USDA bases guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced-price meals on federal income poverty data.

The cost for a school lunch at Pacific and Europe military bases is \$2.05 for elementary school students and \$2.20 for secondary school students, according to information from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which administers overseas school lunch programs. Those eligible for a reduced lunch pay 40 cents per meal.

Families may apply for free or reduced-price meals any time during the school year as their qualifications change, Department of Defense Education Activity officials said in a news release. A family that's ineligible at the beginning of the school year may reapply if, for instance, household income decreases, household size increases or a household member becomes unemployed.

USDA eligibility rates are based on income before any deductions, such as taxes, according to the department. Income includes dividends or interest on savings or bonds, net rental income, retirement pay and private pensions or annuities.

Overseas cost-of-living allowance is not counted as income, according to Shirley Rogers, 374th Mission Support Group school liaison officer at Yokota Air Base, Japan. However, she said, special pay — such as flight pay and re-enlistment bonuses — is included. The exception is extra pay given to a service member while deployed, if the member is using some or all of that income for expenses downrange, Rogers said. If the

member is sending it all home, it counts.

Also included as income are child support and alimony, Rogers said. Families that qualified last year must re-apply before the expiration of a 30-day grace period, starting from the beginning of the current school year.

ROCKY'S CAFÉ STARTS AGAIN THIS WEEK

School Home Partnership



Rocky's Café is an opportunity to have lunch with your child other than in the school cafeteria. It is held once a month, usually on the third Wednesday and Thursday of the month. 1st and 3rd grade are on one day and 2nd and Kindergarten on the other. Each month the days are swapped, e.g. if Rocky's Café for 1st/3rd Grade is on a Wednesday one month, it will be on a Thursday the following month. As it covers recess and lunch period, you have approximately 45 minutes to spend with your child, as opposed to the regular lunch period of 20 minutes that you would have if you were here any other time for lunch.

The calendar in the Parent Student Handbook shows the dates of Rocky's Café. They are also announced in the Eagle Express. Times are as follows: 1st Grade – 10:50, 2nd Grade – 11:15, 3rd Grade – 11:40, and Kindergarten 12:10. A note is sent home to the parents the day before as a reminder.

The Parent Center is set up with tables, which are covered with cloths and decorated, music is played and school members serve the guests with tea and coffee. You provide a lunch of your choice or you can purchase lunch from the school cafeteria. When you arrive, you will be asked to wait in the main reception area (after obtaining a visitor pass) and the children will be sent down from their classrooms.

The PTSO open the school store on Rocky's Café days, where you can purchase sweatshirts, t-shirts and novelty items (e.g. pencils, bracelets, neck wallets). Items range from .25c

for a pencil to \$20.00 for an adult hoodie.

Due to the limited space available for Rocky's Café, it is on a reservation basis only. Reservations can be made by telephoning the school on 01638-523721 or 226-3721. We will only accept reservations for that particular month.

DEPLOYMENT MAIL AND ROCKY'S MAIL

Danette Keegan, School Psychologist



We have two mail programs at LES which might interest you: *DEPLOYMENT MAIL*, and *ROCKY'S MAIL*.

DEPLOYMENT MAIL. If deployment is impacting your household, we'd like to offer the opportunity to take part in the school's deployment mail program. We will assist your child to email from school with an adult sponsor, a teacher or staff member. Return emails from the deployed parent will be delivered to the student in class. This is an opportunity for a little special attention to counteract the stresses of deployment, and another way of keeping in touch with mom or dad. Just pick up a permission/address form in the main office and return it to school, or ask the classroom teacher about it.

ROCKY'S MAIL is an intra-school postal system. There is a small red wooden postal box near the reception desk in the main foyer. Mail is delivered each afternoon to students and teachers. We deliver anything that will fit in the box. Take the time to write a little love note to your child. We'll deliver! Make sure to give the address, the student's full name and the name of the classroom teacher, or room number.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Rachel Caverly, RN



The health office is looking for volunteers to help with vision and hearing screenings—no experience needed. If this is something that you would like to help with, please contact the nurse at 01638-52-3721. Also, we

are always looking for nurse subs. If you are a nurse who would like to pick up a few extra hours then please contact the front office about paperwork on substituting. Thanks for your support!

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Anne Marks, Host Nation



Annie, our new guide dog, is coming to visit next Wednesday. She lives in

Colchester with her puppy walker, Mandy Albone. Annie is 12 weeks old and is a Labrador/retriever puppy. We all hope that she will not grow up too fast and will learn how to become a great guide dog.

27th ANNUAL JOAN MANN SPORTS DAY EVENT ~ 13 Sept 2008, Hangar 711



Volunteers are needed for the Joan Mann Special Olympics at RAF Mildenhall. Special needs students

and adults from the schools and the local community will be participating in this wonderful event. Please volunteer for this worthy cause. The event was created over 20 years ago by Joan Mann, a Ministry of Defense employee working in the public affairs office at RAF Mildenhall.

There are 15 event categories planned this year and a need for 600 escort volunteers. As an escort volunteer, you will be matched with a person and remain with them throughout the day.