



## LES MISSION STATEMENT –

"Increasing Reading Comprehension & Expressive Writing Across the Curriculum"

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### Dates to Remember

15 Sep – Open House, 5-7pm  
26 Sep – PTSO Spirit Day (wear school attire)

### The Principal's Column

Charles Yahres, Principal

### ELECTRONIC EAGLE EXPRESS



It is our aim to send the Eagle Express electronically to all parents as it saves time and valuable resources. If this is the first edition of the Eagle Express you have seen, then we do not have a current e-mail address on file for you.

We ask that you complete the attached and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible so that our records can be kept up-to-date.

The Eagle Express will be sent out in a .pdf format. Therefore, if you do not have Adobe on your computer, may we suggest you use one of the free download sites available on the Internet.

You can also obtain a copy from our school website at: <http://www.lake->

[es.eu.dodea.edu/Newsletter/NewsletterIndex.htm](http://es.eu.dodea.edu/Newsletter/NewsletterIndex.htm).

### LES OPEN HOUSE SY08-09



We would like to formally 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.

### LAKENHEATH AND MILDENHALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

The September 18, 2008 SAB meeting is cancelled due to conflict of schedules

### **Assistant Principal**

Rhonda Bennett

### 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 into 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.

## 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.

## GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Anne Marks, Host Nation



Annie, our guide dog puppy, came on Wednesday with her "puppy walker" Mandy. Mandy lives in Colchester and it took her 1.5 hours to get here through lots of traffic.

The Main Gate to the base was the busiest place apparently. Everyone wanted to stroke and play with Annie - she was very popular in the Visitors Center, and car park.

The children loved Annie, and the teachers who met her wanted to take her home! She is 11 weeks old and gorgeous. She did have to take a few naps during the day because she was tired meeting so many people. Mandy had to carry her up and down the stairs because she is not allowed to do it herself yet as her bones are still growing and are not strong enough.

She is coming back to see us during the last week of October.

Watch out next week for photos of Annie's visit!