



LES MISSION STATEMENT –

"Increasing Reading Comprehension & Expressive Writing Across the Curriculum"

Issue 23

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Lakenheath Elementary School

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Dates to Remember

**27 FEB – EARLY DISMISSAL - 1130**

27 Feb – PTO Spirit Day – see article

LUNCH MENU

(Optional choice is for 2nd / 3rd grade)

23 Feb: BBQ Riblet (or Baked Chicken Drumsticks), Broccoli, Applesauce, Fruited Jell-O, Whole Wheat Roll, and Milk

24 Feb: Cheese Pizza (or Cheeseburger on a Bun), Fresh Carrots & Celery w/Dip, Chilled Pears, Fruited Jell-O, Baked Mini Pretzel, and Milk

25 Feb: Turkey Sausage (or Cheese Omelet), French Toast Sticks, Baked Tater Tots, Banana, and Milk

26 Feb: Meatloaf on Bun (or Ham & Cheese), Oven Baked Potato Wedges, Fruit Cup, Fruited Jell-O, Graham Crackers, and Milk

27 Feb: EARLY RELEASE – no lunch

Check out the month's menu at:

<http://odin.aafes.com/nutrition/08/index.html>

The Principal's Column

EARLY DISMISSAL



Due to the cancelation of school Monday morning, February 2nd, many of you may be receiving a parent invitation to reschedule your child's mid-year parent-teacher conference, or a letter stating it is not necessary to meet at this time. Conferences will be scheduled in the afternoon only on Friday, February 27th, 2009 from 1230 to 1500 hrs. **An early dismissal has been scheduled for 1130 that day.**

The purpose of our mid-year conferences differs from our fall conferences as they are optional and may vary in style. Some teachers schedule group conferences for several parents at a time, others use student led conferences, and some prefer individual parent conferences for parents of new students, or for those needing additional support in preparation for next school year.

Please return the invitation to your child's teacher by Tuesday, February 24th.

If you were not invited to attend, but still wish to meet with any of your child's teachers that day, contact them via note, email, or by leaving a message at 226-3721. We look forward to seeing you!

ATTENDANCE REPORTING PROCEDURES



If you need to report your child absent or late, please contact the school **by email at**

les.attendance@eu.dodea.edu or on **01638-523721 / 226-3721.** Due to

circumstances beyond our control, we do not have a service where you can leave a message at this time. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

The following Attendance Policy is taken from the Parent Student Handbook:

The DoDDS educational program assumes that all students will attend school regularly and punctually. Adherence to the school attendance policy is the responsibility of the parents and students.

Consistent student attendance is imperative to a successful school experience for each child. However, home leave and unique travel opportunities are part of being responsive to the military environment and living overseas. Students need to develop the habit of regular school attendance except in cases of family emergencies, medically related concerns, religious holidays, annual leave that is command-designated or school sponsored activities. Prolonged absences often result in students missing significant portions of their education.

The policy letter on absence reporting for all DoDDS students from the 48th Fighter Wing Commander and the 100th Air

Refueling Wing Commander requires all assigned personnel with family members attending local DoD schools to notify the schools no later than the day prior for planned absences. For unplanned absences (e.g. illness) or late arrivals, notify the schools before 0800.

DoDDS will attempt to contact parents within one hour of discovering an unexcused absence. Doing so requires parents to maintain current contact information with the school. *Please ensure your phone will accept incoming calls from the school.* If information is not current or accurate, DoDDS will initiate contact through the appropriate command post, which will contact the individual's chain of command/supervision. For individuals so contacted, commanders will counsel and, if necessary, initiate appropriate disciplinary action for repeat occurrences.

To keep our database current and accurate, all absences must be followed with a written excuse to the teacher from the parent, stating the reason and date(s) of the absence. Send the note with your child on the day your child returns to school. If you are planning a family trip during the school year, please notify your child's teacher at least one week prior to departure.

This policy is in accordance with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, and the 48th Fighter Wing and 100th Air Refueling Wing commanders' procedures regarding student absences.

GOLDEN ROCKY'S



We had 7 students receive their Golden Rocky award today. Congratulations to all!

JUMP ROPE FOR THE HEART

Physical Education Dept



Today is the day! The students at LES are jumping to show their good heart-healthy habits and to fight heart disease! I wanted to pass on the good news that we are able to use the online donation service on the American Heart Association's website. The state of Pennsylvania has taken us under their wing!

Go to www.Americanheart.org/jump. Click on the link to raise money online for JRFH; click on the state of PA; click on the letter "L" and find Lakenheath Elementary School. Follow directions from there to make online donations in your student's name.

The deadline for turning in donation envelopes has been extended to March 2 to give family and friends of our students more time to make their donations. Remember, all donations turned in to Ms. Parkerson must be in a check made payable to the American Heart Association or from an online donation (with printed record sheet put in the envelope).

BOOKS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Information Center



We really have an extensive collection of books that make suitable, enriching choices for Black History Month.

The most frequently used ones are probably the ones about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But, don't forget, there are many others who made important contributions before him and after him. The following books will be found on the biography shelves. There are many others, too numerous to mention:

Airplane pilots: Bessie Coleman
Authors: Donald Crews, Patricia McKissack, Faith Ringgold
Artists: Faith Ringgold
Astronauts: Mae Jemison

Business leaders: Madame C.J. Walker

Civil Rights: Frederick Douglass, Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman

Educators: Booker T. Washington

Entertainers: Marian Anderson, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie

Scientists: George Washington Carver

Sports: Hank Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Jessie Owens, Wilma Rudolph, Babe Ruth, Serena & Venus Williams, Tiger Woods.

Because we wanted the students to understand a bit more about the word "history" as used in "Black History Month", the following books were read to them about slavery and the underground railroad.

An Apple for Harriet Tubman, by Glennette Tilley Turner. This is a beautifully illustrated biography about the most famous of the conductors on the underground railroad.

The Patchwork Path, by Bettye Stroud. Hannah and her father escape to Canada with the help of the code provided by the patterns in the quilt that Hannah had made with the help of her mother. This code traditionally had been passed from mothers to daughters and the meaning of each pattern (Monkey Wrench, Wagon Wheel, Flying Geese, *etc.*) is revealed as the story unfolds.

Under the Quilt of Night, by Deborah Hopkinson tells the same story as *The Patchwork Path* but in a slightly easier narrative poetry format.

The books mentioned hardly scratch the surface of choices. Encourage your children to come down and do some of their own choosing.

DR SEUSS BIRTHDAY
Information Center

Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss!
We're glad your imagination was loose!
We love your rhymes.
We love good times.
So what should we do to celebrate
Your birth date?

Have a birthday party to celebrate!

Do you have anything better to do?
Have a party for all your friends and you!
Have it at your pool--or better yet at your school!

So, taking the advice of the good doctor, we are having a party to celebrate Dr. Seuss' 105th birthday at the Lakenheath Elementary School Information Center on Sunday, March 1st at 2:00pm.

Your children should be bringing home their invitations. The date on the return slip is **wrong**. The party is Sunday, March 1st from 2:00 to 4:00pm and the whole family is invited to attend.

PTSO SPIRIT DAY

PTSO Spirit Wear Chairperson



Every Friday is Lakenheath Elementary School spirit day. However, the last Friday of every month is the PTSO spirit day.

The PTSO will take a count of students wearing spirit-wear during lunch. Spirit wear is any LES-related items. This includes articles purchased from the school store, Rocky runner t-shirts, walk the UK/USA t-shirts, field day t-shirts, Jump Rope for Heart t-shirts or any item from the previous school years.

The classroom with the highest percentage will be the PTSO spirit day winner for that month. The classroom will receive a certificate for their teacher and a "Rocky Wreath" to hang on their door.

If you are in need of spirit wear, please stop by the parent center or purchase at the school store on Rocky's Cafe Days.

See attached for current price list.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Publicity And Communications Committee

SWEETHEART BAZAAR and CARNIVAL



The Lakenheath Elementary School Parent Teacher School Organization (PTSO) did it again! The volunteers prepared weeks in advance to provide the hottest show in town.



On Saturday, February 7th, the PTSO held their annual Sweetheart Bazaar and Carnival. There were lots of games and activities for the children.

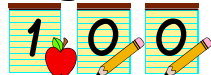


The adults who brought children were also intrigued with the many items for sale that ranged from antique furniture to party balloons.



There was no doubt that everyone who attended the event went home with happy smiles, and had pockets filled with prizes and treats. It was a great day and there was something fun for everyone. Thank you PTSO!

The One-Hundredth Day



On Wednesday, February 11th, First Grade classes celebrated "100 Days of Learning in First Grade".



After counting and recording each day from the beginning of school this year, students across the grade level participated in a wide variety of activities all centered on the number 100. Some classes invited parents to help participate in centers. Two classes divided into teams and visited each other's classrooms. Students made 100-Day glasses, headbands and necklaces with 100 fruit loops. Many classes played games. Two popular games were "Toss the Dice" 100 times after estimating which numbers would likely have the most wins and "Heads or Tails" with pennies to see which would get the greater number of wins. Students counted using tally marks

and graphs. They wrote numbers to 100 and followed dot-to-dots. Classes looked for patterns in charts of 100. Some students ate 100 snacks. Many students read 100th Day poems and stories.



Many students completed 100th Day projects at home with a little help from their families and then shared them with their classmates and decorated the rooms and hallways. All and all first grade had a wonderful time with this celebration.

SNOW DAY!



The local area has been hit with extremely cold, wet, and icy days during the last couple of weeks. Some of our Sure Start students seized the opportunity to learn all about snow on February 13, 2009.

The four- and five-year olds were bundled up and played busily in their special playground area. They used their large motor skills to roll snow into balls.



Their ultimate goal was to make snowmen.



At least one snowman stood tall and the student proudly hugged his greatest accomplishment of the day.



They observed first-hand that snow turned into water if held in their hands for too long. This was the first snow that many had experienced in their young lives. The children enjoyed this happy developmental experience with their teacher.



The teacher has been with Lakenheath Elementary School for several years. She continues to offer a variety of educational activities for her students and enjoys watching their faces light up with joy.