



## LES MISSION STATEMENT –

"Increasing Reading Comprehension & Expressive Writing Across the Curriculum"

Issue 01

29 August 2008

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Lakenheath Elementary School  
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### Dates to Remember

- 01 Sep – Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
- 02 Sep – First day of school for KG and PSCD
- 05 Sep – Lakenheath Complex Schools Half Day – LES release @ 11:15
- 10 Sep – Rocky's Café, 2<sup>nd</sup> & KG
- 11 Sep – Rocky's Café, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 11 Sep – First day of school for Sure Start
- 15 Sep – Open House, 5-7pm

### The Principal's Column

Charles Yahres, Principal

**WELCOME & WELCOME BACK** to another exciting school year at Lakenheath Elementary School. Our Opening Day for our students went very smoothly thanks to the fine weather, as well as staff volunteers pointing everyone in the right direction! The majority of our professional staff has returned this year. We do have one new local hire, Ms. Gretchen Critchley, teaching Special Education, and one stateside hire, Ms. Guadalupe Gomez, teaching 3rd Grade Spanish Immersion. Filling in for Ms Gomez until she arrives is one of our former teachers, Ms. Maureen Dougherty. We are also delighted to have another of our "super substitutes" Ms. Jennifer

Goldstein, filling in for one of our Host Nation teaching positions.

The big facility news over the summer was the completion of the interior painting of building 50. What a difference a shiny coat of paint makes! The fresh new look of the classrooms added to the excitement to the start of a new school year.

A special thanks to MSgt Patrick Felan for coordinating work teams from the 48 EMS to assist with the movement of furniture and the relocation of entire classrooms during the summer months. We would have never been ready without their dedicated support.

I want to thank Assistant Principal Rhonda Bennett and the entire office staff for all their time and efforts in preparing us for the first week of school. I would like to also thank our wonderful teachers and dedicated support staff for the many hours of preparation involved in putting classrooms back together and staying the course until the students entered school on Monday! No doubt, everyone came back refreshed and eager to get back with students.

### THE NURSE'S OFFICE HAS MOVED!



Parents please note our Nurse's Office is now located in building 50, room 127 just down the hall from the front office. We are in the process of having her dedicated phone line relocated there as well. In the meantime, please call the main office at 226-3721 or 3764 to contact her or leave a message.

### EARLY DISMISSAL



Parents please note that 5 Sep will be an early dismissal for students. Dismissal will be at 11:15 and buses will depart 11:25. No lunch will be served on that day.

### NATHAN GATE ESCORT PROCEDURES



**HOT OFF THE PRESS!** The new Nathan Gate escort procedures for pedestrians entering the base with personnel who do not have valid entry identification are as follows:

- \* Children under 10 years of age do not possess identification credentials; therefore, they need an escort when walking onto the base.
- \* Pedestrians under the age of 10 must be escorted by an identification card holder 13 years of age or older.
- \* A person between the age of 13 and 17 may escort no more than 5 personnel at a time
- \* Pedestrians over the age of 10 must possess valid base entry identification for unescorted entry. They will be denied entry onto the base if they do not have a valid base identification.
- \* Pedestrians between the age of 10 and 17 who are not in possession of identification may be escorted only by a parent or legal guardian with valid base entry identification.

\* Personnel 18 or older without identification must go to the Gate 1 visitor center for entry.

### 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



#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

Recess 10:50 - 11:10

Lunch 11:15 – 11:35

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Recess 11:15 – 11:35

Lunch 11:40 – 12:00

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Recess 11:40 – 12:00

Lunch 12:05 – 12:25

### **KG**

Recess 12:10 – 12:30

Lunch 12:35 – 1:05

### KINDERGARTEN AND 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

### CHILD FIND



Child-Find is a partnership program sponsored by DoDDS and military family support agencies used to find and identify dependent children from birth to 21 years of age who may be eligible for special education services. This includes students who are health impaired, communication impaired, emotionally impaired, those whose academic achievement is significantly below the expected norm, and children whose needs cannot be met in a regular instructional program. Individual Educational Plans will be developed for those children eligible for services. If you know of any child

that may need to be evaluated in any of the above categories, contact our Child Study Committee secretary, Rachel Muniz at 226-3734.

### **FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE**

Rachel Caverly, RN



The health office is happy to dispense medications, with a doctor's order, throughout the school year. In fact, if your child should have a medical concern such as asthma and/or food allergies I would recommend that parents leave medication with the nurse.

Also, all shot records must be up-to-date by September 2, 2008. If you have received either a call, letter, or e-mail from me then please bring in an updated immunization record right away.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 226-3721 or e-mail me at [rachel.caverly@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:rachel.caverly@eu.dodea.edu)

### **INFORMATION CENTER NEWS**

Ms. Jansch, Information Specialist



We are in full swing! Mrs. Kim Pierson is the new Technician. Kim has been one of our volunteers for the past two years, and now will be getting paid for doing work that she enjoys! We are also looking for new volunteers. The immediate need is for some help in the afternoons. Please give it some thought. In the past some of our volunteers have liked to come eat lunch with their children, and then stay on to help in various ways around the school. Perhaps, you might want to beat the end of the day rush for a parking place, and come a bit earlier to help out. The Information Center is located close (very close) to the dismissal area. Training will be given, and volunteers earn the privilege of extra books for their children, and all the chocolate you want from the candy box!

Kindergarten teachers also like to have volunteers to help bring their students to and from the Information Center to

choose new books. That task usually takes only about 15-20 minutes, and the children love it! Please let your child's Kindergarten teacher know that you are interested.

We have an "open" library, which means that the students can come each school day to choose new books. Parents are also able to have a "library card" which allows them to check out five books at a time to share with family. Stop by and apply today. Our school's goal is to have every student improve their reading skills this year. We enlist all the family to help in achieving this goal. Reading to your children, and sharing information about what you read enriches your child's life in so many ways.

Happy reading!

## **GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND**

Anne Marks, Host Nation



I have been officially notified that we have a new guide dog puppy, called "Annie". (See photos) We chose her name at the end of the last school year. We will be kept up to date with her progress from her "puppy walker". In October we will be celebrating National Guide Dog week and hopefully I should be able to let the children know how she is doing.

This is very exciting for us and we hope that she will grow up to become a qualified guide dog to help a blind person. Contact Anne Marks on ext 2534 if you have any questions.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Liz Jansch, Lost and Found Monitor (self-appointed)



Lost and found items are placed on the coat rack that sits at the Cafeteria end of the breezeway between Buildings 50 and 51.

It is located there because every child passes that coat rack at least once a week, and many pass it on a daily basis. So, if your students return home shoeless, coatless, or lunchboxless, please remind them to check at Lost and Found.

Please help us by putting your child's name in coats, jackets, and lunch boxes. If we can identify the "owner" these items could be more easily reunited!

The Lost and Found Rack will be emptied quarterly--whatever is on the rack on the Teacher Workdays, will be removed, laundered and donated to a local children's charity shop.

Thank you for your help in keeping our Lost and Found rack empty this year.

## **MUSIC CLUB**



Attention all string instrument players! The string ensemble will start rehearsing on 8 September at 2:45. All players welcome. Please bring your instrument and come to room 255. For more information call Barbara La Dine at 01638-533740.

## **WORD OF THE MONTH**

### **FRIENDSHIP**

**friend-ship** – <sup>1</sup> the state of being a friend; <sup>2</sup> a friendly relation or intimacy; <sup>3</sup> friendly feeling or disposition.

**ANNIE, OUR NEW GUIDE DOG  
AAAAHHHH!**

