



LES MISSION STATEMENT –

"Increasing Reading Comprehension & Expressive Writing Across the Curriculum"

Issue 20

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Lakenheath Elementary School

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Isles District, DoDDS-E

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Dates to Remember



- 02 Feb – Prof Dev Day/Parent Conf – NO SCHOOL
- 07 Feb – PTSO Sweetheart Bazaar, 10am-5pm
- 11 Feb – Rocky's Café, 1st & 3rd
- 12 Feb – Rocky's Café, 2nd & KG

LUNCH MENU

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



- 2 Feb: Professional Development Day/Parent Conferences – NO SCHOOL
- 3 Feb: Cheese Pizza (or Cheeseburger on a Bun), Fresh Carrots & Celery w/Dip, Chilled Pears, Fruited Jell-O, and Milk
- 4 Feb: Turkey Sausage (or Cheese Omelet), Blueberry Waffles, Baked Tater Tots, Banana, and Milk
- 5 Feb: Hamburger on a Bun (or Ham & Cheese), Baked Sweet Potato Fries, Fruit Cup, Fruited Jell-O, Ice Cream, and Milk
- 6 Feb: Baked Corn Dog (or Ravioli), Garden Side Salad, Chilled Peaches, Whole Grain Roll, Chocolate Chip Muffin, and Milk

Check out the month's menu at:
<http://odin.aafes.com/nutrition/08/index.html>

The Principal's Column

MID-YEAR CONFERENCES



Invitations should now have been received for the mid-year conferences.

The purpose mid-year conferences may vary according to the teacher's need. Some schedule group conferences for parents, while others prefer student led conferences. Individual parent conferences are encouraged for those arriving since the beginning of the second quarter, or if there is a need for the teacher to discuss areas of strength or weaknesses that parents should be aware of in preparation for next school year.

If you have any questions, contact your child's teacher by email or leave a message at the main office, 226-3721 or 3734.

SAFETY REMINDER



The safety of children as pedestrians are paramount. Therefore, it is important to teach and practice safe pedestrian skills with our children. Parents please remind your child/ren to look both ways before crossing the road and to obey the traffic signals. If your child is riding their bike or skateboard, ask them not to ride it across the road but to walk across the road when it is safe to do so.

We also have pedestrians who are using the other side where thorn bushes are planted on Lord's Walk as a

sidewalk/footpath. Students should use the sidewalks at all time and not cross the road where there is not a marked crossing or sidewalk.

FAMILY VACATIONS



In her newsletter (attached) Ms. Ohman, DoDDS-Europe Director, refers to excused absences for family vacations. The following is taken from our Parent Student Handbook:

The Extended Absence Policy. DoDEA policies and guidelines stress the importance of consistent school attendance for a successful school experience. We believe that children should develop the habit of attending school regularly. Exceptions to this would include family emergencies, medically related concerns, religious holidays, annual leave that is command designated, or school sponsored activities.

In order to track extended student absences more carefully and monitor student progress the following guidelines have been established.

1. Sponsors are requested to notify the homeroom teacher when they intend to withdraw their child from school for more than 5 school days using the *Extended Excused Absence* form. A copy of the form can be obtained from the main office staff. This request must be turned in not less than 5 school days before the child's departure, except in cases of emergency. The principal will review all extended absence request.

2. Requests for advanced assignments cannot always be granted, but may be provided at the discretion of the teacher.

3. After an excused extended absence, students will be provided with an equivalent number of days to complete any missed critical assignments.

4. No report card grades will be given in a marking period in which a child is absent for 20 or more days.

The school will make periodic checks on students who are frequently absent or who are absent for extended periods of time.

If your child has been ill with a fever or vomiting within the past 24 hours, it is best for your child, and the health of the other students, that you keep your child at home. Students who have been absent due to a contagious condition should report to the school nurse before returning to class.

There will be no academic penalty for excused absences. The student is entitled to assistance with missed work and an opportunity to take make-up test/work. This entitlement is not required for unexcused absences, but may be provided at the discretion of the teacher.

SWEETHEART BAZAAR



Our PTSO needs volunteers for their upcoming Sweetheart Bazaar & Carnival on Saturday, February 7th from 10:00am to 5:00pm in the school cafeteria and gym.

Besides being one of the major fundraisers sponsored by our PTSO each year, it is one of our most widely attended school sponsored functions. Consequently, with nearly 20 vendors and food booths, we need your support to ensure the continued success of this fun filled family day! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the PTSO at leiann.lesptso@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed for Friday, February 8th for evening set-up, and for the carnival on Saturday. There are several two-hour slots still available, so please give serious consideration to supporting this wonderful event!

VOLUNTEERING AT LAKENHEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



If you wish to volunteer at LES please stop by the main office and pick up an application package. You can either be a Temporary School Volunteer or Specified School Volunteer.

A **Temporary School Volunteer** is determined as someone who will not be left unsupervised in the classroom. They must be in direct line of sight of a cleared school employee at all times.

A **Specified School Volunteer** is determined as someone who is left unattended with children at any time. This would include field trips. Therefore, if you plan on taking part in any field trip, you will require an Installation Records Check.

An **Installation Records Check (IRC)** is a local record check conducted on an individual for a minimum of 2 years prior to the date of the volunteer application. It includes, at a minimum: police (base and/or military police, security office, criminal investigators, or local law enforcement) local files check; drug and alcohol program; family housing; medical treatment facility for Family Advocacy Program Service Central Registry records, mental health records; and any other record checks as appropriate to the extent permitted by law.

Once you have completed the package, return it to the school for processing. It should be noted that the approval process takes anything up to two calendar weeks to complete at this time of year. Please submit your application early enough if your child will be taking part in a field trip that requires you to be unsupervised with children. If you are unsure as to whether this is required for your child's field trip, please ask the teacher.

ATTENDANCE REPORTING PROCEDURES



If you need to report your child absent or late, please contact the school on 01638-523721 / 226-3721, or by email at les.attendance@eu.dodea.edu. 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.

FORTUNE COOKIES

Publicity and Communication Committee



One of our third grade classes has been studying the history and traditions of China. They were taught some basic language skills, and played Chinese games such as Dominoes Tiu-u and Circular Tangrams. The children learned that Chinese New Year begins on January 26th. The students have enjoyed learning about the Chinese fortune cookie tradition.



Did you know that fortune cookies were actually developed in 1890 by Chinese immigrants in San Francisco?



There is an old Chinese legend about the origin of fortune cookies. The legend held that during an uprising against a Mongol dynasty the rebels secretly passed written messages

baked in “mooncakes”, a Chinese pastry.



These cakes eventually evolved into biscuits, and are thought to have inspired our modern day fortune cookies. What will your fortune say?

Jump Rope For The Heart Is Back!

Physical Education Dept



JUMP IN AND JOIN US!

Once again Lakenheath Elementary School is joining in the fight against heart disease and stroke, our nation's

#1 killer. Students, parents and staff will have the opportunity to have some fun and raise money to fight against heart disease.

On Friday February 20th, we will be hosting our 10th Jump Rope for Heart event. Over the years our community has raised over \$65,000 to support heart healthy education and the fight against heart disease. Students will be bringing home an envelope next week with all the instructions on collecting donations, if you should choose to do so. Students collecting donations are eligible for “Thank You” prizes from the American Heart Association.

On the day of the event (or before if ready), students should bring back their completed envelope and turn it in to their teacher or the gym teacher. If you choose not to collect donations, you still get to participate in a session practicing and learning jump rope skills. We are hoping to finish off our fun-filled day with an exhibition by the Blue and White Rope Skippers, a demonstration team from Stratford-Upon-Avon. Their skippers compete

internationally and hold many world records!

Please join on this amazing day for all the fun and exercise! Watch for more information soon!

VALENTINE GRAMS

PTSO Seasonal Grams Chair



Valentine Gram order forms have gone home this week. If you did not receive an order form and would like to order a gram please stop by the Parent Center or email me for a copy at jsbelliot@yahoo.com.

The Valentine Grams are \$3 each and consist of a plush teddy bear, a heart clapper, a heart ball game toy, and a box of conversation hearts candy in a valentine bag. There is a sample in the display case at the front of the school. We are accepting orders for the grams until February 9th and they will be delivered to the classrooms on Thursday, February 12th.



Office of the Director, DoDDS-Europe
Diana J. Ohman, Director

Parent Newsletter Article for February 2009

As students move into the second semester, many families begin to make plans for permanent changes of station (PCS) moves as well as family vacations. DoDDS has policies and procedures in place to assist parents in placing school attendance high on the agenda when making transition and vacation plans.

DoDDS-Europe supports family vacations throughout the school year that provide culturally enriching experiences for children. Principals have the authority to grant excused absences from school to support trips. Parents are asked to coordinate with schools in advance to arrange make-up work and to discuss the timing and any conflicts that may impact negatively on a student's success (standardized testing, finals, special events). Family vacation procedures are not designed to accommodate early departures from school at the end of the year.

Some families need assistance when a PCS comes prior to the end of the school year. Principals can provide clear guidance on the DoDDS policy for early withdrawal of students. The provision for permitting the early withdrawal of students with full Carnegie credit is based on careful consideration of the unique circumstances found in the DoDDS system. No more than 20 instructional days can be missed prior to the end of the school year and participating students must complete all required assignments in order to receive a final grade.

The procedures require verification of the date of their sponsor's departure, i.e., PCS or other official orders, to school officials in order to receive consideration for full academic credit. Students who withdraw prior to the 20-day limit receive a "withdrawal" grade rather than a final grade. Parents should carefully consider the educational impact on students when making transition or vacation plans for families. It is critical to student success, and I ask for your continued cooperation and support.

In addition to PCS and vacation planning, there are many education related activities being planned, or already in progress in DoDDS-E. One ongoing item is the Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS). Have you had an opportunity to participate in the CSS yet? There's still time to make your voice heard. The CSS will continue through the month of February and can be found online at www.eu.dodea.edu.

Please remember that Spring Registration will start in the March/April timeframe. If your family will be in Europe next school year, it is extremely important to participate in early registration to guarantee the availability of appropriate staffing.

In March students in grades 3-11 will be participating in *TerraNova* testing.

As always, parents are encouraged to regularly volunteer at the school or assist with a special program or event, as time permits. Please contact the school to share your time and talents.

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe

**DODDS LAKENHEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
PERMISSION FORM**



SUBJECT: CSI, Jr. (2nd Grade ONLY)

Name of Student: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

(Name and phone number)

The LES after school CSI, Jr. Club is now available to 2nd grade students interested in learning more about reading, writing, and **C**ontinuous **S**chool **I**mprovement. The class will participate in hands on activities involving reading and writing across all curricular areas.

The club will be offered twice a week on Mondays AND Wednesdays from 2:45 – 3:45. The club will start on Monday, February 9th, in room 215 of building 50. We will meet on the following dates: February 9, 11, 18, 23, 25, March 2, 9, and 11. We will not meet on February 16th due to the holiday and March 4th due to an existing meeting for myself. If your child is unable to attend most of the meetings, please do not sign up. Each meeting, we will build upon the work done in the previous meeting. Student attendance at the meetings is necessary in order to keep up with the tasks. **All 2nd graders who are not already in clubs on Monday and Wednesday will be accepted to the club.**

Parents/Guardians please pick up your child promptly at 3:45 in the foyer of building 50. In the event that your child is not picked up on time, I will phone you or your alternate contact to make arrangements for pickup. If you are continuously late picking up your child, he/she will be removed from the club.

Please return this completed form before February 5, 2009.

Thank you for your interest in the CSI, Jr. Club!

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

(Your signature indicates you have read and understood the above information.)

Date: _____