



LES MISSION STATEMENT –

"Increasing Reading Comprehension & Expressive Writing Across the Curriculum"

Issue 09

31 October 2008

0¢

Lakenheath Elementary School

Principal – Mr. Charles Yahres
Asst Principal – Ms. Rhonda Bennett
Charles.Yahres@eu.dodea.edu
01638-523721 / DSN 226-3721

Isles District, DoDDS-E

Superintendent – Dr. Ronald McIntire
ronald.mcintire@eu.dodea.edu
01638-527252 / DSN 226-7252

Dates to Remember



1 Nov – Asian Auction – 10am
6-10 Nov – Parent Conferences – NO SCHOOL
11 Nov – Veteran's Day – NO SCHOOL

LUNCH MENU

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



3 Nov: Popcorn Chicken (or Beef Frank on a Bun), Baked Beans, Garden Side Salad, Fruited Jell-O, Orange Wedges, and Milk

4 Nov: Pepperoni Pizza (or Grilled Turkey & Cheese), Seasoned Corn, Garden Side Salad, Fruit Cup, Fruited Jell-O, and Milk

5 Nov: Soft Taco w/Cheese (or Chicken Quesadilla), Carrots, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Chilled Pears, Blueberry Muffins, Fruited Jell-O, and Milk

6 Nov: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce (or Chef Salad), Green Beans, Chilled Fruit Cocktail, Garlic Toast, Fruited Jell-O, and Milk

7 Nov: Baked Chicken Fries (or Baked Baja Fish Sticks), Pasta Salad, Cucumber & Carrot Sticks, Banana, Dolphin Crackers, and Milk

Check out the month's menu at:

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

The Principal's Column

Charles Yahres, Principal



WINTER WEATHER/SAFETY

It's starting to get chilly out and parents are reminded to send children with warm coats, hats and mittens to ensure they are warm enough to play outside at recess. Also, all our students are encouraged to wear reflector belts or have reflector tape or items attached to their backpacks. As the days become increasingly shorter children will become less visible at bus stops and walking to school.

PARENT CONFERENCES

You should have received your invitation to your child's Parent Teacher Conference by now. If you did not receive an invitation please contact your child's teacher right away. Conferences will be held Thursday, Friday and Monday, November 6, 7, & 10.

The National School Public Relations Association offers the following tips for parents.

Before the conference:

→ Decide on specific questions to ask the teacher. For example, is our child doing as well as expected in reading? What are the policies regarding homework?

→ Prepare to answer questions that might be asked by the teacher about your child's hobbies and interests.

Special health concerns? Provisions and routines for study at home?

→ Express interest in the conference with your child. Note an especially good experience or problem area your child has had in school to relate to the teacher. Ask your child if he or she has questions to share at the conference.

After the conference:

→ Note the important points of the conference.

→ Share the results of the conference with your child.

→ Together with your child, design a definite action plan that will promote improved academic growth

→ Feel free to arrange a future meeting date to discuss progress later in the semester.

I've contacted base leadership at Lakenheath and Mildenhall requesting support to ensure parents are allowed the flexibility in their schedules to attend conferences during the duty day. I encourage all parents to attend.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) will begin administering a Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA from students, and parents about the quality of education it provides and areas that may need attention for improvement.

The survey will be administered to students in grades 4-12 and parents or sponsors for each child enrolled in

DoDDS-Europe schools from pre-Kindergarten/Sure Start through the 12th grade. As in years past, participation remains voluntary, but is highly encouraged. Various groups, including DoDDS teachers' unions, superintendents, principals, students, and leadership at DoDEA headquarters, developed the survey format. Some questions were adapted from the *Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Schools* with additional DoDEA-specific questions. It is estimated that the survey will take 20 minutes to complete and will be online at <https://webapps.dodea.edu/css0809/>. Parents who do not have access to the Internet can contact the main office to determine other alternatives such as using the school's computers or receiving a paper copy that can be mailed to DoDEA headquarters.

Parents are asked to complete a survey for each child enrolled in a DoD school in grades pre-kindergarten/Sure Start through 12. Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DoDEA. Schools, districts, and areas will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students, which is one of many measures used for future planning of programs and services offered to DoDEA's students. The survey results will also be used to monitor the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan (CSP), which contains the strategic direction for DoDEA for the years 2006-2011.

Rocky will provide a special gift to those students who return the attached note to the main office indicating that the survey has been completed.

Thank you for your attention to this and for the excellent level of support you provide our school!

GUIDE DOG AWARENESS

Anne Marks, Host Nation



Annie, our guide dog puppy, came with Mandy to visit on Wednesday. She has grown so much! She went to many classrooms to say hello

and loved meeting our boys and girls. Annie was worn out by the end of the day – after all she is only four months old!



Clare and Steve Calder came with their guide dog puppy Quita and talked about "puppy walking" and what it means. Our students have learned a lot this month about guide dogs.



I need your help. I need donations of Christmas wrapping paper and wrapped candy, from anyone, in order to make our Christmas crackers. Thank you so much for sending in the empty paper towel rolls. I have placed a box outside my room for old coins, jewelry, mobile phones, keys, and watches that can be recycled. Thank you all for supporting guide dogs.

ART THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Lucy Reser, Art Teacher



IGNITE YOUR CHILD'S CREATIVITY & THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHERE THEY CAN GO!

Studies show that students who grow up participating in the arts are more likely to set goals and successfully achieve them.

SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS!

FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (FLES)

Vanda Waller, FLES Teacher



Our FLES and Spanish Immersion Programs are trend-setting!

Lakenheath Elementary School is at the forefront of a growing trend in the United States! Every student at LES is learning Spanish, and districts around the United States are jumping on the foreign-language bandwagon! There is an increased interest in offering foreign languages to students, and not just in high school.

The United States is the only industrialized nation that requires little or no foreign language requirement for its high school graduates. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages estimates that only about 30 percent of students in grades 7-12 are enrolled in a foreign language class. Only about 5 percent of elementary students receive foreign language instruction.

However, leading economists, academics and business leaders are behind a new push to increase the amount of foreign languages taught in primary and secondary schools. This is good news for DoDDS foreign language programs! We at LES are proud to be on the cutting edge of important curricular initiatives in stateside schools!

To read more on the subject, go to <http://www.nea.org/neatoday/0810/worldlanguages.html>

PLAYGROUND AND MUSIC GAME GROUP

Mary Deats, Music Teacher



LES will shortly be offering an after school playground and music game group. It will be available to **FIRST grade** students interested in learning more games that can be played inside and outside using chants, songs, simple playground layouts and rainy day activities, recalling many of the games from generations gone by. If your child would like to take part,

please complete and return the attached permission form.

Money Around the World

Anne Campbell, 3rd Grade



Have you ever wanted to learn about currencies around the world? How about counterfeit money? Recently, Ms. Campbell and Ms. Spears' class took a walking study trip to Community Bank to learn about these two points and much more from the experts.



The children spent a wonderful day looking and doing various hands on activities to explore currencies throughout Europe. We even got to see the bank's vaults and see how the ATM works behind the scenes. Upon leaving the bank, the children were given a quiz to do in the classroom to test their expert knowledge from the day's activities.



Last Friday, Ms. Lynda and Ms. Suzanne visited the classroom to present a British piggy bank full of foreign currency to the class winner, Bria Hickson. Also they came to say a big thank you to the children for their thoughtful cards. It's great having such support from the community.

FROM THE PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Evacuation and Lock Down Drills



Lakenheath Elementary School exercised its emergency readiness plan on Friday October 24th. The coordinator for this important exercise was Assistant Principal Rhonda Bennett. A long-term veteran teacher, Ms. Liz Jansch who was the principle architect, assisted her.

The students were prepared to practice the lock down drill. They learned that safety comes first as the curtains closed, the lights turned off and the doors were locked. The empty hallways were the first indicator of success. Within minutes, the lockdown drill quickly turned into an evacuation.



Every staff member had a job to perform and the ultimate goal was to move over 700 children and 125 staff members from the elementary school to the assembly area at the Lakenheath Gym.



Within minutes the children walked quietly through the local neighborhood, past the security force at Gate Two with their teachers as the rain continued to fall. The evacuation drill was a success.



RED RIBBON WEEK



The second graders at Lakenheath Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week throughout October 27-30, 2008. This celebration was to remind students that they have a choice to live a drug free life.

On Thursday the children received a wonderful surprise from our community volunteers. The students attended a Red Ribbon Puppet Show performed by civilians from the 48th Medical Operations Squadron and a few members from the Mildenhall First Term Airman Center. The children giggled as the animal puppets danced around and told them how important it was to make the right choices.

We are thankful daily for all the military involvement and support we receive.

READ, READ, READ



Walk into the Lakenheath Elementary School Media Center anytime of the day and you will find children looking for books, listening to a story being read aloud, working on computers, or just relaxing as they enjoy reading independently.

Third graders from Ms. Campbell's class enjoyed the atmosphere of the media center. Didn't you hear? This is the place to be!



DoDEA 2008 Customer Satisfaction Survey



<https://webapps.dodea.edu/css0809/>

LAKENHEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear LES Parent,

I want to thank you in a special way for completing the **DoDEA 2008 Customer Satisfaction Survey** at the web site above. *Please have your child return this note to the main office when you have completed the on-line survey to receive a special gift from **Rocky** as a small token of our appreciation.*

Charles E. Yahres, Principal

Child's Name _____

Grade _____ **Teacher** _____

Date survey was completed _____

**LAKENHEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PERMISSION FORM SY 2008-2009**

PLAYGROUND AND MUSIC GAME GROUP

Name of student: _____
Name of sponsor: _____
Classroom teacher: _____
Contact telephone: _____
Contact email: _____
Alternate contact and telephone: _____
Who will pick up child after class (if not sponsor)? _____

The LES after school playground and music game group will begin soon and is available to **FIRST grade** students interested in learning more games that can be played inside and outside using chants, songs, simple playground layouts and rainy day activities, recalling many of the games from generations gone by.

You are invited to sign up for one of the five-week blocks set aside for 1st Grade. Please indicate your choice by listing them in preferential order, *i.e.*: your first choice being #1, second choice #2. The class will be limited to no more than 18 students, on a first come, first served basis. Please make sure your child returns the slip to **MS DEATS**. Once the slips are returned, I will contact parents to inform them which block their student will be attending.

Classes will be held on **THURSDAYS** after school from 2:45 to 4 p.m. in room 255 (music room, back building). At the end of each session the students will be walked up to the main reception lobby in front building. You are encouraged to have your child bring a drink and a small snack, as the activities can involve a lot of movement. Please ensure your child is picked up on time, as the winter months means little sunlight late in the afternoon. If a child is picked up late (4:15 or later) more than once, then the child will be dropped from the program.

Classes will start on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13.

_____ Block#1: Nov. 13; 20; Dec. 4,11, 18

_____ Block #2: Jan. 8,15,22,29, Feb. 5

Signature of parent/sponsor: _____
(your signature indicates you have read and understood the above)

Date: _____