

EAGLET'S EDITION

Website: www.avia-es.eu.dodea.edu/
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December 2008

Important Dates

Dec. 9

E.S. Choral concert at
5:30 pm in MPR

Dec. 11

4th grade Play at
6 pm in MPR

Dec. 19

Early Release at
11:15



Winter Break

No School
Dec. 22 – Jan. 4

Season's Greetings



Your Opinion Counts!

The bi-annual DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey is now available at <https://webapps.dodea.edu/CSS0809/>. You are able to access this survey through any computer. You can complete it in your home if you wish.

I will be available to assist if you would prefer to complete the survey here in school.

You will need to sign an Internet agreement and then log onto one of the computers in the computer lab, room 130.

Please contact me if you would like to use a school computer to access the survey.

Thank you.

Meryl Smith

Educational Technologist
Meryl.smith@eu.dodea.edu
DSN 632-2248

DoDDS Europe has initiated a new study trip request procedure. This procedure is for all students in all grades for all types of trips. This is the reason you are being requested to supply your cell phone number and nationality. We appreciate your cooperation in completing the information in a timely manner.

Mini-Deployment

The Aviano military community coordinated a mini-deployment for about 90 elementary students. These students have parents that recently returned from deployment, are deployed or will soon deploy.

Different stations were set-up for the students to visit. They had their faces painted with camouflage colors, tasted MRE's, climbed on a fire truck and were able to try on helmets and flak vests. They also tested the equipment used by pilots.

Students enjoyed this special trip and hopefully have a better understanding of what a deployed parent experiences.



Aviano Community Theater will be performing Disney's Beauty and the Beast at the Aviano School Complex Dec. 5th & 12th at 7 pm and Dec. 6th, 7th, 13th, & 14th at 2 pm. Come on out with your family and enjoy this wonderful musical production!

Auditions for Wizard of Oz will be Jan. 6th and 7th 2009!

Reading Eagle Column

Welcome to Our New **Reading Eagle Column!** This monthly column will feature typical questions and interests that parents may have about reading in the elementary grades. Please enjoy, and if any of you want specific information addressed, just write to Reading Eagle at AES through elizabeth.petty@eu.dodea.edu. **Happy Winter Break!**





Dear Reading Eagle,

During the Winter Break, can you suggest some reading activities I can do at home with my young children? I also have a 10 year-old. How can I get my older child to read over the holidays?

Sincerely,

Reading Mom and Dad

MONTHLY WEB-SITE FAMILY FUN: <http://www.janbrett.com>

Dear Reading Mom and Dad,

Below are some reading ideas I am planning to use with Little Eaglet during the holidays:

- On car trips, Little Eaglet loves to read and write while I am driving around Italy. He especially likes to draw the different road signs and license plates he sees. Later on, we discuss and label his pictures.
- We are planning to read good action stories or listen to books on tape each night.
- We are planning to draw and write stories together. Right now Little Eaglet is drawing objects he has in his room. Later on he will label and write sentences about his pictures.
- When we are cooking, we like to read recipes together. Step-by-step instructions, ingredients, and measurements are all part of words in print.
- When we are shopping at the commissary, we read signs and labels. Back home, putting away groceries is another great time for reading labels.
- We plan to play Junior Scrabble and Treasure Hunt. In the game Treasure Hunt, I hide a treasure from Little Eaglet and write clues on individual pieces of paper on how to find the treasure. The whole family enjoys playing this game on our favorite holiday morning!
- For your older child, please check out this favorite web-site of mine too: <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/games/>

Happy Holidays and Merry Reading During Winter Break!

DoDDS offers free access to online databases!

Aviano Elementary students have free access to two online databases. DoDDS headquarters has purchased subscriptions to these databases. These databases offer a variety of resources to assist students in their research. You must have home Internet access in order to view these databases. You will find a description of each database below. Each has its own unique logins and passwords. Any questions? Inquire in our media center.

~Nancy Huhra, Information Specialist

Sirs Discoverer

Sirs Discoverer contains full text articles from magazines and newspapers. Articles are geared towards students in grades 3-6. Articles are color coded by ability levels. SIRS also contains an almanac, encyclopedia, maps, a link to current events, just for fun activities, and more!

Home access

<http://ars.sirs.com/discoverer.html>

Login: aviaes

Password: !dodea

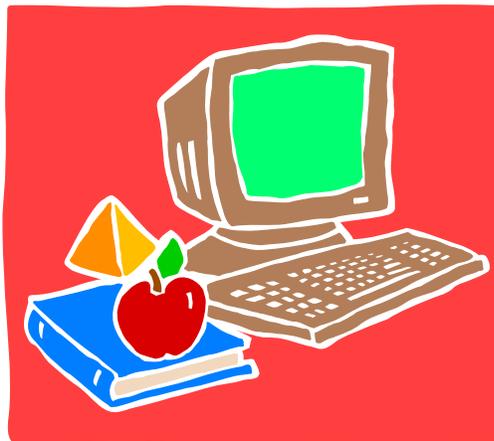
Thomson-Gale Databases

The Thomson-Gale Group includes two databases: the Junior Reference Collection and Kids InfoBits. Kids InfoBits is a database developed especially for beginning researchers in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Featuring a graphic interface, the most popular search method is moving from a broad subject to a narrower topic using the subject-based topic tree. This database covers geography, current events, the arts, science, health, people, government, history, sports and more.

Home Access

<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/aviaes>

password: ra!dodea





Is there a Mediator in the School?

What is Peer Mediation? When individuals are involved in a conflict and can't handle it themselves, a peer mediator can act as the third person to help them talk out the problem and come to a win-win solution. Fighting, crying, walking away, or ignoring a problem doesn't solve the conflict. Talking about the problem with the other person is really the best way to handle a conflict. But there are times when you are so angry that you find it difficult to talk with the other person. But now you can go to a mediator! Mediators help disputants listen to each other and find a solution to the problem. Mediators do not take sides. They are not judges or look for who is innocent and who is guilty. They do not even decide on the solutions to the problems.

The object of mediation is to help each person listen to the other person's side of the story so that he/she can see the WHOLE story, and not only one side. The disputants are responsible for finding a fair win-win solution to their problem. Mediation takes place in private with a counselor and two mediators. The process involves peace rules and no fouls.

Teachers recommended students who they felt were good listeners, got along well with their peers, cared about people's feelings, and could keep information confidential. Subsequently, students filled out applications and the following students were selected to serve as peer mediators for Aviano Elementary School. **Congratulations** go to:

Tazjaa Gipson

Sara Patino

Kasey Lee

Robert Quattrone

Jacob Martinez

Ivana Rodriguez

Chelsea Mojica

Zach Rosenburg

Navah Brooks Murphy

Michael Trice

These students will attend a training led by Vicki O'Brien and Kris Kessler, our school counselors. Getting kids involved and providing an opportunity where they can demonstrate empathy along with their ability to see a situation from another point of view without being judgmental is the goal. Being a peer mediator is an awesome responsibility and an honor.





Il Panettone

What would Christmas be like without *Panettone*, *Pandoro* or *Torrone*?

These three products of the Italian tradition contributed to the history of pastry – making and are nowadays the symbols of the Christmas and the New Years' festivities.

The hometown of *Panettone* is Milano. A legend tells that a man called Tono, servant of a rich family in Milano, in order to provide a dessert for his employer and his guests, prepared a new, delicious cake which took the name of *Pan de Tono* (bread of Tono), that later became *Panettone*.

The origins of *Pandoro* might date back to the Venetian Republic where people used to give their important guests a *Pan de Oro* (bread of gold) which was wrapped up with fine golden leaves. This *Pan de Oro* will be called later *Pandoro* and will find its success in the town of Verona.

Another typical Christmas cake in Italy is *Torrone* whose hometown is Cremona. The tradition links the *Torrazzo*, a famous tower in Cremona, with the word *Torrone*. A legend tells that in 1441 when Bianca Maria Visconti and Francesco Sforza got married (Visconti and Sforza were two powerful families of that time), the cooks prepared a tower – shape cake made of almonds, honey and eggs. The sweetness of honey and the bitter taste of the almonds create a delicious contrast.

These typical and traditional cakes have been enriching the Italians' Christmas tables for many years and still now contribute to create a sweet and cheerful atmosphere.

Maria Grazia Beltrame

Host Nation Teacher





Notes from the Administration

Several things of interest about what's happening at AES:

1. Caring is the Character Traits for November and December. Our fabulous counselors, Kris Kessler and Vicki O'Brien have been working to institute a school wide initiative that addresses positive character traits in all children. Children receive "tickets" that are deposited in a box at the front desk and winners are announced for each month. A chart is displayed in the lobby, under the TV monitor, to recognize our students. Check it out.
2. Teachers and the administration meet individually to discuss the teacher's PGP (Professional Growth Plan). The PGP is a plan developed by the teacher to work on some aspect of their professional growth. It can be learning more about teaching math strategies or collaborating with fellow colleagues on a scheduled basis for the purpose of learning more about the teaching and learning process. The important thing is that these are opportunities for the teacher to self reflect, develop a plan for learning, and embark upon completing that plan as professional improvement.
3. Teachers and parents have met to work on implementation of two goals, math reasoning and problem solving, for school improvement. The Essence of these two goals will be further developed so that students, teachers, parents, and community will understand specifically what aspect of Math and Problem Solving to focus on. Parent participation is a critical piece in the development of our school focus. We are proud to recognize a military member and parent for participating in the professional development day. How about you? If you're interested in your child's education and want to know more about our two goals for making our school better please plan to attend the next school improvement day.

This school year has been flying by and while we look toward 2009 we want to reflect on the many accomplishments our children have achieved. Everyday is a busy one for your child and his/her teacher. The holidays bring hope and anticipation for a better tomorrow. It's a great time for you and your child to take a few moments, perhaps over a cup of hot chocolate, to reflect upon the work done since the beginning of the school year with your child. We've said it many times that the greatest gift to give is the **gift of time**. The time we spend with each other is so precious. Don't we say how we wish there was more time to do this or that? What would you do with your child with more time? Would you read with them at the library, go on a train ride, go bowling, or write a letter to family back home? Whatever you do will involve lots of great conversation. Let's keep nurturing our children's enthusiasm for life and learning and give them the **gift of time**.

NAEP for Fourth Graders

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be administered to fourth grade students from January 26 to March 6, 2009. This test will cover areas in reading, mathematics, and science. The NAEP is also known as "The Nation's Report Card" and is an indicator of how we are doing as a nation educationally. More information will be forthcoming from the counselor, Ms. Vicki O'Brien.

**Happy Holidays from the
Faculty and Staff of
Aviano E.S.!**