



Livorno Unit School Newsletter



Mission Statement: "Livorno Unit School, in partnership with parents and the community, will teach students the skills necessary for their continued success as life-long learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing world."

**Cathy Magni, Principal
Carol Paulsen, Assistant Principal**

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Principal's Letter

Dear Parents and Students,

Believe it or not, the first semester of school is over! How time flies when we are busy and our students and teachers are very busy these days. February will be a lively month, as we will celebrate a Spirit Week, faculty vs. students' basketball game and a bonfire. A big thanks goes to our community including the fire department for making this possible by providing the necessary guidance and safety features. Our bonfire will take place on February 4 at 5 PM. Please come and help us cheer on our boys' basketball team and celebrate our school spirit.

We have two new additions to our school. Thanks to the Livorno Unit School Alumni Association, PTSO, and Student Council, we now have Jay, our lion mascot and Jayson, our cub mascot. Tryouts for the mascots are underway and you will probably see them at the bonfire and home game.

February is also African-American Month and there will be a variety of school, as well as post activities so please participate! On February 23, our school will take part in the National History Day for the first time.

I thank you all for your support in getting our students to school and class on time. The number of unexcused tardies has reduced significantly. Parents and schools working together can be powerful.

Please be sure to notify the school if you are involved in any long deployments so that we can support your child and family during your absence. Also, please remember the policy for family trips, which is in the handbook and on our web page.

Cathy Magni, Principal

Upcoming Events

February 1— 4 Spirit Week

February 4 Faculty vs Students Basketball

**February 4—11:15 Gr. 4/5 Awards Assembly
11:30 Learning Celebration; 1:30 Spirit Rally;
5:00 Bonfire**

February 4—5 Basketball at AOSR (Rome)

February 5 7-10 Homecoming Dance Performance Art Center

February 8 Awards Assembly HS 10:30

February 10—3.5+ MS/HS PTSO Luncheon

February 11—12 Basketball @ Sigonella

February 15 –16 Science Fair Performing Arts Center

**February 18 Inservice Early Release 11:00
ES 11:15 HS**

February 21—President's Day Holiday

February 23—National History Day

**February 24— MS Math Counts Competition
February 22—25 Basketball championships**

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Assistant's Aisle

Dear Parents and Students,

I have to concur with Ms. Magni, "where has the time gone?" The second semester begins on January 31 and we have much to anticipate.

February is Book Lovers Month The elementary school library is planning fun activities for students. Mrs. T W and myself are preparing an activity for the beginning of March based on a format entitled "Battle of the Books." Students will have an opportunity to form teams to answer questions about books they have read. It will follow a Jeopardy format and should be fun for all.

Our first school-wide learning celebration will be held Friday, February 4, at 11:30 a.m. in the elementary gym. Parents, this is your chance to view your children sharing what they loved learning this semester.

When you are in the elementary building, please notice the excellent work your children, their teachers have done on Character Counts, a DoDDS-wide program that works on the six pillars of character. Find out what the six pillars are and talk with your child (ren) so they can share what they have learned.

Sincerely,

Carol Paulsen

Carol Paulsen,
Assistant Principal

LUS Students Selected for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Germany

By
Kay Roll and James Bartlett

Two LUS students, G P and J D, were selected to attend the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) in Frankfurt, Germany in March. The JSHS program promotes original research and experimentation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics at the middle and high school level and publicly recognizes students for outstanding achievement.



Having watched a video about Maglev trains and doing an experiment with levitating an object, the two students decided to experiment moving a toy car contact-free up an incline using magnets. The students will be participating in Germany with other winners from DoDEA schools throughout Europe. From these winners, national winners will be selected to go to Washington, DC to participate in a symposium there. Good luck , students!

Counselor's Corner

PSAT results are back and have been explained to the students who took the test. Please discuss the results with your child. If there are questions, please call 633-7573

Local Livorno Assessments: Feb 2 for one period only.

NAEP – Grades 4 and 8 Friday, February 11
Students will be tested in their classrooms for 90 minutes in the morning.

Terra Nova- Test Dates Grades 3-11; March 21-25; Make-ups March 28- April 01.

BAM (Balanced Assessment in Math): Grades 4 and 8; May 9-13 Students in the same grade must test on the same day.

Communications Arts: Grades 4, 8 and 10; May 2-6. Students in the same grade must test on the same day.

Social Studies Criterion Referenced Test: Grades 3 and 6; May 2-13 - testing window... more info to come.

Science Criterion Test Referenced Test: Grades 5 and 7; May 2-13 - testing window... more info to come.

AP Exams: English Lang-Monday, May 2;

8 AM 3 hrs long

Calculus AB-Tuesday, May 3;

8 AM 3 hrs long

English Lit- Thursday, May 5;

8 AM 3 hrs long

US History-Friday, May 6;

8 AM 3 hrs long

SAT Exam - May 7; Saturday, 8 AM

Local Livorno Assessments: May 25 -1 period only

End of Year Algebra Test: May 30 – June 3, 2005: Students will be tested on the same day. 2-day test.

US History End of Year Test: May 30 – June 3, 2005
Students will be tested on the same day. 2-day test. Computer lab needed. On-line test.

Biology EOC Assessment- May 30-June 3. Online test.

MY ROAD by collegeboard.com

DoDEA purchased this exceptional computer based program and each MS and HS student will have access to its use at school *and* at home. For any student 13 yrs or older, this fabulous tool is absolutely free. Within the second quarter, I will begin training students to use My Road during sessions within the language arts classrooms. The teachers and parents will be able to access this journey into the future custom-tailoring a map to follow that meets the personal needs of each student. Please start asking your child about **My Road**. It is never too late to begin a map for planning their future. Visit www.MyRoad.com for an overview.

Attention Parents

Between November 1, 2004 and February 28, 2005, DoDEA will be hosting a Customer Satisfaction Survey for sponsors to complete. The survey results will be used for improvement of the schools.

Sponsors with children in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 should logon to the DoDEA website (www.dodea.edu) and click on "Survey" to complete the sponsors' survey. It should take less than 20 minutes and will give schools very valuable information about their strengths and areas for improvement. Completing a survey for each child may seem excessive to sponsors, but the additional data will increase the validity of the results and provide our schools with data for improvement planning purposes.

Rock To The Top

An experience to take with you for a lifetime...



The eighth grade adventure education class went rock climbing in Vecchiano under the supervision of the Italian Special Forces. It was a final culmination activity that reflected all the work they had done prior including problem solving initiatives, communication, team building skills, and trust. Antonio and Marccello came into the classroom and taught them the basics such as the different positions of feet and hands, proper gear, and safety procedures. They prepared the class for the adventure. An adventure happens when you are engaged in an experience that is unique and

relevant. It offers a challenge and a risk with an unknown outcome in a safe supportive environment. Most people think that rock climbing may be just an adrenalin rush, but it was much more than that. It was safe, fun, and allowed the students to learn more about themselves, and each



other. It may have been scary at times, but with the support and encouragement of their classmates, teacher, and professional trainers they got through the chal-

lenge and succeeded. There were moments of surprise and laughter along the way that kept them focused and entertained. This experience changed them by giving them self-confidence, a common bond, and an awesome memory to take with them for a lifetime.





Livorno Students Measure the Temperature of Jupiter and Saturn

By

On Day of Year (DOY) 006, Livorno Unit School eighth graders and earth/space science students contacted Mission Control in Apple Valley California. Students were about to move a 34-m radio telescope located in California's Mojave Dessert, using an Internet connection in their computer lab at school. Mission Control operators monitored as students positioned radio telescope DSS12 onto Galaxy 3C274. Galaxies are chosen to calibrate radio telescopes because they have a constant temperature. Following the mini-calibration, students moved the telescope onto Jupiter and proceeded to perform six cross-scans: moving the telescope up/down and left/right; stopping the telescope so that the rotation of the Earth brought Jupiter into the antenna's focal point. During each cross-scan, students were also busy recording IF Power numbers on their data sheets. This was the data collection process - collecting the temperature 100 km below the surface of Jupiter's atmosphere.

Following the data collection on Jupiter, Livorno Unit School was invited to support the Cassini/ Huygens

mission by collecting data on Saturn. On DOY 013, students once again contacted Mission Control and positioned the telescope this time on Galaxy 3C123 and then on Saturn. Students collected temperature data on Saturn just one day before the Huygens probe descended through the atmosphere of Saturn's moon, Titan.

Following the data collection, students processed their raw data by averaging five to seven first and second baseline measurements and selecting the peak, or highest measurement achieved during the cross-scan. Following this, students used an Excel spreadsheet with imbedded formulas to convert the IF-Power numbers they had recorded on their data sheets into temperature readings in the Kelvin temperature scale. Next, also using Excel, students calculated the mean temperature and standard deviation for each data set. They then proceeded to produce two graphs: a scatter plot and a mean-bar graph with standard error bars. All of this work, including a discussion of the results, has been recorded on student posters. These posters will be on display in the high school in the near future. After displaying the posters locally, students plan to send them to the Lewis Center and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory for review by project researchers and scientists.



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT) January In-Service

On January 14, 2005, the faculty and staff of LUS were involved in an in-service program dealing with two aspects of school improvement: Standards Education and Technology Education and Improvement.

Ms. Paulsen, Assistant Principal, conducted the morning session and presented a program in the elementary school library to promote teaching to DoDEA Standards. This program consists of several parts that must be presented to the faculty during a specified period of time.

After the lunch break, the faculty convened in the Video Production Classroom for a presentation. This presentation consisted of videos of MS clay animation projects as well as a presentation of a trip the class made to Vinci. Faculty members were surprised at the display of talent and time devoted to these quality programs.

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to instruction in Photo Shop Elements in the Business/Computer Lab. The instructor is currently sponsoring the Art Club and was willing to share her expertise in this program with the faculty. Faculty members learned how to use the basics of the program that would apply to their teaching situations: Working with photos in a variety of ways to improve, change, enhance, colorize black /white, create posters, and merge. She covered the advantages of using Photoshop with kids, how to find and use samples, filters, and how to manipulate photos and correct mistakes. The faculty had been asked to bring photos of their own to use, and the final time of the session was devoted to their use of their own photos.

The consensus of faculty opinion as indicated on evaluations of the day was that the day was extremely informative, educational, and that they hope to have more time to spend on improving skills even more.

Ms. Rebecca Dunn, District Representative for School Improvement (CSP), also spent that day with us. Ms. Dunn is retiring from DoDDS soon, and as part of her final work with Livorno Schools, she assisted the Co-Chair of CSP in preparing the final Livorno School report so that it will be ready to present (with proper yearly adjustments) at the next North Central Association accreditation visit. Her assistance to all of the schools in the Mediterranean District over the years has been invaluable. Although we wish her the best in retirement, we will miss her input and assistance very much.

The next school in-service will be held on Friday, February 18. Plans for that in-service will be finalized at the upcoming CSP Committee Meeting on February 9. If parents wish to have in-put into any of the CSP meetings, you are invited to attend our meetings held at 3:15 in the High School Library, or contact the parent representative on this committee.

Students Prepare for National History Day

By



The National History Day program is a twenty-five-year-old organization that encourages active student participation in the study of history. It culminates with student projects and a national contest. Students are encouraged to pick a historical subject and to conduct an extensive study using the program's theme. This year's theme is "Communications". The students, through research and development of their project, will gain knowledge, self-discipline, and recognition. Selected projects may win scholarships and national recognition.

Livorno Unit School students are participating in the National History Day competition for the first time this year. Projects that are selected to represent our school will be sent to Vicenza for the next round of competition. Students from grades 8-12 will be exhibiting their projects at the post gym on Wednesday, February 23 from 3:30 to 4:30. The public is invited to come and view our National History Day projects and to visit with our participants. Refreshments will be served.



After School Literature and Computer Club

It is with great excitement that we are announcing an after school Literature/Computer program at the elementary school starting in February and running for two months. Please share the details below with your child.

Grades 1 & 2

These grades will meet every Tuesday in the Media Center from 2:30 until 3:15. This program begins February 1 and runs until March 29. The month of February will be dedicated to literature type activities. We will read stories and do craft activities based on those stories. March will be computer activities. We will create computer-generated projects while learning more about technology.

Grades 3 – 5

These grades will meet every Thursday in the Media Center from 2:30 until 3:15. This program will begin February 3 and runs until March 31. The month of February will be dedicated to literature type activities. We will read stories and do craft activities based on those stories. March will be computer activities. We will create computer-generated projects while learning more about technology. **Please note:** For those students who attend SAS, there will be a bus provided by SAS to take your child there at 3:15.

LUS Science Fair

LUS grades 4, 5, 6, 7 are participating in a science fair, which will be held in the Performing Arts Center, February 15 –16, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. These displays will be judged by scientists from the NATO Research Laboratory. Please drop by to see what our budding scientists have discovered!

MATH MATTERS

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

Our focus for this year is **Math Matters**. As parents, you are the first teachers of students and the most important partners we have in the learning process. There are a number of things you can do and resources you can use to help us ensure success in mathematics and promote a better understanding of how math is necessary and relevant in the lives of our children. There are many ways that parents can help students understand the relevance of mathematics. When you take trips to the commissary, APO, bank, and local exchange, point out the relevance of math to students. This creates learning opportunities for students as they see the practical application of what they learn in classrooms and discover that **Math Matters!**

I ask for your support in continuing a strong focus on mathematics this year. Working together, we can ensure success for all students and start them down the path to life-long learning. I am pleased to share the following tips for parents adapted from *Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics*, published by the U.S. Department of Education.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parents can help children develop confidence in their math abilities by helping them to understand the following concepts:

- **Problems can be solved in different ways.**
Learning math is more than finding the correct answer; it's also a process of solving problems and applying what you've learned to new problems.
- **Wrong answers can sometimes be useful.**
Ask your child to explain how she solved a math problem. Her explanation might help you to discover if she needs help with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, or with the concepts involved in solving the problem.
- **Don't be afraid to take risks.**
Give your child time to explore different approaches to solving a difficult problem. As he works, encourage him to talk about what he is thinking. This will help him to strengthen math skills and to become an independent thinker and problem solver.
- **Being able to do mental math is important.**
Doing math "in your head" (mental math) is a valuable skill that comes in handy as we make quick calculations of costs in stores, restaurants or gas stations. Let your child know that by using mental math, her math skills will become stronger.
- **It's sometimes OK to use a calculator to solve mathematics problems.**
Let your child know that to use calculators correctly and efficiently, she will need a strong grounding in math operations; otherwise, how will she know whether the answer she sees displayed is reasonable?

Source: Adapted from *Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics*, U.S. Department of Education, 2004



MENU

February 01 - February 28 2005

All items on the menu are baked and never fried

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	1 Hamburger on a Bun Lettuce, Tomato & Pickle Curley Fries Awesome Applesauce Rice Krispie Bar	2 Spaghetti w/Meatsauce Garlic Bread Seasoned Green Peas Chilled Pears Elf Grahams	3 Miri Chicken Sandwich Carrot & Celery Sticks Ranch Dressing Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Baked Beans Fresh Fruit	4 Chicken & Bean Burrito Lettuce & Tomato Spanish Rice Assorted Fruit Juice Brownie
7 Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Ranch Dressing Chilled Peaches Rice Krispie Bar	8 Sloppy Joe on a Bun Tomato, Cucumber & Onions Curley Fries Seasoned Corn Chilled Fruit Mix	9 Chicken Tenders Crispy Potato Wedges Cinnamon Toast Awesome Applesauce Fresh Fruit	10 Nacho Supreme Lettuce & Tomato Spanish Rice Chilled Peaches Chocolate Cake	11 Manager's Choice
14 Cheese Pizza Dippers Carrot & Celery Sticks Ranch Dressing Seasoned Green Beans Assorted Fruit Juice	15 Hamburger on a Bun Lettuce, Tomato & Pickles Curley Fries Awesome Applesauce Rice Krispie Bar	16 Baked Chicken Fries Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Garden Salad Ranch Dressing Chilled Fruit Mix	17 Pavidi w/Meatsauce Tossed Garden Salad Ranch Dressing Garlic Bread Chilled Peaches Cookie	18 All Beef Hot Dogs on a Bun Carrot & Celery Sticks Baked Beans Macaroni & Cheese Fresh Fruit
21 Federal Holiday President's Day	22 Cheese Pizza Carrot & Celery Sticks Ranch Dressing Chilled Peaches Rice Krispie Bar	23 Miri Chicken Sandwich Garden Salad Dressing Crispy Potato Wedges Fresh Fruit	24 Soft Shell Taco w/Cheese Lettuce & Tomato Spanish Rice Chilled Fruit Mix Chocolate Cake	25 Spaghetti w/Meatsauce Garlic Bread Seasoned Green Peas Chilled Pears Elf Grahams
28 Corn Dogs Baked Beans Cheddar Crackers Fresh Fruit				ALL MENUS INCLUDE THE CHOICE OF MILK