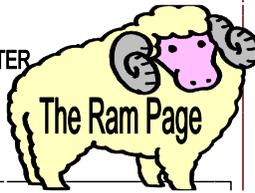




November is Native American Heritage Month
 2008 National Theme:
 Celebrating Tribal Nations: American's
 Great Partners

CROUGHTON ES NEWSLETTER
 NOVEMBER 2008



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

GOOD ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY ARE A MUST FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

The opening of another school year means that over 37,000 students have returned to the classrooms across DoDDS-Europe. As the new school year gets into full swing, parents and students need to form a working partnership with the schools and their staff that will result in a successful academic year. One important aspect of this partnership is consistent school attendance. Good daily attendance correlates directly with success in school.

Punctuality and good attendance are skills that need to be modeled by parents. Parental attitude and example have an impact on children. Parents need to let their children know how important school is to their future success. Parents in partnership with the school and community should make sure their student attends school daily, completes the academic requirements, graduates from high school, and learns the values and skills needed so they can be successful in the world of work.

Tardiness is an issue, too. When a student is late to school or class, the minutes quickly add up and valuable instructional time is lost. Studies show that students who are habitually late to school or class are more likely to bring the same habit into their adult life. We have to set an expectation for students to be on time...everyday.

Talk to teachers and our administrators about your child's attendance and punctuality. If everyone does their part, DoDDS-Europe students can secure their place as educated citizens of the future.

DODDS CHAIN-OF-COMMAND

CLASSROOM TEACHER

236-8490 or 01869 810 613



PRINCIPAL [MRS. FITZPATRICK]

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SAFETY IS KEY!

Our traffic barrier is now operational. The barrier will be down while the bus is in the loading area. It stays down for approx. 15 minutes, so plan accordingly when picking up or dropping off students.



**Croughton Elementary School
School Advisory Committee
Minutes
October 21, 2008**

SAC Members Present: James Van Nostern, Tammy Bierman, Joan Thomas, Rasheedah Young, Tonya Eckles, Georgia Fitzpatrick

Other Parents Present: None

Meeting Called to Order: 1510

Reports:

SAC Chairperson:

What can SAC's do?

- Review school policy and advise principals on curricula and budget issues.
- Recommend solutions to a problem
- Determine ability to implement new programs
- Use opinion polls to develop proposals
- Keep community aware of school's plans and programs
- Hold forums on topics and invite special guests and community members to present views
- Hold open houses
- Participate in briefings on school accreditation and task groups

What can't they do?

- Engage in political campaigns or issues
- Become a pressure group
- Decide on curriculum or choose textbooks
- Be a forum to air employee grievances
- Report independently to the public
- Function as a board of education
- Fundraise or assume functions of other school organizations (PTO/PTA, etc.)

Secretary: The previous minutes were read and approved.

School Principal: Notified CDC/SAP that Parent/Teacher conference dates had changes, and also included them on the mailing list. Special Education (SPED) monitoring is currently going on; the out brief will be October 22 at 0930.

School Liaison Officer: Notified Command of date change for Parent Teacher Conferences. Command will be sending out a letter allowing military members to attend conferences as long as manning needs are met. Send future dates to the SLO and they will be added to the base calendar.

Goals: 1. Review SAC bylaws by April 2009

2. Encourage more participation in SAC from parents and community
3. Letting the base community know "how good Croughton Elementary School is" when Terra Nova test scores are compared with Isles district, DoDDS-E and DoDEA
4. After school organized sports (possible base support)
5. Home email addresses for all students

Terra Nova Information: Due to the decrease in class size over the three year period one student having a bad test day can affect the test score dramatically.

Old Business:

GRADESPEED: Teachers have been trained in use. GRADESPEED is not conducive to the way in which multi-age classrooms are taught. Currently not in use, except to input report card information.

Open Session:

Enrollment in CES: How do we raise enrollment in CES? SLO suggested CES representing themselves at the School Open House that is being organized in Jan/Feb. time frame. The SLO also suggested a school forum to let parents know what the school offers and to answer questions. Preschool/Sure Start – is that possible for RAF Croughton.

If DoDDs was considered the 51st state they would consistently come in 3rd and 4th in the Nation due to its experienced teachers, supportive community and smaller class size. Croughton Elementary students out perform most other DoDDS students on the Terra Nova every year. We are one of the best schools in all of DoDDS.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 1500 in Ms. Fitzpatrick's office.

Meeting Adjourned at: 1612

Submitted by:

Click on music box!



November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 3 Mentoring Drama Club	5 Early Release 1:30	6 Parent Conferences [check backpacks for schedule]	7 Parent Conferences [check backpacks for schedule]	8
9	10	11 VETERANS DAY No school	12 Book Club CLOTHING DRIVE PICK-UP DATE	13 American Doll Club PTO General mtg 1700 Drama Club	14	15
16	17	18 SAC MEETING 3:05 PM Mentoring Drama Club	19 Early Release 1:30	20 American Doll Club Drama Club	21	22
23	24	25 3 Mentoring Drama Club	26 Book Club MATH LABS—school wide activity	27 THANKSGIVING	28 BREAK	29
30						

Slots still available for youth ages 5 to 18 for Youth Basketball! Sign up at the Child Development any-time between 0800 and 1700 Monday through Friday to 6 Nov 08. Cost is \$25 for Youth and Teen Mem-bers; \$30 for Non-members. Season play is 13 December 08 through 24 January 09. Children need a physical prior to season opening games and must also have court shoes. All games will be played in the Fitness Center gymnasium.

Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Referees are needed for all age groups. Coaches and Referees will receive full training. For more information please contact Latoya Marble at 236-8543.





MR. RAMIREZ volunteered at CES for Hispanic Heritage Month



CES says goodbye to volunteer MRS. LADD

The clothing drive is on until 12 November. Shoes, belts, bed linens and purses are accepted along with clothes. Every student at CES received a special bag for these collections. However, black garbage bags can also be used. The going to the



Deployment group

We have started our first Deployment group for students who currently have parents deployed abroad. If a family member is going to be deployed please contact our school so your child can benefit from a group where they will be offered support while his/her loved one is away.

Character Counts:

Your child has just viewed a video entitled The Six Pillars of Character: RESPONSIBILITY featuring the Popcorn Park Puppets. This video teaches children lessons about responsible and irresponsible behavior, and shows how being a responsible person leads to good friendships and positive interpersonal relationships. Here are some things you can do to reinforce the message of this video and our related learning activities:

Ask your child to tell you about this video program and what he or she learned from it.

Have a discussion about responsibility in the family. What are your child's responsibilities (other than chores), and what are your responsibilities? Perhaps make a chart. What happens if you or your child are irresponsible? How does taking responsibility make your home a happier place to be?

Catch your child being responsible. Make sure your child knows he or she has just done something good. Expressing your approval is a powerful way to reinforce good behavior.

Remember, your child is watching what you do. Be sure to model the kind of responsible behavior you want your child to adopt.

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) will administer its **biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) from November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009**. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA from its most important customers – parents and students – about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

All sponsors with students enrolled in DoD schools from Pre-kindergarten or SureStart through grade 12 may participate by completing a survey for each school in which they have a enrolled. Students in grades 4-12 may participate by completing separate surveys for students in grades 4-5, and students in grades 6-12.

The 2008 DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey represents a departure from tradition. Historically, teachers, educational support staff, students in grades 4-12, and sponsors for each child enrolled in DoD schools from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade were asked to complete the CSS. This year, parents and students will participate in the CSS while DoDEA Administrators, teachers, educational support staff will participate in a separate survey, the DoDEA Employee Satisfaction Survey, to be administered during March 2009. As with the CSS, **participation in the DoDEA Employee Satisfaction Survey is voluntary** and maximum participation is encouraged in order to obtain reliable and valid data.

The surveys take approximately 20 minutes to complete and are available online at www.dodea.edu ([click on the CSS graphic link](#)). Parents who do not have access to the Internet should contact their child's school to determine other alternatives – such as using the school's computers.

Sponsors are asked to complete a survey for each child enrolled in a DoD school in grades pre-kindergarten/SureStart through grade 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 DoDEA offers. 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.

GradeSpeed

We are very excited to tell you we're implementing GradeSpeed with a goal of making communication between parents and teachers easier, more effective and timelier.

Through this web-based program parents will be able to log in and see grade and attendance data for their children. The teacher will also be able to email progress reports to parents. After logging in, parents will also be able to view school announcements and calendar events.

We know the importance parents place on their child's academic success. We also know that when parents have timely information about student progress, the entire learning environment is improved.

GradeSpeed was implemented throughout DoDEA at the beginning of the 2008/09 school year for Grades 4-12. [Croughton ES teachers received training on 29 September.]

We appreciate your commitment to your child's education. Working together, our combined efforts as a school-home team will help your child achieve success this school year. Please feel free to contact Mr. Van Nostern or Ms. Fitz with any questions you have about GradeSpeed.

Working Together,
Ms. Fitz