

Volume 10 Issue 2

October 2012



LIVORNO UNIT SCHOOL

Livorno E/M School Newsletter
<http://www.livo-ems.eu.dodea.edu/site.htm>

VISION STATEMENT

“Livorno EM School empowers students to be life-long learners in a global society through an exemplary standards-based education. In partnership with the community, our school will provide a learning environment which is nurturing, safe, and respectful, enabling each child to reach her/his fullest potential.”

Dear Parents,

Livorno Elementary/Middle School is enjoying a great school year thanks to your involvement and support. I appreciate many of you that volunteer in a wide variety of roles to help make this a caring, family school.

Thanks to Mrs. Sperl and her art students for sending a packet of student art to the Mediterranean School District Superintendent’s Office for display this year. We’ve had such a great response to the after-school Art Club that we’ve divided it into K-3 and 4-8 divisions to allow Mrs. Sperl to give more individualized attention to our artists!

I want to invite parents of students in grades 4 – 8 to register for the new DoDEA myDATA button portal. This provides instant access to grades and other student information anytime and anywhere. There is a simple registration process that is explained in detail later in this newsletter. The Mediterranean school district is piloting this program this year, and it will be adopted DoDEA-wide next year. The portal is intended to improve the availability and use of data to improve student instruction.

Two of our student leaders were selected to attend the DoDDS-Europe Junior Leadership Seminar that takes place in Germany next week. Tristan Orr and Kiva Brazier will be representing Livorno Elementary/Middle School at the week-long program which emphasizes setting goals and working together to achieve them. Special thanks to Mrs. Jen Lindstrom for volunteering to go as their chaperone, and to the PTSO and two local individuals who contributed to pay for the tuition costs.

Our local Scouts organizations will host a registration and movie night on Friday evening, October 19. Registration begins at 6:00 and movie night follows at 7:00 at the elementary school gym.

The end of the first quarter, November 1, is fast approaching. We appreciate you working with your children and teachers to assure that they are growing and learning as they should. Please mark November 8 and 9 on your calendars for Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences. We will be sending out more information about the conferences in a few weeks.

Thanks again for your continued, strong support!
Steve Brown, Principal

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Of Special Interest:

Check out the new DODDS My Data Portal
A New STEM garden is here.
Metrics work
Fire Safety Week Highlights
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WELCOME TO THE DoDEA myDATA Button Portal

How do I access the portal?

Parents must register in order to receive an account to access the portal.

Parents

To obtain an account and password, you must submit a DoDEA Student Registration - Form 700 for Consents and Authorizations

to a school where your child(ren) attends. As you complete the DoDEA Form 700

, you should select the option that indicates that you would like to have access to the myDATA Button portal.

Please ensure that the e-mail address that you provided during the registration of your child(ren) on the DoDEA Form 600 is the same e-mail address that you use when returning the form. You may return the DoDEA Form 700 to your school by e-mail, fax, or in person. Upon the completion of the verification process, you will receive two separate e-mails with your logon information and the web site address to the portal.

Students

Registration for student access to the myDATA Button Portal in grades 4 - 12 is not required. Students will be provided their logon credentials by their school administration.

After you have received your account information, you can log on to DoDEA myDATA Button Portal from any computer that connects to the Internet.

1. Open your web browser to connect to the Internet. 2. Go to your child(ren)'s school web page. 3. Click on the DoDEA myDATA Button Portal link.

4. You will be directed to the myDATA Button Portal Dashboard. 5. Click on the myDATA Button.

6. You will see the login screen. 7. Enter your **Login ID** and **Password** in the boxes provided. When you attempt to enter your password, a virtual keyboard will appear to help prevent keystroke detection by hidden keystroke logger software. 8. Click the **Log On** button.

The first time you log in, you will be prompted to change your password, and set your security questions for password recovery. Please follow the provided instructions. **DO NOT** share your new password with others!

How do I use the myDATA Button Portal? After you have successfully logged on, you will first see your portal Home page. The Home page shows recent activity and the latest updates. You can choose to view activity for the current day, the last 7 days, last 30 days, or last 60 days.

Click the top-tab for general subject areas and the side-tabs to view detailed information.

What is the myDATA Button Portal?

The DoDEA myDATA Button Portal is a secure online tool that allows students, parents, and guardians to monitor DoDEA student's progress and communicate more effectively and efficiently. It provides instant access to grades and other information anytime and anywhere. The portal is intended to improve the availability and use of data to improve student achievement. Participation in the the use of the portal is voluntary. Parents and students will have separate accounts.

What can I expect for the myDATA Button Portal?

As a parent/guardian/student, you can use a single login/password to access the following information from any computer with Internet access.

As a part of the portal, you can electronically access the following:

* Student Schedule * Daily and class attendance information * Contact information * Notification of attendance and grades * Student Demographics * Transcript (Grades) * Assignments

Is the information secure?

The DoDEA myDATA Button Portal is hosted on a government facility and is subject to numerous layers of security. We have carefully configured the system to ensure that your information is confidential. We mandate strong passwords, forced password resets and session time-outs to ensure secure sessions. You will receive 2 separate e-mails with your logon information and the web site address to the portal. If you have registered multiple children, you will have access to all registered children.

From the Art Studio with Ms. Sperl...

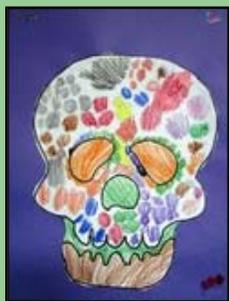
A CHANGE CONCERNING ART CLUB: With the overwhelming positive response to Art Club this year and my wish to ensure a quality experience for every child who wishes to participate, we will be making an adjustment to the schedule. We will be alternating weeks for grades K-3 and 4-8th. Below is the new schedule reflecting this change.

**Art
Club
Meeting
Dates
Thurs
days
2:30-
3:30**

27 September
4 October
11 October
18 October (4th - 8th grades)
25 October (K – 3rd grades)
1 November (4th - 8th grades)
8 November (K – 3rd grades)
15 November (4th - 8th grades)
29 November (K – 3rd grades)
13 December (No Art Club due to SAC meeting)
10 January (4th - 8th grades)
17 January (K – 3rd grades)
24 January (4th - 8th grades)
31 January (K – 3rd grades)
7 February (4th - 8th grades)
14 February (K – 3rd grades)
21 February (4th - 8th grades)
28 February (K – 3rd grades)
7 March (4th - 8th grades)
14 March (K – 3rd grades)
21 March (4th - 8th grades)
28 March (K – 3rd grades)
4 April (4th - 8th grades)
18 April (K – 3rd grades)
25 April (4th - 8th grades)
2 May (K – 3rd grades)
9 May (4th - 8th grades)
16 May (K – 3rd grades)
23 May (4th - 8th grades)
30 May (K – 3rd grades)
6 June (everyone last meeting, we'll have a small celebration!)

What we're up to in the Art Room:

K-5th: Talked about the importance of the Dia de Los Muertos festival in Mexico as part of an exploration to Hispanic Heritage month. Each grade created different works of art inspired by this festival that celebrates the lives of those we have loved and lost. These works will be on display at the DCC for the Hispanic Heritage Food Tasting.



6-8th are exploring CONTOUR LINE, PATTERN, CONTRAST and design as they begin a unit on Shoes. First they will design a shoe on a popular shoe company website, next they will draw it focusing on the use of Contour Lines, and finally they will *design* their own ultimate shoe.

Clay Animation / Video Class 7/8th: Working through the preproduction stage, students have begun designing and sculpting their characters from their selected fable. They will be storyboarding their fable, designing and constructing their sets and props to prepare for production on their clay animation projects

Humanities 6-8th: Students are defining themselves in poetic ways. They began by writing an "I Am" poem and are now working to take photos to further illustrate their words. They will complete the project by creating a video set to their narration of their original words illustrated by their images. We are reading and exploring the themes of justice, truth, and self through Ben Mikaelson's powerful children's novel *Touching Spirit Bear*. (http://www.benmikaelsen.com/books_touchingspiritbear.html).

LEMS Artists Online ~ Find Us Here:

Our virtual gallery on **Artsonia.com**: <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=105920>

Our virtual video gallery on **Schooltube.com**: <http://www.schooltube.com/organization/223688/>

Our podcasts on **Podbean.com**: <http://lems.podbean.com/> (which can be subscribed to via iTunes)

Our middle school class website on **Edmodo.com**: www.edmodo.com/mssperl (Parents you are welcome to join Edmodo as a parent and you will be able to view our class site and keep tabs on work that is assigned)

Health Notes

Last week we were visited by our friends from the Camp Darby Fire Station, and treated to valuable, interesting and fun lessons about prevention and fire safety. We would especially like to thank Mr. Matt Labrise, a born teacher and “natural” in the classroom, who captured the students’ attention with his gifted presentations.

In a few weeks, 1 November, the Livorno Clinic will again be offering the mandatory flu vaccine to all the students and teachers. You should be seeing informational handouts and permission slips via email, and will be asked to sign and return them to your student’s teacher.

We are blessed to have so many supportive parents and community members intricately involved in the day to day life of our students. Whether as a volunteer, guest speaker or lunch buddy, your presence touches and enriches the heart of our school.



Kindergarten students enjoyed a visit from Livorno’s Fire Department during “Fire Prevention Week.” This year’s Fire Prevention theme is “Have Two Ways Out.” Students had lots of information they shared with the firefighters and asked many questions.



The First Grade class has been very busy the past few weeks. I would like to thank them and their parents for doing such a great job during this transition time! Keep up the good work!

We have been working very hard on our reading program and the children are moving along quite nicely. I am very pleased with their progress. Please remember to read with or to your child every night. I know that many of us have very busy schedules, but try to take some time out to sit down and read a few pages of a book. Practice makes perfect!!

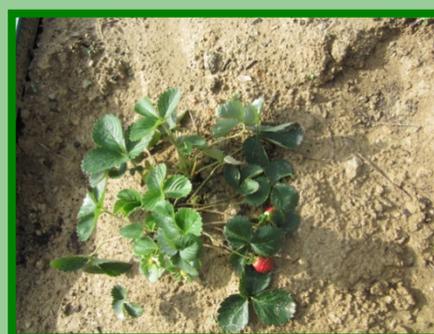
Our classroom management program has been doing well. Children have been earning lots of coins! They have been also learning about money in math as well as time, tally marks, and patterns. Take a moment and let your child count the change in your pocket or ask them the time. When parents are actively interested in their child's school work, the child senses this and are more eager to participate! Please keep a look out for a Halloween Party notice. We will be looking for donations of cups, napkins, and goodies

Mrs. Nicole McKenna

Second grade has a garden!

Last year Livorno EMS' STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) garden was completed. This year Second Grade planted pumpkins, green beans, lettuce, broccoli and strawberries. In mid September we prepared the ground with the help of Ms. Kasey Massie, a substitute teacher. Now just 5 weeks later we have growth. In addition to our planter, we have undertaken the science experiment of a compost pile. We hope to have a nourishing pile to add to our planters for the next growing season.

Come check out all the grade levels gardens at LEMS!



3RD GRADERS CELEBRATE METRIC DAY

On October 10th the 3rd grade class held the Metric Olympics, to celebrate Metric Day. We had a Javelin Throw, Cotton ball Throw and Paper plate Discus. TL, DP, KF, MF and CS won! EF thought it was pretty fun and MF said, "It was really interesting because we have never done this before!"

Metric day is the celebration of the Metric measurement system. It is always on October 10th because that date is 10/10. Did you know that there is one big country that doesn't use the system? That country is the U.S.!

Written by EB, EF, MF, MV, CS & MG

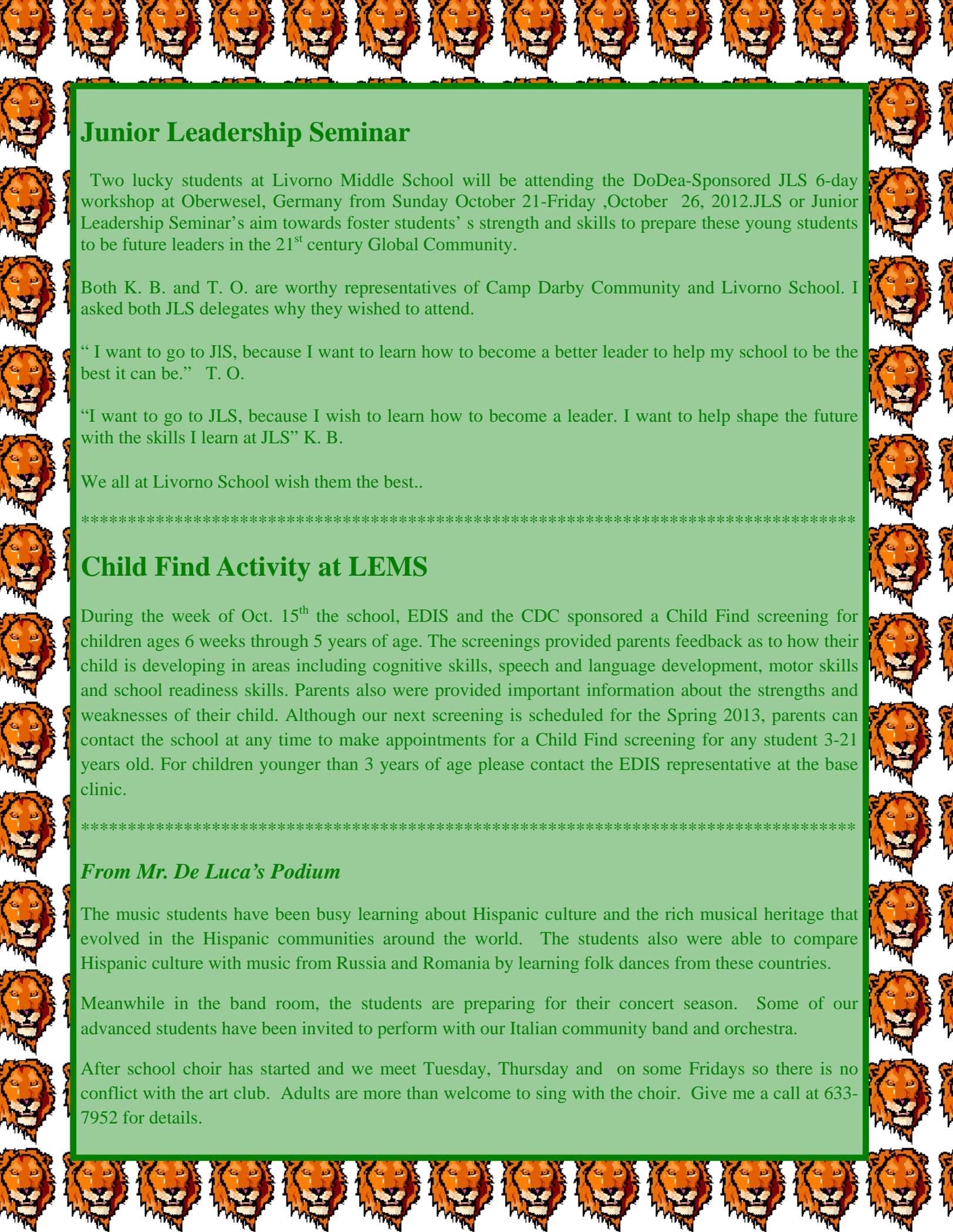


3rd Graders visit Global Bank

The 3rd graders went to the bank to learn about banking and money. There we learned many interesting facts. Did you know that the first bank was made in Italy? Did you know that the first money was called Florin? It was first made of gold but then changed to silver because silver is lighter than gold. CM and MH said, "The trip was very cool and fun!"

Written by DP, MH, MH and CM





Junior Leadership Seminar

Two lucky students at Livorno Middle School will be attending the DoDea-Sponsored JLS 6-day workshop at Oberwesel, Germany from Sunday October 21-Friday ,October 26, 2012.JLS or Junior Leadership Seminar's aim towards foster students' s strength and skills to prepare these young students to be future leaders in the 21st century Global Community.

Both K. B. and T. O. are worthy representatives of Camp Darby Community and Livorno School. I asked both JLS delegates why they wished to attend.

"I want to go to JLS, because I want to learn how to become a better leader to help my school to be the best it can be." T. O.

"I want to go to JLS, because I wish to learn how to become a leader. I want to help shape the future with the skills I learn at JLS" K. B.

We all at Livorno School wish them the best..

Child Find Activity at LEMS

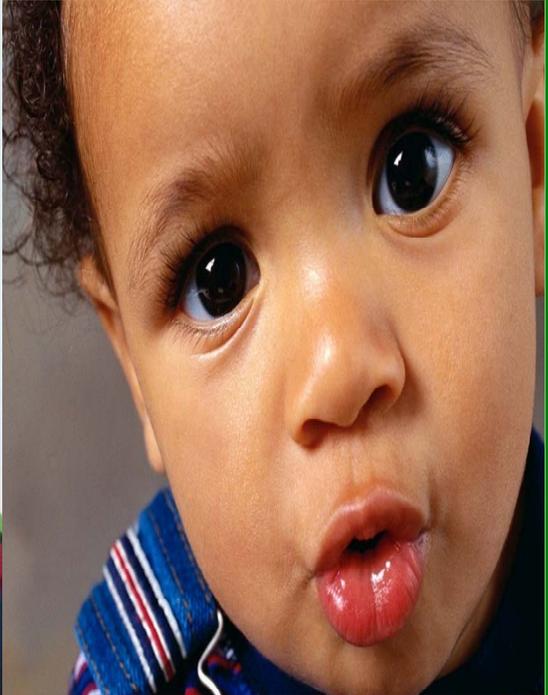
During the week of Oct. 15th the school, EDIS and the CDC sponsored a Child Find screening for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years of age. The screenings provided parents feedback as to how their child is developing in areas including cognitive skills, speech and language development, motor skills and school readiness skills. Parents also were provided important information about the strengths and weaknesses of their child. Although our next screening is scheduled for the Spring 2013, parents can contact the school at any time to make appointments for a Child Find screening for any student 3-21 years old. For children younger than 3 years of age please contact the EDIS representative at the base clinic.

From Mr. De Luca's Podium

The music students have been busy learning about Hispanic culture and the rich musical heritage that evolved in the Hispanic communities around the world. The students also were able to compare Hispanic culture with music from Russia and Romania by learning folk dances from these countries.

Meanwhile in the band room, the students are preparing for their concert season. Some of our advanced students have been invited to perform with our Italian community band and orchestra.

After school choir has started and we meet Tuesday, Thursday and on some Fridays so there is no conflict with the art club. Adults are more than welcome to sing with the choir. Give me a call at 633-7952 for details.



How Am I Growing?

POC at Livorno School is Ms. Avalos 633-7367

CDC/DoDDS/EDIS

WORKING TOGETHER

Call 633-7459

Ask for a CHILD FIND Appointment





Livorno E/M School
2012-2013 School Year Calendar

First Semester

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day - Federal Holiday-no school

Friday, October 19

Scouts sponsored Movie Night, 1800 hrs.

Thursday, November 1

End of the first marking period

Friday, November 2

No School. Teacher work day

Monday, November 5

Beginning of 2nd. Quarter

Thursday & Friday, November 8 & 9

Parent-Student Teacher Conferences

Monday, November 12

Veteran's Day, No School

Thursday & Friday November 22 & 23

Thanksgiving Break, No School

The Back PageA Place for Your Input



Do you have any questions?



Do you have any suggestions?



Do you have compliments/rumors?

This page may be returned to the school office if you have any input.