



Livorno Elementary Middle School  
 Www.livo-ems.eu.dodea.edu

# LIV-ROAR-NO NEWS

Volume I, No. 3

*"Home of the Lions"*

December 3, 2008

Denise Webster  
 Principal

Unit 31301 Box 65  
 APO AE 09613

Telephone/FAX:  
 DSN 633-7573  
 FAX 633-2296

Superintendent: Dr. Elizabeth Walker: DSN 634-8460; CIV: 0444-71-8460  
 Assistant Superintendents: Mr. Carl Albrecht

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Livorno Unit School is to guide, facilitate, and empower students. In partnership with the community, we will prepare all students to become lifelong learners using a challenging, standards-based curriculum.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	
Dec 5	Tree Lighting Ceremony 1700 AAFES Courtyard
Dec 19	Fine Arts Night 1700  Mid-Term Reports sent home to parents as necessary
Dec 22	Winter Recess Begins
Jan 5	School Resumes
Jan 16	Early Release—Students Released at 11:00 (Teacher Staff Development)
Jan 19	President's Day Holiday—No School
Jan 22	End of 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester
Jan 23	Teacher Work Day—No School for students
Jan 26	3rd Quarter begins
Feb 2	NAEP Assessment for Grades 4 and 8
Feb 13	Early Release—Students Released at 11:00 (Teacher Staff Development)
Feb 16	President's Day—No School



Happy  
 Holidays  
 From  
 All of us!

## *Parent Teacher Organization Corner*

The big news for this month is the PTSO Santa's Workshop happening next week! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to purchase surprise gifts for their family members. Thanks to all those who donated new and gently used items, the workshop is full of fun things for the kids to buy. No item is priced over \$5 and most are on the 50-cent table. During school hours, the K/1 and 2/3 classes will be shopping on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The 4/5 and 6/7/8 classes will follow on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please send an appropriate amount of money if you would like your child to participate (no more than a few dollars per gift recipient). Parents with younger students may also want to send a list of family members with their genders and ages. On their shopping days, the students will only be allowed to purchase as many gifts as there are people in their family. This is to guarantee there are enough gifts to go around. Volunteers will be on hand to make sure the gifts are age and gender appropriate. Then on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, our Santa's Workshop will be open to the entire Camp Darby community between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.. Students will be allowed to revisit the shop during lunch that day and purchase anything else that caught their eye. There are some really nice items that anyone on your list would love to open Christmas morning. Happy Holidays from the PTSO!

## FROM THE HANDBOOK...

Important elements such as attendance, tardiness, dress code are all addressed in the Student Parent Handbook. Parents, please review the handbook with your child(ren). The handbook is available at our website: [www.livo-ems.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.livo-ems.eu.dodea.edu)

# Early Childhood Entrance Age Change

Copied from [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu)

DoDEA will make an important change to its entrance age eligibility requirement that will affect the early childhood program for the 2009-10 school year (SY). The entrance eligibility birth date will be adjusted from October 31 to September 1. That means a child must be five years old by September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. The change aligns DoDEA with national trends as well as the age requirement in many military-impacted states. This change will also affect students in DoDEA's pre-kindergarten, Sure Start, and first grade programs. A child must be four years old by September 1 to attend pre-kindergarten or Sure Start and six years old by September 1 to attend first grade. DoDEA wants to inform families about this change well in advance so everyone can plan ahead to make the beginning of their child's educational journey a rewarding experience.

The decision is the result of careful consideration and extensive coordination of educators and administrators as well as DoDEA advisory councils, Advisory Council on Dependents Education (ACDE) and Dependent Education Council (DEC). Current trends were researched and reviewed, resulting in a recommendation to change the minimum entrance age requirement.

During SY 2009-10, exceptions to this change will accommodate all students who have completed kindergarten in SY 2008-09 School Year and families who move under Permanent Change of Station orders after the start of the school year whose dependents are already attending an accredited kindergarten or first grade.

Students attending Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools pre-kindergarten pro-

grams; Department of Defense Dependent Schools Sure Start Programs, or DoDEA Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities will be allowed to attend the DoDEA programs for an additional year if they do not meet the new kindergarten entrance age. Families should coordinate with their school principal for further details.

## *Customer Satisfaction Survey*

*Hear ye! Hear ye! Let your voice be heard!*

At this time of year when we all tend to reflect upon the things in life important to us, DoDEA executes an annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. It can be accessed from any computer by going to [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu) and clicking on the CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY link. We ask that each parent and vital community member take a moment (about 20 minutes from start to finish) to complete the survey. This data truly impacts our school by providing a wealth of information to our staff as to how you see things operating in your community. While of course I always welcome you to come directly to me, and encourage you to work out any concerns with the teacher, this survey will allow you to give input on our system as a whole, as well as our school. We thank you in advance for the time you commit to taking this survey. We will be scheduling our students (grades 4 to 8) in order to complete this survey as well. If you have any objections, please contact me. Or, if your child has already taken the survey, please let me know.

If you prefer, or do not have internet access, we have a kiosk computer set up in the lobby of the school that you can use to complete the survey! Please feel free to come to the school to let your voice be heard!



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

Parent Newsletter Article for December 2008

Nutrition is crucial to children's health and is worth keeping in mind as we approach the holiday season and find ourselves tempted to indulge. Breakfast gets children to lunch, lunch gets them home, and dinner nourishes them overnight. Having a good dinner in the evening just isn't enough; children need to make wise food choices throughout the day, but how do we get them to eat right?

It is important to practice what you preach when it comes to nutrition. You are your children's first and most important teacher, even if your children, particularly your preteens and teens, don't always see it that way. If you start your day with a large coffee and bagel in the car, your children may believe that caffeine and sugar are clever breakfast choices and that eating on the go is normal. Here are some ways to be mindful of what you eat as a family:

Shop for groceries together. Read food labels for nutritional content, and choose foods that are low in sugar and fat.

Discuss the school lunch menu with your child in advance to help him or her make wise food choices. If your child takes a lunch from home, have him or her help pack a healthy one.

Encourage your children to cook with you, and allow them to help plan the week's meals. Slowly introduce some new wholesome foods.

Dine together as a family as often as possible. Although you may spend many hours in the car attending multiple activities, the car is not the dinner table. Try to refrain from eating there as it encourages eating fast food on the run. Dining together not only encourages healthy eating habits, it helps bond the family.

Stock your home with low-sugar foods and rid the pantry of refined sugar, i.e., processed white sugar found, for example, in many boxed snacks and cereals.

Avoid fast-food restaurants by planning your meals and snacks before leaving home. Be prepared for meal-time changes and food substitutions if necessary.

Food should not be given as a reward.

You know your child better than anyone and can provide food choices that are healthy and tasty. These examples can help guide you and your family toward healthier food choices. As a result, you and your family will achieve a dietary balance that will reward all of you in many ways throughout life.

DIANA J. OHMAN  
Director, DoDDS-Europe

## CONTACT INFORMATION

AS MANY OF OUR FAMILIES ARE  
GETTING SETTLED INTO A NEW  
HOME, PLEASE TAKE TIME TO UP-  
DATE YOUR INFO WITH MARINA!

It is imperative that all sponsor information is current so that you may be contacted at any time. Please notify the school immediately if there is a change in any of the following:

- a. Local quarters address.
- b. Mailing address of sponsor.
- c. Home phone.    d. Rotation date.
- e. Emergency contact name and phone number.
- f. Telephone at work and spouse's work number.
- g. Sponsor and Alternate Email address.
- h. Cell phone numbers for sponsor, spouse and emergency contact.

**Note: If you are leaving the area for temporary duty or a personal trip, and your children are staying here, the school office needs notification of the name, address and phone number of the person who is responsible for your dependents, as well as a copy of the temporary Power of Attorney authorizing the individual to have the care of your dependents.**

### Instructional Day

Our school day begins at 0800 and ends at 1420

We kindly ask that students to not arrive prior to 0745 as we do not have supervision set for prior to that time. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please remember that if your child is going to be absent, please call the school. And, if they will be late we need to you come sign your student in at the front office kiosk.

## CHARACTER COUNTS AT LIVORNO ES/MS

### Citizenship

A good citizen takes care of his or her community. When you throw away garbage, be sure to place it in the right type of "trash can" — Recycle!.

Thank you for helping to keep our  
community neat and clean!

## Child Find

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools are searching for children from birth through age 21 who may have developmental delays or disabilities and are in need of individual and appropriate special education and related services.

If you suspect your child, or a child that you know who is eligible to attend DoDDS, has one of the following disabilities, please contact Lisa Andler at DSN 633-7573 or CIV 050-54-7573 or via email [lisa.andler@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:lisa.andler@eu.dodea.edu)

Screening areas are:

- Deaf/Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Deficit
- Blind/Vision Impairment
- Emotional Impairment
- Speech-Language Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Learning Disability
- Health Impairment
- Developmental Delay



## LUNCH MENU IS ALWAYS AVAIL- ABLE AT:

[HTTP://ODIN.AAFES.COM/NUTRITION/MENUS.HTM](http://ODIN.AAFES.COM/NUTRITION/MENUS.HTM)

The school keeps a few printed copies at the front counter for those with limited printing abilities. Please feel free to pick one up.



**If you have not already signed up for an account with AAFES for your student's lunch program, the school encourages your to do so as it eases the process for our cafeteria staff.**

### Health and Fitness Periods at Livorno ES/MS

This year, students have been participating in a new form of a fitness program developed by and implemented by all teachers at the school. This school year our instruction has been collaboratively coordinated and developed by Mrs. Marra, licensed Physical Education teacher. She mentors each and every teacher in their instruction and activity implementation. As with any new program, monitoring and modifications of the program are required along the way in order to ensure its effectiveness and success. As a staff, we have decided that we would implement a few elements. The management of mentoring the staff and ensuring that all DoDEA standards are met has become cumbersome and is challenging the staff in a way that has caused us to feel like we need to revisit our PE schedule. Beginning 15 December, Mrs. Marra will instruct all students in PE twice a week, freeing up other staff members to work with students in areas of their strength (such as Art, Computers, Reading and Science). It is important for us that all feel that they are delivering a program that is positive and maximizes student potential. As we reflected on our PE Program and the instruction we were giving, we felt that our impact lacked continuity and depth, thus our decision to change. We are excited about this modification and hope that it will be a seamless transition for students. Teachers will prepare their individual classes for the change. We thank you in advance for your support and together we have a continued focus on healthy students and fitness!