



MEDITERRANEAN DSO NEWSLETTER

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MISSION: To Provide an Exemplary Education that inspires and prepares All DoDEA Students for Success in a Dynamic, Global Environment.

VISION: The Mediterranean District Office will provide leadership, support, guidance, resources, and quality control to ensure a successful educational environment at each school.

Inside this issue:

Vicenza ES 2 nd Grade Deployment Club	3
Ankara Goes Native	5
Rota Students Participate in Cadiz Food Campaign	7
VMS 8 th Graders visited the 13 International Architecture Exhibition	9
STEM at Aviano ES	12-13
Music in the air at Sevilla EMS, with many stars	14
Sweet Searching at Sigonella MHS	17
Lajes Unit School CSI and OSI	19
Computer Application Class at Vicenza HS	20
Naples ES STEM Night	21
Bahrain ES Events	22-24

District Superintendent's Message



Mr. Kent Worford
Mediterranean District
Superintendent

During the time that I've been part of the Mediterranean District, and I'm sure long before that, parents have heard that their children are receiving high quality educations in the DoDEA system. Since we, as educators, know that we must use data to support such statements, I want to take this opportunity to pass on exciting and positive information recently released by DoDEA.

The DoDEA Press Release of 06 December 2012 states that the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the "only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Therefore, the NAEP provides results concerning subject matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., 4th graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., female students, Hispanic students, etc.)."

The NAEP assesses students at the end of specific educational levels (4th and 8th grades), but does not assess 12th graders because the sample size is too limited. Fourth and eighth grade students in our DoDEA system performed above their national counterparts as stated in the latest (NAEP) Report. The DoDEA press release said: "This report focuses on how well students are able to use words to gain meaning from the passages they read. The NAEP vocabulary questions assess whether readers know a word well enough to use it to comprehend the sentence or paragraph in which the word occurs." Additional information about NAEP is available online at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

The press release also quotes DoDEA Deputy Director, Adrian B. Talley: "While DoDEA's results continue to be *above the national average*. . .we are always striving for continuous improvement in student achievement."

Now, what does this mean for us in the Mediterranean District? Quite simply, it means that our students are learning very well, are achieving academically, and are highly competitive with stateside children. You as parents play a very important part in this accomplishment. With your interventions, focus on studies, and vision for your children's futures, our students will only improve even more.


Kent R. Worford
Superintendent,
Mediterranean District



Vicenza Elementary School 2nd Grade Deployment Club

The 2nd grade deployment groups at Vicenza Elementary School have been meeting weekly to support the 2nd graders who have a deployed parent. The students have been working hard on many projects to send off to their deployed Dad or Mom. They are very excited about their handmade holiday cards filled with their different art projects.



Aviano MHS Future Educators Association members met with the Mediterranean District Teacher of the Year



On October 25th, 2012, the Aviano chapter of the Future Educators Association had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Ms. Maribel Bastidas, DoDDS-Europe Teacher of the Year for 2012- 2013.

Aviano MHS Future Educators Association Celebrate American Education Week



American Education Week—November 11-17, 2012—gives all Americans a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the National Education Association and American Legion as the co-sponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a co-sponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

Rota Middle/High School Science Symposium

On Wednesday, 28 November, 98 students from Rota Middle/High School displayed the results of their scientific research at their annual Science Symposium in the high school gym. The annual symposium is designed to encourage young people to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The students spend weeks developing their hypotheses and conducting their research. “We started work on the projects in August,” said Ms. Tierney, a science teacher at the school. When asked about the results of the students’ hard work, she added, “I am very pleased. I listened to many of the presentations. The students should be proud”.



Middle School ‘Best of Show’ winner discusses his presentation with 6th Grade teacher John Fichera

During a morning session, students presented their projects to the 37 volunteer judges. By lunchtime, the judges had made their decisions. High school best of show awards were given to Leif Gruetter (1st), Tony Diaz (2nd), and Tristan DeTore (3rd). Middle school winners were Aaron Pena (1st), Spencer Janse (2nd), and Kathleen Mabunay (3rd). In addition to this, awards were given for many individual categories, including Botany, Environmental Science, Consumer Science, Microbiology, Zoology, Physical Science, Mathematics, Mycology, Chemistry, Human Physiology, and Social Science.

The students used this opportunity to explore their own particular scientific interests. “I learned that marine life is fascinating,” said 11th grade student Mikaela Palmer, “I also learned that I can accomplish my own goals by taking charge of my own research”. Senior Natalia Rivera explored her own hypothesis: “I learned that water with salt in it took a longer time

to boil than regular water, as it boils at a higher temperature.”

During an afternoon session, the participating students were able to present their work to parents and the members of the Rota community, including students and teachers from the elementary, middle, and high schools. In addition to the 37 volunteer judges, eight parents volunteered their time throughout the day to assist with the symposium.

Rota HS College Fair

More than 50 colleges were represented at the annual College Fair at Rota Middle High School on Friday, 30 November. Teachers, parents, and other local community members turned out to represent Alma Maters, offering the students a valuable opportunity to gather information about colleges that interest them and talk face to face with graduates about their experiences.

The students were eager to learn about the colleges that were represented. “I think it was a great opportunity to look at my possibilities for the future,” said senior Kris Rios. “It’s definitely given me something to look forward to.” The student interest was not limited to seniors; “This has motivated me and given me an idea of what I need to do to get to college,” said freshman Hailey Landry.

The students were invited to walk around during their seminar class and talk to college representatives of their choice. “It’s great to play a part in helping these students prepare for their futures,” said school counselor Dr. Marcy Bond, “and it’s nice to see many colleges represented so far away from home.”



Counselor Marcy Bond and teacher Steve Bond talk to high school senior Keanna Garcia about the University of Maryland.

ANKARA GOES NATIVE

Mrs. Gildea's Fourth graders spent the month of November studying Native Americans from all regions of the United States. They created charts displaying the research information they collected. As well, they created their own Native American Culture kits to include habitats and artifacts of Native Americans.



Rota M/H School Christmas Art Project

The Art Club of Rota Middle High School has been diligently working on a Belen, installation to celebrate the holiday season. Taking elements for the European traditions of gingerbread houses, the team developed a creative approach to the Spanish Belen: recreating a holiday panorama from candies, cookies, and sweets.

The Belen figures were handmade from dough art, and architectural fixtures decorated with tasty edibles. The result is an array of confectionary sweets, portraying holiday motifs. The Belen will be open for viewing in downtown El Puerto de Santa Maria from December 15-18. There are usually a number of other Belens to visit in the neighborhoods surrounding the bodegas.



High school students Joy Hutcheson-Tipton and Amber Rondina work on their projects.

The Art Club, RMHS Spanish students, and International Club members are proud to represent our community as the Belen is open to public viewing. Community members are given this opportunity take a stroll to see the handiwork of a traditional Spanish celebration during the holiday.

Community and School members come together to help Kindergarten and First Graders at Ankara ES/HS

The kindergarten and first grade classes have been learning about community workers. Today they got the opportunity to meet and talk to community workers on the Ankara Support Facility (ASF). They were able to meet with Ms. Uluer, Assistant Principal; Mr. Sedar, AAFES Employee; Ms. Hill, Commissary Director; Ozlem, AAFES Exchange Supervisor; Ms. Walker, Community Librarian; TSgt Taylor, Postmaster; TSgt Zanoni, Security; and Lt. Col Little, Base Commander. Together these workers help make the ASF a safe and fun place to be. THANK YOU to all of our community workers on the ASF!



Base Commander and Kindergarteners



Librarian, Ms. Walker and Kindergarteners



Asst. Principal Rosie Uluer and Kindergarteners



SLO and Kindergarteners returns to school.

Rota Students Participate in Cadiz Food Campaign

On Saturday, 1 December a group of Rota Middle/High School representing ASPIRE participated as volunteers collecting food for the Banco de Alimentos de Cádiz (Cádiz Food Bank). From 9:00 till 18:00, students and Spanish teacher, Mrs. Bastidas, stood at the entrance of supermarket Supersol, greeting customers and informing them of the campaign. Students made signs to inform everyone of the items most needed and distributed bags in which the shoppers could place the items to be donated as they exited the store. Their responsibilities included classifying and organizing the donated items in boxes. At the end of the day, two giant crates were filled with donated goods.



Called “Operacion Kilo,” this is the first food campaign of its kind in the province of Cadiz. Seventy-two supermarkets and close to one thousand volunteers participated in the collection of non-



perishable food for needy families in Cádiz. With an unemployment rate of almost 30%, local soup kitchens are seeing a record number of people calling at their doors as many families see themselves forced

to ask for charity. Students were happy to contribute with their time to such a worthy cause.

ASPIRE is a humanitarian relief community service organization led by National Honor Society members and supported by NJROTC, the International Club, and the National Junior Honor society. Individual students also can join the many projects of ASPIRE.

ASPIRE is currently involved in a school wide toy collection until December 21. Toys collected will be fixed and classified to be delivered to needy children in El Puerto de Santa Maria during the most magical day of the year for Spanish children, January 6th, Three Kings Day. Students will participate in the delivery of toys.



Practicing Spanish Language Skills in Authentic and Exciting Settings

“We learn by doing.” Aristotle



After spending a few weeks learning about natural parks of the Hispanic world, vocabulary related to nature, animals and sports events, students in Mrs. Bastidas’ Spanish 3 class from Rota Middle/High School had a perfect opportunity to apply what they had learned in an authentic, and quite unique, setting. A group of 25 students travelled to the natural park Coto de la Isleta to spend the day out in nature participating in adventurous team-building activities and sport events. A group of qualified monitors greeted the group upon arrival. Using exclusively Spanish, the monitors taught and supervised the day’s activities. The first task was to cross a circuit of ropes formed by several bridges suspended by a harness and ending in a zipline.

Emphasizing safety and the importance of team work, students received instructions on how to use the technical equipment. Then, before going to the big circuit, students practiced their newly learned skills at a floor level. As students mastered the skills, they moved in small groups to the “real one,” about 18 feet above the ground. One by one, students completed the circuit, helping each other, looking after each other, cheering each other, and carefully following the instructions of the monitors. The excitement and the adrenaline rush were high and sentiments of personal pride and accomplishment were felt. After lunch, students were divided in two teams to participate in a gymkhana of fun games. Again, students had to listen to specific instructions given in Spanish to accomplish their mission. In the end, both teams received trophies, emphasizing that they were all winners. Before departing, students completed an evaluation form, providing feedback to the monitors. At home, they wrote a reflection about the day’s experiences. The culminating assignment was to write an article in Spanish about the fun-filled day. For many students, this was an unforgettable experience where they had the opportunity to conquer their fears and feel proud of their accomplishments.



VMS 8th Graders visited the 13th International Architecture Exhibition

The 8th grade class had a very successful visit to the 13th International Architecture Exhibition, directed by David Chipperfield and titled *Common Ground*, at the Giardini and Arsenale in Venice, Italy. The students participated in small groups, chaperoned by teachers and parents, and had an opportunity to visit and experience 69 projects made by architects, photographers, artists, critics, and scholars spread over 10,000 square meters. “This was a great opportunity for students to see a very important exhibit that is world-famous. There were so many ties into what we study in school,” said Ms. West, one of the trip’s coordinators.



Students were exposed to exhibits from all over the world to include economically developed countries to those who are still emerging. The diversity of exhibits also reflected the cultures of the countries. “I liked the Brazilian exhibit the best,” said Ricardo Ortiz, an 8th grader. “I play the guitar and I thought it was cool that they had acoustic guitars there for people to play, as well as hammocks for people to chill in.” Learning about other cultures through their architecture is a great way to expand one’s knowledge of the world.



Ankara students Travel to a nearby Theatre

The combined disciplines of Mr. Baldemor's Speech, Drama, Language Arts, and Video Production classes were treated to a live production of Patrick Barlow's *39 Steps*. The students were invited by the Bilkent Laboratory & International School (BLIS) High School theatre class. This melodrama, made famous by Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film classic, was a new experience for the students. They were entertained and inspired to bring some of their new-found knowledge of play-writing, acting, and production back to Ankara School.



Bahrain MS/HS students participated in the Creative Connection Workshop

Twelve students from Bahrain MS/HS participated in Creative Connections, a visual and performing arts workshop held in Oberwesel, Germany, from 4-9 November, 2012. This annual fine arts activity offered talented high school students an opportunity to participate in exciting, diverse workshops in their chosen art form. Zain Alsaie, an IB Visual Arts 1 student, took part in the calligraphy workshop. Her scroll will be featured in an exhibition in Naples, Italy, entitled *One Mind and One Heart—An International Traveling Group Exhibition, From Global Calamity to Creativity*. This exhibition is co-curated by her instructor, Kichung Lee Lizee, an art teacher at Naples Elementary School. Congratulations, Zain!



VMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELPS THE VICENZA COMMUNITY

This year the VMS Board of Directors (aka Student Council), sponsored by Ms. Elizabeth McLean and assisted by Ms. Debra Wilson, launched their first community project for Thanksgiving: **GIVING THANKS TO OUR SOLDIERS**. In a joint effort with the USO and CYS, VMS students and their families were asked to make cookies and/or rice krispy treats for the soldiers who are downrange for this holiday season.



For the second project of the year, the Board of Directors brought some real excitement to VMS with the beginning of the Angel Tree Project 2012. Because the holiday seasons are extra busy for everyone, Ms. Wilson and the Board decided that each grade level at the Middle School would adopt 3 Angels instead of 1 Angel from each Advisory class. This means that this year's Angels should receive plenty of gifts (plus ACS will share the wealth with other kids who share similar ages and wish lists).



Not only does this give each grade level a class project, but there's a bit of competition involved. The 7th Grade Team in Black II has stepped up to the plate and challenged both the 6th and 8th Grade Teams to see which class fills the Angel boxes first.

To kick off the event, the Board of Directors presented the details for grade level Angels at a grade level meeting on December 3rd. In addition to presenting information about the age, gender, and wish list for the 3 Angels, two members of each grade level from the Board of Directors recited a poem and passed out a small flyer for each student to take home with them. An email will also be sent home to all parents.

As an added treat, the VMS choir, led by Mr. Kirkhum, opened the meeting with a musical presentation that will be performed at the Winter Concert on 19 December in the VMS Multi-Purpose Room.



STEM at work at Aviano Elementary School

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are integral parts of every education day for students. Students in Grade 3 have many opportunities to engage in meaningful work through STEM.

S for Science

The focus on mathematics and science go hand in hand. Problem solving, scientific inquiry, and application to world knowledge are critical thinking pieces that all students need to be involved in. Students in Grade 3 at Aviano Elementary School use their powers of inquiry and discovery to good use. Through science they develop foundations of knowledge that help promote positive interaction with the environment. DoDEA Science Standards addressed through instruction ensure “that students are actively engaged by observing, interacting with materials and with people, and asking questions as they examine new concepts and expand their understanding.”



Science takes center stage for students in Grade 3 at Aviano Elementary School. Students make careful observation of seeds in various stages of growth.



Another investigation explores living things. These students peel away the shell lining of an egg while other students investigate the embryo spot and thick strings of a raw egg.



T for Technology

Here's one way to organize thoughts into action. A student uses notes and incorporates them into a graphic organizer with a program called *Kidspiration*. The school ET guides children through note taking while watching a science video clip. The information is then transferred into a graphic organizer. Then the children will use the graphic organizer to write a summary of their investigation. This is a skill, when taught early, can lead to informed writing on various levels of performance. The children have already thought of using *Kidspiration* for other literacy projects, and they plan to share their learning with others. Children are already tech savvy when it comes to using the Smart Board. There are many opportunities each day for them to demonstrate understanding. In third grade the students begin to learn cursive writing. Students are able to model letter strokes using the Smart Board for others to observe and demonstrate proficiency.



(Continued from page 12)

E for Engineering



Engineering concerns are supported through work with a representative from the Aviano Civil Engineering Squadron. Mr. Ricardo Antonini, discusses energy awareness with students in Grade 3. The main idea of saving energy and conserving resources is central to students' understanding of how their energy use impacts their community and Aviano base. The children gained a sense of alternate forms of energy such as use of solar panels. Conservation efforts hit home as they connected energy savings through less television time, shutting off water faucets, and turning off lights when not in use. This demonstrates better living through engineering. Aviano Civil Engineering also provided Earth Day bags for every student in Grade 3 this fall. Conservation of resources is not just on Earth Day, but it is for every day.

M for Mathematics

Manipulative materials are used in meaningful ways to support concepts for higher thinking in mathematics. Students add and subtract involving regrouping with unit cubes, rods, and hundred flats. This is real hands on learning at its best.



Math centers incorporate teamwork. Students tackle the Problem of the Day and record their work in a math journal. Writing in a math journal also supports handwriting practice. Teams work on problem solving through activity games that demand cooperation, understanding of mathematical concepts, and the ability to explain their thinking to the group.



Music is in the air at Sevilla EMS on Moron Air Base, with many stars.

Mrs. Isabel Carrasco was able to arrange, with the help of its director Sergio Chacon and Principal Dom Calabria, for the Morón-based Banda Infantil Municipal de Moron to perform many different musical numbers, mostly with a holiday season theme, on Thursday, 6 December, at the school. It was appropriate to have them on the Spanish holiday Dia de la Constitution, Constitution Day. Some of the hits included “La Conquista del Paradiso,” “We are the World,” “El Albeto (O Christmas Tree),” “Adestas Fidelis (O Come All Ye Faithful),” and the student favorite “Blanca Navidad (White Christmas),” a song that the student body had been practicing in Spanish class. They all joined the band enthusiastically when the tune was played by the full orchestra. Another outstanding feature of the performance was time taken for the performers of each instrument to play a little bit of music by themselves so the SEMS children could hear how each instrument sounds. After the performance, a cookout was sponsored and organized by Chaplain Kyle Roehrig for the visiting band, as well as for the whole student body and their guests.



Earlier in the season, on Thursday, November 29, the whole school made the field trip to Estepa to experience first-hand the making of the holiday season candy and chocolate made by La Estepena that is famous throughout Spain.



Next week, December 11, 12, and 13, students will have the opportunity to participate in another holiday event at the school—shopping at the “Holiday Store and Book Fair!”

Another outstanding musical performance of the past month was the Holiday Music Program, which was also held on Thursday, 6 December, at the base chapel after school and was organized and directed by Darla Carlisle, who doubles as the school K/1st grade teacher in addition to being the music teacher. The whole student body performed, some as outstanding vocalists, some playing specialty instruments like the cymbals and jingle bells, and some as members of two different bell choirs, but all of them as singers and dancers in the outstanding celebration of the holiday season, which was followed by the lighting of the base Christmas tree. At the lighting, three students from the school were privileged to light the tree. They each earned the privilege by being the winner of the base essay contest on “What the holiday season means to me.”

In keeping with the Med Europe’s new Anti-Bullying Proclamation, which was presented to the student body on Friday, 7 December 2012, by base Commander Lieutenant Colonel Furleigh, each member of the student body, and all the staff, signed the document. Following the reading and signing of the proclamation, a special entertaining and informational presentation, sponsored by the USO, was made by best-selling author Trevor Romain to the student body on the topic of bullying and dealing with student stress.

(Continued from page 13)



Throughout the holiday season, the teachers of Sevilla EMS have been diligent in working on their students' writing skills, one of the two CSI goals emphasized at the school. The work has ranged from writing about Native American Indian customs, costumes, and crafts in Mrs. Carlisle's K/1st grade class; to acronyms about Thanksgiving in Mr. Bowden's class; Thanksgiving play, "The Case of the Gone Gobbler" in Mrs. Medeby's intermediate grade class; language of the Pilgrims in Mrs. Shattuck's media center classes; numerous poems by the students of Mrs. James 4th/7th grade language arts class.

Aviano ES 4th Graders Rocked It!

On 13 December, approximately 80 4th graders performed their hearts out in front of two sold out audiences in the musical production called "Jingle Bell Jukebox." Starring Faith Wingfield in the lead role of Ruby, the play took place in Ruby's Soda Shop where many young children chatted excitedly about which favorite holiday hit they would choose to play next on the jukebox. An actor would insert a coin into the brightly lit up jukebox, and magically the next number would begin.

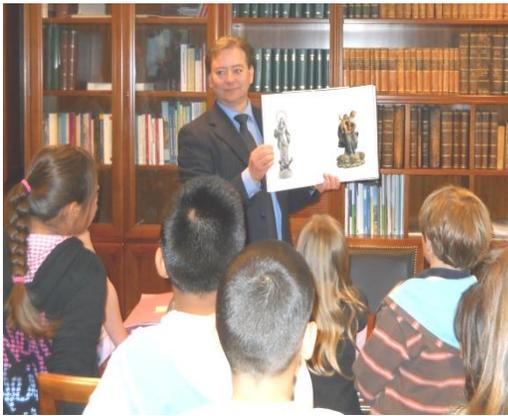


Over the last month, the 4th grade classes have met daily to pull together the musical: first auditions for the speaking roles, then learning each of the ten songs, next deciding on choreography, then preparing the props for each scene, and in the final week, with a dedicated music teacher, assisting in rehearsal time up to three times a day. Our Aviano 4th graders have worked extremely hard mentally, physically, and emotionally, and now feel very proud to have been part of such an exciting production from beginning to end. Most importantly, students were able to shine in front of their school and parents, and fill the multi-purpose room with the spirit of the holiday season. Vicki O'Brien, one of Aviano's counselors, wrote, "It was heartwarming, entertaining, talented, flowing, and full of the Christmas spirit. I was in awe at the smoothness of the transitions from one act/song to the next. The choreography was spot on and just added to all the beautiful voices."



Benvenuti, Aviano Elementary School!

It was with a hearty “benvenuti” that the current mayor of Aviano, Stefano Del Cont Bernard, welcomed Aviano Elementary School’s 3rd grade students to the local town hall. The center of Aviano, where the city offices are located, is just a ten minute walk from the elementary school. The walking field trip is convenient, cost-effective, and constitutes good pedagogy, by tying real world circumstances to curriculum and content. The students learn about the history of Aviano, the meaning of the colors of the Italian flag, and even some information about the symbols on the town’s crest.



The students visited the Mayor’s office.

The mayor greets each class in a wide hallway, where they can see a map of the town, handmade by local children several years ago. They can often pick out buildings and streets that they recognize. The mayor then guides them into the meeting room where the council members meet to discuss important decisions about Aviano. The children sit around a large table, just like in an official meeting. In this room there is a very old embroidered town crest, but instead of an eagle with two heads, which is on the official crest of Aviano, this eagle only has one!

The students are then guided into two important offices. One is the public works office where the mayor discusses the importance of paying taxes and how they help fund community infrastructures and new buildings, based on the decisions made by the

council. The other is the demographic office, which records all pertinent events regarding Aviano’s residents. Births, marriages, change of address, and deaths are all kept here. The records are now completely computerized, but we got to see an old registrar of births from 1871. We examined the old book and marveled at the angular cursive writing and how fragile the records were. These were all handwritten with no hard drive backup!

The final visit was to his The Mayor’s personal office, where he showed us his desk and the paneled wood bookcases behind it filled with law books from different eras. Each leader had his own set, which took on a different format and color from the previous set.

In order to prepare for the trip, host nation teachers Signora Bottecchia and Signora Beltrame provided the students with some background knowledge regarding the geography of the area (since Aviano was under the influence of many empires over the years, including Rome, Aquileia and Venice, as well as Austria). The classroom teachers discussed some aspects of local and state US government so the students could compare and contrast the similarities and differences.

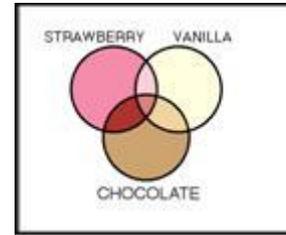
The students at Aviano have a unique opportunity of living in a foreign country, with all of the benefits that being exposed to a different culture can provide. The school further offers them the possibility to explore their local community and make important ties with the people of the area.



The mayor shares demographic records from 1871.

Sweet Searching at Sigonella MHS

Sixth graders at Sigonella MHS are working with the school's Information Specialist, Mrs. Wiley, throughout second quarter to learn the ins and outs of the Millennium Encore Library Catalog and the Online Databases provided by DoDEA. December's lesson focused on the use of Boolean logic operators to help with advanced searching for research information and selecting appropriate literature. The 6th graders learned how to combine words and phrases using **or**, **and**, and **not** to narrow, expand, or focus their searches. At the end of the lesson, Mrs. Wiley gave them a "real-life" test to see if the students could write a Boolean string and draw a Venn diagram to represent a search among Chocolate, Vanilla, **OR, AND** or **NOT** Strawberry scoops. The students got the kind and amount of ice cream they sought. All agreed, it was a sweet way to end the lesson.



Mystery Readers at Rota Elementary School

The students in Miss Patti Rzeznik's third grade class at DGF Elementary look forward to Fridays at school when a Mystery Reader may show up. The Mystery Readers are the parents of the students in the class. The Mystery Reader can choose any book they would like to read and share with the class. Some dress up for their reading, others bring items to show, and some even bring treats to share with the students. The students try to guess on Friday morning who will be the Mystery Reader. Here Marley Hasselbring's mother, Kimberly Hasselbring, was one of our Friday Mystery Readers. She read the story, **The Giving Tree** by Shel Silverstein. She not only dressed up for the part but she also brought in apples as treats for the students to eat. The students enjoyed listening to the story and having a parent dressed up like a tree reading it to them. Now the students are all wondering who will be the next Mystery Reader.



Ms. Hasselbring reads the Giving Tree



Dressed up like a tree



Marley sits by her mom

Trevor Romain visits Rota Elementary

The 1st through 6th grade students at DGF Elementary school had a very special visitor come by to talk to them, thanks to the USO, it was Mr. Trevor Romain, Who is one of the leading experts on bullying. He talked to the students about bullying and the different ways they can help themselves from being bullied. He talked about the problems students face in the school environment and taught them what they can do to avoid unnecessary conflicts with others, like walk away or tell an adult. The students were given a lot of information on how to express their feelings in positive ways and also enjoyed the humor that Mr. Romain used in presenting this information. Trevor Romain is also an author and illustrator of several self-help books for children.



Bullying Stops Here!

Pen Pal exchange project at Rota ES

By Patti Rzeznik

Ms. Flake's 2nd grade students are participating in a pen pal exchange project with a local Spanish school- CEIP Jose de Calasanz Bilingual School of Rota, Spain. Ms. Flake's class has written to the students and these photos show the Spanish students letters to them and a couple of the students actually penning their letters. The Spanish students are very excited about the idea of getting to know new friends from another country and culture. All the students are looking forward to the day when a field trip will bring Ms. Flake's class to the local Spanish school to meet their pen pals face to face.



Lajes Unit School CSI and OSI



Ms. McKenzie’s Creative Thinking Class studied units about ‘Bullying’ and “Labeling.” The Office of Special Investigation (OSI) partnered with Ms. McKenzie and visited her students, assisting with the final project. Little did they know that SSgt. Aleem King, 65ABW Criminal Investigator, would actually go through an investigation and interrogation process with some of the students. Through a mock real-to-life, scenario, after being accused and suspected of bullying, and being read their *Miranda Rights*, the students were interviewed by SSgt. King. The intense interview made the students realize that being interviewed revealed more than just a name and school name.



Students also learned that the 65 SFS professionals are more than able to get to the bottom of things and identify not only the offender, but also render the appropriate actions. As part of our Reading CSI Goal #1, all students will increase their proficiency in critical thinking. SSgt. King briefed the students about his job, showed examples of what he uses, shared some investigative and interrogation skills. Students took *Cornell Notes* throughout the presentation. SSGT King asked very critical and provoking questions that required students’ answers to be based on information he provided as well as to critically analyze questions beyond everyday common knowledge.

Before the session ended, SSgt. King gave the students statistics about bullying stateside and in the military communities. Students had applied mathematical equations and come up with percentages of cases substantiated over a period of years. Students ended up working with our school Math Goal #2 by applying math to the lesson. What a great way to conclude our unit on bullying. We are grateful for the continued educational partnership with our Lajes 65 ABW military community.



Computer Application Class at VHS

Karen Drake's computer applications classes are learning to program motion detectors and motors using MIT's Scratch programming language. Using familiar things such as Legos, they are building boats, flying birds, propeller-driven planes...even a monkey that plays the drums. Harnessing the computers speakers, the students program sounds and animations on the screen to complement their robotic peripherals.



Students Helping Students Transition to VMS

On Tuesday, December 11, more than 40 students met together for training to implement the Student2Student (S2S) Initiative at Vicenza Middle School. Led by VMS Counselor Ms. Carol Kabonick, the group was given an opportunity to become part of the transition team helping new students at Vicenza Middle School feel welcomed, informed, and comfortable on their first day at VMS.



As supported by the Military Child Education Coalition, the S2S program provides new students with a support system, consisting of other students of the same age who help create a welcoming and inclusive environment. The Puma S2S students were encouraged to ask new students to sit with them at lunch, to show them around VMS, and to introduce them to teachers and other staff members. As “ambassadors” representing Vicenza Middle School, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Pumas will be an integral part of the VMS culture of developing personal confidence, respect, and acceptance of diversity. Several students wrote response letters to Ms. Kabonick and expressed their appreciation for being selected to become a member of S2S at VMS. Eighth grader Bryce Franklin wrote about “making sure new students feel like our school is a friendly place.” He also mentioned that “I’m one of the lucky VMS students to be a part of this group.” Even adults remember what it was like being a new student at a school, as Ms. Kabonick shared her experiences of being a new DODDS student at Naples High School. DODEA students move on the average of every 2 to 3 years, and the S2S program, makes those multiple moves much easier to accept, when they have a group of new friends waiting to greet them on the first day at their new school.

NES' STEM Night Takes Flight with the 4th Grade

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are essential subjects in preparing our students to be successful in the 21st century. The STEM committee at Naples Elementary School plans special nights focused on grade level standards to introduce the concepts of STEM to students and parents. On 11 December 2012, the 4th graders got a special treat as pilots from the US Navy helped promote the STEM initiative. Students and parents participated in an interactive experiment to design, test, and gather data about flight direction. When the students and parents arrived, they were welcomed to STEM night and received a briefing about the night's activities. Then they

folded a paper airplane with ailerons and headed off to flight school, led by one of our Navy pilots. The pilots used diagrams and models to share the basics of flight with the students. Next, they headed to the landing strip to conduct 30 test flights with their planes, using the ailerons. Once the tests were completed, the data was compiled in a spreadsheet to analyze and draw conclusions. The night concluded with a question and answer session with one of our Navy pilots. The STEM committee hopes these nights help our students see why it is important to study STEM. We want the students to be independent, creative problem solvers. Our next STEM night is for the 3rd grade on 24 January 2013 at 5:00.



A special thanks to our guest pilots: Brian Gebo, Lawrence Kistler, Reinaldo Morillo, Chris Moton, and Stephen Wynfield.



A Christmas Carol at Bahrain Elementary

Members of the elementary drama club performed a rendition of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens for students and parents during the first week in December. Director Bonnie Higbee met with 4th and 5th grade students after school once a week to prepare for the performance. Scrooge was played by Derek Painter.

Mrs. Higbee connected the play to school learning goal of analyzing text by challenging students to ask questions about the story. She made a Question Answer Relationship bulletin board in the performance hall so that students could post questions about the story.



The cast and crew of *A Christmas Carol*



Students run through a scene at a dress rehearsal



Narrators Alaina Jensvold and Roseann Brown



Derek Painter as Scrooge and Jorgie Kubursi as the Ghost of the Future

Planet Project at Bahrain

Fourth grade students at Bahrain Elementary School took learning outside during science to see just how far planets are located in relation to the sun. First they created paper mache celestial bodies and made posters displaying facts about each planet. Before going outside, students calculated distances and made a chart. Then they went out to the playground to pace off distances.



Students hold their paper mache planets and their planet facts posters.



Check out the relative distance between planets!

Holidays around the World at Bahrain ES

Students in grades 2nd, 3rd and 4th enjoyed a 7-day Holidays Around the World event at Bahrain Elementary School. Each day classes rotated to a different room for 45-minutes to learn about holiday traditions in a different country. Some of the countries represented were: Italy, France, the United Kingdom, and Sweden. Teachers shared information by preparing crafts, songs, snacks, video clips, and stories. Students carried passports with them to get a stamp from each



Cards and stockings were made while learning about Christmas in England.



Second grade students show off their Holidays around the World passports.



Students made broomsticks after learning about how Italians celebrate Christmas.



Students made paper poinsettia plants while learning about Christmas in Mexico.



Mrs. Haas wears a Santa Lucia crown, holds up a Swedish ornament, and samples a Swedish holiday treat.



After dancing a hula, students made paper hibiscus flowers when learning about Christmas in Hawaii.

Happy Holidays!

ESL Sing Along at Bahrain ES

ESL students who work with Mrs. Welford at Bahrain Elementary School did a presentation to show off the vocabulary words that they have been learning. The stage in Gill Hall was full of colorful props and set pieces. Everything was labeled in big letters. Students sang along to the song *Drip Drop* by Dion.



ESL students perform a song for the school.



Juan Flautery as "rain."



The drip drop chorus dances to the song.

President Projects at Bahrain ES



Grant Gunderson holds his Millar Fillmore puppet



Amiya Chiles shows off her Barak Obama puppet



Students view 5th grade dioramas about U.S. presidents

The Incirlik Unit School 2nd-5th Grade Honors Choir

Prepares For Its Winter Concert

On 19 December 2012 The Incirlik Unit School's 2nd-5th Grade Honors choir was joined by approximately 200 K-5 music students when they performed at The Annual P.T.S.A. Winter Concert. The Grade Honors Choir, under the direction of Mr. Daniels, meets every Monday after school for rehearsal. The 40 members learn music vocabulary, sight reading, and gain a wealth of vocal performance experience. The students demonstrate remarkable dedication, showing up to virtually every rehearsal and performance. The choir provides entertainment for events of every kind and helps build community relations throughout each school year. The Honors Choir has performed at Fall Fest at Arkadas Park, The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at The Base Consolidated Club, The P.T.S.A. Winter Concert at the school MPR, The Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon at The Club, The Women's History Month Festival at Arkadas Park, Spring Fling at Arkadas Park, The Breakfast With Santa at The Club, The Holiday Parade, The DECA Inspection Dinner at The Club, The Easter Egg Hunt at Arkadas Park, School Assemblies, The Prayer Breakfast at The Club, The Annual Air Force Awards Banquet, Asian Pacific Heritage Celebrations, The PTSA End of The Year Concert at the school MPR, and numerous other base functions.



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY 2012



For the 12th year in a row, students from Incirlik Unit School performed at The Annual Base Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year the ceremony was held on Monday 26 November, outside The Club Complex. K-5 Music Teacher/Choral Conductor Mr. Shannon Daniels said "I have been directing choirs at this event for over 11 years and this was by far the best attended Tree Lighting Ceremony with a record number of over 500 students, parents, and community members." After the choir sang, the base commander and his family flipped the switch and lit the tree. The kids also were treated to a surprise visit from Santa Claus, who arrived on a fire truck and went into The Club Complex where kids were able to enjoy hot chocolate and other treats while telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas.



Tangerine Math at Lajes Unit School

Here at Lajes Unit School, the teachers like to work as a team. In continuing that spirit of collaboration, Ms. Daniele, who usually works with older students, visited both 3rd grade classes and taught a lesson on “Tangerine Math.” She was joined in the teaching by both third grade teachers, Mr. DeMelo and Mrs. Luna.



Each third grader was given a tangerine as a manipulative. The shape was discussed, as well as the two points opposite each other on the fruit which served as axis. Students then peeled their tangerines to reveal segments, or parts of the whole. From there, fractions were incorporated, as well as multiplication and division. Math fact families were discussed in both addition / subtraction, and multiplication / division. Students were then allowed to eat their manipulatives as

they thought about how good math can taste.



Ask your 3rd grader about other fact families

$$4 \times 8 = 32$$

$$8 \times 4 = 32$$

$$32 \div 4 = 8$$

$$32 \div 8 = 4$$



Yummy!

Winter Mosaic at Lajes Unit School

The halls of Lajes Unit School rang with the sound of music-holiday music. On Tuesday, 04 December, the High School Band, High School Chorus, Intermediate Band, Middle School Chorus, and Elementary School Chorus presented a captivating performance to the entire school. They demonstrated the musical skills they have been honing since school started in September.

On Tuesday evening the band portion performed for parents and other base personnel. It was an expanded variation of what had been performed earlier in the day. This also included a percussion segment preformed by 3rd grade students. Audience members tapped their feet as many traditional holiday songs were performed.

Wednesday evening featured a choral performance, including a piece arranged by a Lajes Middle School student. At the conclusion of the performance, the audience participated in a sing-along with classics, such as “White Christmas” and “Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer.”



Math Best Practices Corner

Teacher-to-Teacher Tips

By Lourdes Alonso, ISS Secondary Mathematics

Teachers are their own best resource. I would like to invite teachers to share the great things that go on in their classrooms as well as any teaching tips in our monthly Best Practices Corner.

This month's best practice features using real world applications to engage students in instruction. These Algebraic Modeling teachers sought very creative means to make learning real and relevant:

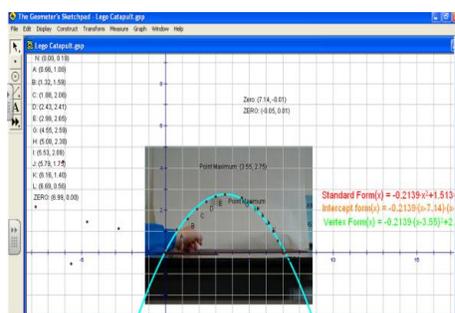


Figure 1 Lajes Student explains the motion of the Lego catapulted in the air.

Quadratic functions take on a whole new meaning in Ms. Eileen Kless' class, Lajes Unit School, where students use Lego-created catapults to trace the motion of the Lego flying through the air and then create graphs and regression models for the motion. Students create videos to explain their work instead of turning in paper activities. Ms. Kless worked with the Gifted Ed teacher and made connections to Science.



Figure 2 Naples students Tres Rivas and John Thibodeau analyze CSI data.

In Mr. Dirk Lambertson's class, Naples M/H, students are finding trends and creating mathematical models for the CSI data in the school. Student and teacher feedback is very encouraging:

Senior Tres Rivas –“It's pretty cool using math for something real instead of just doing book problems.” Senior John Thibodeau – “This has really helped my understanding of how data collection and graphs are related and how they can help us understand things better.” Senior Amber Nalley – “ I have never really liked math very much, but working on this assignment has been fun.” Coach Lambertson – “I think my students are getting a lot out of this assignment; they can really see how math works and why we do things.”

In Incirlik Unit School, Mr. Tring Nguyen, combined Street Law and Algebraic Modeling. The Street Law students argued child custody cases and the Algebraic Modeling students' researched data to find appropriate models to be used in determining child support payments.

For these students math is very interesting and—yes!—fun. The concepts learned are very likely to be retained and the students feel empowered and successful.

There is great teaching going on across our district. If you are trying something new in your classroom this year and can share a teaching tip that had a positive impact on your students, and for you, we would love to hear from you. Pictures are encouraged. Yes, even the best can get better!