



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.

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District Superintendent's Message



Mr. Kent Worford
Mediterranean District
Superintendent

November is the Month of the Military Child! That we are honoring military children is a tribute they well deserve.

They, unlike most of their civilian counterparts, move frequently, are faced with interrupted family lives due to the absence of one or both parents, and contend with major school and social adjustments. While we know that they gain incredible insights, cultural awareness, and academic growth from these experiences, especially when they are living in foreign countries, we also know that their lives can be filled with doubts, fears, and trauma. Therefore, as Superintendent of the Mediterranean District, I want to be sure that all our military installation commands, the parents of our students, and the children themselves know how much we value what they are doing and the tremendous contributions and oftentimes sacrifices they make on behalf of us all.

As our DoDEA Director has often said, our DoD students deserve

the best teachers and the best teaching possible throughout their academic careers. I want to emphasize Marilee Fitzgerald's statement. We—all of us in the Mediterranean District schools—*always* must work toward providing the highest level educational opportunities possible for each and every one of our students. We must provide a positive, caring, and sensitive environment at the schools so that our students know they are safe and that we want them to succeed and achieve. They are the *only* reason we are here. Without them, we would be somewhere stateside. I probably would have been in Kansas as an educator and coach, and probably most of the students might never have left the state. But I am one of those fortunate Americans who found a job with one of the most incredible school systems in the world—working with some mighty awesome kids.

So, as educators in such a system, we owe it to these children to give them our best, to ensure that they become true learners, to guarantee, when they leave us for their next duty stations, that they are extremely well prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century and that they will become leaders, movers and shakers, stabilizers, profound thinkers, and exceptional decision-makers. All of us—as their teachers, mentors, and school family—are responsible for getting them to this level. We cannot fail them!

Kent R. Worford
Superintendent,
Mediterranean District

Intro to Electronics at Sigonella Middle High School

So far the Introduction to Electronics course has been a blast. We have learned many skills including how to make robots. We watched several classmates as they worked on a remote control (RC) car that took days to build. We continuously had to work on the car over several days as it was structurally tested, but it continued to function while ultimately dying a slow death. One classmate made the effort to fix it up and then everybody was back in business! Two students, McKenzie and Maddie, built a robot that was supposed to resemble a bug, but it just spun in circles and, in turn, we named it the “Tornado Bot.” Katie, our budding computer scientist, ensured all things came alive on the computer. She created a virtual world and animated all the plants, animals, and buildings. The biggest project, and soon to be the brightest project, is the LED sign that will be used for our fans to recognize us! The sign reads “GO JAGS” and is illuminated by hundreds of LED lights and multiple wires we hooked together. Anikka, Mason, and Beth all worked together to make the sign the brightest the school has ever seen! Programming robots took a tremendous amount of work, but we enjoyed the task as we were able to program the robots to do the coolest things. One student was able to make a robot draw an “A”! Everything we have done this year has made this the most memorable class ever!



KIMBERLY WILLIS HOLT VISITS SIGONELLA MHS

Throughout the week of October 22-26, award winning author Kimberly Willis Holt visited Sigonella Elementary and Middle/High Schools. Ms. Willis Holt spoke about her books and the way she writes. Two presentations were held on Monday, focusing on *Journey of a Writer*. In addition to those presentations, Ms. Willis Holt held a smaller presentation for middle school students from Rdg/LA 6, Reading 7/8, and Creative Writing and focused on *One Novel Up Close: When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*.



Writer Workshops are being held throughout the week for 3rd - 11th grades. The workshops allowed the student writers to explore sentimental places in their lives. They also learned how to put real experiences from their lives in writing. Things that were given special attention were strong verbs and nouns. Workshops also helped the student writers create an interesting character. By the end of many of the workshops, the students were ready to write a story.

If you haven't read a book by Kimberly Willis Holt, you should try them out. She is a great author, and we were happy to have her visit our schools.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town, an award winning book by Kimberly Willis Holt, was read by the entire 6th grade as well as several 7th and 8th

graders. We interviewed a few students who read the book and here is what they said about it.

KP: Did you enjoy reading When Zachary Beaver Came to Town? What are your feelings about it?

Munro Manning: I feel like it had a lot of tragedy in it. At first the people tried to make the place sound boring, but it became an exciting place. And, yes, I did enjoy reading this book because I always thought of Texas cities as being quiet, so I thought that I could relate to that. ☺

KH: Many people have a favorite character, what's yours? Why?

Mikayla Garcia: I think Kate. She's really funny, because she kept crashing into trash cans when she was trying to parallel park. She also helped Zachary go places and made him feel better about himself.

KP: Many things happened in this book, both good and bad. Which is your favorite part?

Catherine Schumacher: I like the part where they let the ladybugs fly over the cotton field during the Ladybug Waltz.

TK: Out of all the places in Antler, Texas, which one is your favorite and why? How do you connect?

Hunter Clayborne: My favorite place would have to be the Bowl-a-Rama. I connect to it because I like to go bowling and because I got my first strike on my birthday at a bowling alley.



Bahrain Elementary and High School Learning Activities

Mr. Zimmer’s high school science students teamed up with Mrs. Lentz and Mrs. Jensvold’s 3rd graders to act out vocabulary words at Bahrain School in September. The classes collaborated on a project that would help instill required vocabulary for all three classes. Teams met and designed a song, dance, or short skit that would “show” the necessary vocabulary words and their meanings.

The high school students also worked with Mr. Lentz’s and Ms. Haas’ 4th graders to explore science together. High school physics students had to use one piece of paper to create something that would hold several textbooks. After creating their design, and testing the created design, the challenge was to create instructions that a 4th grade team could read to re-create and obtain the exact same results.



Fourth graders read directions provided by high school science students.

Danica Funk interviews with Tiffiney Weddle for a classroom lieutenant position



High school student Renger Dotinga works with 3rd graders.



On Friday, 12 October, at Naples Elementary School, all of 2nd grade students from Ms. Camilleri and Mrs. Sharp’s classes interviewed for different class jobs. I interviewed for 4 different positions, including photographer, class lieutenant, substitute, and class operator. For my interviews I dressed in a nice dress and I curled my hair because I wanted to look professional for the interviews. During my first two interviews, I felt nervous, but then I felt calmer and happy. I sat nicely and had eye contact with the job interviewers. This was a great experience and I feel like I did really well for two of the four interviews. I will find out later this week if I get a job or two!



Jenny Ryoo plans a skit with students.

Sure Start Veterans' Day Celebration at Naples ES

On Wednesday, 7 November, Naples Elementary School Sure Start classes had a special Veterans' Day celebration to honor our military veterans and active duty family members as part of the Month of The Family. Sure Start students met their moms and dads in front of the flag poles at 8:15. Senior Chief Gilfoy and Naples High School NJROTC assisted with a special flag raising. We got to show our families how well we can recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



Serinity Bounsana pledging the US Flag



Breaden Parimore and Tamia Battle sing at NES Sure Start Veterans' Day celebration

After the Pledge, we had a special guest speaker, FLTCM Ortloff. She spoke about the meaning of Veterans' Day. The Sure Start students performed two songs to honor the military. Ms. Ruffino and Ms. Rodrigues read the poem *In Flander's Field* that explains the importance of the red poppies as a symbol for Veterans' Day. Emma Ragon, a student in Mrs. Ruffino's class, whose father is currently deployed, thanked FLTCM Ortloff for her 30 years of service by presenting her with a handmade poppy.



FLTCM Joann Ortloff and Emma Ragon



Sergeant Major Shawn Breyette enjoys breakfast with the Sure Start.

The families entered the school under an Arch of Swords provided by the NJROTC students. The event finished with a wonderful breakfast celebrating all the students had learned these past few weeks about our military.

Political Debates Bring History to Life in Ankara

Unites States History students in grade 8 organized and participated in a political debate on Tuesday, 6 November. This was another real life activity geared towards the students understanding the issues at hand, and realizing the issues facing the next U. S. President.



The students organized themselves into a particular party, either Republican or Democratic, divided the work that had to be done, and then began their research. Teams met often to make decisions on the work that was researched and decided on effective strategies to use in the debate. Once the work was completed, it was time for the debate. The debate was held in the schools Hoca so that other classes and visitors could attend. Distinguished dignitaries and visitors included the 717th Base Commander, Lt. Col. Little, and other military members of his command post, including school personnel and administration.



At the end of the debate, student judges decided by closed vote the party they believed presented their issues to the best of their ability. Being actively involved brought this history lesson to life. Everyone in attendance enjoyed this research-based debate that brought history to life in Ankara, Turkey.



After School Clubs at Bahrain ES

Classrooms are busy *after* school at Bahrain Elementary! Teachers are hosting a variety of clubs after the school day to provide support and enrichment for students. The club schedule is divided into three rounds during the school year. Club topics include drama, reading, science, art, cooking, music, yearbook, homework help, and more. While some clubs will last all year, others will only be held for one round.



Kindergartner Annika Haas holds her spider web art.



Cooking Club kids enjoy their homemade muffins.



Students run lines with Drama Club teacher Shannon Becker.



Drama Club students pose with their scripts.



K-1 Art Club kids show off their masterpieces.

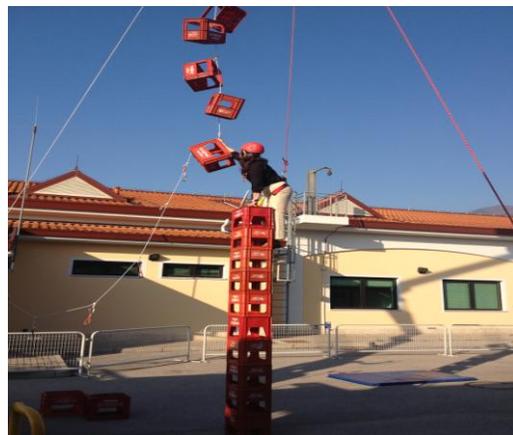
The Mediterranean District Teacher-of-the-Year Maribel Bastidas demonstrated crate stacking at Aviano Complex

By Dr. Noni Hoag

Yesterday I took Maribel to the Aviano Complex. After parking the car we were walking to the school and saw a fenced off area with folks gathered around a contraption which held a rope connected to a harness hanging over a set of crates. The commander said he would "go again" and he got harnessed up and stepped to the crates. The point was to demonstrate balance while you piled up the crates one at a time and climbed up each one you added. The harness did not help you climb it merely saved you if you fall off. The demonstration was to show that the activity was safe for the students to do tomorrow at their base fair. So, the commander fell off after four. I waved one of the ladies over and introduced Maribel as the Teacher-of-the-Year for the Mediterranean District, representing all 18 schools, and asked if she could go in the name of educators. They said, "Sure." So I introduced her to the others who were there and.... off she went. I don't think people necessarily thought that this teacher would do much, but they were willing to be polite.



Well, Maribel got to 4 and stayed on. The crowd began to pay more attention! They said she needed to get to seven to match the previous record for the day. So, she did.



Then she had to reach up and take the next crate from a rope holding more crates (because she was so high up). She had to undo the caribiner. Then she couldn't reach the next crate, so they threw one up to her. Then another....She was awesome! I didn't get a picture of her final stand or falling off, but someone else did. As Maribel succeeded, I pointed out that she was obviously a great model for students and showed how multi-talented teachers are...a little PR. Smile. Now this was just the start of a great day at Aviano. Maribel was gracious and Aviano was welcoming. Great stuff! Go MED!

Volleyball Clinic at Bahrain ES

The high school girls' volleyball team at Bahrain School hosted a clinic for fifty elementary school students on 6 October. The younger kids came in three shifts during the day to learn basic volleyball skills. This event was a fundraiser for the high school volleyball team, and it was organized by Coach Rebecca Sherer. The team was earning money to fund their trip to Germany for the volleyball championships.



Third grader Caroline Marks



Coach Rebecca Sherer preps elementary students for the clinic.



Warm up drills before the skills are taught.



High school volleyball team members work with elementary students.

Aviano MHS Creative Connections Representatives

Congratulations to Cody Price, Phoenix Lewis, Zach Erskine, Allison Walker and Ricky Herrera

(alternate Rachel Birri)

who was selected as

representatives from AVIANO HS to participate in this year's Visual and Performing Arts Symposium: **Creative Connections 2012 "Infinity"**! There were a record-breaking 508 students who applied for courses this year—97 applicants for DRAMA, 90 for Show Choir, and 75 for Mixed Media topped the lists! **Creative Connections 2012 "Infinity"** took place at Oberwesel Lodge in Germany during the week of 4-9 November 2012. It was an INTENSE one-week workshop, where students, grades 9-12, who are interested in "the Arts," have the opportunity to be actively involved with others just like themselves!! Thanks to all who worked diligently from the first day of school to encourage student participation, and to Mrs. Sandy Young chaperone for supporting our students in their travels.



PUMPKIN DAY IN KINDERGARTEN AT ANKARA ES/HS

The kindergarten class at Ankara ES/HS enjoyed a day all about pumpkins on Thursday, 01 November.



The day started off when Mrs. Bills read two pumpkin books. Students then made our own “Pumpkin Life Cycle Books” to read to their parents.



Then a “Pumpkin Investigation” began. Each group had a pumpkin to study. They drew their pumpkins, counted the lines on them, measured them with measuring cubes, and then predicted if their pumpkins would float or sink. They then got to test their predictions. Three of the pumpkins actually floated and only one sank.



In the afternoon, students predicted how many seeds were in their pumpkins. Ms. Smith made a prediction for each pumpkin as well. After the predictions were made, it was time to get messy. The students cleaned out all the seeds from the pumpkins. Some were more involved than others in that process. Then they all got down to sorting and counting by 5’s to see how many seeds were in their pumpkins. It was a lot of sorting and counting, but they did it! They were way off in their estimations. The pumpkins all had around 400-500 seeds. The most seeds numbered 555.



After all the counting, we tried pumpkin muffins and pumpkin seeds made by the Kindergarten Aide, Mrs. Keller.

Thank you to parents, Mrs. Sledge and Mrs. Densmore, for helping with our pumpkin activities.

It was a fun and busy day!!

Ankara Middle School Students Replicate a Backbone

How does a backbone work and what does it look like? Sixth Grade science students enjoyed learning about Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, by replicating the backbone and spinal column using ordinary household items. The first phase of construction was to use a flexible licorice stick, replicating the spinal cord and some cookies with holes in the center, simulating the bones in the spinal column.



The first part of the assembly of a spinal cord is a licorice stick.



Now comes the bone (a cookie with a hole in the center).



Some more cookies.

Students then simulated a backbone with no cartilage. The friction from bone-on-bone contact could be likened to the event of a loss of cartilage, leading to severe body pain and eventually to arthritis, inflammation of the joints

When students placed the marshmallow cartilage between each cookie vertebra, they demonstrated the flexibility that cartilage affords the backbone or spine.



A spinal cord without cartilage and marshmallows for cartilage.

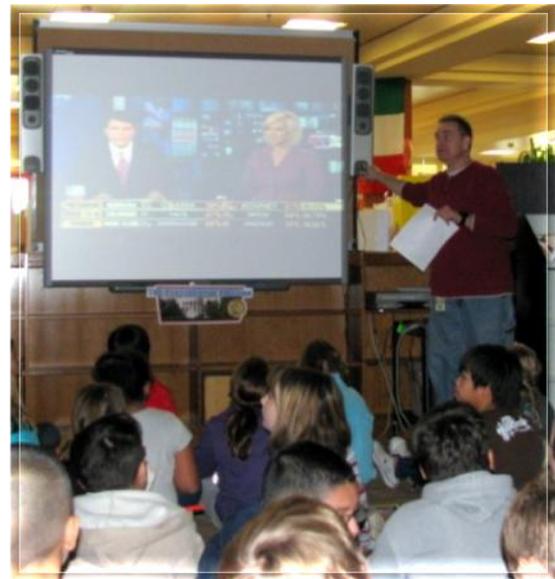
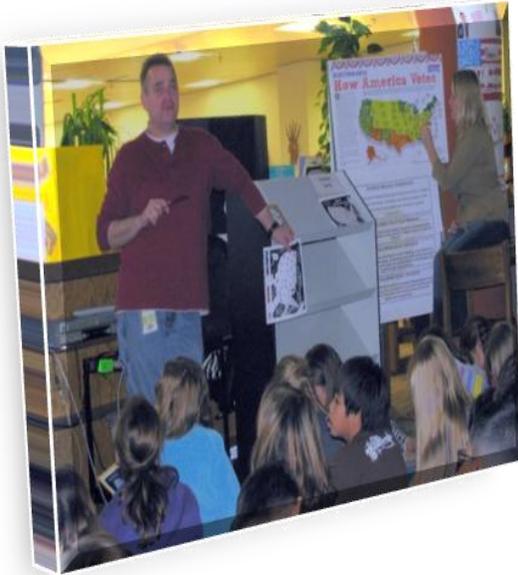
They also noted how the spinal cord is protected. Astute student, Ryan Keller, noted that the sesame seeds on the round cookie vertebrae could represent the calcium that would be rubbed off were it not for the cartilage. All students came away with a better understanding and appreciation of the mechanics of the spine.



The final product, a spinal cord.

Mock Election at Vicenza ES

Vicenza Elementary was excited about the upcoming “Presidential Election.” The students in grades 2-5 had the opportunity to select their choice for president. Vicenza Elementary anxiously awaited the results.



The entire 5th grade, along with some middle school classes, monitored the results as they came in from the United States in the school’s library on Wednesday, 07 November from 8:25-9:50. They discover that their own voting mirrored the stateside results: President Barack Obama took 53% of the votes and Mitt Romney took 47%.

Ankara had a special musical guest!

On 07 November, Mr. Marco Moronne, professional conductor, composer, and concert pianist from Italy, visited our Ankara school music department as a guest speaker and entertained our music students with delicate performances of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. Before he played the pieces, Mr. Moronne asked the students to think about what they felt while they were listening to the music. When he asked the students what their favorite music was, he was surprised at the responses of Tchaikovsky, Schubert, and opera! Not only performing on the piano for the enthralled students, he also gave them some insight as to how difficult it is to conduct a musical group. Conducting is not as easy as it looks!



EOD Robots at Rota MS

Students at DGF Middle/High School were visited on 07 November by EODCS Troy Wold, EODCS Brian Stanley, and EODC Jason Fedida, who demonstrated how robots are used in the field. DGF teacher Bill Brogan coordinated the visit for his robotics class. However, many other classes joined them in the gym to take advantage of this opportunity. "The EOD guys gave us many, many scenarios of when a robot would be needed," said Brogan, "not just to dismantle bombs, but also to retrieve and contain radio-active material."

The students listened in silence as EODC Jason Fedida explained how the robots were controlled and how they contributed to missions. When he invited the students to ask questions, students and teachers alike posed some interesting ones, ranging from how much the robots cost to how often they were lost in the field. Students learned that the larger of the two robots presented in the gym, the Talon, costs approximately \$100,000. "I wanted this demo to help my applied tech students become aware of a few more ways robots help us. I had no idea that Chief Fedida and his crew were going to explain so much and that there would be so much interest from the students at our school. I couldn't believe all the questions the students had," said Brogan.

Following the demonstration, the robotics class was invited to interact more closely with the robots, and this smaller group was also introduced to a much larger robot in the courtyard outside.



EODCS Troy Wold, EODCS Brian Stanley, and EODC Jason Fedida introduce DGF students to the Talon (left) and Pacbot robots.

Aviano Elementary School's Deployment Club

So – is it normal to have a parent deployed? This IS the “new normal,” correct? And what do the students think of this? “Dad, when are you going to get deployed so I can go to the deployment club?”



Aviano has had a club for children with a parent who has been, currently is, or will be deployed in the current school year since 9/11. While this is never easy on the entire family, children at Aviano have a familiar place to come each week during their Friday lunch recess. In fact, they get to eat lunch early with their passes so they will have more time in the club! They come to have fun, talk about their feelings, make crafts, play games, and do fun activities outside on nice days. The first day is spent letting the students decide what they want to do this year.



Aviano Base Library's Reading Dogs, Ms B. Bardot. She has had several years of experience listening to children read books to her at the base library and loves to let the kids “love on her.”

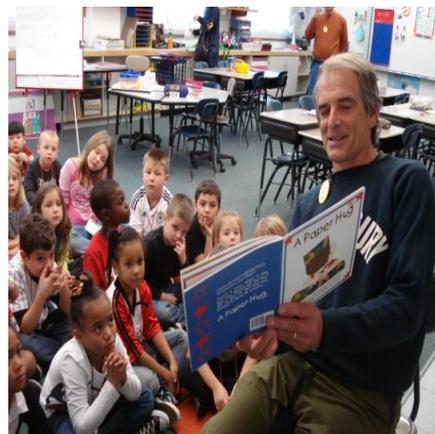
Maybe it is something they did at another base. A new member of the club this year is one of

She is a certified Therapy Dog and has passed tests and certification requirements that allow her to do this. And she brings warmth to the room that only pets can do.

We also have wonderful volunteers this year. As with most bases abroad, we experience a turn-over with our club volunteers. This year we have three “dependent male spouses” who have pledged to share their time with the kids who are often missing their fathers. In addition, some airmen in a squadron will be joining us, as well as the current



Military Family Life Consultants, from both Adult and Youth Programs here on base. Of course, each week one of the counselors or the school psychologist is present to assist with children who may be feeling more down than others. We believe that it is important for these children to be given the chance to bond and support one another with those who are experiencing the same type of emptiness. While the club is totally voluntary, we have over 150 students enrolled this school year! That means that at any one time, we may have 30-40 kids rotating through a lunch recess. The children make it easy ~ they are so appreciative!



Incirlik Cross Country Girls Win 2nd Place For The Second Year In A Row!!!



The Incirlik Girls Cross Country Team was up against a very tough group of girls from Brussels American School who have won the championship for over 5 years straight. Brussels only beat the Incirlik girls by 5 points last year and by 14 points this year. The girls from Incirlik ran away from their nearest competitors from Rota and beat them 28 to 53. The Incirlik girls demonstrated excellent pack running (a technique they had been working on all season) with a strong 4th, 5th, and 6th place finish from Megan Morales (far left), Meagan Rummage (2nd from the left), and Hannah Johns (far right). Montanna Violette-Davidson (center) braved the cold weather along with this season's Most Improved Runner Megan Brown (holding plaque) who dropped her 5K time from a 34:38 all the way down to a 26:15. Way to go Lady Hodjas Cross Country!!!



Rota Student is a Credit to his School

DGF student Adrian Kern has been selected as one of the Top 10 students to attend the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. This is indeed an honor for Adrian, who attended the Program from October 28 - November 2, alongside students from afar afield as Washington State, Florida and Germany. The program, named after its founder, Mrs. Frances Hesselbein, in recognition of her dedication to the development of children and youth, was established by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) in 2006. The purpose is to identify exemplary young people through their participation in the MCEC Student 2 Student (S2S) program. The application process for this program is increasingly more competitive each year. "It really is an honor to have been selected to participate for such a program," said Adrian, who was excited about participating in the intensive training. "I was proud to represent Rota at West Point and aim to make the most of this opportunity." He had a chance to interact with positive role models, focusing on objectives in the areas of team building and leadership development. He also participated in motivational workshops in resilience, life span human development, character development, community involvement, and leaders in action. "I was most happy to gain the necessary leadership skills to help me in high school and beyond," commented Adrian, who in addition to completing an application form had to submit a student resume, three letters of recommendation and a two-page hand written essay prior to being considered for the program. The faculty and students of DGF Middle/High School were proud to have Adrian representing the school at this level.



Adrian Kern (left) assists another student at the start of the school year.

Make Way for the Machinery at Aviano ES

Aviano Elementary School's kindergarten kids are on the move! On 31 October, our kindergarten students had a community helper/transportation parade for our parents and friends. In keeping with DoDEA standards, our students are learning about their community, and how they can help out in their community. Students discussed with family members what they'd like to be when they get older. Then, as a family project, the students made a corresponding transportation vehicle to parade in, depending upon their career choices.



A major standard in Kindergarten is helping students make connections within their community. As the year advances, we will discuss and do many activities to enhance this standard and many others.



Incirlik Unit School College Night

The annual IUS College Night was held on 06 November. Incirlik does not get visits from actual college representatives so we depend greatly on volunteers from the local community. According to Don Christensen, IUS MS/HS Guidance Counselor, this year was no exception, with a terrific showing of officers from the Company Grade Officers' Council.



Sixteen Lieutenants and Captains, as well as several other volunteers, represented over 25 universities. We also had representatives from the local colleges, including UMUC and CTC. The evening was a success with a great turnout of parents and students from middle school through high school. There was valuable college, financial, and preparatory information obtained.



The Model United Nations students provided hot food and baked goods as a fundraiser for the group. Food is always a great crowd pleaser and helped to make the evening complete.




**College
Night!**
Create Your Future

Welcome to the Melting Pot at Rota ES

The 6th grade classes of Mr. Jayo and Mr. Fichera at DGF Elementary School celebrated their heritage by researching their families' backgrounds. Each student found out a little about his or her families' backgrounds and wrote an essay. The students then put together a restaurant called "The Melting Pot" and brought in a dish from their family's background. The students were the maitre-D's, bartenders, waiters, food and dessert preparers. The students also wrote letters to their parents about why they were grateful to their families.



As the parents arrived the maitre-D checked to see if they had a reservation and then would show them to their seats.



Picture of the Restaurant menu



The school principal and his wife placed their orders with one of the 6th grade waiters.



The students in Mr. Fichera's classroom get things prepared for the restaurant's opening.



Math Best Practices Corner at Aviano MS

By Lourdes Alonso, ISS for Secondary Math

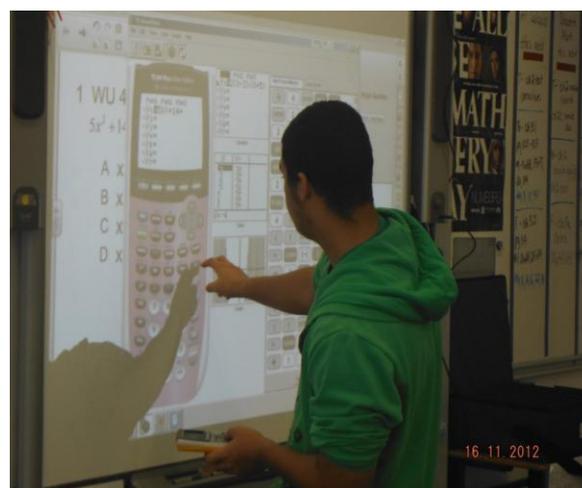
Teachers are their own best resources. I would like to invite teachers to share the great things that go on in their classrooms, as well as any teaching tips on our monthly Best Practices corner. For our first corner column, I would like to offer Laura Corder's "Tip of the Day" on best practices: Using Smart Response is a very smart practice! Laura teaches Calculus, Algebra II, and Discrete Math in Aviano. After a warm up, which reviews the prior day's lesson, Ms. Corder starts off most of her math classes using the Smart Response XE clickers. (The XE model allows for input of mathematical equations and symbols.)



She has a Calculus student as an aide during the lesson and during the assessment. Being an aide has an advantage—he refreshes his knowledge of Algebra, which will come in handy for the SAT and college.



The information from the clickers is only formative so that Ms. Corder can adjust her teaching based on real data of what her students know. After the assessment is complete, students gain points by presenting and explaining the solutions to each problem.



There is classroom discussion and interaction as each problem is reviewed. Everyone's doubts are important and addressed. The graphing calculator, which is really the manipulative for the high school math courses, is used constantly on the SmartBoard. Net result: everybody wins. The students know what they are expected to master and have a system to fill in any gaps or clear up ambiguities. The teacher, in turn, has a clear direction of where she needs to go. It is truly a learning community.

Ms. Corder also has started a Professional Learning Team composed of Math and Science teachers at Aviano to review and help each other use best practices in the classroom. In theory, many best practices are easier to implement than they are in practice. When considering a new practice, being able to bounce ideas from another teacher can be very helpful.

If you are trying something new in your classroom this year and can share a teaching tip that made a positive impact for you and your students, we would love to hear from you. Pictures are encouraged. Yes, even the best can get better!

Looking at the World from the Southern Perspective at Vicenza Middle School

Why do most of our maps have the direction North at the top and South at the bottom? If you were a student in Mr. Hanby's 7th grade World Geography class sometime in the past 13 years, you probably would recall the "Upside Down Map"—the Latin America "Southern Perspective Map 1st Quarter Final Project."

When people have to look at the world from a different perspective, they're using their critical thinking skills to make sense of what the information means. "Southern Perspective" means students literally redraw the map of Latin America from a completely new way of looking at the world. Not many people get the opportunity to redraw the map of part of the world as a class project.



From an historical point of view, the 7th graders learn that different cultures from China, the Middle East, and Europe drew maps with their country as the center or dominant position on maps used for political, religious, and exploration purposes. A map from the 13th century has Jerusalem at the center of the earth and the top of the map is Asia, from the "Eastern Perspective." Currently, there are maps printed that have Australia (the Down Under Country) at the center of the world map, and South America and North America "turned upside down" from the Southern Perspective. So, it seems that a

map's Perspective is in the eye of the cartographer and printer.



An added bonus to the project was when parents were involved and wondering "What's the point of doing this?" their students could respond, "So we have to really pay attention to the location of physical features, waterways, cities and country boundaries." Labeling the Southern Perspective map takes real concentration and attention to detail, with critical thinking skills that are required in most high school and college classes. Besides, with the ability to take a different perspective on another part of the world, students may decide to look at what they take for granted in their daily life, and re-think their perspective...imagining a new ways to think about their own goals as a student.

In any case, having the opportunity to redraw part of the world from a new point of view gives many 7th graders a greater appreciation for what they have normally taken for granted: all maps are usually drawn from the "Northern Perspective," unless you're in 7th grade World Geography at Vicenza Middle School.



Military Recognizes Students' Stamp Designs at Ankara ES/HS

To commemorate the 29th National Stamp Collecting Month, the students in Kindergarten through Fifth grades at Ankara ES/HS created their own stamps. This activity also was in conjunction with the Military Child Month celebration. This contest involved the community, with the help of our wonderful post office workers. Our students received stamp prizes for first and second places for each grade level. The National Postal Service hopes these types of contests will get students interested in collecting stamps. The students at Ankara ES/HS were excited to draw their own stamps and enjoyed the commemorative stamp prizes they received.



Stomp out Bullying Day at Aviano MHS

On 10 October, Aviano students joined schools across America & wore orange to show their support of Stomp Out Bullying Day!



Ankara Students Participate in the A-OK Contest

During the last school year, the current sixth graders participated in the A-Ok calendar contest given by the United States Embassy. These students received certificates of participation from CLO Brigitte Campbell and the RSO Andrew Wroblewski. In addition, one entry, Jessica Quiceno, was selected to be in the 2013 calendar. Jessica and her family have received copies of the calendar that has the picture that she drew and was used for the month of June. We are very proud of all these students.



Bully Busters Club at Sigonella ES

Sigonella Elementary School has formed a Bully Busters Club for all the students in the building K-5. The idea came from the book, The Bully Blockers Club by Teresa Bateman. The 5th graders came up with the idea of everyone becoming Bully Busters – so that’s where the name came from. All the students signed a pledge that is posted in the hallway and got a membership card. They all promised to not be bullies, victims, or bystanders, not tease others, be models of good behavior, and talk to adults when there are problems. They pledged to help each other and step in to stop bullying at SES.



Third graders are signing up for the Bully Busters Club.



First graders proudly show their Bully Busters membership cards at Sigonella Elementary School.

Rota Students in Germany for Creative Connections

Five lucky students from Rota High School represented their school at the Creative Connections workshop in Oberwesel, Germany, from 4-9 November. This was a week-long work shop, providing DoDDS students from across Europe a place to gather and collaborate, producing both visual and performing art. During this time, these talented students experienced a nurturing environment for them to work on their different varieties of art. Here they made lifelong friends and got a chance to work towards their dreams and show off their many talents.



The students were able to work with some famous modern artists, who participated with the students in several workshops, ranging from mixed media to dance. The seminar ended with a talent show, a performance, and an art show which was broadcasted for the world to see. The students had only five days to create their artwork and performance pieces. The theme for this year's seminar was "Infinity," which resulted in a string orchestra and choir rendition of music from the Broadway musical, "Wicked," and a humorous, Greek-inspired drama piece called "Prometheus,"



Red Ribbon Week VHS Essay Winners Announced

During the month of October, ASACS, the Project TRUST students, and the Vicenza community commemorated Red Ribbon Week, a week designated to provide awareness and prevention activities in the community and at the schools, to celebrate living a life free from the use of drugs. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a drug-free America. This year we kicked off Red Ribbon Week with two exciting opportunities for the Students of Vicenza High School:

The first opportunity was an essay contest. Five—hundred word essays were submitted by several students on this year's Red Ribbon Week theme, "The Best Me Is Drug Free." While all submitted Essays were wonderful and powerful, we were only able to award three with cash prizes from Global Credit Union. The winners selected at the Vicenza High School were: Ramsey Schroeder, 1st place; Tia Juliano, 2nd place; and Sara Anderson, 3rd place. Congratulations for writing amazing essays, depicting very important messages.

The second opportunity involves music; students can still submit for the music contest. MusiCares is sponsoring a national contest in partnership with drugfree.org and in conjunction with the Grammy Foundation.



Sharon Black, Global Credit Union Branch Manager; Ramsey Schroeder, 1st place; Tia Juliano, 2nd place; Sarah Anderson, 3rd place; Rosana Zapata, VHS ASACS Counselor.

Events at Bahrain MHS

Academic Progress Conference



Parents, Students, and Teachers met to discuss academic progress in the Great Hall of Bahrain Middle High School on November 7 and 8.

Master Chief Petty Officer toured Bahrain School

On 19 November, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, (front left) Mike Stevens, toured Bahrain School. Principals Christy Blevins (front right) and Principal Doug McEnery (center) explained the unique international character of the two Bahrain Schools. MCPO Stevens, his aides, and local Chief Petty Officers were briefed about the school improvement efforts, the AdvancED accreditation process, as well as programs for the sons and daughters of service members.



SPOOKTAKULAR 2012 AT BAHRAIN MHS



Students prepare decorations for the annual PTSO Spooktakular 2012. Over two weekend evenings, more than 100 volunteers from US naval forces Bahrain assisted parent and student volunteers running carnival booths, two spook houses, and many games for the throngs of visitors to this year's Spooktakular.

Bahrain Marathon Relay

The Bahrain High School Cross Country team participated in the 32nd annual Bahrain Marathon Relay on 17 November. Over 25,000 BD or approximately \$70,000 US dollars were collected for charity. Bahrain CC team finished 24th out of 149 teams.



Rota Elementary enjoys a Heritage Luncheon

To demonstrate why they are thankful, the 3rd graders at DGF ES celebrated with a heritage luncheon. Parents and students decided upon dishes from their heritage they could make and share with their classmates. Then on the day of the luncheon all the dishes were placed out on the tables and the students got to sample a small piece from each dish.



There was Thai Rice, Polish Pirogues, Spanish Rice, German Cookies, Italian Lasagna, and Enchiladas. Parent volunteers supported the activity by cooking, helping set up, acting as servers, and then helping with clean up.



The food was delicious and the students' stomachs filled up quickly. The third graders also were keeping the environment in mind by making it a "green

luncheon." Each student had to bring in an unbreakable plate and cup, their individual utensils, and a cloth napkin. At the end of the luncheon, all these items were packed up in a plastic bag to take home to be washed and reused. Some of the students enjoyed the luncheon so much, they asked if they could have one every month.



The Vicenza High School Rhythm and Blues Band Performance



Vicenza High School Rhythm and Blues Band Revue made its official opening at the Mediterranean District Administrators' Conference on 25 October 2012. This band is new to the Vicenza High School, only organized since September. The band performs music classics from the late 60s up to today's sounds. The makeup of the ensemble includes a rhythm section, a horn section, along with singers and dancers. The group is under the direction of Gary Marvel.

Beware of the Headless Horseman debuted at Bahrain ES

Have you ever heard of the headless horseman? On 30 October, the headless horseman haunted Gill Hall at Bahrain Elementary. Ten fifth graders performed *The Mystery of the Headless Horseman*, a play by Ilene Roth based on *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving. The story takes place in early colonial America. The main character, Icabod Crane, meets the headless horseman and is never seen again. What do you think happened?



Hendrick the Headless Horseman



Bella Karam and Malaree Matlock go over a script



The Cast of *The Mystery of the Headless Horseman*



Kyle Wilson as Bro Bones



Grayce Becker as Mrs. Knickerbocker



Rachel Creighton speaks to Icabod Crane, played by Malaree Matlock

Egg Catch Project at Bahrain Elementary

Fifth graders watched with excitement as high school students in Mr. Zimmer's class dropped eggs from a second story window. The goal: an intact egg after impact. The students were to design a small, light device to catch an egg and protect it from breaking. The device had to stand freely with no attachments. Fifth graders first observed the high school students and then did the assignment themselves.



Carter Morris and Josh Lapp enjoy the egg drop project



Students watch as Mr. Zimmer drops an egg from a second story window



Grayce Becker positions her device to catch an egg

Elections at B.E.S.

Fourth graders at Bahrain Elementary School participated in class leadership elections during the first week in November. Students were self-nominated themselves as candidates. Then they formed campaign committees. Campaign signs were posted in classrooms and in the hallway. Candidates gave speeches and participated in a debate. Some candidates gave out buttons, pencils, and candy in an attempt to get more votes. The elementary B.E.S.T. (Bahrain Elementary School Team) leaders also held elections to see who would be the group's officers. Those wishing to run for a position gave speeches on the stage in front of the entire student body. Then every student in the school voted and submitted their ballots to the principal. This election was held on 06 November to coincide with the U.S. presidential election.



Candidates from Mr. Lentz's 4th grade class show off their campaign signs

(continued from page 27)



Brock Duwel flashes the peace sign after his speech



Rocco Salata holds his campaign sign with the slogan "Roc the Vote"



Mrs. Haas' 4th grade election candidates



Kanin Shull gives his speech

Halloween Movie Spooks At Bahrain ES

Bahrain Elementary School students in grades K-2 enjoyed an after-school movie on 31 October to celebrate Halloween. Students wore costumes to the event. The PTSO sold concessions and the children brought in coins to buy snacks.



Cassie Welford and Jessica Perdw give Halloween smiles



Third grade vampires!



Members of the PTSO sell popcorn and drinks



Second grade friends enjoy the Halloween movie

Sigonella Middle High School hosted *CHOICES*

Planning after High School was held on 08 November, 2012. This event was open to all middle and high school families.

CHOICES provided an opportunity for middle and high school students, and their families, to develop a plan of action for after graduation. This year’s Keynote Speaker was Ms. Brenda Coffield, European Program Manager for the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC). Ms. Coffield’s presentation focused on “**Total Career and College Options.**”



Participants learned how to prepare and research for “life after high school and beyond.” She also discussed education travel for college students and shared a list of approximately 75 overseas colleges and universities that offer two- and four-year programs/degrees to American students.



In addition to the Keynote Speaker, local community members shared information about Navy College Sigonella, College Financial Aid, the Post-911 GI Bill and DODEA’s myDATA Button. There was a “College Expo” area where students had the opportunity to visit with university alumni and browse “grab and go” tables of college brochures and literature.



CHOICES night was a round-robin format where you choose from a variety of presentations to attend. The PTSO had soup and snacks available throughout the evening, as well.

Margie Ascierio-LeBlanc, School Counselor, offers advice to students.



Radio Free Hanby gives a shout out to the 173rd ABCT

Vicenza Middle School 7th Grade World Geography teacher George Hanby (also known as Radio Free Hanby for his weekly Wednesday AFN Vicenza Radio show) stopped by the AFN Vicenza radio studio for his 173rd show on the air. This time, as a tribute to the parents who are Soldiers in the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, he brought along a cake decorated with the Sky Soldier patch and a “Thank You” as the frosting. Coincidentally, at the time of his radio show in the morning, there were several members of the 173rd taking a tour of the AFN facility, led by SSG Edwin Perez, the PAO for the 173rd. Turned out that the cake quickly made its way over to the 173rd HQ for ingredient analysis and disassembly by fork...



Part of being a DoDDS teacher in Vicenza is being aware of how parent deployments have an effect on students, especially at the Middle School level. Mr. Hanby has been here since 1999 and has seen his students and their families experience multiple deployments both to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, Hanby along with the other 7th grade Core teachers (Debra Wilson-Language Arts, Linda Ashby-Math, and Rebecca Bassett-Science) planned an Afghan style bazaar complete with silk parachutes draped from the ceiling, Afghan tribal music, and students dressed in Afghan-style clothing as they created a market, selling hand-made products and

food. The entire 7th grade wing of Vicenza Middle High School was transformed into a crowded, noisy, exciting swirl of 6th grade shoppers while the 7th graders acted out their roles as merchants shouting loudly to “come and buy what I have for sale.” Now it’s 2012, and time for the sequel: Afghan Bazaar II, January 2013. Mr. Hanby has already started planning with 7th grade Core teachers (Sheryl Brindle-Language Arts, Kim Stephenson-Science, Silvia Fabbiani-Math and Debra Wilson (IT) who was instrumental in making the first Afghan Bazaar a truly memorable experience for all.



7th grade students are again going to be taking the role of merchants from Asian and Middle Eastern countries, bringing their own hand-made merchandise to the Grand Bazaar located in the 7th grade hall of Vicenza Middle School. There will be food, music, and—who know—maybe even some dancing if the spirit moves them... Stay tuned for more information as the caravans from afar draw closer to the 7th grade Afghan Bazaar.



Keeping Students Healthy at Rota Elementary

All students at DGF Elementary school participated in a mini health fair to check their vision and hearing. Military members of the base hospital came out as volunteers to assist Ms. Barbarita Urrea, the school nurse, in conducting the tests. Parent volunteers also assisted with escorting students, filling in paperwork, and checking height and weight of each student. The mini health fair was held over two days during which over 300 elementary students were screened. Any students found to have significant vision or hearing problems were referred to the base hospital for further testing, thus making sure that our students' academic success would not be hindered by vision or hearing problems.

