



PATRIOT PRESS



Aviano Middle School

May 2008

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DoDDS-E DIRECTOR

Young people have fully embraced the Internet as both an environment and a tool for socializing. Via the Internet and other technologies, they send email, create their own websites, post intimate personal news in blogs, send text messages and images via cell phones, contact each other through IM's, chat in chat rooms, post to discussion boards, and seek out new friends in teen sites. Unfortunately, there are increasing reports of children using these technologies to post damaging text or images to bully their peers or engage in other aggressive behavior. There are also increasing reports of teens posting material that raises concerns that they are considering an act of violence toward others or themselves.

I encourage you to make it your business to know what your child is doing online and who their online friends are. As parents you have an obligation to ensure that your children are engaged in safe behavior. To stay involved.....

- * Keep the computer in a public place in the house. Periodically check on what your child is doing. Discuss with your child, the kinds of Internet activities they enjoy.
- * Be up front with your child that you will periodically investigate the files on the computer, the browser history files, and your child's public online activities.
- * Search your child's name online, look at his or her profiles and postings on teen community sites, and review web pages or blogs.
- * Tell your child that you may review his or her private communications activities if you have reason to believe you will find unsafe or irresponsible behavior.
- * Watch out for secretive behavior as you approach the computer such as rapidly switching screens, and for attempts to hide online behavior, such as an empty history file.
- * You can install keystroke-monitoring software that will record all online activities. The use of such software can raise trust concerns. If you install the software, tell your child it has been installed and what actions on his or her part could lead to your investigation.

Online activities are here to stay! Stay on top of them to maximize safety!

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe

NEW PRINCIPAL FOR SY 08-09



After serving our overseas military dependents since 1984, I have accepted an early retirement offer and will be returning to the States with my husband, Jim. We hope to settle in Wisconsin or Minnesota to be closer to family, and are also looking forward to spending time at our home in Port Charlotte, Florida. It has been an honor and a distinct privilege to serve the children of our Nation's finest. I have been blessed with wonderful assignments in Germany, England, Iceland and Aviano, and I know I will miss many things about the "DoDDS experience" – most notably the opportunity to work with our terrific students, teachers and parents! I extend a sincere thank you to the Aviano community, and leave with wonderful memories that will bring me great joy in the years to come!

Ms. Cristina Echevarria, currently serving as the principal at Hanau MS/HS, will be the principal for Aviano MS/HS next year. Ms. Echevarria had an opportunity to visit Aviano on 25 April and was most impressed with what she saw and experienced. She commented about the professionalism of the teaching staff as well as the friendliness of the student body. She is enthusiastically looking forward to her assignment! Ms. Echevarria will be arriving in July with her husband, Rene'. She has two grown daughters and five grandchildren, and enjoys music and dancing. She is passionate about ensuring that students receive a quality education in a safe and positive environment. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Cristina Echevarria to Aviano!

A handwritten signature in dark red ink that reads "Debra K. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Debra K. Johnson, Ed.D.
Principal

TIPS FROM THE COUNSELOR

Adapted from, "When Parents Ask For Help" by Renie Howard.
(Search Institute, 2003)

Sexuality Part II

Having clear boundaries about sexual behavior may actually be a relief to young people. When they know what's expected, young people don't have to struggle as much with making all the decisions for themselves. You might, for example, simply tell your children you expect them not to have sex, drink alcohol, or use other drugs while they're adolescents. Explain why you believe this is important, and discuss your cultural community's expectations and values regarding these activities. Then encourage them to make a commitment to abstaining from such activities during their adolescent years. This way your children know exactly where the line is, and they don't have to try to figure it out on their own every time.

If you discover your child has become or intends to become sexually active, do your best to receive this news with a measure of calm and compassion. Keep in mind that he or she may be experiencing a lot of different emotions, and that ***the most helpful thing you can do is to keep the lines of communication open.*** Make it clear that you're unhappy with the *choices*, not with the child. ***Your love and acceptance are more important than ever.*** Rather than taking a punitive approach, offer your support and encouragement in making wiser choices in the future. Remind your child again about safety from disease and preventing pregnancy. Make yourself available to talk. Try spending time together doing simple activities, such as gardening or washing the car, which will allow natural conversations to arise.

Television and Internet are filled with sexual content, and young people who have unlimited access to these media may tend to gravitate to sexually explicit programs and sites. ***It's important to monitor the source of sexual information young people are getting,*** not to keep them in the dark, but rather to be sure they get appropriate and helpful information.

Be aware of the content of programs your children watch and sites they visit. If they seem particularly drawn to sexually explicit material, ***offer them appropriate books and other materials that can satisfy their natural curiosity in a healthy way.*** Or direct them to people who can offer good information, such as a family doctor, counselor, or school nurse.

Be sure that physical activity is part of your children's lives. Whether it's dance, athletics, or skating at the park, exercise not only has countless physical benefits, it's a great way to express the body's natural exuberance. Having an outlet for all that youthful energy can help young people feel more at ease with themselves.

School Nurse Notes for May 2008



Medication: Parents of students who have medications should come by the school the last week of school to pick up any leftover meds from this school year. Any medication not picked up will be disposed of on the last day of school for teachers. If you anticipate your child needing medication administration during the next school year, please provide the appropriate documents and medication at the beginning of next school year. Refer to the *Student/Parent Handbook* for additional information.



Immunization Reminder: If you were advised that your child needed additional immunizations during registration as a condition for enrollment, then please comply BEFORE the beginning of the school year. Failure to do so before next school year will deny your child attending school.



RNs: If you are a registered nurse and are interested in subbing for the school nurse in her absence during the school year, see the school secretary, M. A., for an application. Nurse subs are also eligible to substitute for the classroom teachers too.



SPORTS PHYSICALS: Make an appointment and get them done now! Even if your child says he isn't going to join a school sport....they change their minds a lot, at the last minute...and then physicals might not be able to be completed in time for tryouts!

Save us all some *last minute tears* and get a sports physical done this summer!!



PARENTS: COME JOIN THE SIP PROCESS!

As you already know, the Middle School and High School are becoming one school next year. As a result of this consolidation, the two schools have joined forces to create a dynamic 6-12 School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP is a plan that all DoDDS schools have in place in order to increase student achievement. Our two school-wide goals are to improve communication and reading skills. Aviano MS/HS would like to invite parents to join a SIP committee and be part of the process!



Please consider volunteering for one of the following committees:

Research-Reading – _____

Research-Communications – _____

Data and Assessment – _____

Staff Development and Rubrics – _____

Partnerships-Celebration Communication – _____

The committees meet once each month to accomplish tasks and plan strategies to meet their specific goals. If you are interested in joining one of the SIP committees, please contact the teacher in charge of that committee to find out about the specific responsibilities of the committee. You may also contact the SIP co-chairs P. H. and J. M. who will _____ be more than happy to welcome you aboard the SIP train!

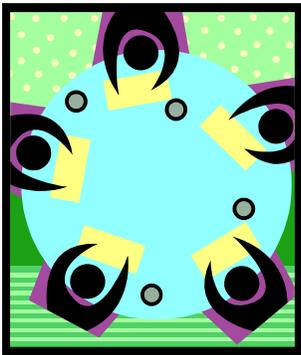
SCHOOL BOARD SEEKS PARENT AND TEACHER REPS

The Aviano **School Advisory Board** needs you. We are looking for at least two parents and two professional school employees to fill open positions on next year's school board. If you would like to get involved with the SAB, please email a 3-4 sentence bio/reason why you feel you'd be an asset to the Aviano community and the 1,300+ students we serve. Submissions must reach the POC by 10 May 2008.

If you have any other questions, please contact SAB President, MSgt D. C., 632-5662, _____

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS PARENT AND TEACHER REPS

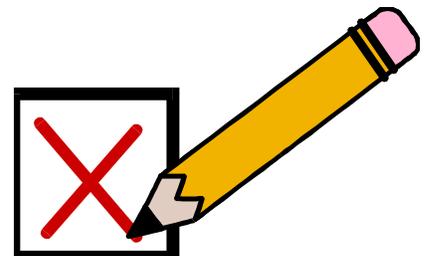
The Aviano MS/HS **School Advisory Committee** consists of nine voting members - four parents, four teachers and the student council president or vice-president. Additionally, there are several non-voting members, including the principal, the faculty union representative and the schools' officer.



The SAC is required to meet at least four times during the school year. Meetings are generally held at 1500 on the and in the past has met at 1500 on the third Monday of scheduled meeting months. The committee serves as an advisory group to the principal and deals with school policy, communication, instructional programs, allocation of resources within the school to achieve educational goals, pupil services and student standards of conduct and discipline. Personnel matters are outside the purview of the SAC.

Training will be provided for all committee members in mid-September. Becoming a member of SAC is an excellent way to take an active role in your child's education.

If you would like to be on the ballot to fill a voting member position for next year, please send a brief bio that includes your reasons for wanting to be involved with the SAC. Email your bio to the principal at debra.k.johnson@eu.dodea.edu prior to **9 May**. The **voting** will be done electronically from 12 – 15 May with elected representative announced on 16 May. New members will be invited to attend the final SAC meeting of the school year on 19 May.



We welcome you to become more involved
in our great school!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

05 – 09 May	Teacher Appreciation Week
07 – 08 May	Peer Mediation Training
07 May	National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 1700
09 May	7th grade field trip to Bibione
09 May	PTSO Family Fun Night, 1700 - 2100
09 May	Deadline to get on the ballot for School Advisory Committee
10 May	Deadline to get on the ballot for School Advisory Board
14 May	Italian Classes field trip to Azzanello
14 May	High School Spring Music Concert
15 May	5 th Grade orientation to 6 th grade
15 May	Middle School Spring Music Concert and Art Show
19 May	School Advisory Committee Meeting at 1500
23 May	Early Release. Students dismissed at 1115
26 May	No school. Memorial Day.
27 May	School Board Meeting at 1600 in the Community Center
06 June	Early Release. Students dismissed at 1115
09 June	Grade 8 Awards at 1330
10 June	Grade 6 Awards (Tentatively set for 1330)
12 June	Field Day. Last Day of School.

Mediterranean District Office

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