

Dragon Tales

Alconbury Middle/High School

NEWSLETTER

Issue 5 September 24, 2010

Unit 5570 Box 60

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“Quality Not Quantity”

Quality Through:

Rigor - challenging curriculum and instruction

Relevance - assignments with a purpose

Relationships - mutually respectful interactions

Upcoming Events: **Sep 25** Cross Country & Volleyball @ Lakenheath

Tennis @ SHAPE

Football v. Sigonella 1300 hrs

Sep 27 SAC training meeting –AMHS Library 1530 hrs

Sep 28 AVID Parent Meeting Night 1730 AMHS Library

Sep 29/30 Balfour Rep @ AMHS – see details below

From the Principal

We're off to a great start of the school year and are excited about the community involvement! My door is always open and I would love to hear your suggestions on how to improve our school. Please feel free to email, call, or stop by to share suggestions or concerns!

I'm pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Sandra Whitaker as the assistant principal at AMHS. She brings valuable experience and knowledge to our school. Her arrival date is TBA, but we look forward to her family's arrival. I have attached a brief biography of Dr. Whitaker's accomplishments.

GO DRAGONS!

GradeSpeed

Parents can access their students' grades on GradeSpeed. To access the system or to learn more about GradeSpeed, parents can go to <http://dodea.gradespeed.net>. I have attached a "How to Guide" for connecting and accessing GradeSpeed. After logging in, parents will be able to see grades for their own children. GradeSpeed is a great tool, but it is not intended to replace face to face communication with parents and teachers. Any specific questions, concerns, or information requests related to academic performance or attendance should be directed first to teachers, then counselors or administration. Parent accounts from last year should still be active, but the links to students will have to be re-established as the Parent Connection site now uses the same 10 digit student ID's that are in SMS or Aspen. Parent Accounts that have been inactive for 60 days will be purged on October 22.

Creative Connections

Grades 9 through 12: Creative Connections applications are still be accepted! You must have your application complete by Wednesday the 29th, of this month! The workshops are November 14-19 in Oberwesel, Germany (during dead week). Don't miss a wonderful opportunity to express your creative side! See Ms. Mitchell, the art teacher, for your information packet.

Junior Leadership Seminar

We are currently taking applications for the DoDDS Europe 26th annual Junior Leadership Seminar to be held in Oberwesel, Germany February 6th – 11th, 2011. Students in grades 7th and 8th planning to return next school year are eligible to apply. All applications must be submitted by 20 Oct, 2010. Please see Mrs. Pisierra or Mrs. White for more details.

Balfour:

Balfour is visiting our school on September 29th & 30th. You may order school rings and jackets at that time. If you would like to browse their catalog or price list, please come to the office to pick up the information. The Balfour representative is in the entryway of the school on those dates from 1100-1500hrs.

From the Counselor

Attention seniors: Coca-Cola just announced their 2011 scholarship. Please make sure you log in and apply as soon as possible at: www.coca-colascholars.org Deadline to apply is October 31, 2010. Each year the Coca-Cola Foundation awards \$3 million dollars in scholarships to 250 deserving students!

Cross Country

AHS boys' xc team defeated five other high schools, including six-time defending Division III champion, Brussels American and Division I Lakenheath. The Running Dragons have been working hard since school started and the effort has started to pay off, as Jon Volcheck, Ernestas Tyminas, Tom Irby, Jonathan Lee, Jacob Volcheck, Edison Kupec, Josh Schappert and Patrick Short, all had good performances, edging out Brussels American and Division II SHAPE by one point.

AHS finally has enough **girls** for a full cross-country team for the first time. Representing Alconbury in Saturday's meet were the steadily improving threesome of Imogen Weaver, who ran for Ramstein HS last year; Alex Sherenco and Jessica Roycroft, a first-year runner. **Alconbury Middle School boys** competing with four runners placed third in the middle school competition. Led by 3rd place runner Alejandro Irby, all the Dragons ran well on the new, 2-mile course. Alejandro's brother, Tom, set the old course record last year. **Alconbury Middle School Girls** placed first over AFNORTH, Menwith Hill and Lakenheath Middle Schools. All seven Alconbury Middle School Girls did well over the two-mile course.

Congratulations to: Brianna Geronimo, Tova Volcheck, Rachel Hammond, Ashton Maltais, Denise Monley, Makaylee Console and Connie Stanley. Keep up the hard work and improvement. Next Saturday, 25 September 2010, The Running Dragons will be competing at Lakenheath. Races start at 11:00. GO RUNNING DRAGONS!

Football

The Alconbury Dragons Football Team beat the visiting Menwith Hill Mustangs 48-6 on Saturday. The game was called officially at halftime under the DoDDS courtesy rule. Kerey Kuheana ran for 349 yards and 4 touchdowns and Sebastian Schniebs ran for 89 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Dragons totaled 497 yards in total offense. The offensive line dominated the game in the trenches opening up huge holes for their running backs. Back up QB Justin Thibodeau stepped in for injured QB Jeff Black and played an absolutely amazing game in directing the Dragon Offense. The Dragon defense was outstanding in shutting down the Mustangs offense. Every player that was available for the game played and contributed to the win. Great job Dragons! Next up is Sigonella this Saturday at home. Kickoff is at 1:00 so come out and support your football team.....

Tennis

The Dragon Tennis Team had a close match with Lakenheath this past Saturday, falling short, 8 to 10. 1st seed, Ashley Hand won her singles 6-0, 6-0. Caitlin Cash won her singles at the 6th seed, 8-5. Ashley Hand and Taylor Malcolm teamed up to win the 2nd seed doubles, 8-0; and Allison Cavin and Caitlin Cash won the 3rd seed doubles, 8-3. For the boys, 2nd seed Matt Thrasher won his singles 8-6. Joel Fourhman won at the 3rd seed, 8-1 and 4th seed Francis O'Connell won his singles, 8 to 5. Ronnie Behr and Francis O'Connell teamed up to win the 2nd seed doubles 8 to 3. The Tennis Team will travel to SHAPE this Friday.

Volleyball

The Lady Dragon volleyball team saw their first action this year in the jamboree against Lakenheath and Menwith Hill on Saturday. The varsity team started strong, playing tough against Lakenheath but coming up just short. The girls bounced back to beat Menwith Hill in three games. The JV team lost to Lakenheath but showed real improvement. The girls travel to Lakenheath on Saturday for the first official matches of the season.

Attachments: Dr. Whitaker's Biography
Gradespeed Info

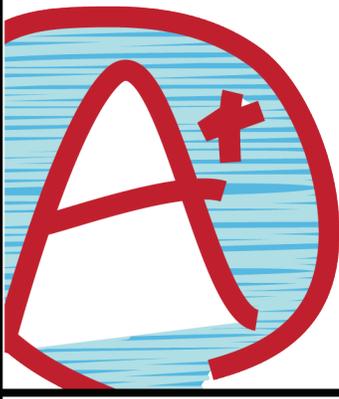
Lunch Menu:

27 Baked Chicken or Chicken Drumsticks Blackbean Burger on a Bun Nic Nac Chicken Salad w/crackers Meat Nachos w/Cheese Sauce Turkey Caesar Wrap Flame roasted Potato Medley Sweet Kernel Corn Chilled Pineapples Craisins Dinner Roll	28 Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Fillet on WG Bun Ham Salad w/crackers Hamburger Sliders ABC Salad w/Crackers Carrot & Celery w/FF Dip Tomato & Cucumber Salad Melon Fruit Cup Fresh Sliced Apples	29 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce & Bread Stick Turkey Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad w/Crackers Hotdog on a Bun Turkey Salad w/Crackers Green Beans Garden Side Salad Chilled Pears Fresh Fruit Cup Whole Fruit Juice Bar	30 BBQ Riblets w/Dinner Roll Breaded Chicken Chunks w/Dinner Roll Chef Salad w/Crackers Cheese Pizza Dippers Chicken Tender Wrap Deli Roasters Steamed Broccoli Chilled Peaches Banana Dolphin Crackers	1 Lasagna w/Garlic Toast Fish Sticks w/Garlic Toast Chicken Fillet Salad w/Crackers Baked Potato w/Cheese Tuna Salad Steamed Carrots Green Beans Applesauce Juicy Orange Wedges Blueberry Muffin
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If you have any questions about our school policies or comments you would like the principal to know, please contact Dr. White using the following email address: AlconburyHS.Principal@eu.dodea.edu or Dr. Ronald McIntire, Isles District Superintendent at DSN226-7234/7252/7224.: or COM 01638-527234/7252/7224.

DoDEA is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sandra Whitaker to the position of Assistant Principal at Alconbury MHS. She comes to Alconbury with 19 years of experience in public and private K-12 education as a teacher, building-level administrator, and central-level administrator in Georgia, Kansas, Colorado, and Virginia. Dr. Whitaker joined DoDEA in 2009 as the Language Arts Coordinator at DoDEA Headquarters in Arlington. She is the author of *Advocacy for School Leaders: Becoming a Strong Voice for Education* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007) and *Word Play: Building Vocabulary Across Texts and Disciplines, 6-12* (Heinemann, 2008) and numerous articles in the education field. She has also served the education community through leadership positions with ASCD, NCTE, and the Virginia Association of Teachers of English. Dr. Whitaker earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Virginia.

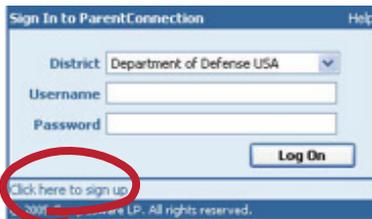
The Whitakers (husband, Jeff; daughter, Josie; son, Michael) are excited about the opportunity to become part of the Alconbury community. Sandra is an avid reader and amateur photographer. Jeff is a computer programmer who likes NASCAR racing and football. They have two young children. Josie, twelve, is in the sixth grade; she enjoys science, horseback riding, and reading. Michael, six, is in the first grade; he loves being outdoors, especially riding his bike. As a family, they were inspired by the movie *Julie and Julia* to begin their own French cooking experiment and regularly spend time planning meals and cooking together. They also enjoy baseball, visiting museums, attending the theatre, and exploring new cultures.



GradeSpeed

connecting DoDEA parents & students

1. Go to <http://dodea.gradespeed.net>
2. Click "Parent" in the list of choices.
3. Select the appropriate area from the dropdown and click the link in the lower left corner to sign up.



4. Fill in the blanks. You will use this username and password each time you log into GradeSpeed.

Note: Make sure your email address is correct.

5. Click Sign Up.

6. Click OK.



7. Click the "Add a Student" Link.
8. Use the Student ID number provided. Use student's full legal name. Click Submit.
9. Click OK.
10. Log off and wait a full work day for your account to be approved.

Each parent can set up their own account.

After You Are Approved...

You can access the following features within your account by clicking the links found on the left of the screen.

- Grades** - click to view the current grade average in each class. Click the individual letter grade link to view the assignments associated with that grade. You may email the teacher from this screen by clicking the teacher's name.
- Attendance** - click to view your student's attendance info.
- Triggers** - click to set up automatic grade and attendance notifications.
- Calendar** - click to view school events.
- My Settings** - click to edit parent account information (name, email, address, password, etc.)

Remember:

- *GradeSpeed* is not intended to replace face-to-face communication between parents and teachers in meetings and parent conferences.
- A teacher's primary job is to teach! While communication with parents enhances the educational experience, parents must be reasonable about expectations on the posting of grades and responsiveness.
- Be patient when waiting for an email response.
- While students may have concerns about how much information parents will have, the truth is children with parents who are involved in their education have a much greater chance to be successful.
 - Always keep your email address current.