

Robinson Barracks Elementary/ Middle School Newsletter

December 5, 2008

Home of the Bulldogs

Volume 14



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Our Mission:

The Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School's community will provide a respectful environment where all members learn to recognize their strengths and gain confidence to become life long learners and leaders in an ever-changing world

Our Continuous School Progress Goals:

- #1) All students will increase their problem solving skills across the curriculum. According to the Environmental Scan report, problem solving is a competence much needed in the work-force.
- #2) All students will increase their writing skills across the curriculum. Writing skills as defined by Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School include sentence and paragraph structure, paper structure, punctuation, and spelling.

Principal's Corner

Today, 5 December, mid-quarter progress reports are due to be posted for the first quarter by the close of business. Normally, teachers are required to send home progress reports to the parents of students who are failing or near failing. However, since the parent connection to GradeSpeed is up and running, all parents who are connected may view their students' progress for the second quarter. Thus, progress reports will not be sent home. Please let us know if you do not have access to GradeSpeed.

Thank you to our parent organizations, Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) and the School Advisory Committee (SAC), for your dedication and commitment to making our school a great place of learning. Your support, suggestions, and input are invaluable to our school, students, faculty, staff, and school.

Directions for GradeSpeed

Directions for logging into GradeSpeed Parent Connect:

- Go to <https://dodea.gradespeed.net/pc/>
- **Make sure** the district is set to Department of Defense Europe
- Follow the rest of the directions on the site to create the account. (Make sure you use the data you provided to the school at registration)
- Your information will be checked against the info provided in SMS and will activate your account. You'll receive an autoreply to your email indicating that your account has been activated. This should be done within two working days.
- Once activated you can then log in with the account you have created at the site above.

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Information

The next SAC meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on 9 December in the RBE/MS's Conference Room. Please be encouraged to attend the meeting.

Inclement Weather Policy

With the approach of winter weather, we would like to review the Stuttgart area schools' policy regarding school closure or delayed opening due to inclement weather. The decision to close schools or to delay the opening of schools due to hazardous road and weather conditions is made by the USAG-Stuttgart Commander. The commander decides whether or not school busses will run. The decision to close school will not be made solely on the road classification, but also on the ability of the students to safely reach the school and return home. The commander may elect to delay school starting hours for students walking and /or riding a bus to school. An announcement to delay starting hours of school will apply to both bus and walking students. **If school is delayed, the start time is 1000 hours for all students.**

Announcements related to school or bus delays and cancellations are made on AFN FM radio 102.3 and 1143 AM radio as well as AFN TV. Announcements begin prior to 0630 hours. If it is determined that conditions will not improve or may become worse, an initial or later announcement may advise that the schools have been cancelled for the day. Continue to listen to AFN for school delays and/or cancellation announcements. Please do not call AFN to ask about delays or closures. We also ask that you not call the school to ask if school is delayed or cancelled unless you do not receive AFN radio or TV. It is very important that the school's telephone lines be kept open as much as possible for emergency weather messages and for individuals who do not have access to AFN.

Additional ways to check on the Stuttgart Garrison road and weather conditions and possible school delays or closures are: visit the USAREUR road and weather conditions and school closures website at: <http://g3operations.hqusareur.army.mil/Divisions/OPS/ASGConditions/default.asp> or visit the Stuttgart Garrison website at: www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the road and weather conditions link; also by calling the Stuttgart Road Conditions Hotline at DSN 431-3744 or CIV 07031-153744.



Updates

Please be informed that our kindergarten/early childhood playground has been renovated, and it is almost completed. The kindergarten restrooms have been repaired as well. Our cafeteria stage has been replaced and looks great. Funding has been approved to replace our clocks and intercom system with a newer system. We have also received funding to replace tiles in the cafeteria and the protective mats in the gym. Please let us know if you have questions or comments about our school building. Ensuring that we have an attractive, operational, and safe building is a critical issue for us so we welcome any suggestions, comments, or concerns.

Acceleration Program

During the school year, many families begin to make plans for pending permanent changes of station (PCS). DoDDS has the Acceleration Program for student who through no fault of their own cannot complete a semester or the school year. Entrance into this program insures that a student may get credit and/or promoted to the next grade if the student meets the requirements. Requirements are that the student must complete all school work and assignments by the due dates, students must attend school all day on the earliest departure date, and sponsors must give a copy of the PCS orders to the school's registrar with a letter of request to accelerate to the principal 30 days prior to the acceleration date. **The earliest departure date for the 2008 - 2009 school year is close of business on December 11, 2008 and May 14, 2009.**

Safety at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School

We need your help! Please consider volunteering to help make RBEMS safer for our kids. We need help in two main areas: crosswalk safety and lunchroom/recess safety. If you're able to pitch in, your help will make a HUGE impact on all the students at our school.

Crosswalk Safety: We need a coordinator and several volunteers to help with morning and afternoon safety at our crosswalks. The coordinator will arrange a schedule for volunteers and help with morning and afternoon safety at our crosswalks. The coordinator will arrange a schedule for volunteers and help out with initial training. Once this adult safety patrol is successful, we are hoping to train older students to act as patrol guards.

Lunchroom & Recess Safety: Thanks to those parents who have helped out the current lunchroom assistants! It has proven to be a great addition to the lunchroom environment. In order to continue to provide this safety, we are in need of a coordinator to put a schedule together, as well as a volunteer group to continue to provide lunchroom safety and playground supervision.

Thanks so much for considering volunteering your time, energy and effort to keep our children safe. If you are interested in volunteering as a coordinator or are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Laurie Shelly at currym116@aol.com.

CLUBS

<u>CLUB NAME</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>MEETING TIME</u>
Odyssey of the Mind	Ms. Hurston	Wednesday - 2:30 - 4:30
Student Council	Mr. Keremes	Monday - 2:30 - 3:30
Drama Club	Mr. Lutz	Thursday - 2:45 - 4:00
Pep Club	Ms. McFarland	Tues & Thurs - 2:35 - 3:40
Computer Support Team	Ms. Redmond	Wednesday - 2:45 - 3:45
Newspaper Club	Ms. Roberts	Tuesday - 2:45 - 4:00
Math Counts	Mr. Stanley	Wednesday - 2:30 - 3:45
Art Club	Ms. VinZant	Tuesday - 2:35 - 3:45
Quiz Bowl	Ms. Baker	Thursday - 2:30 - 3:30
Chess Club	Ms. Baker	Monday - 2:30 - 3:30
String Ensemble	Ms. Gitlin	Tuesday - 2:30 - 3:30
RB Singers	Ms. Gitlin	Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30
Guitar Ensemble	Ms. Gitlin	Thursday 2:30 - 3:30
Basketball/Volleyball Intramurals	Mr. Kohut	Mon, Wed, & Fri - 2:30 - 3:30

REGISTRAR NOTE'S

Please notify the registrar, Ms. Masset, if your contact information has changed since you have registered your child/children for school this year. As families have moved to a permanent home, duty numbers may have changed as well as your desire to add an emergency contact to your child's information. If you have not been receiving newsletters weekly from the school, we may not have a correct or current email address. It is very important that we have current and up-to-date information for your child/children in case of an emergency or a medical need. As always, any time your child is absent or going to be absent from school; please call me or email me so I can update your child's attendance record. Please email any new information to peggy.masset@eu.dodea.edu or call 0711-819-7363. Thank you, Peggy Masset Registrar

WINTER MUSIC CONCERT

You are cordially invited to attend a Winter Music Concert on Wednesday, December 10 at 1900 in the RBEMS cafeteria. The 70 minute program will feature performances by the Beginning Orchestra, Chorus and Advanced Orchestra. Admission is free. Students performing in the concert should report to the music room at 1830 to prepare.

Presidential Award for Excellence

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203-1635

November 12, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR AREA DEPUTY DIRECTORS
AREA EDUCATION CHIEFS
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, DODEA
PRINCIPALS, DODEA
AREA MATHEMATICS ISS, DODEA
AREA SCIENCE ISS, DODEA
7-12 TEACHERS, DoDEA

SUBJECT: Presidential Awards for Excellence Nomination for Teachers of Grades 7-12

Teachers worthy of national recognitions for their excellence in teaching science or mathematics should be nominated for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Teachers may nominate themselves or someone else may nominate them—principals, teachers, students, parents, members of the community, or the general public. Nominees must have at least five years of teaching experience in science and/or mathematics prior to application. Teachers must be assigned to teach science and/or mathematics in grades 7-12. The nomination form is found at the NSF website (www.paemst.org) on or around November 15, 2008.

Please return the completed nomination form electronically to Kim Day or Sheridan Pearce no later than **January 8, 2009**. DoDEA HQ will then notify the nominee of his/her nomination and provide instructions on the completion of the application. For further information about the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, please view the NSF website: <http://www.paemst.org/>.

Please direct any questions to either Kim Day or Sheridan Pearce, both of whom may be reached by email or by phone at 703-588-3126 or 703-588-3170, respectively.

“Original Signed”

Kim Day
Science Branch Chief

“Original Signed”

Michael Kestner
Mathematics Branch Chief

CYS Services Babysitter's Training

Child, Youth, & School Services, in collaboration with 4-H, will hold their Babysitter's Training course in February. The course is designed to certify youth ages 13 and older in Red Cross First Aid and CPR and provide them with the skills to be a babysitter. Upon completion their names will be placed in the CYS Services' Babysitters' List where their contact information becomes available to parents who seek babysitting care. Below are the details regarding the dates, times, locations, and registration requirements for training.

What: 4-H/CYS Services Babysitter's Training

When: 3 February - 6 February 09

Time: 3 February - 5 February 09 1600 - 1900; 6 February 0900 - 1500

Where: 3 February - 5 February at the Patch HUB; 6 February CYS Services Training Room.

Fee: Free, must be 13 or older and registered with CYS Services. Attendance is mandatory for all sessions.

Sign up at the Central Registration on Patch Barracks building 2347, second floor. Contact CYS Services at StuttgartCYS@googlemail.com

Holiday Videos for Deployed Parents

Dear Parents,

Please let me know by replying to this email if you or your spouse will be deployed during this upcoming holiday season. The Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School Video Productions students with support from the RB Computer Support Team plan to produce holiday greeting videos for our students' parents who are not able to be with their children this holiday season due to deployment.

If you or your spouse will be deployed and you would like to actually be part of the video or if you would like any other family members to be part of the video, please let me know what day and time you would be available to come to RB for a short recording session. We will be ready to start taping next Tuesday, December 9th until the following Monday, December 15th. You would, of course, need to prepare a one or two minute message or song or poem, etc. We will try to accommodate your appointment requests.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.
Sincerely,
Kim Redmond
Educational Technologist

German Demonstration Tomorrow, Dec 6

Parents the following information is provided for your information and planning.
Bottom Line: A March and Rally will be held starting at Lautenschlagerstrasse, opposite from the Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station) in Downtown Stuttgart on 06 December 2008 at 1400 hrs. Approximately 3,000 people from the entire state of Baden-Württemberg as well as neighboring states.

WHO? Various ANTIFA groups, the "Left Party", the "Communist Party", Trade Unions, the Baden-Württemberg Peace Network, amongst others, including an unknown number of Left Extremist Radicals.

WHAT? A March and Rally in Downtown Stuttgart.

WHERE? Lautenschlagerstrasse, opposite the Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station).

WHEN? 1400 hrs Saturday 06 December 2008

WHY? The purpose of the demonstration is to protest against the new Baden-Württemberg Law of Assembly.

HOW? The Demonstration has been registered with German Authorities, however, the route and duration of the March and Rally has not yet been determined. HN Police expect the demonstration to be peaceful, however, unforeseen disturbances by some of the participants cannot be ruled out. U.S. personnel are advised to avoid the area during this Demonstration.

V/R,

Thomas Gittin
Watch Officer
Installation Operations Center
DPTMS, USAG Stuttgart

PTSA NEWS

Hi all and welcome back from your Thanksgiving! This week has been busy, as we all start looking forward to the holidays and the school break!

Dec. 10...

In correlation with the Winter Concert, PTSA will be present to accept membership, answer questions, and sponsor a small raffle basket full of winter fun!

We will be there at 6:30 pm – 7:15pm. The winner of our raffle basket will be announced Thursday morning. Our winner will also be contacted via email.

Dec. 8-11...

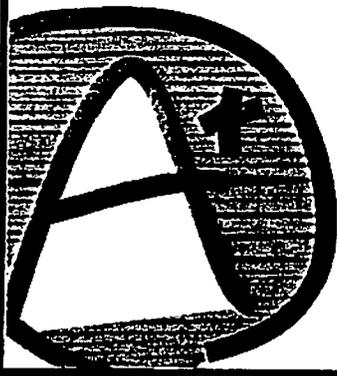
We will be sponsoring Santa's Workshop! The workshop will be open Monday for previewing only. Beginning Tuesday each class will have a designated time for shopping. We will send home the specific day and time your student will be going to the workshop to purchase gifts. All gifts are designed to be family friendly to provide a fun way for your student to exchange gifts with family members. If you are available to help during our workshop, please contact Sandra Vitt at sandy.vitt@us.army.mil. We are still looking for volunteers for this fun event. A huge thank you to those who have already stepped forward!

Dec. 19...

Popcorn Day! Contact for volunteering is Greg Grant at gregandheidigrant@googlemail.com We are working hard to fill our school with educational, spirited, and fun experiences for our students. Please know your contributions are always welcome! As always, thank you for your support. RB PTSA

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 10	Winter Concert - 1900
Monday, December 22	Winter Recess Begins
Monday, January 5	Instruction Resumes
Monday, January 19	Federal Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Thursday, January 22	End of Second Quarter and First Semester
Friday, January 23	No school for students - teacher work day
Monday, January 26	Start of Third Quarter and Second Semester
Friday, February 6	No school for students - Parent/Teacher Conferences
Monday, February 16	Federal Holiday (President's Day)
Friday, March 6	No school for students - Staff Development Day
Thursday, April 2	End of Third Quarter
Friday, April 3	No school for students - teacher work day
Monday, April 6	Spring Recess Begins
Monday, April 13	Instruction Resume - Start of Fourth Quarter

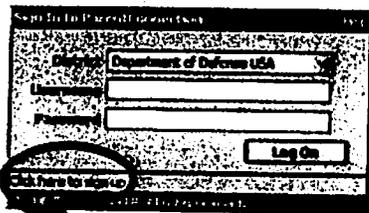


How-to Guide

GradeSpeed

connecting DoDEA parents & students

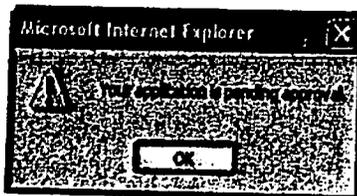
1. Go to <http://dodea.gradespeed.net>
2. Click "Parent" in the list of choices.
3. Select the appropriate area from the dropdown and click the link in the lower left corner to sign up.



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.

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 auto-matic grade and attendance notifications.
- Calendar** - click to view school events.
- My Settings** - click to edit parent account information (name, email, address, password, etc.)

Remember: teachers' primary job is to teach your children. Please be patient when waiting for an email response. You can expect to get occasional emails from teachers containing progress reports. Always keep your email address current.

**Each parent can
set up their own
account.**