



ROTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (D.G.F.)

Happy New Year!
8 January 2009

BARBARA COLOROSO VISITS ROTA SCHOOLS

14 January 2009 - Early Release 1:30

We are very fortunate to have Barbara Coloroso visit the Rota schools on January 13 through 15. Ms. Coloroso is an internationally known author and speaker. She is the author of [Kids are Worth It](#), [Giving your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline](#), [The Bully](#), [The Bullied](#) and [the Bystander](#) as well as [Parenting Through Crisis \(helping kids in times of loss, grief, and change.\)](#) You can learn more at www.kidsareworthit.com

On Wednesday, January 14th, both schools will release students at 1330 so that the teachers can hear and work with Ms. Coloroso on the issue of bullying. Parents are cordially invited to attend this session which will take place in the new multi-purpose building from 1345 until 1600.

Because parents with young children may not be able to attend the session on Wednesday, there will be a special parent and community session with Ms. Coloroso on Thursday, January 15th in the elementary school library starting at 1330 until 1525. All parents and other interested community members are welcome. In a time of tight budgets, this is a highly unusual opportunity for our staff and community to have in-service time with an internationally known expert on subjects that are important to families and educators.

DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey November 1 to February 28, 2009

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) will administer its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) from November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA from its most important customers – parents and students – about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

All sponsors with students enrolled in DoD schools from Sure Start through grade 12 may participate by completing a survey for each school in which they have a child enrolled. Students in grades 4-12 may participate by completing separate surveys for students in grades 4-5, and students in grades 6-12.

Special points of interest:

- *Main Office 727-4185/7*
- *Nurse 727-3944*
- *Counselor 727-4417*
- *Transportation 727-4143 or 727 4219*
- *Schools Officer 727-4444*

School Children Must Have Up-to-Date Immunizations

We have many students who are due for their Hepatitis A #2. This must be administered six months after the first Hepatitis A. Please check your child's shot records to be sure your child is up to date on all immunizations. If in doubt, please feel free to contact our school nurse, at 727-3944. DODDS requires that all children be properly immunized in order to attend school. Please bring in updated shot records to the school nurse. Thank you.





The surveys take approximately 20 minutes to complete and are available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link). Parents who do not have access to the Internet may contact their child's school to determine other alternatives – such as using the school's computers.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DoDEA. Schools, districts and areas will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students, which is one of many measures used for future planning of programs and services DoDEA offers. The survey results will also be used to monitor the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan (CSP), which contains the strategic direction for DoDEA for the years 2006-2011.

Change to DODEA Age Requirement for Sure Start, Kindergarten, and First Grade

Effective for School Year 2009-2010, DoDEA schools will implement a change in the entrance age cut-off date for Early Childhood Education Programs.

Sure Start Program

RULE: A child must be 4 years of age by September 1 to be eligible to attend the DoDEA Sure Start Program.

Kindergarten Program

RULE: A child must be 5 years of age by September 1 to be eligible to attend kindergarten in DoDEA Schools.

First Grade

RULE: A child must be 6 years of age by September 1 to be eligible to attend first grade in DoDEA schools.

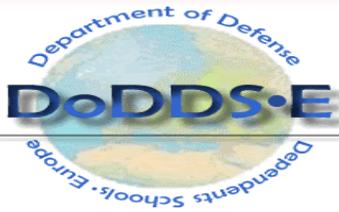
Why the change?

The change will align DoDEA's early childhood entrance age with the majority of states in the United States, specifically with the majority of military-impacted states.

Special Considerations for School Year 2009-2010

Exceptions to this change will accommodate all students who have completed kindergarten in School Year 2008-2009 and families who move under Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders after the start of the school year whose dependents are already attending an accredited kindergarten or first grade.

Students attending our Sure Start Program will be allowed to attend Sure Start for an additional year if they do not meet the new kindergarten entrance age.



Office of the Director, DoDDS-Europe
Diana J. Ohman, Director

It is important to practice what you preach when it comes to nutrition. You are your children's first and most important teacher, even if your children, particularly your preteens and teens, don't always see it that way. If you start your day with a large coffee and bagel in the car, your children may believe that caffeine and sugar are clever breakfast choices and that eating on the go is normal. Here are some ways to be mindful of what you eat as a family:

Shop for groceries together. Read food labels for nutritional content, and choose foods that are low in sugar and fat.

Discuss the school lunch menu with your child in advance to help him or her make wise food choices. If your child takes a lunch from home, have him or her help pack a healthy one.

Encourage your children to cook with you, and allow them to help plan the week's meals. Slowly introduce some new wholesome foods.

Dine together as a family as often as possible. Although you may spend many hours in the car attending multiple activities, the car is not the dinner table. Try to refrain from eating there as it encourages eating fast food on the run. Dining together not only encourages healthy eating habits, it helps bond the family.

Stock your home with low-sugar foods and rid the pantry of refined sugar, i.e., processed white sugar found, for example, in many boxed snacks and cereals.

Avoid fast-food restaurants by planning your meals and snacks before leaving home. Be prepared for meal-time changes and food substitutions if necessary.

Food should not be given as a reward.

You know your child better than anyone and can provide food choices that are healthy and tasty. These examples can help guide you and your family toward healthier food choices. As a result, you and your family will achieve a dietary balance that will reward all of you in many ways throughout life.

DIANA J. OHMAN
Director, DoDDS-Europe

School Calendar

Wednesday, January 14	Early Release, both schools at 13:30
Monday, January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Federal Holiday
Thursday, January 22	End of Second Quarter and First Semester (45 days of classroom instruction)
Friday, January 23	No school for Elementary and High School students - teacher work day
Monday, January 26	Begin Third Quarter and Second Semester
Friday, January 30	S.I.P. Early Release Day. Both Schools will dismiss at 13:30
Friday, February 6	Parent-Teacher Conference Day. No School for Elementary School. Regular school day for High School.
Monday, February 16	Presidents' Day - Federal Holiday
Friday, February 27	S.I.P. Early Release Day. Both Schools will dismiss at 13:30
March 9-13	Terra Nova Standardized Testing
Friday, March 27	S.I.P In-Service Day. No School for Elementary and High School students
Thursday, April 2	End of Third Quarter (48 days of classroom instruction)
Friday, April 3	No School for Elementary and High School students - teacher work day
Monday, April 6	Begin Spring Recess
Monday, April 13	Instruction Resumes - Begin Fourth Quarter
Friday, April 24	S.I.P. Early Release Day. Both Schools will dismiss at 13:30
Friday, April 17	Parent-Teacher Conference Day. No School for Elementary and High School students
Thursday, May 15	S.I.P. Early Release Day. Both Schools will dismiss at 13:30
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day - Federal Holiday
Saturday, June 6	High School graduation at 19:00 hrs
Thursday, June 11	End of Fourth Quarter and Second Semester. Both Schools will dismiss at 11:30 (43 Days of classroom instruction)
Friday, June 12	No school for students - teacher work day Last day for non-administrative educator personnel

TERRANOVA STANDARDIZED TEST

Grades 3-11 Beginning 9 March 2009

The TerraNova Multiple Assessment Tests will be given the week of March 9, 2009, with make-up tests the week of March 16, 2009. Tests are formulated with a combination of selected-response and constructed-response items. Selected-response items require students to choose the best answer while constructed-response items require students to produce their own short and extended written responses. Test subjects include reading and language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Home-schooled students are eligible to participate in this test, however they must be registered at the school. To register, parents must contact the school secretary at Tel. 727-4185/4187. Home-schooled students who are currently registered may take the test with their assigned teacher and class. Parents of home-schooled students who plan to have their child take this test should contact the School Counselor, at Tel. 727-4417 or main office at 727-4185/7.