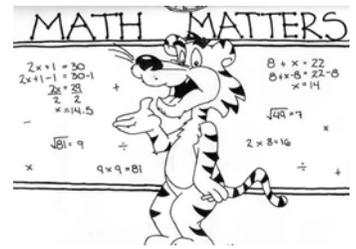


# Tiger Tales



**January 05, 2005**  
**Volume 9, Issue 05**

Liberty Intermediate School  
DoDDS/CCSI  
Unit 5185, Box 50  
APO AE 09461  
DSN: 226 2258 01638-522258  
FAX: 01638 533906

*Principal*  
Bill Hunter

## Liberty Web Site

<http://www.libe-is.eu.dodea.edu/>

**Isles District Superintendent**

Linda Curtis

DSN: 226 7224 01638 527224

## Calendar of Events

### January 6

Personal Growth and  
Development Mtg. with parents  
1700 hrs School Cafeteria

### January 11

PTO General Membership Mtg.  
School Gym

### January 17

Martin Luther King  
No School

### January 27

End of Second Quarter

### January 28

Teacher Workday  
No School

## Liberty's Mission Statement

The mission of Liberty Intermediate School is to create an environment, which respects the dignity of individuals, promotes highest student achievement, and provides educational opportunities and challenges for all students to increase their global knowledge.

## Happy New Year!

*Mr. Hunter, Principal*

Welcome back to Liberty Intermediate School. I hope your holidays were memorable for you and your family. The New Year is an appropriate time to review some important items that are helpful to us at Liberty.

We encourage family members to discuss before-and-after school activities before children come to school in the morning. We have received many telephone messages to relay to students during the day. We ask that messages be limited to those of an emergency nature. This will assist us in minimizing interruptions to the learning process. (Please read *Reporting Changes in Routines to the School*)

Please plan on having your child arrive to school after 8:00 A.M. The majority of students are arriving to school during the appropriate time; however, some students are arriving as early as 7:30 A.M. On those cold and rainy days, students should not be outside that early unsupervised.

Since the weather is getting colder, please monitor what your child is wearing to school so that your child may



dress appropriately. Students who arrive without a jacket/coat will be sent to the nurse, who will contact the parent.

We have three large baskets full of unclaimed items. If your child has misplaced a coat or other item, it may be located in one of these baskets in the Lost and Found. All items will remain in the lost and found until January 17. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable organization.



We do not make the determination to delay or close school due to poor weather. We receive that information from the base commander. You may learn the status of school openings and transportation delays by calling 01638-543541. The message is updated daily by 6:30 A.M. School delays or cancellations are also reported on the following radio stations:

**DSN 238 3541 or DSN 226 3541 (commercial 01638 543541/523541) and listening to the command post recording for that day, updated daily before 0600. Additionally, parents may listen to Anglia Television (Channel 3), Saxon Radio (AM 1251/FM 96.4), Radio Orwell (AM 1070/FM 97.1), BBC**



**Liberty Intermediate School ROARS With Success**



**Radio Cambridgeshire (AM 1449/FM 96.9), BBC Radio Norfolk (AM 855/FM 95.1), or BBC Radio Bury St. Edmunds (FM 96.4) weekdays between 0630 -0730 for school closure announcements.**

The information will also be available on the Commander's Access Channel.

Our fifth grade students will begin classes on Personal Growth and Development this month. Fourth graders do not receive this information; however, I did want all parents to know that this subject matter will be discussed. Fourth grade students may also have questions. I encourage all students to discuss any questions with parents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

## Reporting Changes in Routines to the school

*Mr. Hunter, Principal*

Parents are responsible for contacting the school when their child is absent.

If you are going to change the way your child goes home for the day, the teacher needs to have a note from you explaining the situation. If it's an emergency and you have to call, please notify us no later than 2:15, and much sooner if possible. This helps us be efficient in making sure that all the students are where they are supposed to be. When the office gets a sudden flurry of phone calls just before 2:45, it can lead to quite a bit of consternation on our part as we try to get everyone sorted out and in the right places. All students, especially the youngest ones, can get confused about what they're supposed to be doing: "I don't

know if my mom said I'm supposed to ride the bus or wait by the gazebo." If we have the information directly from you, then there won't be any confusion and no one will get upset. If we do not have a note from the parents, then we do whatever the "normal" procedure is. Please help us by communicating any changes to the teachers as soon as possible.

*Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.*

## Personal Growth and Development

On Thursday, 6 January, the school nurse and counselor will meet with parents in the Information Center at 1700 hrs. to view the video on Personal Growth and Development and answer any questions you have about the program.



## DoDEA email addresses change as 31 Dec 04

*Mr. Hunter, Principal*

As of 31 December 04 school faculty email addresses have changed.

### Faculty email address:

**FirstName.LastName@eu.dodea.edu**  
(make sure you have the correct spelling of their name)

### To report your child's absence:

**LibertyIS.Attendance@eu.dodea.edu**

### To email the Principal:

**LibertyIS.Principal@eu.dodea.edu**

## Correction to January's Lunch Menu

The lunch menu (white copy) sent home on Monday had the 28<sup>th</sup> listed as a school day.



Please note that there is not any school on the 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a teacher workday. Thank you

## 2004 Customer Satisfaction Survey

*Mr. Hunter, Principal*



Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has launched its 2004 Customer Satisfaction Survey. The survey is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade DoDEA students, the parents/sponsors of all DoDEA students, and DoDEA teachers. It is designed to gather feedback from these groups regarding their views on the DoDEA schools, programs and activities. The survey is scheduled to remain online until February 28, 2005, during which time all eligible parties are encouraged to participate. The survey is completely anonymous and can be completed on-line by logging onto the DoDEA website at [www.DoDEA.edu](http://www.DoDEA.edu) and clicking on the Customer Satisfaction Survey link. Any eligible party who does not have access to the online survey may complete a print version of the survey available to them at any DoDEA school. The survey should take between 10 and 20 minutes to complete.

## Accelerated Withdrawal and Reintegration Block Leave at the End of the Year

*Diana J. Ohman, Director*

DoDDS-E has established a policy for early withdrawal of students whose sponsors are eligible for reintegration block leave toward the end of the current school year. Normally, early departure is only

authorized for families with PCS orders. However, due to the unusual situation with military deployments and reintegration, for SY 2004-2005 only, DoDDS-E will consider requests for early departure for any family taking block leave due to reintegration after a deployment. Principals have the authority to grant excused absences from school to support these trips. Parents will be required to request early withdrawal or extended student absence in writing and must coordinate with schools in advance to ensure that the student completes all schoolwork in accordance with the guidelines of the accelerated withdrawal policy. Any student who will be absent due to block leave and does not complete all assignments required under the accelerated withdrawal guidelines will receive an incomplete grade for that subject area.

Parents are highly encouraged to discuss the timing of the absence and any conflicts that may impact negatively on a student's success (standardized testing, finals, special events). Each request will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Parents should contact the principals as soon as they know the leave dates so they can coordinate an early departure. The early withdrawal date for SY 2004-2005 is May 18, 2005. Students must be in school all day on May 18, 2005. Students who are PCSing as well as students accompanying their families on reintegration block leave will be required to abide by these dates. Students who withdraw prior to the 20-day early withdrawal limit will receive a "withdrawal" grade rather than a final grade.

It is incumbent upon all of us to carefully consider the educational impact when making transition or vacation plans for our families. Your child's future depends on it.

## **REINTEGRATION BLOCK LEAVE**

Upon completion of their tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, service members will be given "block leave" beginning in late winter - early spring. This leave will normally last 30 days, and will be staggered so that all of the troops do not depart on leave at the same time. However, we know that many service members may want to take leave with their families in the United States. This may result in an academic impact on some students due to an extended absence.

For many families in 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division families, the newly scheduled spring recess, which coincides with the block leave for many soldiers, will eliminate this concern. For others, parents will need to work with school officials to facilitate family vacations and minimize the impact on learning. As parents and educators, our focus must be on student achievement. Can a student, especially at the high school level, make up the course-work missed while they are absent? If students cannot make-up the work or enroll in and regularly attend another school during the period of absence, then they will not pass the course(s).

It is strongly recommended that if children are going to be gone for 30 days or more that they be enrolled at the stateside location. Forty-five days equals 25% of the school year in the DoDDS system. Generally, if students are not in school at least 21 days, they do not receive grades for that marking period. In order to lessen the impact on academic progress, yet enable our students to take leave

with their families during this period of reintegration, the following guidelines have been developed:

- Parents are expected to notify the school, in writing, that the family will be on reintegration block leave and include the dates the students will be absent.
- Parents are expected to request assignments from teachers prior to departing on leave. It is suggested they give as much lead time to teachers as possible in order for the teachers to provide assignments for the entire period of absence. The completed assignments must be turned in within two weeks of the student's return to school to be considered for a grade.
- Although there is no maximum number of days that students may be absent while accompanying their families on block leave, it is highly recommended that if children are going to be gone for 30 days or more that they be enrolled in school at the stateside location.
- If students will be gone for an extended period of time, they should not be disenrolled at their DoDDS-E school unless they will not be returning to the school. Keeping the children enrolled will allow the students to retain their schedule and class assignment.
- Grade reports or transcripts are to be presented from the stateside school upon return to the DoDDS-E school.

Parents are highly encouraged to discuss with the school principal the timing of the absence and any conflicts that may impact negatively on a student's success. It is incumbent upon all of us to carefully consider the educational impact when making vacation plans for families.



### Email System Facilitates Communication Between Deployed Parents and Students

*Diana J. Ohman, Director*

DoDDS-E has purchased a student email system based on the commercially available Gaggle mail. The system is fully available for student use. Many schools are now connected and using the email service. The student email system was purchased to promote educational use of e-mail, facilitate classroom e-mail projects, provide a vehicle for students to transport electronic files between school and home, and maintain contact with their parents when they are deployed.

The student mail system features the ability to block SPAM, block pornographic email, block offensive words, automatically monitor messages, review student messages and block email with outsiders. The amount of control warranted will be controlled by the individual schools/teachers.

Student email is one of many initiatives underway in DoDDS-E to provide support and assistance to military families affected by deployments. Unlike stateside schools, DoDDS-E is attuned to the role of schools in deployments. Teachers receive training to assist kids dealing with the stress of deployments and to look for signs of distress. DoDDS-E schools conduct support groups to assist parents and for students who may be experiencing adjustment problems. School staffs know their military communities and can refer students appropriately for other help and activities in their area.

Schools assist students in making connections with deployed parents whenever possible. The new "Gaggle" servers and the new student email accounts enable students to communicate with deployed moms and dads when email is available downrange.

### PTO News

## PTO General Membership Meeting

### Special Presentation by LIS Students!

Tuesday, January 11  
5:00 PM  
School Cafeteria

**EVERYONE** is invited to Liberty's next Parent Teacher Organization meeting to be held Tuesday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the cafeteria. This is your chance to give input on plans and show support for our school. You may join PTO on the night, order a Yearbook, find out more about

volunteer opportunities, and get to know other parents and faculty members. Following the meeting there will be a short presentation about our School Improvement Plan. Students will participate and share their knowledge with you about Liberty's SIP plan. Refreshments will also be available. Please join us on Tuesday!

### Holiday Concert

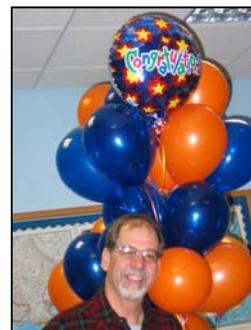
On 10 December, and the school Chorus and Xylophone band presented our annual Holiday Concert in the Base Chapel.



*McLaren's Strings* presented Holiday music for our students on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of December. is one of our students.



### Congratulations!



**5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, on 25 years of superb teaching with DoDDS.**