

Volume 9 Issue 7

March 2012



LIVORNO UNIT SCHOOL

Livorno E/M School Newsletter
<http://www.livo-ems.eu.dodea.edu/site.htm>

VISION STATEMENT

“Livorno EM School empowers students to be life-long learners in a global society through an exemplary standards-based education. In partnership with the community, our school will provide a learning environment which is nurturing, safe, and respectful, enabling each child to reach her/his fullest potential.”

Dear Parents,

As I write this month’s message, our 3rd through 8th graders are almost finished with their Terra Nova assessments. I have really been impressed with the support that you have given us this week. You provided breakfast snacks for the students, you made sure that students got enough sleep, and you helped them make a special effort to get to school on time. I salute each one of you for going out of your way to be supportive of our students and teachers this week!

We have a busy month in front of us. We’ll have an anti-bullying assembly the last Wednesday in March as well as a third and fourth grade study trip. On Friday, March 30, we will observe Career Day at school. More information will be coming on these events as they get closer. Of course, the big event on everyone’s calendar is the AdvancED visit coming late in April. We are doing a lot of spring-cleaning and other preparations for this visit, and we’ll keep you informed of the schedule as it is finalized.

Have you noticed the renovation of our STEM garden that is taking place? Thanks to an outstanding commitment from our military command, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) garden is getting a complete facelift. When it is completed in a few weeks, it will have raised garden beds, tiled pathways, and a white picket fence. It is amazing to see how quickly this has been accomplished and the amount of planning and coordination of efforts that went into it. There will be pictures and articles soon to be published that will spotlight this great addition to our school.

There are a lot of other amazing things going on in our classes as you will see in the remainder of this newsletter. Thanks again for your continued support!

Steve Brown, Principal

Inside this issue:

Principal’s Message	1
In the Art Studio and CSI Goals	2
The Nurses Corner	4
Student Written Articles	8,10-12
From the Music Room	6
School calendar	13

Of Special Interest:

Fifth Grade Box Project page 5
New Feature – Student-Written articles on pages 8, 10-12
Check out the Child Find Poster on page 9.
Murder is Coming to E/M

From the Art Studio with Ms. Sperl...

Kinder: Worked with basic number sense

1st – 4th grades experienced a live video call with a curator from the *Smithsonian American Museum of Art* in Washington, D.C. who shared with them artworks by a few Africa American artists from their collection that we had been working with last month. Our students enjoyed seeing the paintings, hearing about the artists, and being able to ask a bunch of questions!



Live call with SAAM and the ¾ class

7/8th: Have begun learning about linear perspective and how this adds the illusion of depth in an artwork. They are practicing with 1 and 2 pt perspective as they design their own cityscape views in pencil.

All 1st – 8th grades: Are working on a powerful program called Books of Hope (now called E-Luminate). We have participated in this program here since 2006 – and each year it turns out to be a truly meaningful and powerful experience for our students. We thank our PTSO for supporting our participation with Books of Hope! This year our books will be sent to the Kapala Library in Sierra Leone. And since the program has gone digital this year, we are able to create more interactive books, recordings, and examples. I will be sending more information home to parents soon. This program engenders some meaningful conversations and I encourage you to share with your children.

Goals of e-Luminate (www.E-Luminate.org):

To enhance literacy and learning abroad by creating educational infrastructure and materials for vulnerable children in countries where English proficiency is desirable and/or necessary for success.

To support literacy in U.S. schools by motivating students to read and write for an audience of their peers who will value their work.

To foster empathy and social responsibility in American students by providing an effective way for them to learn about and make a difference in the lives of children facing war, poverty, disease, and slavery around the world.

5th grade Study Skills & Video Production Class:

Listen carefully next time you have on AFN radio The Eagle, our 5th grade and Video class have radio spots running to promote environmental awareness on Darby. You can also check them out here: <http://livorno.afneurope.net/Home/ArticleDisplayDD/tabid/658/aid/23224/Default.aspx>



BIG thanks to AFN for supporting our kids, our vision, and our school!



LEMS Podcasts:

Our podcasts can be found here: <http://lems.podbean.com/>

Subscribe via iTunes follow these directions:

Open iTunes

Click ADVANCED tab from the top menu bar

Click SUBSCRIBE TO PODCAST

In the window that appears which says URL: enter this <http://lems.podbean.com/feed>

We have (1) available so far this year – be sure to load it up on your playlist!

LEMS Artists Online ~ Find Us Here:

Our virtual gallery on [Artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=105920): <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=105920>

Our virtual video gallery on [Schooltube.com](http://www.schooltube.com/organization/223688/): <http://www.schooltube.com/organization/223688/>

Our podcasts on [Podbean.com](http://lems.podbean.com/): <http://lems.podbean.com/> (which can be subscribed to via iTunes – directions above)

The Nurse's Corner

Family..... It's the most important part of every child's life, and often the major factor in helping them make the healthiest choices. Research shows that children are often more willing to eat nutritious foods and be active if they see their parents and other family members doing these things first. That is why EVERYONE needs to be involved!!!

We started out the month with a visit from Dr. Hussey and the Livorno Dental Clinic Team. That was a perfect introduction to Nutrition, and how important it is, not only for our smiles, but our hearts and brains as well. This week the Third through Eighth Graders will be taking the standardized Terra Nova Test, and I hope, getting a clear message about how the high protein /low sugary foods dramatically impact performance. A study by the Harvard University and Mass General Hospital showed that children who regularly ate breakfast had better test scores and were better behaved in school.

So what makes a good breakfast? Anything that provides protein and low starch, such as eggs and whole grain toast, will keep stomachs full until lunchtime. Sugary foods give us a "high", and leave us tired and hungry half way through the morning. All of our students get a copy of the AAFES menu, but the hot meals are a terrible waste if children's likes and dislikes are not considered. It makes more sense to send a peanut butter sandwich on whole wheat bread for twenty days in a row ...than to pay for a lunch that gets tossed after one "thank you "bite.

SO:

Find out what healthy food your child really likes.

Take them with you when you go shopping and read labels.

Choose "fresh" over packaged!

Keep a food guide pyramid on your refrigerator.

And most importantly.....**Serve as a role model.**

If you don't eat fruits and vegetables, chances are your children won't either.



5th grade Biography in a Box Project

5th grade social studies students worked hard to complete a recent project that addressed social studies standard 5ss5.c to describe and compare the views, lives, and impact of key individuals during the time of the American Revolution and beyond. This project also addressed our school Goal #2- Students will get better at communication in all their classes by summarizing and retelling.

5th graders became familiar with people that were important to American History by using primary resources, both online and printed materials to create a graphic organizer about their assigned person. They then used the graphic organizer to summarize the information in a paragraph form. 5th graders used this information to create a box that of information and artifacts about their famous American. Finally each student gave an oral presentation and using props from the artifact box.

All students did a great job and their projects are on display in the school library. The base library has also asked to display the projects during Library Week in April. The class would like to give a special thanks to Bruce Brown, community volunteer who worked with the students to make their presentations such an great success.



From Mr. De Luca's Podium:

The members of the band are on a new mission. We are embarking on a new series of concerts with our sister band and orchestra. This past March 17th & 18th we were involved in rehearsals and a concert in Marina di Pisa. The concert proved to be a success for our students for they were able to perform with the adult members and most importantly they contributed to the overall quality and sound of the performance. We will have more of these concerts in the future.



Elementary Music Happenings:

Students in the 3/4 class have been working hard on a new endeavor. They have started to learn to play the recorder. They work at least 2 days a week on this project and they are making great progress. Shortly they should be able to put on a demonstration of their talents. Way to go, class!!



Dinner At Eight, Dead By Nine

a comedic whodunit

presented by

the
**Livorno E/M School
Drama Department**

April 5 & 6, 2012

1900 hours

School Gym

Admission Free



Roxy and Bud Enterprises, Inc.



S.T.E.M Garden

This year the community has come and joined us with our S.T.E.M Garden. This would be the Command, DPW, Army, Air Force, Students, Teachers, and the Italian classes coming to visit. They will be building the school raised beds so we can plant our garden. We will all be working together to make a school-community garden.

Our science teacher, Mr. Loyd, says "It's hands-on, more fun, and sure beats reading it out of a book." Our new principal, Mr. Brown, says it's part of a project from S.T.E.M. "S.T.E.M. stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics", he said. S.T.E.M makes projects to teach these subjects.

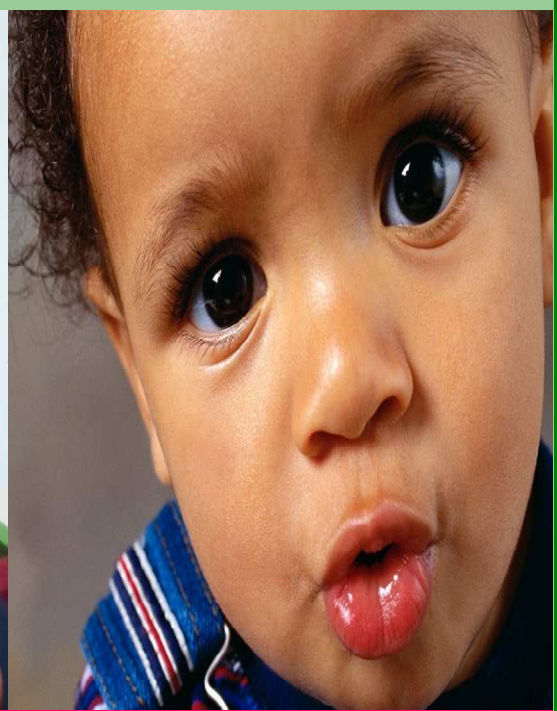
The garden began with Ms. Boyanowski's science class; last year we learned what happens in a plant's life cycle. We started this garden because 6th grade standards focus on plant life cycles, so Ms. Boyanowski decided to take it outside to give us a hands-on experience. In plant life cycles we learned there are two main types - perennials and annuals. Austin, a student in last year's garden, recalls that, "Perennials are when the plant lives for more than one growing season. An example is a strawberry. An annual is when a plant lives for about a year. An example of this is lettuce."

The community S.T.E.M garden is a great way for students, parents, teachers, and volunteers to work together. "It's very important for us all to get together, because a small community like ours, without volunteers, we wouldn't be able to get anything accomplished", said Mr. Meeks. Mr. Meeks is a volunteer in the Military helping us with building our raised beds. He also said, "It's great for students to learn to grow their own garden, and learn about bugs, and plant life."

Our school will be inviting the Italian students from Riglione on March 26th. They are coming to visit our star lab and our garden. We have also invited a Naturalist from DPW to talk about the insects and bats which help our garden.

I myself am very excited about the garden; because I enjoy hands-on projects and am very glad we, the students, get this fun opportunity. Get ready for some fruits and veggies to eat all summer long.

~K. B.



How Am I Growing?

CDC/DoDDS/EDIS
WORKING TOGETHER
Call 633-7459
Ask for a CHILD FIND Appointment





Junior Leadership Seminar of 2012

In Oberwesel, Germany there was a Junior Leadership Seminar held to help the top leaders of students from DoDEA schools all over Europe. Only the top students from each 7th or 8th grade were chosen for this experience. At the seminar we were taught different leadership skills, such as communication skills, listening skills, and team building skills. There were three 8th grade students chosen from our school, Livorno MS: I, Nicole, and David. Here is what my experience was like at the Junior Leadership Seminar of 2012!


My JLS Experience!

By: Kaula Oneil

I went to the Junior Leadership Seminar in Oberwesel, Germany, and there I was taught how to become a better leader. The Livorno Group arrived late so we were a little bit behind the first day. We ate dinner, found our rooms, and got settled in. Then we went downstairs to meet our color group leaders and the students in our color group. By the next morning, with the help from all of our new friends, we were back on track and ready for the rest of the week.

All of the students at JLS were separated into color groups. I was put in the Green group, David was put in the Brown group, and Nicole was put in the Blue group. In each group there were about 13 to 14 students from all over Europe. In my group I met students from Hoenfels, Germany; AF North, Netherlands; and Semmbach, Germany.

I think the people were easy to get along with and very interesting, but the activities there even better. On Valentine's Day I got to walk to the Schönberg Castle, which was literally right down the road from the hostel. Since we were on a mountain, we got to see a spectacular view of the city



Wall. We even went to see a pretzel museum and got free pretzels! With our free time, we got to walk into little grocery stores and mini bakeries, trying new foods that have all kind of tastes.

Ever morning we had to wake up to air horns and yelling at 6:45, and we had to be at our assigned eye openers. One morning my group got to swim, and another we got to launch a rubber chicken into the air with a parachute. During the day, we mainly worked with our color groups. The leaders would give each group an assignment that would help each group with one of the leadership skills. After we were done we had to meet back at the auditorium on time. If you were late Mr. Becker made your whole team get up on stage and make you do something embarrassing. When my group was late we had to get up on stage and do the shark attack dance in front of everybody at JLS.....and it was embarrassing but fun at the same time.

At the end of the stressful week, we finished with a party for everyone to just recap on the events that happened throughout the week. We then danced to the music, had fun with all of our friends, and drank as many slushies as we could without getting sick. During the last song we got all of the adults on the dance floor to shuffle with us to the song Party Rock Anthem by LMFAO.

It was sad leaving everyone we met because we know that we probably won't see each other for a long time. When I walked into the lobby, people were giving each other hugs and saying their good-byes. It made me feel depressed and happy at the same time because I was sad to be leaving all of my new friends but I was happy to finally be coming home to my old friends and family, my soft bed, and internet.

I learned a lot of new skills to becoming a better leader, such as using a facilitator when trying to work together in a group and that, just because you are a leader, doesn't mean you always need to lead; it is also good to let others lead and you follow.

This trip was definitely a once-in-a-life time experience that I will never forget. I hope that many students after us feel the same way we do!! ●●



Black History Month Presentation

On January 24 2012, I was sitting at a desk in Language Arts waiting for the daily announcements. After the lunch announcement a special one took its place. It said we were having a Black History Month presentation 6th period. The day zoomed by and 6th period came fast.

We gathered in the gym and sat on the floor. Minutes later, AJ McKnight and Derrick Bolden walked in and told us what we were doing. A series of kids came up, one by one, and gave a little riddle about who they were. If you got the riddle correct you received a small prize from Ms. Salazar. Every few minutes, we sang a song. The song choices included "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", "Thriller", and "The Electric Slide". While "Thriller" was playing, kids were allowed to go up and dance as well. During the presentation, we didn't just have fun; we also learned about how it was back then and how the slaves used these special songs to keep their spirits up.

During Black History Month I really learned a lot about that time period, and how people dealt with it. So I give AJ McKnight and Derrick Bolden a great big hand for teaching us about Black History Month.

LIVORNO ES/MS School Calendar
School Year 2011—2012

School Schedule for Feb. through April

Thursday and Friday, March 22 and 23

Math Counts Competition

Thursday and Friday April 5 and 6 at 19:00 hrs school gym

Drama Club production of "Dinner at Eight, Dead by Nine"

Thursday, April 5

End of Third Quarter

Friday, April 6

No school for students - teacher work day

Monday, April 9—April 16 Spring Break

Monday, April 17—Classes resume

CSI GOALS FOR OUR SCHOOL

Livorno E/M School Goal One: By 2014, all students will improve in math skills across the curriculum through increased proficiency in number sense and number relations.

Livorno E/M School Goal Two: By 2014, Livorno E/M School will improve their communications skills across the curriculum through improved proficiency in summarizing and retelling.

The Back PageA Place for Your Input



Do you have any questions?



Do you have any suggestions?



Do you have compliments/rumors?

This page may be returned to the school office if you have any input.