

# December Jaguar Newsletter

## Important Dates

### DECEMBER

- 4 Senior class meeting 5 pm
- 5 7 Habits course #6, 1:30
- 6 Choral concert 6 pm NAS II Chapel
- 7-8 Wrestling to Aviano
- 7-8 Basketball @ home
- 8 ACT test 7:30 am rm 169
- 11 Class meetings 1:30 pm
- 13 Early Release 12:20 pm
- 14-15 Basketball @ home
- 15 Saturday School 8 am
- 17-19 Broadway Musical auditions
- 19 7 Habits course #7, 1:30
- 22-6 Jan Winter Break, No School

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Il panettone, Italian sweet bread

## From the Principal

As we start the month of December, the faculty and staff wishes all our families a joyous holiday season. During the holidays, our thoughts are towards family, friends and the traditional exchange of warm wishes for this time of year. We think especially of those military families who will be spending the holiday season apart from their loved ones. Near or far, remember and be thankful for the important job our military members do, and the supportive families of those members. Be thankful for the many opportunities we have.

Parents, please remember the flu shot is a required immunization for all DoDDS students. During the winter months we

should proactive in keeping healthy. This includes getting all needed immunizations. Please see Ms. Chandler, SMHS nurse, if you have any questions

Preparation for post secondary education begins with students enrolling in rigorous high school courses. In this newsletter information about applying for college can be found on page three. For our seniors, it is important that college applications are in on time, and for underclassmen, it is never too early to start planning. We hope all juniors and seniors planning to

attend college have already taken, or are signed up to take, the SAT and/or the ACT in the coming months. Information on applying for college can be found on page three of this newsletter.

Taking rigorous courses and meeting high academic standards are the keys to future academic success. See the additional attachment for a list of students who make the first quarter honor roll. We applaud these students for meeting high standards and continued hard work and dedication to their studies.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season

Alice Berard, Principal



## IL PANETTONE

Natale e Capodanno (Christmas and New Year's Days) are fast approaching and it's time for the Italians to eat and enjoy Panettone, the typical sweet bread loaf you see all over the supermarkets and shopping centers during this time of the year. Panettone is originally from Milan and contains candied orange, citron, and lemon zest as well as raisins, which are added dry and not soaked. Many other variations are available such as plain or with chocolate. Another variation is the Pandoro with its typical octagonal shape. It is served in slices, vertically cut, accompanied with sweet hot beverages or with a sweet wine such as Spumante or Moscato. One of the legends linked to Panettone says that, in Milan during the time of Ludovico il Moro, there was a baker named Toni. One day a young man, Ughetto Atellani, came to Toni saying he wanted to learn the job of bread maker. In reality, he was a noble man who had fallen in love with Toni's daughter, Adalgisa. Toni accepted him as a worker. The following day, the young man started working on "his" bread, adding sugar, raisins and walnuts. Clients were so happy with the new bread so they started ordering large quantities of it, calling it *Pan de Toni* (Bread of Toni). It later became known as: Panettone.

## Attention all high school athletes:

Your GPA is checked at the beginning of each season for eligibility. For the winter sports season 1st quarter GPA will be used to determine athletic eligibility and if students are on "academic probation". Any athlete who does not have a 2.0 or better and/or has **more** than 1 F in their 1st quarter grades, will be placed on "academic probation status" and will be on the 3 week ineligibility list for winter sport season. During the 3-week ineligibility period, athletes may practice but they will be ineligible to play while on probationary status.

These three week checks and ineligibility to play checks will continue throughout the season for players who do not meet 2.0 GPA. See Ms. C. with any questions.

## Geography Bee

Sigonella M/HS will participate in the 25th annual National Geography Bee, January 14, 2013 at 1:30pm in Knights' Hall. The Bee will be open to all Sigonella students in the 6th through 8th grades. Students in grades 6-8 from across the United States, the five U.S. territories, as well as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools participate in the National Geography Bee. The 2013 Bee is sponsored by Google.

The winner of the Sigonella MS Geography Bee will advance to the next level of the Competition which is a written examination to determine state competitors. The school winner will compete and be eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition May 22, 2013 in Washington, D.C. For more information please contact Mr. B.A.

## Math Counts

Anthropologist and science writer Roger Lewin advised, "Too often we give our children answers to remember rather than problems to solve." Sigonella seeks to infuse the student culture with rigorous, meaningful academic experiences, and the middle school program, MATHCOUNTS is key to this goal. MATHCOUNTS provides an academic team challenge that inspires excellence, confidence, and curiosity through fun and difficult math programs. The team provides its "Mathletes" with the foundation for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

Currently in its 30th year, MATHCOUNTS is one of the country's largest and most successful education partnerships involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students. President Barack Obama and former Presidents George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Ronald W. Reagan have all recognized MATHCOUNTS in White House ceremonies. The MATHCOUNTS program has also received two White House citations as an outstanding private sector initiative. Particularly exciting for the Mathletes was the hour-long ESPN program on each of the National

Competitions from 2003-2005.

We would like to introduce this year's middle school Mathletes:

C.E. (gr 8)  
K. VW. (gr 8)  
C.B. (gr 6)  
M.M. (gr 6)

Through competition, hard work, and problem solving, this year's club will represent Sigonella MHS in the national MATHCOUNTS competition in February.

***Congratulations  
Mathletes!***

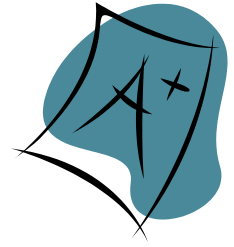
## Leadership Training

Eleven members of Sigonella's Navy Junior ROTC program joined MC (Ret) B. on the JROTC annual Leadership Training, Nov 29 – Dec 2. This event, usually hosted in Rota, Spain, was held in Naples, Italy this year. Cadets had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills with classroom work in addition to practical exercises involving: drill formations, leadership confidence course, and team building sessions. Cadets focused on seminars revolving around leadership and teamwork. Cadets came back from this four day event with great praise, and took pride in putting what they learned to work both in their NJROTC duties as well as everyday school activities.

## JROTC - Academy Applications

We congratulate D.V., a current senior and Executive Officer for Sigonella's Junior Navy ROTC unit. D. is in the process of applying for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. The application process is very different from colleges and university applications. Applicants to an Academy must first receive a congressional nomination from their State Congressman before submitting an application to the academy of their choice. The process for a nomination is extremely tedious and

requires much attention by the applicant. Staying focused and very organized is a must throughout the endeavor if you want to be successful. Strong family support and the backing of the NJROTC instructors were instrumental in getting selected for a nomination. There is still work ahead in obtaining an appointment, but we are hopeful that D. will be selected to attend the Merchant Marine Academy. Way to go D.!



*“In order to start the federal financial aid process, parent and student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).”*

## Counseling Corner

### Seniors and Senior Parents,

December and January are the key months to begin applying for college FINANCIAL AID. Best rule of thumb is to always explore FEDERAL financial aid options first. Students and parents should always exhaust federal loan options before considering a private loan. Federal loans usually have better interest rates and greater flexibility with repayment options. Federal student loan programs are supported by the federal government and, generally repayment of the loan does not begin until the student finishes school. Federal loan moneies can be used to pay tuition and fees, room and board, as well as supplies. Helpful websites for information about federal aid are: [www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov](http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov) and [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

In order to start the federal financial aid process, parent and student must complete the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA). The recommended way to file the FAFSA is online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). When you complete the application, you will identify the schools that you are interested in attending. Once your FAFSA application is processed, those schools will receive your specific financial information. Each school will inform you of how much financial aid they will offer and what types of aid: loans, grants, scholarships and/or work study opportunities. Award packages are often a combination of these different types of aid. Once you decide on the type of financial aid to accept, the school will give you instructions on how you will receive the funds.

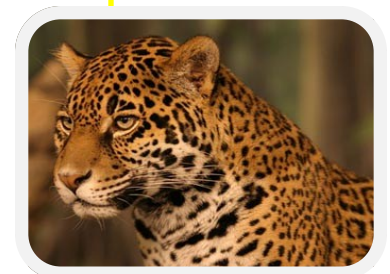
A tool which helps give approximate aid eligibility is the *FAFSA4caster*. The *FAFSA4caster* provides students with an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.

Even if you decide to use the *FAFSA4caster*, complete your FAFSA application and file online. You never know the type and amounts of aid each of your selected schools may grant you unless your application is completed. Common practice for schools is to distribute your financial aid money directly to the university financial aid office. The *FAFSA4caster* is only an estimator tool; it does not give you your financial aid packages. In addition, each school has varying amounts of money available so your financial aid awards will often be different for each college or university.

**BE SURE TO CHECK INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES.** Financial aid program requirements (both federal and private) vary from school to school and state-to-state.

Cont. on page 8

**Jaguar Pride**

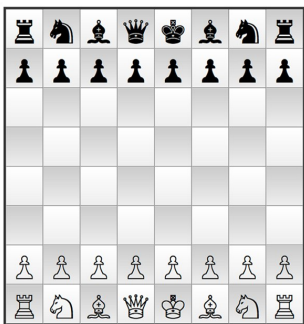




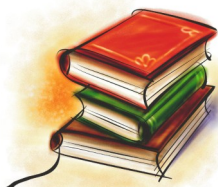
## CHILD FIND

Do you have academic achievement or educational performance concerns about your Middle School or High School child? Are these concerns related to the way your child sees, hears, talks, learns, or processes information? Are you concerned about the impact these things may be having on your child's education? If so, please contact Ms. A.C., Chairperson for the Child Study Committee at Sigonella Middle/High School.

624-4249 or [alison.cashman@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:alison.cashman@eu.dodea.edu)



*Join the MS chess club or book club at school!*



# Yearbook

Did you miss the opportunity to buy a yearbook at our introduction price? If you order before January 31<sup>st</sup> you will avoid the next price increase. **See the attached yearbook purchase form for information and prices.**

Are you a parent interested in buying a congratulations add for your senior/student in this year's yearbook? Senior ads are now on sale. To purchase your space contact Ms. L. Space

is on a first paid first served basis and they are running out quick. You need money and a file or date to work on your file with our specialists to reserve your spot. Don't wait too late and be the ones who missed out!

We will have students available to help design the senior pages if needed. Don't forget Senior Pages are due in January. Has your senior started theirs? When the deadline hits the

opportunity to submit a seniors page will be gone , so seniors must ensure their page is submitted properly. Only a few weeks between now and the deadline for senior pages. Plan ahead to avoid end of semester hectic times! Any senior needing help can bring their photos and ideas to Ms. L. and she and the yearbook team will help the senior get started.

## MS after school club offerings

### Middle School Book Club

Calling all 6th to -8th grade fans of fiction! The middle school is starting a book club. We'll meet in Ms. S.s classroom on Thursday from 3:00-5:00 beginning December 13th until March 14th. Stop by Ms. S.'s classroom for permission slips and more information.

#### Book Club/Activities:

- Reading and discussing wide variety of literature (selected by the group)
- Corresponding with and promoting visiting authors.
- Promoting and participating in Read Across America
- Researching, contacting, promoting future visiting authors.
- Creating and facilitating school-wide contests, competitions, etc. that celebrate and promote the love of literature

### Chess Club

Would you like to learn how to play the game of chess? Maybe you already know how to play but would like an opportunity to sharpen your skills? Then the Sigonella Chess Club is the place for you!

Any interested MS players can sign up for Chess club by filling out a permission slip located in the front office or with Mr. D.B. The Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays beginning December 18th until March 12th. The meeting time will be from 3:00 to 5:00. Students who stay for club will be authorized to take the activity bus home. Students that want more information about this activity can see Coach B. in room 171.



## Holiday Blues

Holidays are joyful times for most of us. They help us reconnect with family near and far, and generally, are filled with good food, friends and relatives. There are those of us who are far from home and away from family which can cause stress as holidays are perceived as “family time”. These solitary folks are often invited to friends’ homes or attend the bases’ celebrations filling up some of the holiday need. Phone calls and emails to loved ones may also help holiday stress or feelings of loneliness. It is always important

to remember during this time that the “perfect” family, portrayed on television is generally not the reality of families. We all live in and with families that have misunderstandings and miscommunication which cause disappointment from time to time. And, there are stressors over which we have no control like deployments, or the ups and downs of teenage life, or the random sinus infection or flu we may contract during a holiday time. Mostly the holidays are times to remember: family members who are here,

family members who are absent, gifts we hoped for and did receive, or special events like the time it snowed hard on Christmas day or even the sunny weather we continue to enjoy in Sicily. We often forget to be grateful for those memories and for the memories we are making this holiday season. Whatever your holiday, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Boxing Day, or Hanukkah, enjoy the camaraderie of others and purposely plan to make good memories for 2012.



### **iPods AND MOBILE PHONES**

**This is to remind parents students are NOT allowed to use their iPods in school.**

**Just like mobile phones, if a student is using their iPod during school hours it will be taken and returned to parents.**

**iPods like mobile phones must be OFF during school hours (7:45-2:30) including lunchtime.**

**We encourage students to leave their iPod at home.**

**If you have any questions please contact the school at 624-4281.**

## **Broadway Tonight! Auditions**

**Needed:** Actors! Singers! Dancers! Musicians!

Sigonella School-Community Theatre’s March musical *BROADWAY TONIGHT!* will feature scenes from six world-famous musicals: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Mary Poppins*, *Les Miserables*, *Wicked* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. The revue will showcase performers of from elementary school through adult. Audition workshops and auditions are scheduled for December 17 – 19 in Knights Hall.

### **Monday, December 17**

2:15 – 4 PM ES Audition *Workshop*\* ES Music Room  
4 – 5 PM MS/HS Audition *Workshop* ES Music Room  
5 – 7 PM Adult Audition *Workshop* ES Music Room

### **Tuesday, December 18**

3– 5 PM ES Audition\* Knights Hall  
5 – 7 PM MS/HS/Adult Audition Knights Hall

### **Wednesday, December 19**

5 – 7 PM MS/HS/Adult Callback Knights Hall

\*Elementary Students by audition invitation only based on preliminary auditions in class  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** contact Ms. L. S.



*“Commitment, drive, and a positive attitude can make all the difference needed to attain good grades”*

## Saturday School

Saturday School is not a disciplinary or punishment program. Instead, the program is geared towards helping students appreciate the importance of school and education. The primary focus of the program is to provide time and a place of study where students have the opportunity to catch up on school work. At times additional tutoring is available.

An additional value of our program is for students to understand that commitment, drive, and a positive attitude can make all of the difference needed to attain good grades. After attending Saturday School, we want each

participating student to feel as if the program genuinely helped them progress academically and as a person. Another major goal of our Saturday School program is for participating students to understand there are many people and programs around them that can offer guidance and assistance so they can advocate for themselves and get additional help if needed. For more information contact:

Mr. S. M.

The Saturday School program includes a mixture of lectures and open discussions. Topics that we typically cover (but not with each session) :

- Time Management
- Anger Management
- Stress Management
- Learning and Effective Note Taking & Study Habits
- Importance of Education for the future
- Citizenship and Why You Make the Difference
- Current Events

Classes meet on the following Saturdays from 0900 to 1400:

December 15  
January 19  
February 9  
March 9  
May 4

All students are welcomed!

## Battle of the Books

**Signonella Battle of the Books** 2012-2013 is a reading incentive program based on the national model and sponsored by the Information Centers / Libraries of Signonella Elementary School (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Signonella Middle High School (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

Students form the two schools' teams of ten 5<sup>th</sup> graders and ten 6<sup>th</sup> graders. From January through May, these students will read and discuss all ten of this year's selected books.

The culminating event is the actual **Battle of the Books** to be held between the two teams in early June, 2013.

**For more information, contact Mrs. R. or Mrs. W.**



# JSILT

The student leadership group, JSILT, has started planning events for this school year. The group has accepted 8 new members into the leadership team, representatives from grades 6 to 12. The first order of business of the group was to change the name from CSI Congress to JSILT (Jaguar

Student Improvement Leadership Team), so CSI Congress is now JSILT. On December 19<sup>th</sup> JSILT will have their welcome luncheon and team building event. Starting mid-term of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter JSILT will be hosting the first academic challenge, look for more information on

this. Another event on the JSILT calendar is to support NHS/NJHS by encouraging students to donate items to the Freedom Box project. Please contact Mrs. H. if you have questions about JSILT or becoming a member.



# AVID

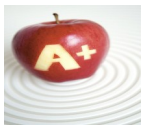
AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college readiness course for elementary, middle and high school. The course is designed to increase school wide learning and performance. The AVID College Readiness

System (ACRS) accelerates student learning, uses research based methods of effective instruction, provides meaningful and motivational professional learning, and acts as a catalyst for systemic reform and change.

In January the MS and HS AVID classes will join the

7<sup>th</sup> graders on their field trip to Ortija Island, near Syracuse. The 8-12 grade students will act as "tour guides" and will practice leadership skills facilitating trip lead presentations and activities while interacting with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. Please contact Mrs. H. with any questions about AVID.

***AVID** targets students in the academic middle - B, C, and even D students - who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential.*



C.L.I.M.E is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and consist of three middle school groups meeting on a rotating schedule during the advisory/seminar period. It is exciting to have so many middle school students participating in this program, as it is a voluntary program. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders

# Gifted Education - C.L.I.M.E

are focusing on science and writing skills while developing their own species. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are working on their social studies and research skills as they have been sent into the future to develop a civilization. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are working on math, collaboration and prob-

lem solving skills as they map out a trip in a country of their choice, and try to deal with pesky pit-falls they have been given. Please contact Mrs. H. with any questions about the Gifted Education program.



SIGONELLA M/H  
SCHOOL

PSC 812 Box 2630  
FPO AE 09627

Phone Numbers:  
DSN: 624-4281  
Comm: 30-095-56-4281

<http://www.sigo-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>



Sigonella NJROTC unit

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Always check with the individual college financial aid offices for specific information regarding additional financial aid deadlines and opportunities. It is best to apply early as possible of each year you attend college. Some state and school aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

When applying for student aid, the school year you select should correspond to the year of the FAFSA you are completing. For example, if you plan to attend college between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, you select the application for the 2012-2013 school year. If you plan to attend college between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, you select the application for school year 2013-2014.

The FAFSA is FREE and does not cost money to complete. Beware of companies and websites that charge money to complete or file the FAFSA data. These organizations and sites are not endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

## Sigonella Winter Concert

The Sigonella MHS choral and instrumental music students will perform a concert on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in the NAS 1 Chapel at 6:00. The event is free of charge. We invite all community members to attend this wonderful event and support our students!

Below is the **mandatory** rehearsal/concert schedule for the various groups:



**High School Chorus** - (uniform - **WOMEN**: an all black shirt, all black pants/skirt, black socks and black dress shoes. **MEN**: black slacks, black socks and black dress shoes, white long-sleeved collared dress shirt with a red tie)

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – rehearsal at the NAS 1 Chapel – 4:45-7:00

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – warm-up at the NAS 1 Chapel – 3:45-5:00

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – final warm-up at the NAS 1 Chapel – 5:45

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Concert at the NAS 1 Chapel – 6:00**

**String Ensemble** - (uniform is an all black shirt, all black pants, black socks and black dress shoes)

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – rehearsal at the NAS 1 Chapel – 2:30-4:45

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – warm-up at the NAS 1 Chapel – 2:30-3:45

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – tuning at the NAS 1 Chapel – 5:00

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Concert at the NAS 1 Chapel – 6:00**

**Beginning Band** - (uniform is an all black shirt, all black pants, black socks and black dress shoes)

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – warm-up at the NAS 1 Chapel – 2:30-3:45

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – tuning at the NAS 1 Chapel – 5:30

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Concert at the NAS 1 Chapel – 6:00**



**Intermediate Band** - (uniform is an all black shirt, all black pants, black socks and black dress shoes)

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – rehearsal in music room – 1:05-2:30

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – rehearsal at the NAS 1 Chapel – 2:30-4:45

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – warm-up at the NAS 1 Chapel – 2:30-3:45

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – tuning at the NAS 1 Chapel – 5:30

**December 6<sup>th</sup> – Concert at the NAS 1 Chapel – 6:00**

