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USFK Honors DoDDS Employees

USFK recently honored DoDDS educators and staff at the Dragon Hill Lodge, Yongsan Garrison. General B spoke highly about the efforts of DoDDS Korea personnel to provide high quality educational services in South Korea. 79 DoDDS employees were honored. When asked about the significance of the awards, DoDDS Korea Chief of Staff, Tony Harris, commented, "GEN B and the entire command structure in Korea are extremely supportive of the schools, and the recognition of the 79 DoDDS employees is one example of that support. It is also important to note that the recognition was given to every level of the DoDDS community. A school cannot function properly without everyone involved, and GEN B. is aware of that."





New Korea District Superintendent Announced

TORII STATION, Okinawa, Japan –

Dr. Nancy Bresell, Director for DoDDS- Pacific/DDESS-Guam is pleased to announce the selection of Samuel D. Menniti as the new Superintendent for the Korea District, Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) Pacific.

Mr. Menniti comes to the Pacific from the position of Assistant Superintendent of the DoDDS-Mediterranean District. He has served in that position since 2002. Prior to that Mr. Menniti spent three years as Assistant Superintendent in the DoDDS-United Kingdom District and several years as a high school principal at Incirlik, Turkey; Pusan, South Korea; Zama and Edgren in Japan. He served as assistant principal at Aviano Elementary School, beginning in 1984. Teaching assignments were in Rimini and Vicenza Italy, and Izmir, Turkey. He joined DoDDS in 1979.

Prior to coming to DoDDS, Mr. Menniti taught at Gresham Park Elementary School in Dekalb County, Georgia.

Mr. Menniti acquired his Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Reading from Georgia State University in 1977. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's Educational Leadership Program and received an Bachelor of Science degree in Educa-

tion at Youngstown State, Youngstown, Ohio in 1974.

Dr. Bresell stated, "Sam Menniti's belief in the importance of the entire school community is remarkable, and we are very fortunate to have this well qualified individual as one of our DoDDS Pacific leaders. He brings to the Korea District the philosophy that schools exist for the students, parents, and communities that they serve. His skill and demonstrated success as a facilitator and team builder comes to us at a critical time as we embark on the challenges of transformation and re-alignment."

Mr. Menniti replaces Charles Toth, who was selected to the position of Assistant Associate Director for Education for DoDEA in Arlington, VA.



*Sam Menniti, New Korea
District Superintendent*



Meet the KDSO Special Education Coordinator

Q & A with Mrs. K.H.

Summarize what you do at the district office and how you are here to support our schools.

As the special education coordinator I work with each school in the Korea District to ensure compliance with special education instruction, provide personnel development, and assist schools in providing a range of special education and related services. Each school has a Child Study Committee that oversees the daily programming for students with Individual Education Programs and those suspected of having a disability. I support the school Child Study Committees and answer questions as they arise. The Korea District has a Special Education Task Force that develops annual plans to improve services for students in the special education programs. In the Korea District there is a continuum of services depending on the needs of the student. With the increased enrollment of students in the Korea District, the Superintendent's Office is addressing the future needs of the district special education programs. It is a pleasure working with parents, students, administrators, and teachers to ensure provision of services to our students.

Another part of my position at the Korea District Office is to coordinate pupil personnel services. This includes working with counselors, nurses, and psychologists. S2S, student transition services, and promoting mental health are programs supported by pupil personnel services.

It must be challenging covering so many different areas. What will be your biggest area of focus over the next few months?

The schools in the Korea District are prepar-

ing for a Department of Defense monitoring of special education and Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) programs. A team will arrive in early December to monitor all of our schools specifically observing school availability of appropriate resources to provide a free appropriate public education to students with special needs, paraprofessional support, and transition of students to preschool and to post-high school employment or schooling. The Korea District Superintendent's Office supported Korea District monitoring. Teams of administrators and special educators visited each school to discover areas of commendation and areas needing improvement. The monitoring teams' findings as well as outcomes from the Special Education Task Force will be the focus over remainder of the 2007-08 school year.



What is the biggest thing schools can do to ensure they are providing students with the services they need?

All schools are responsible for Child Find. Federal law requires that school personnel offer information about special education services. The goal is to identify all students who may have a disability or a learning difference that requires special services. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they suspect that their child might have a problem with learning. The DoDEA schools are responsible for identifying and assessing students from age three to 21. Each school has a Student Support Team (SST) that provides teachers with a plan to assist struggling students. There is always a plan to provide assistance



Q & A with Mrs. K. H. (continued from page 3)

with the least amount of change in the learning environment that allows successful learning. Although each school has an SST process, a parent, teacher, counselor, or other staff member may make a referral directly to the school's Child Study Committee (CSC). The CSC acts on the referral by accepting it or perhaps by requesting the SST to provide interventions and documentation results.

What has been the most rewarding thing about your new position here in Korea?

It has been a pleasure moving into the Korea District Office and having the opportunity to work in the Korea District schools. There is a strong collaborative effort that begins with all of the staff. Special education is not considered a stand alone program but embraced by all educators. The administrators and teachers have worked to ensure that all students receive quality education. The Special Education Task Force and the monitoring of each school's programs have been rewarding experiences as I begin my tenure as special education coordinator in the Korea District. I look forward to continuing to seek improvements in the coordination of the special education and pupil personnel services in the Korea District.



Korea Connection

Samuel Menniti	Superintendent
Peter Grenier	Assistant Superintendent
Tony Harris	Chief of Staff
K. K.	Editor
C. J.	District Consultant

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Check out my EYE!



A fifth grade student at Daegu American School uses one of the school's digital microscopes.



Links of the Month

New DoDDS Korea Webpage



www.korea.pac.dodea.edu

The Korea DSO is proud to announce the launch of its new homepage. We will continue to provide a high quality website that provides a wealth of useful information for professional staff, students, and the community. Please visit the new district [web album](#). Feedback on the new website can be sent to the [Korea Webmaster](#).

Korea Web Album

Take a look at the exciting events going on in the Korea District!

 Far East Tennis	 Far East Cross Country	 Far East Cheerleading
 Football, Kadena vs Seoul	 Red Ribbon Week, OAES	 USFK Awards, 2007
 Football, Daegu vs Seoul		

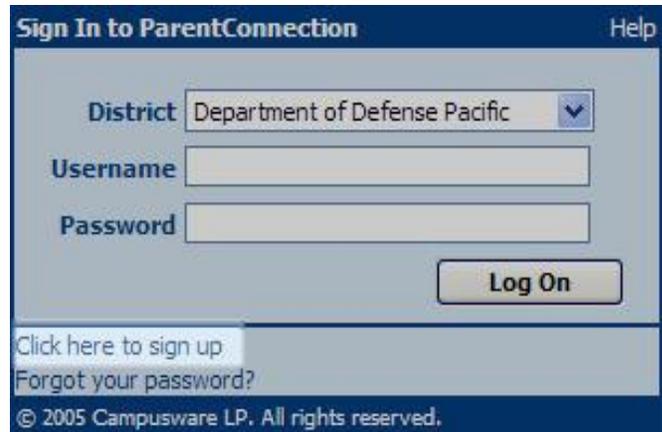
GradeSpeed and Parent Connection

New Pilot Program Giving Parents More Communication with Teachers

ParentConnection allows parents to stay connected with their students' education by allowing them to view academic progress, school events calendars, and providing easy communication channels to teachers via e-mail links.

To sign up go to: dodea.gradespeed.net

- Select the "Pacific District"
- Select "Click here to sign up"



Seoul American High School is proud to announce its new website.



www.seoul-hs.pac.dodea.edu



Seoul American Elementary Teacher/Illustrator Gets Published!

Article submitted by SAES Computer Teacher, B. E.

Seoul American Elementary School, Yongsan Garrison--

Ms. S., an Art Specials teacher at SAES, has had her work published in a new book from ACTA Publications. The book, *Animals of the Bible from A to Z*, is a children's picture book with 26 animals from the Bible – one animal for each letter of the alphabet.

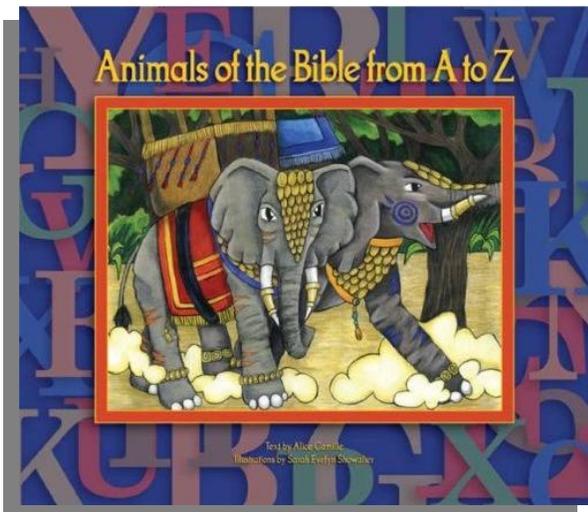
Ms. S. teamed up with author Alice Camille to create and illustrate *Animals of the Bible from A to Z*.

"Before I drew the pictures, Alice Camille would send me brief explanations of the story with citations from the Bible so I could look up the story myself," explained Ms. S.

She looked through books, magazines and even the internet for photographs of the animal she wanted to draw. Then she would draw a sketch, scan it, and e-mail the illustration to the author. Once both agreed on an idea, Ms. S. would redraw the picture on a good piece of paper, ink it with a permanent marker, and color it by hand with colored pencils.

"I did 27 illustrations for the book, one for each letter of the alphabet and a special double-sized picture to go on the end leaf. In all, I spent about 560 hours! I worked on the book between September 2006 and May 2007 working every evening after school," Ms. S. further explained.

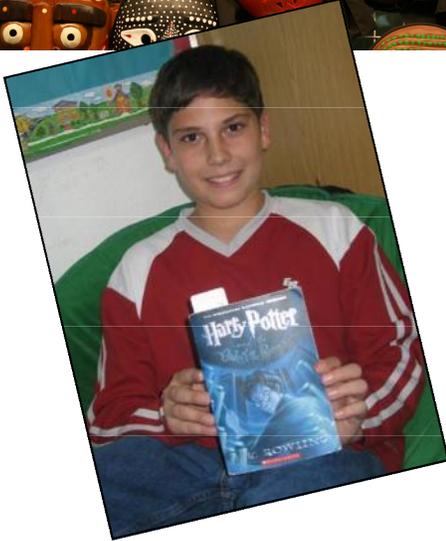
Seoul American Elementary School is very proud of Ms. S. and the work she did on this wonderful children's book!



SAES art teacher S. S. illustrated the book *Animals of the Bible from A to Z*. Ms. S. donated a signed copy to the SAES Information Center.



Warm Up With a Book! *Book Recommendations from*



Student: C. W., 7th Grade

School: SAMS

Book: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, J.K. Rowling

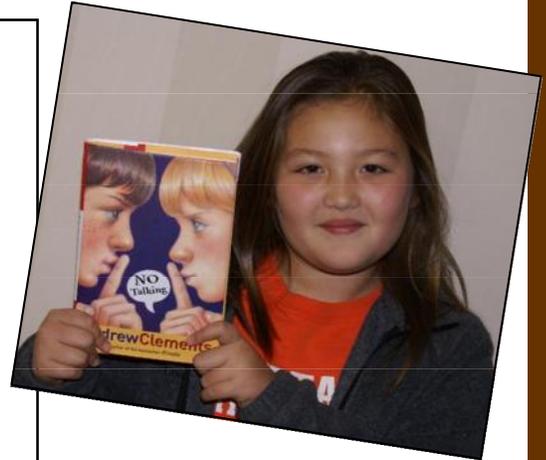
Christopher's Comments: I love reading the Harry Potter books. J.K. Rowling writes the books so well that you feel like you are in them. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes

Student: A. K., 4th Grade

School: SAES

Book: *No Talking!*, Andrew Clements

Alyssa's Comments: Dave is a competitive boy trying to prove to Lindsey that boys are way better than girls. The two main characters create a "no talking" competition between boys and girls. Dave's friends begin to think Dave is out of his mind. To find out more about this hilarious and outrageous book, try reading it!



Far East NCA Cheerleading Camp

Congratulations to the following Korea District students for their accomplishments!

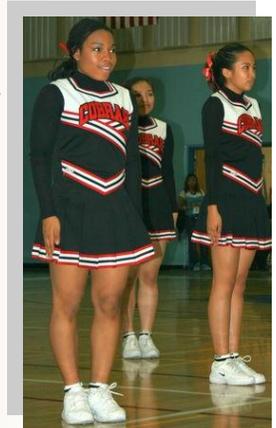
NCA Spirit Award, Daegu American School

Most Improved Team, Osan American High School

NCA Competition Class A, 2nd Place, Daegu American School

All American Team, K. C., Daegu American School

Top Gun Jumper, J. F., Seoul American High School





Humphreys American Elementary School



Family Reading Night

The energetic HAES PTO initiated their new Family Fun Night program with Family Reading Night during the first quarter of the school year. They invited community leaders to come to school and read great stories to families. Students were pleased to have people they recognized from outside the school share their love of reading. The PTO also kept both the Book Fair and the HAES School Library open until 8 p.m. for students and their parents to enjoy together. The Reading Night was one of the many ways the HAES PTO supports and encourages reading at the school. They plan to organize activities at least one night each quarter to provide some extra fun for families and encourage a strong school community. Thanks PTO for everything you do for HAES!

After listening to some stories from the guest readers, M. and R. S. and their parents browsed the library together and checked out some books to take home.



HAES Principal Joan Islas chose a patriotic theme during her read aloud, reading *Where is Home?*, a book about the transient life of Army families and *A Patriotic Primer* written by Lynne Cheney.

USAG Humphreys Fire C. M. encouraged students to participate in a discussion of the Froggy book he read during Family Reading Night.





OSAN Elementary School

Contributions by M. H.

Crazy for Cranberries



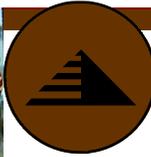
Second graders went “Crazy for Cranberries.” Students and volunteers gathered in the cafeteria to conduct experiments and inquiry on the Thanksgiving traditional fruit. Students weighed, tested, and examined cranberries under microscopes.



Veteran’s Day Celebration at OAES

Veteran’s Day at OAES was a celebration of remembrance for American service people. Mr. C.’s sixth grade class made “Rings of Remembrance” bearing the names of all personnel killed in Iraq and hung them around the room. All classes also gather outside that morning to sing patriotic songs, lead by Mr. C. on his trumpet. Sixth graders wrote and presented a brief history of American wars. Over 100 Osan base personnel attended.





Daegu American School

Contributions by C. V.

7th Graders Explore GPS

With the assistance of soldiers from the 188th MP Company stationed at Camp Walker in Daegu, ROK, seventh graders in World Geography classes learned about “Pluggers”, advanced map reading, and how to put it all on computer. Mr. J. F.’s World Geography class learned how to read and interpret the U.S. Army’s version of the GPS locator. Groups of five or so seventh graders, each group with an MP expert in using the system, went around Camp George with a map and a locator and found grid coordinates and altitudes for at least five different points. While learning how to use the technology, they also learned about “terrain association” map reading (reading a map by comparing it to landmarks on the paper). Once the mapping was completed, the data were brought back to Mr. F.’s room at Daegu American School, where the data were entered into ArcView 3.2a, a program designed for map reading and interpretation. A smaller version of the map was attempted by the students who also learned about data base files and integrating various computer programs and other technologies. SP4 R. B. brought two American and two KATUSA soldiers to teach the students how to use the equipment, and then walked around with the groups to supervise and further explain. The kids got to get out of the classroom on a nice day and learn more about the technology of geography.



Sure Start Students Explore Pumpkins at DAS! Nathaniel Walker, a student, in Ms. B.’s class, measures a pumpkin during this harvest season.



KOREA CONNECTION

Articles & Stories Contributed by
R. H.

Osan American High School

Osan Scientist Examines Acid Rain



A. K., a ninth grade student at Osan American High School, sprays plants with solutions of different molarities of sulfuric acid to simulate acid rain. He works daily with the plants and tests their level of transpiration weekly. Transpiration is a critical process that indicates the health of the plant. A. designed this project and will present it at the Osan Science Symposium on November 27th. He plans to continue his studies on acid rain to investigate ways that the health of the plant can be effected by exposure to different levels of acid rain. AFN is writing a profile story about Alex. The writer/photographer spent the day with A. on Saturday, November 16th.

Osan Students Participate in College Fair



Approximately seventy students from OAHS attended the Linden College Fair in Seoul on October 16, 2007. Fifty-five universities sent representatives to speak with students regarding educational opportunities at their respective colleges.

While most of the participants were juniors and seniors, fifteen students from the middle and high school AVID classes were also in attendance. As part of the curriculum, AVID students begin researching colleges and explore specific requirements for individual universities beginning in the 8th grade. Nine 8th grade and six high school AVID students attended the fair along with their teachers, Ms. T. H. and Mr. B. S.. H. C., an 8th grade student, explained, "I'm really interested in becoming a teacher and there were a lot of universities with education programs."

Attending the college fair is a unique treat that many students in the U.S. take for granted. As Americans living overseas, DoDDS students often do not have the opportunity to visit college campuses before heading off as freshmen. For some, this fair is their only opportunity to see what colleges are out there and at least begin thinking about the college application process.





Second Graders Journey to Korean Folk Village

Seoul American Elementary School second graders visited the Korean Folk Village in Gyeonggi Province on November. The children and their chaperones enjoyed a day of walking in the beautiful Korean fall weather learning about life in old Korea. Among the many sites the children saw were traditional houses as they may have looked during the late Chosun Dynasty. The children had the opportunity to see the lifestyle of Korean people through the exhibition of various household goods. Many of the children commented on the tools they observed being used in the old-fashioned workshops. They watched as the staff worked on various handicrafts including pottery making, as well as working with winnows, round bamboo baskets, bamboo ware, round willow baskets, Korean paper, brassware, knotting and embroidery, paper umbrellas, musical instruments, furniture, farming tools and accessories.

Overall, the students experienced a small taste of the ancient Korean lifestyle. They enjoyed performances of the Farmers' Music and Dance, the Korean seesaw, and tightrope acrobatics.



Was I Supposed to Use a Fork?

SAES student J. R., a student in Mr. P.'s third grade class, enjoys a piece of cake during their Fall Celebration. Many SAES classes celebrated the fall season with harvest festivals, fall festivals and Thanksgiving dinners.



Visit the Seoul American Elementary Internet Site!
Click on the dolphin!

www.seoul-es.pac.dodea.edu



Seoul American Middle School

Contributions by Samia Mounts

SAMS visit to a Korean School

The 5th International Children's Festival took place on November 13 at the Seoul Gaebong Elementary school for a day full of cultural activities and an exchange of ideas between American and Korean students. The students were able to share language skills, exchange of cultural heritage, and develop friendships. This was an excellent exchange program to improve communication and understanding between the students.



National American and Alaskan Native Heritage Month

SAMS students took part in an essay contest in which three of our students placed. It was an honor and exciting to the students. They all went to the ceremony and received their prizes.

- 1st Place winner N. R.
- 2nd Place winner J. H.
- 3rd Place winner S. H.



SAMS students visit the Seoul English Village in Pungnap-dong, Seoul, South Korea.



Seoul American High School

Visit to Seoul Complex by Mrs. G., Wife of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates

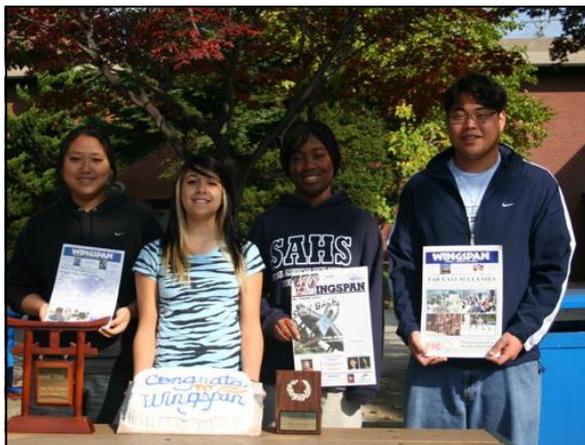
Article Contributed by: Mr. Bernard Hipplewith, Assistant Principal

While Mrs. G. visited Seoul American Elementary and Middle Schools and spent time with their students and faculty, her escorts, D. C. and J. F. insisted that she would be missing out on seeing the “cream of the crop” if she did not squeeze SAHS into her schedule. Mrs. G. was so impressed with the entreaties by D. and J. that she decided on the spot to restructure her itinerary so she could also include a visit to Seoul American High School.

D. felt it important that Mrs. G. visit the JROTC building to see our Cadets in formation. J., who is the senior class president, agreed and with that the tour began.

It included the main building as well as the JROTC. Mrs. Gates enjoyed her visit immensely.

It was a great opportunity for our students to spend time with the wife of a top American official. Mrs. G. was very gracious. She is a great proponent of the president’s “No Child Left Behind” concept and the highest level of achievement for all students. She also spent a considerable amount of time expressing her views on the importance of preparation for college with D. and J.



Pictured here (from left to right) are E. N., V. W., A. N., and S. D.. They are assembled by their two trophies recently won at the Far East journalism conference held in Japan. The SAHS newspaper Wingspan (copies held by the staff members) won two first places in Best of Show: Staffers' Choice (students vote) and Judges' Choice (teachers vote). These four students were members of the 2006-07 staff. The adviser for the newspaper is journalism teacher, Mr. C.



Seoul American High School

Contributions by B. M.

SAHS Students Shine in *GREASE*

The Drama Club at SAHS performed Grease, the Musical, on Nov. 13 at Seoul American High School. The production was based on the Broadway musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, but music from the Grease movie was used as well. The students learned from each other as they took on numerous tasks including student director, stage manager, choreographer, sets manager, lights, sound, blocking, singing, and of course, acting. Although everything was difficult, such as people taking directions and remembering lines, the students were able to perform

for three fantastic nights to cheering audiences.

The show's assistant director was Kendra Witherspoon and the director was Ms. L. C.. Choreographer, M. G., was quoted as saying, "I was very happy about how it turned out. It was a challenge to work with so many different personalities. I really had fun." Techies, R. C. and K. C. said, "The show would be nothing without sound and lights."

Ms. C. was glowing after the show and said, "I'm so proud of our kids. They manage to balance academics and extra curricular activities."



Photo by C. A.



Photo by C. A.



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KOREA DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS

