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Message From the Superintendent

Parents, Commanders, Students and Staff

It is an honor and pleasure to welcome you to DoDDS Korea for school year 2008-2009. Each of our school communities in partnership with the military commands have worked this summer to make sure that our schools are ready for the upcoming school year. As our district continues to grow, our schools will continue to focus on the four “R’s” that have been the mantra of the district since my arrival: relationships, relevance, rigor and results. These four “R’s” provide our focus ensuring we have community partnerships as well as relevant and rigorous curriculum standards to prepare students for the 21st century.

One of my goals this school year is to ensure that each school provides quality educational opportunities for each of our district students. I have asked each of our school principals to create environments that are student focused and community friendly.

I am proud of our schools, our administrators, our teachers and of course our high-achieving students. We couldn’t accomplish any of this without the tremendous support we receive from parents and the community. I look forward to a great first school year as superintendent.

Sam Menniti
DoDDS Korea District Superintendent





A+ Academic Adventurers

Contributions by Dr. Ronnie Lynn Holley

Over 400 students and 30 teachers across the Korea District engaged in a wide range of exciting and fun-filled academic and social activities during the 2008 Summer Enrichment Program. This program emphasizing language arts and math supported and reinforced student learning through extensive high-interest exercises to develop critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities. Curriculum projects and materials for this no cost, half-day program allowed students to experience a variety of theme-related collaborative learning opportunities while practicing what they have learned during the regular school year. The multidisciplinary lessons were designed to go beyond traditional classroom experiences.

Curriculum personalities such as William Shakespeare and friends guided some students through centuries of art, drama, literature, poetry and music. These students were introduced



to the fine arts in a variety of cultures and time periods while challenging students to discover their own special talents. Other students participated in a number of collaborative learning opportunities by discovering the unique contributions of immigrants to American society and various career related topics as part of a focus on the American Dream. In addition, many students participated in extensive learning sessions on developing an awareness of Korean culture and history.

Students were not the only ones having fun! Teachers also found the enrichment curriculum particularly exciting. According to a teacher of third and fourth grade students, B. T., "I was elated that the students had an opportunity to learn, in more detail, about the classical authors and their styles of writing. The series took the students on an adventure from simple folktales to Shakespeare. Our class enjoyed listening and discussing Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Dracula, and Tom Sawyer! The curriculum was filled with wonderful and challenging art activities! Each task encouraged a deeper point of view from the children. For example, the students discovered the beauty and history of tattoos, body painting, and body piercing. They created art objects such as; rain sticks, sun masks, patterns, cutouts, and building houses from another standpoint meaningful to the beliefs from folktales or different periods in time. It was remarkable listening to the students thought processes from conception to solution! Overall, the program was adventuresome for the students and fun for me!"

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KOREA Connection

2008 Summer Enrichment

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From teacher K. M., "The Summer Enrichment Program was a great success. I'd taught the Summer Enrichment Program for many years while stationed in Japan. This summer was simply the best! The teachers all worked together to support our combined goals. They simply made learning fun and exciting for the students. The students did enjoy themselves and showed great regret that today was their final day of summer school. The parents were supportive of the program also. This showed we all had a wonderful teaching and learning about some great composers, writers and entertainers. The art component showed great creativity also."



And from M. B., "This year's program was very successful and fulfilling, for both students and myself as well. Having taught the program last year, this year it was interesting to see the differences and similarities involved. I really enjoy teaching the program because it is well-organized, hands-on and fuels interests that may otherwise be unexplored. I feel that the students gained a great grasp of the fine arts as we listened to magnificent music and great literature by master teachers. I could see the student's excitement every day in their eyes as they asked what we were doing every morning. It was wonderful to see them forge friendships with other kids and learn to work cooperatively, both in a leadership and pathfinder capacity. I am thankful for the opportunity to have taught such a terrific program again this summer. I had only positive comments from parents as well."



The Korea District 2008 Summer Enrichment Program provided teachers with several days of professional development and preparation time for implementation of the curriculum. The curriculum involved extensive materials including trade books, magazines, hands-on-manipulatives, multi-media venues, and high interest art supplies. Language arts objectives included reading comprehension, word decoding, vocabulary development, and literary response. Math objectives included operations, measurement, geometry, and problem solving. Final days of the program culminated with fine arts festivals, student-led social activities and the sharing of work from both proud students and proud teachers for the enjoyment of parents and guests.



Q&A with DoDDS Korea's Teacher of the Year

Rigor • Relevance • Relationships • Results

DoDDS Korea is pleased to announce Mr. C. C. as the 2008-2009 District Teacher of the Year. Mr. C. joined DoDDS in August of 2000 and accepted his first assignment at Seoul American Elementary School where he worked in two separate positions as an Early Childhood Educator from 2000-2004 and as Literacy Facilitator from 2004-2006. In the fall of 2006, he transferred to Daegu American School (DAS) as the school Literacy Facilitator and currently teaches Kindergarten.



Q. Do you consider your job adventurous? If so how or why? **Who wouldn't think that teaching Kindergarten each day wouldn't be adventurous? Each and everyday is a new story, a new discovery, and of course new tears! What other job in the world are you a rock star on a daily basis and all your fans (the students) are cheering you on as you teach reading, writing, and math!**

Q. What is the most adventurous event that has occurred in your teaching career? **One year I had a parent who provided toilet paper for my classroom and asked that I teach her son to use it appropriately! Let's just say, we had a nice long chat about parent responsibility vs. teacher responsibility.**

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Korea's Teacher of the Year

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Rigor • Relevance • Relationships • Results



Q. What is a normal day's routine during the school year? **I wake up at 5:30 a.m. and arrive in school by 7:00a.m. I need my hour before the students arrive to reflect and make sure the day is ready to go! After teaching all day, I hit the gym after school to unwind, and head straight home and make dinner. I am very much into a routine each school year and have a hard time breaking it!**

Q. If you could change one thing in the teaching career or the field of education, what would it be? **I would like to find time to research and explore ways to close the gap between school and home partnerships throughout our system.**

Q. What advice would you give to new teachers? **Don't be afraid of active learning taking place in your classrooms. Give students the opportunity for attendant noise, and movement of students doing, talking, and collaborating.**

Mr. C. will now compete to become the DoDEA Teacher of the Year. He will travel to Washington, D.C. in November to compete with other DoDDS and DDESS winners. During that week, the DoDEA Teacher of the Year will be selected.

Mr. C. would like to wish everyone in the district a great start to a productive and exciting year! He continues with "It is my honor to work along side some of the most outstanding and amazing teachers here in the Korea District. I wish you much luck and success during the 08-09 school year."



Korea Connection

- Sam Menniti Superintendent
- Peter Grenier Assistant Superintendent
- Terry Greene Chief of Staff and Education
- C. J. Editor
- K. K. District Consultant

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New Teacher Orientation

Rigor • Relevance • Relationships • Results

Welcoming teachers into the Korea is something that the DoDDS Superintendent's Office takes great effort each school year. This year, there are over 70 teachers coming into the Korea district. Most of the teachers have transferred here from other Department of Defense schools, and some are entering into Korea and the DoDDS school for the first time. In order to help these teacher have a smooth transition in starting their new lives in Korea and preparing them to meet the needs of the classroom, the Korea Superintendent's Office held a New Teacher Orientation on August 15th.



Prior to the start of the orientation, teachers were arriving into Korea with many tasks ahead of them. After getting over jet lag, getting into a hotel, starting the base inprocessing, beginning to look for a home, and processing personnel paperwork, the Superintendent's wanted these new teachers to take a break from their busy schedules and organized a dinner at Carne Station to introduce some popular Korean cuisine. It was a great opportunity for introductions and socializing among everyone who attended.

During the orientation, teachers were welcomed by LTG J. F., Jr., Chief of Staff USFK/ Commander EUSA, who had great words of appreciation and encouragement to share. Throughout the day there were many speakers on a variety of topics from curriculum standards to anti-terrorism. It is certain that those in attendance left with a wealth of knowledge, but most importantly felt much more comfortable in their transition into DoDDS-Korea.





Meet the DSO Education Team

The Instructional System Specialists (ISS) and the District Superintendent's Office are experts in their field to provide schools with information, staff development and decision making assistance in a variety of area. Below are the areas of responsibilities for each ISS and contact information.



Ms. K. H.

738-6022

Program manager for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, Assistive Technology, Child Find, EDIS – Related Services, EFMP, Read 180-SpEd, Immunizations, Crisis Management, Transition Counselor Institute

Dr. R. S.

738-3616

Program manager for Secondary education, District Science Initiative, Jason Project, Foreign Language Festival, Advanced Placement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Junior Science and Humanities Symposia, National History Day program, U.S. Senate youth program, Constitution Day program, Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope (GAVRT), Advance Placement (AP) coordinator, Professional Technical Studies (PTS), Read 180 Stage B & C, English as a Second Language (ESL) 7-12



Mr. T. T.

738-6697

Program manager for Elementary education, Sure Start program, Pacific Literacy Project, Curriculum Implementation Facilitators (CIF), Read 180 Stage A, English as a Second Language (ESL) K-6, Language Immersion, Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES), Host Nation K-6



Meet the DSO Education Team

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Rigor • Relevance • Relationships • Results

Mr. C. J.
738-4027

Program manager for Educational Technology and Information Specialists, District and School Technology Committees, Distance Learning, Pacific Technology Showcase, Internet Safety programs, Online Testing, Pilot Technology Projects, District and School Intranets, Student Email, Educational Software and Hardware



Vacant Position

738-4027

Program manager for the Student Information Systems, District Webmaster, School Internet Sites, Public Affairs, Korea Connection, Pacifica point of contact



Mr. C. W. and Ms. B. T.

738-3117

Lead teacher for the Korea Math pilot, Grade 2-5 vertical teams, collaborate on Elementary School Math instructional support

Dr. Terry Greene

738-5554

Facilitator of the Education Team for the Korea District Superintendent's Office. The Education Division are here for your support and look forward to working with you in the schools.

