

November 2008



The IUS Newsletter



Email: IncirlikEHS.Principal@eu.dodea.edu

Web Page: www.inci-ehs.eu.dodea.edu

Learning Lights the Way



It's hard to believe that we have already completed one quarter of the school year! As the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun" and we certainly hope that is the case. With the end of this quarter comes our parent/teacher conferences — a critical time when we reach out to connect with you about your student's learning and performance. Please note the dates to the right. If you are a parent of an elementary student you should have already been contacted about a time to meet with your child's teacher on either 5, 6 or 7 November. Parents of middle schoolers and high schoolers can take advantage of walk-in conferences available on 7 November in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR).

As you prepare for these conferences, here are some recommendations from the National Education Association (NEA) and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA):

- ◇ Be sure to talk to your child before the conference to get a sense of his/her concerns or issues
- ◇ Remember this is a time to build the sense of team with your child's teacher(s). It is important to establish how you and the school can work together to help your child.
- ◇ Go for the big picture. Get a sense of your child's strengths and weaknesses — strong subjects and weak subjects. Also inquire about your child's work habits.

These are but a few recommendations. Visit <http://www.nea.org/parents/ptconf.html> for more information.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Raynard Eddings
Principal

Lucille Sutherland
Assistant Principal

School Improvement Update—N.B.

The Incirlik Unit School faculty has spent the months of September and October focusing on our School Improvement Goals. The teachers have been rewriting and collaborating with one another on their classroom strategies in support of our written communication and critical thinking skills goals. We are honing our craft to ensure that our classroom strategies are both research based, progressive across grade and ability level of our students, and collaborative in our support of our fellow teachers.

Nov. 05: half day ES Parent Conferences

Nov. 06: No School ES. Full day Parent Conferences

Nov. 06: College Night, HS Information Center. 1800-1930.

Nov. 07: No School ES/MS/HS Parent Conferences.

Nov. 07: Homecoming Dance, Community

Nov. 10: Winter Sports Practice Begins

Nov. 11: Veteran's Day. No School.

Nov. 13: Fall Sports Banquet, MPR, 1800.

Activity Center, 1900.

Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 02: ES/MS

Honors Choir Base Tree Lighting Ceremony, Chapel, 1800.

Dec. 02: Winter Holiday Concert. Club Complex 1830

Dec. 06: SAT, Tarsus American School.

Dec. 12-13: Ankara @IUS

Dec. 11: Early withdrawal date.

Dec. 13: ACT, IC HS.

We call it SIP

School Improvement Process.....

and everyone is an important part of that process!

How It Began Fall, 2006:

- ◇ We analyzed our school thoroughly.
- ◇ We identified needs for higher achievement and success.
- ◇ We transformed those “needs” into TWO academic “goals.”
- ◇ We documented this process into the “School Profile.”



Defining and Clarifying Winter, 2007:

- ◇ We defined our 2 SIP Goals clearly through our knowledge of our students.
- ◇ Each faculty member identified the DoDEA standards in their curriculum that aligned with the two SIP Goals.
- ◇ This linked classroom instruction to the SIP goals authentically.
- ◇ This focused instructors on how to incorporate teaching the goals into their own classroom.
- ◇ **Winter Research Begins: The main question:**
HOW do I *teach* my students to succeed in these areas?
- ◇ **Teachers, Teams, and Departments research best instructional practices matched to the Essence of the two SIP goals.**
- ◇ **Teachers have the flexibility/creativity to choose based on the following criteria:**
 - New and Rigorous
 - Developmentally Appropriate
 - Curriculum Appropriate
 - Matched to the Essence of the Goal
 - Can be monitored for effectiveness

Measuring Results Spring 2007:

- ◇ Our school identified and selected how to measure the goals – 3 assessments per goal.
- ◇ *All* students are to be measured.
- ◇ Assessments must collect a variety of student performance.

Supports to Assure Success, Spring, 2007:

- ◇ Communication Interventions
How can we expand our efforts to inform the parents and community as to what we are doing for the children?
- ◇ Partnership Interventions
How can we expand our efforts to involve parents and the community in the learning process?
- ◇ Technology Interventions
How can we expand our use of technology into regular instruction to prepare our students for the future?

We call it SIP

School Improvement Process..... Cont.

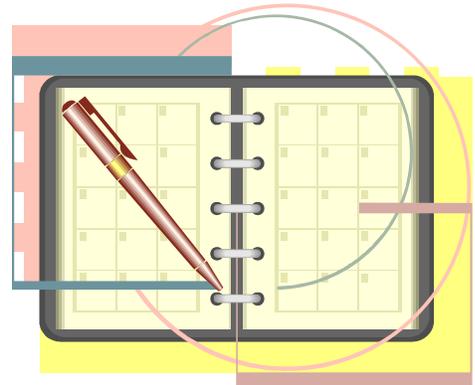
The Best Support of All.....US

- ◇ Training and support of our staff was identified and planned.
- ◇ Time and structures within our school allow us to work and share together.
- ◇ Documentation and monitoring is ongoing and modifiable.

Ready to BEGIN! Fall, 2007

- ◇ Monitoring, Modifying, Documenting

Try it.
Watch it.
Is it working?
How do I know?
Change it...or not.



The 5W+H of School Improvement:

A Review:

What – The Goals
Where- The Standards, The Research
How- The instructional Interventions/Strategies
Who- Communicate to & Involve Everyone
When- Fall –07-----Forward
WHY?

What is happening now with these goals? Please read on.....

School Improvement Process for Continuous School Progress

Goal 1: All students will improve their written communication across the curriculum.

Goal 2: All students will improve their critical thinking skills across the curriculum.

Examples of IUS School Improvement Process in Action

In the classroom

Sure Start Special Edition!—L.S.

Pigs and Pancakes, Parents and Principals!

On Friday 24 October the Incirlik Unit School Sure Start had a pancake day to end our Pigs and Pancakes week. We read “Little Babaji” and six different versions of “The Three Little Pigs.”



Our comparison of the stories showed that the bad guy isn't always the wolf. Our chart of how many pancakes we ate makes it evident that we can't eat nearly as many as Little Babaji. Our winning pancake eater was Justin with TEN pancakes!



To make the day wonderful, we had three parents who came and helped with painting the letter P with pink and purple paint and with making the pancake batter.



What good cooks the parents and children were!



Our surprise helper was Assistant Principal Lucille Sutherland.

When she had to go back to her “real job,” Principal Raynard Eddings took over the griddle with the children. Principals are awesome with a spatula!



Parents: Help your child find and circle the letter “P” on this page! They can circle it with a crayon and bring it in for homework! At school we will see who found the most.

Examples of IUS School Improvement Process in Action

In the classroom

7th grade Language Arts— A.W.

Cereal Box Book Reports



One of the 7th Grade Language Arts Standards is that students should read 25 books or book equivalents, in one year. My 7th graders have a variety of "book projects" they must complete in order to reach that standard. Recently, they had to create a "Cereal Box Book Report." This project entailed: reading a book, covering a cereal box, and writing/designing each side of the box to portray the book.

For example, students had to create a "cereal name" based off the book. They also had to cover one side and list all the "ingredients" such as protagonist, antagonist, setting, conflict, and so forth. They had to write a book summary on the other side of the box. On the back of the box, students had to create a plot line of the story and illustrate a scene from the plotline. They also had to write the RDA (Recommended Daily Allowance). This included: How much humor, drama, etc... the story had.

Last, students had to present their "Cereal Box Book Report" in a commercial form. The goal was to "sell" their cereal and/or book! The students were very creative and our classroom is now full of dynamic new "cereals."

Technology growth

Within the entire facility—P.M.

Ever wonder what kind of technology is available for your child's learning at Incirlik Unit School?

Here are a few facts to consider:

- *10 teachers were accepted into the Technology for Teaching Program and received a laptop, docking station, monitor, wireless keyboard and mouse, SMARTBoard and a projector.
- *A math/science COW (16 laptops), SMARTBoard and projector are available to the high school
- *A COW is available to be used throughout the high school with 12 laptops
- *Computer lab in the HS Information Center
- *4-6 computers in every classroom
- *2 COWS are available in the middle school
- *MS computer lab
- *3-4 computers in every MS classroom
- *3 COWS are available in the elementary school
- *ES Computer lab
- *Many computers in the ES Information center
- *Each ES classroom houses 3-5 computers
- *In addition to computers we have.... Cameras, video cameras, digital senders, scanners, and projection systems available in a number of locations throughout both the EMS and HS buildings.



Examples of IUS School Improvement Process in Action

Technology growth—cont.

Within the entire facility—P.M.

- *Most ES computers have programs such as Kidspiration, Twist, Pixie, ImageBlender, and Student Writing Center.
- *Most HS computers have programs such as Inspiration, ImageBlender, WebBlender, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Microsoft Office and DreamWeaver.
- *Every student K-12 can request an email account with DoDDSE.net that allows access both in and outside of the school. This site also allows students a “digital locker” where files can be stored for working with files in both locations.

Latest News:

*The Tech Committee prioritized items and was able to use UFR monies to order:

- *two more SMARTboards
- *a new color printer
- *more cameras for general school use

*The DSO also was able to procure:

- *3 new desktops for the PTS program
- *6 new desktops for the Distance Learning program
- *3 new SMARTBoard and projection systems



*Every student in 6-12 has a student account for GradeSpeed, and

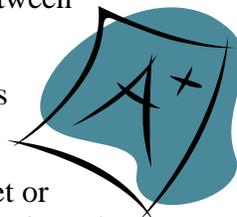
*Every parent in grades 4-12 can request a GradeSpeed account.

GradeSpeed

DoDEA is implementing GradeSpeed for the 2008-2009 School Year, in its 4th - 12th grade classrooms worldwide. GradeSpeed will make communication between parents, students and teachers easier, more effective and more timely.

Through this web-based program, parents and students and attendance data. The teacher will also be able to

Parents can request an account at dodea.gradespeed.net or contact the school for more information. Students have all been provided with a student login and password for their student accounts.



Continuous improvement toward academic success for all students is DoDEA's mission. When parents have timely information about student progress, and are involved routinely in the education process, the entire learning environment is improved. GradeSpeed enhances that all-important connection between home and school.

School and Home Connections

From the ES Counselor's Corner—L.D.

In guidance lessons we have been discussing student success. At various grade levels we have covered everything from teamwork to time management. The most important factors that contribute to student success are value driven. As parents we must believe that school is the single most important job our child will do and they must believe they are capable of attaining success. Setting up a study program can help.

Here are some tips for setting up a study program that works.

- ◇ All children in the family must participate in the program since quiet time must be observed (smaller children can read other developmentally appropriate educational activities).
- ◇ A parent must be available to supervise and assist. Of course the younger the child the more assistance that is needed, but a parent should never be doing the homework. If you find yourself in this position contact your child's teacher for some advice (The homework may be too difficult or your child may be manipulating you. The teacher can help you decide what is the cause and can make suggestions such as how to modify the homework or what to say to encourage your child to do the work on her own).
- ◇ The study location should be a set place (not the children's bedrooms, but a public area where the parent can supervise easily).
- ◇ Study time should be as regular as possible, BUT not having the same time available each day should not be an excuse to give up. Look at the week in advance and plan ahead (maybe Monday the time is 1700-1745 and Tuesday it is 1800-1845).
- ◇ There should also be a minimal amount of time students are required to study daily. This will be based on your child's grade level and abilities. The teacher should be able to provide you with the amount of time he expects homework will take. In general time should be about 15 minutes daily for Kindergarten and First grade and go up 5 minutes per year until High School. If your 1st grader is spending 45 minutes daily, that's too much. If your children's ages vary, you can start them all together and then release the younger ones to do a quiet activity (try making a list or having the materials readily available) until the older siblings have completed their work.



Like anything new, implementing a study program may seem difficult at first, but the rewards are almost immediate (in terms of grades and student success). Less time is required than you might at first think. Don't give up if it doesn't work at first. If you think your family may be particularly obstinate about starting a program, try building in some small rewards (for example, Friday family bowling night if the family follows the program for a whole week without complaint.)

For additional advice and our resources for setting up a program please contact Ms. D

School and Home Connections

What is SAC?



Every school in the Department of Defense, has a School Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC consists of teachers, administrators, parents, students and military liaisons from the community.

The advisory committees areas of responsibility include all matters within the jurisdiction of the principal and/or DoDDS including: policies affecting students and parents, administrative procedures affecting students, instructional programs, educational resources, allocation of resources to achieve educational goals, pupil services, students standards of conduct and discipline, and school transportation (DETMO). If you have a question, comments, or concerns in one of these areas we would love to hear them.

However, some issues that are not addressed by the committee are: personnel practices or policies, compensations, or grievances of school employees. The SAC is not the place to complain or praise the teachers. Also, the advisory committee does not have any authority to: raise money, grant student scholarships, financially support school events, or engage in any monetary projects traditionally associated with PTSA's, Boosters, or any other support groups. For further information about the SAC please call the school at 676-6330. SAC will be meeting Thursday, December 18 at 1500 in the High School Information Center. Everyone is welcome.

SAC now has a link that you may access, should you want to include an item on the agenda. Please remember the parameters in which SAC operates as you submit your concerns.

SACIncirlikSchool@yahoo.com

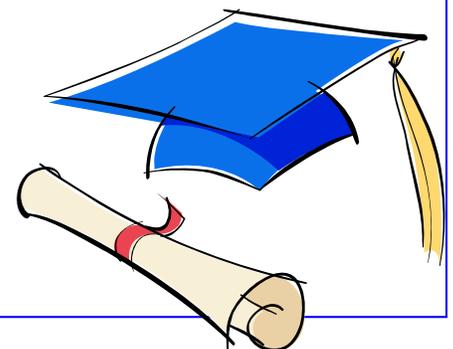
529 Grandparents Strategy—Saving for College



Many grandparents give cash, mutual funds, U.S. Savings Bonds, etc., to their grandchildren. However, such gifts might hurt the children's chances for federal aid when they go to college. Children are expected to spend a large portion of their own money for college, so they'll be awarded less financial aid if they have substantial assets.

Instead of making such gifts, funding 529 college savings plans might be a better idea. Grandparent-owned 529 plans don't show up when students apply for financial aid on the standard federal form. The value of 529 plans owned by a grandparent is not counted as an asset; any money withdrawn from the 529 plan to pay for college is not counted as income.

Just because a grandparent owns a 529 account that does not mean that only the grandparent can contribute. The student's parents also can help fund the account. If parents and grandparents get along, having the grandparent own the 529 account to which several people contribute may be a savvy way to maximize federal aid.





College Night

Thursday, November 6, 2008

18:00-19:30

IUS Information Center

You're invited! Come to our annual College Night and learn about college opportunities, scholarship information, military opportunities, financial aid, useful websites, and speak with local spokespersons for several colleges and universities.



Take advantage of this opportunity!!

**All interested students, parents, sponsors, and community members
are welcome to attend**

For more information contact:

D.C. , Incirlik Unit School Guidance Counselor

676-6484/6330

School and Home Connections

Financial Aid

www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov

federal student aid information
complete on-line

FAFSA free help

www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa

free help to complete FAFSA

Collegeboard

www.collegeboard.com

variety of college information
SAT / MyRoad

SAT

www.collegeboard.com/splash

register for the SAT

ACT

www.actstudent.org

register for the ACT

Career Planning

www.myroad.com

college search/costs/admissions info/career exploration/ and much more



Military Recruiters

US Air Force

Road314@rs.af.mil

MSgt Brandy Martinoli

brandy.martinoli@aviano.af.mil



US Navy

SrChief Gilfoy

10234300@cnrc.navy.mil

www.navy.com

Incirlik Air Base Colleges

**University of Maryland
University College**
www.ed.umuc.edu

Lea Tims
Ltims1@eu.umuc.edu
676-6367

**Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University**
www.embryriddle.edu
Coretta Streat
Incirlik.center@erau.edu
676-1098

**Central Texas College Europe
Veronica Fortenberry**
Incirlik@europe.ctcd.edu
676-8399

Community College of the Air Force
www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/
William Schueller
william.schueller@incirlik.af.mil



US Army
SFC Michael Stacey
Michael.Stacey@usarec.army.mil
www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/recruiting



US Marine Corps
www.marines.com



US Coast Guard
www.gocoastguard.com



School and Home Connections

Meet Your School Liaison Officer (SL)

Last month we published an article entitled “Meet Your SLO” and some of you were introduced to Mr Reddick. This month we want to look a little closer at what his duties entail. First of all, he is no longer called SLO (pronounced slow). It has been decided the acronym does not do his profession justice since he and the community of School Liaison are anything but SLOW. They are now simply called School Liaison and is abbreviated SL.

IAW USAFEI 10-201, the SL has five core duties. Below is an abbreviated description of each:

1. Communication.

- *Advises installation commander concerning matters affecting student education and school operations.
- *Serves as liaison between organizations (private and official), providing assistance and services to students, school personnel, and community, and fostering partnerships between these groups.
- *Coordinates installation publicity for schools such as student registration, extra-curricular events and announcements of school closures due to inclement weather.
- *Interfaces with schools to provide timely information to the commander on sensitive issues (student and staff discipline cases, equal employment opportunity (EEO) complaints, child abuse allegations, etc).
- *Assists in establishing and coordinating the DoDDS-E school bus transportation commuting areas.
- *Serves as the liaison between schools/commanders regarding repeated offenses of the absentee policy.

2. Logistics. The SL is essential in coordinating a variety of logistical services provided to DoDDS-E. Many of these services are detailed in the Base Support Agreement.

- *Assists commander in analyzing logistical problems and recommends priorities & means for resolution.
- *Coordinates and secures cooperation from Engineers, Contracting, DoDDS-E Logistics Division, Transportation Branch, Supply, Comptroller, and others.
- *Assists the installation commander in meeting responsibilities to ensure adequate equipment to conduct the student meal program is installed or repaired.
- *Monitors repair, maintenance, and construction of DoDDS-E facilities.
- *Tracks use of school facilities, using USAFE Form 401, *Request For Use of School Facilities*.

3. Advisory Panels.

- *Attends SAC, SAB, and IAC meetings as non-voting liaison.
- *Publishes, on an as needed basis, the times and locations of local SAC, SAB, and IAC meetings.
- *Ensures minutes of each SAC meeting is promptly forwarded to HQ USAFE/A1SAS within 30 days.
- *Pre-briefs commander for attendance at Component Commanders Advisory Council meetings and provides back-briefs on actions taken by the European Schools Council and Dependents Education Council.

4. Discipline. The installation commander may issue and enforce school discipline policies to supplement existing DoDDS-E or service directives. The SL has a role in all school discipline matters.

- *Assists schools in resolving student discipline issues.
- *Coordinates with family member misconduct board chairperson.
- *Acts as permanent member of the school disciplinary committee.
- *Supports DoDDS-E School Bus Office in enforcement of school bus discipline.

5. Student Meals. The student meal program is an important quality of life issue for students and their families. Responsibility for programs varies between installations and commands. In many communities, the SL oversees this program.

- *Publicizes availability of free or reduced-price meals.
- *Evaluates applications.
- *Certifies eligibility.
- *Provides the coupon-issuing agent a means of identifying those eligible.



School and Home Connections

Updates and Reminders From Your School Liaison

Free and Reduced Lunch Program Reminder: When you signed the form you consented to providing this office with updates that could change your eligibility (i.e. spouse obtains employment, spouse loses employment, new dependent added to the family, dependent(s) return(s) to the states for school, etc). It is your responsibility to report such changes. The regulation also states the information provided on the application can be verified/challenged at any time during the school year and also that an application can be submitted (or re-submitted) any time during the year.

School Bus Transportation: 39WG/CV signed a letter requiring all parents with dependents riding the school buses to serve as school bus monitors. This letter was distributed to those parents along with all squadron commanders and first sergeants. If you are unable to perform the detail, please comply with paragraph 3.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Call if you have questions and or concerns.



CAFETERIA UPDATE: At the end of last school year, we applied for and received 30K in QoL funds from USAFE for the expressed purpose of upgrading equipment in the cafeteria. We were able to order a new commercial dish washer, ice maker, one each hot and cold serving unit, and two stainless steel tables. All equipment has been received and installed without interrupting the serving of meals. There are a few more items on the list to potentially upgrade when more money is made available. Some of you may not be aware but AAFES is responsible for providing the meals for our student population but the Support Group Commander is responsible for the equipment that AAFES employees use. It is a good relationship and we work well together. If there is ever a question concerning the cafeteria, I promise to either answer or point you to the person/agency that can provide an answer. Call me at 676-3750/3043 if you have questions.

Parent and Community Volunteers Help

Our School Improvement Process Come to Life



A heartfelt thank you goes to all the parent and community volunteers who offer their valuable time and experience to our Unit School. The School Improvement Process is active and alive as our parents and community volunteers help as tutors in the after school programs, dance decorators, carnival stall operators at our Halloween Carnival, and grade level volunteers donating time as chaperones, speakers and hall decorators.

If only our walls could talk. So many volunteers help our school to speak for itself. As our School Improvement Process goals are developed in the classroom, volunteers are there to assist in displaying all of the fine writing and graphic organizer projects that our students have created with pride. Would you like to volunteer? Simply call our school office at 676-6449 or contact your child's grade level teacher, so you can help our school connection happen!

School Club and Extracurricular News

2008-09 Art Club to Begin

Incirlik Unit School is happy to announce that Ms. E. will be sponsoring an Art Club for interested art students in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades this year. Art Club will meet each Thursday beginning on November 13, 2008, with fifth/sixth graders and seventh/eighth graders meeting on alternate Thursdays. Art club students will meet from 2:20 to 4:00. Students will be allowed to bring a healthy snack.

The focus of Art Club will be to provide extra opportunities for students to:

- ◇ Further develop knowledge and skills in visual arts
- ◇ Explore specific individual interests in the visual arts
- ◇ Work cooperatively with peers to produce a work of art



Art club students will be expected to be productively engaged in creating artworks, and will be responsible for clean up when they are finished for the day. We will add a "service" element to art club this year, by making cards for soldiers, and will be involved in other services that can be provided at school. Art club students will display their works at an end-of-the-year art show.

The number of students in art club from each grade will be limited to five. Interested students should see Ms. E. for an application. Art club members will be selected based on teacher recommendation and timeliness in returning the applications. We're hoping to beautify our community with our visual works!



Robotics Club Starts the Month of November!

What does Robotics Club mean to you and your child? Happy faces and creative minds! This is the energy pulsing from our Robotics' sessions.

When: Every Second and Third Saturday of the month:

1000-1200: High School/ 1300-1500: Middle School/ 1500-1700: 3rd, 4th and 5th grade.

Where: High School building, Rm 128, second floor

Why: Because it's fun! It's exciting! It's the FUTURE!

How: Just show up! Drop off your child or come and participate!

Who: POC L. R. at 676-6330



From the Athletic Director's Corner—J.D.



We have just wrapped-up a successful Fall Season with our Tennis and Volleyball teams having recently completed their tournament trips to Germany and Italy. Our coaches, players, and parent supporters put a lot of effort into this past season, and should be congratulated for doing a great job in representing our school!



Next up is our Winter Sports Season, which begins the first practices on Monday, 10 November. Students and parents alike are reminded that before a student athletes may begin practice, they must have a valid physical form on file for this school year and good at least through the season of participation. Our first competitions in Wrestling, Basketball, and Cheerleading will be the weekend of 12-13 December, so mark your calendars and start planning ahead. Remember, "it's participation that is important.....be more than just a spectator!"





School and Home Connections

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

1 December 2008

For the 8th year in a row The Incirlik K-5 Chorus has been invited to perform at The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in The Base Chapel Parking Lot. Come out and get in holiday spirit as all K-5 Music students perform your holiday favorites.

1800 – Master of Ceremony (AFN Personnel)

1805 – Festivities begin with invocation from Pastor Harvey

1809 – MC introduces the Elementary Choir

1810 – Elementary School Choir Performance (3 songs)

1825- MC introduces the 39ABW/CC and other distinguished guests

1825 -1835 Base Commander Holiday Remarks

1835 – Base Commander announce the Winners of the Holiday Card Lane Contest and present prizes

1845 – 39ABW/CC invites everyone to move around to the front of the Chapel for countdown of tree lighting

1846 – Countdown is complete and the tree is lit

1847 – The song “Here Comes Santa Claus” is played

1847 – Santa arrives via Fire Truck, waves to kids and the MC make the Announcement that Santa will be in the Parking lot for pictures and Christmas wish lists

1855 – Festivities continue with children’s visiting with Santa and hot chocolate, Coffee and Cookies being served





**Christmas Concert
High School / Middle School
Music Department**

When: December 2nd, 2008

Where: Club Complex

Time: 6:30pm (that's 18:30 for anyone who might be military)

Performing groups:

Beginning Band

Advanced Band / Intermediate Band

Show Choir

Come and sing along to "the good old tunes of the holiday season"

**"More Slippers for Christmas.....Sleigh Bells.....Little Drummer
Boy.....The Hanukkah Song.....**

**.....Santa Rocks the House.....The Night Before Christ-
mas.....Carol of the Bells....."**

