



News from
Your Fort Jackson Schools
December 19, 2008



Please visit our school websites at <http://www.am.dodea.edu/jackson/Ficp/index.htm> (Pinckney) or <http://www.am.dodea.edu/jackson/Fjpt/index.htm> (Pierce Terrace).

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

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|-------------------------|--|
| December 22 – January 2 | WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL |
| January 5 | Students/Staff Return to School |
| January 15 | End of 2 nd Quarter |
| January 16 | Early Dismissal – 11:30am – Lunch will be served before dismissal. |
| January 19 | Federal Holiday – Dr. Martin Luther King Day |
| January 21 | Report Cards Issued |



Family Action Plan Conference

The Fort Jackson Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference will be 14 January 2009. This annual conference provides the community members a forum to discuss issues that affect their quality of life with senior leadership. We are soliciting issues from the community in the following constituent groups: Soldiers (AC, USAR, ARNG, WTU and Single Soldier), Family Members, Retirees, Veterans (not retired) and DOD Civilians. This is an excellent opportunity to have your voices heard by the Fort Jackson leadership.

For your convenience, issues may be submitted through the below link. Forms may be dropped off at the ACS Office, Bldg. 5450, Room 120. Also, if you are interested in volunteering for the AFAP Conference, please call the Army Family Team Building at 751-6315.

<http://www.jackson.army.mil/WellBeing/Survey.htm>

Students at Pinckney Elementary Take Home 1st and 2nd Place in Farm City Contest

Congratulations to the students in the following classes for their recognition in the Farm-City contest sponsored by the Richland Conservation District.

Bulletin Board Winners

- 1st Place Third Grade Mrs. Br's Class
- 1st Place Fourth Grade The Classes of Mrs. F, Mrs. H, and Ms. O'B
- 2nd Place Fifth Grade Mrs. W's Class

Essay Winner

- 1st Place – Fifth Grade
- Joseph S



This year's theme varied according to the grade level. Our third graders studied the **interdependence** between farms and cities. The fourth graders focused on how **weather instruments** help farmers in planting their crops while the fifth graders researched **ecosystems**. We are very proud of all of their hard work!

DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) will administer its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) from November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA from its most important customers – students and parents - about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

The 2008 DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey represents a departure from tradition in that the survey will be administered to students in grades 4-12 and sponsors for each child enrolled in DoD schools from Pre-kindergarten/SureStart through 12th grade. As with prior Customer Satisfaction Surveys, participation remains voluntary and maximum participation is encouraged in order to obtain reliable and valid data.

Historically, teachers, educational support staff, students in grades 4-12, and sponsors for each child enrolled in DoD schools from Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade were asked to complete the CSS. This year, parents and students will participate in the CSS while DoDEA Administrators, teachers, educational support staff will participate in a separate survey, the DoDEA Employee Satisfaction Survey, to be administered during March 2009. As with the CSS, participation in the DoDEA Employee Satisfaction Survey is voluntary and maximum participation is encouraged in order to obtain reliable and valid data.

The surveys were developed through a review process of various groups, , Area offices, superintendents, principals, Education Directorate staff members at the DoDEA headquarters, and external sources such as DMDC. Some questions were adapted from the *Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Schools* with additional DoDEA-specific questions. The 2008 CSS contains more parent/student specific questions, particularly with regard to guidance and counseling.

The surveys take approximately 20 minutes to complete and are available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link). Parents who do not have access to the Internet should contact their child's school to determine other alternatives – such as using the school's computers.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DoDEA. Schools, districts, and areas will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students, which is one of many measures used for future planning of programs and services DoDEA offers. The survey results will also be used to monitor the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan (CSP), which contains the strategic direction for DoDEA for the years 2006-2011.

For more information on the CSS, please call our school office at **782-1772 (Pierce Terrace)** or **787-6815 (Pinckney)** or visit the DoDEA website at <http://www.dodea.edu/>.



Arbor Day – Fort Jackson Style

Thanks for Mr. O of the Fort Jackson Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, the students at Pinckney Elementary were treated to a wonderful presentation by national tree expert, Mr. W. Mr. W shared very entertaining information about the importance of trees and conservation. At the conclusion of the program, the students and members of the Forestry Commission planted a tree on the back playground. This tree will grow very tall. Students at both Pinckney and Pierce Terrace Elementary were also presented with their own little tree to take home and plant. This program would not have been possible without the support of Mr. O and the Richland Conservation District.



Many thanks to our own Braxton, 6th Grader, for serving in the role of Professor Arbor E. Tum.