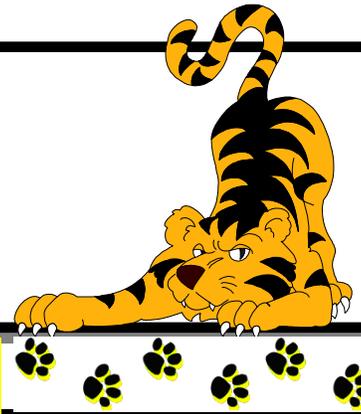


# CHALKDUST

Striving to Learn, Learning to Care...with P.R.I.D.E.!

Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, Excellence



## PTSA CORNER

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Santa's Workshop on December 15-17th from 8-3:30 pm. We have many wonderful items this year, and no gift is over \$10.00! The first two days students are limited to two items each. On the third day, it will be open to all NEW OR REPEAT customers! Bring Grandma, the family, or any visiting relatives and friends!

We will wrap for free and have fun helping the students pick cool "local" things for family and friends. Remember, this is a service to the students, no profit is made from this! If you would like to volunteer to help out, please call the school.

PTSA has many books left over from the book fair and will be selling these at the Holiday Christmas Program on December 18th. Be on the lookout for membership cards and t shirt designs next year! Happy Holidays from PTSA!



## LOST AND FOUND



If your child has lost any items at school, please check out the lost and found in the back of the gym. There are winter jackets, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, and many other wonderful items. Items that are not claimed by December 19th will be donated to a local orphanage.



## WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Come and celebrate the holidays at our Holiday Christmas Concert on December 18th @ 5:00 pm. Each grade level will be performing. After the concert, stay and enjoy some Christmas cookies. If you would like to donate a plate of cookies, please drop them off at the office on December 18th or call the school at 09841-834731.



## WINTERBALL

Student Council is hosting a Winterball on Saturday, December 13th from 6:00-8:00pm in the gym. This is for 4-6th grade and cost \$2.50 plus a bag of chips or a finger food. So put on your favorite dress or suit and come and enjoy the games, dancing, talent show, and snacks.

December 11, 2008  
Issue 7



### *Future Events*

**13 December**  
Winterball  
6:00 - 8:00 pm



**15 - 17 December**  
PTSA Santa's  
Workshop



**18 December**  
Winter Holiday Program  
@ 5:00 pm



**20 Dec - 4 January**  
Christmas Holiday -  
No School



**13 January**  
PTSA Meeting @  
2:30 pm



**19 January**  
Martin Luther King's  
Birthday - No School



Illesheim Elementary School  
DSN 4674-731 or 631  
CIV 09841-834631

Mr. Mike Thompson  
Bavaria Superintendent  
DSN 468-7430

# Illesheim Techie Tigers Using Technology



## Photo Story 3:

Photo Story 3 allows one to bring life to photos with the use of motion, transitions, effects, narration and music. The finished product allows all of these features to be combined and created into a video file, that can be shared with others.

A variety of students and teachers have been learning about the Photo Story 3 features. Recently, our Techie Tiger teachers participated in an after-school in-service on Photo Story 3. They created their own mini photo



video which included adding an effect to a photo, customizing motion to emphasize part of the photo, transitions, recording narration, and using the Photo Story 3 music library to create their own music. The teachers did a great job! Here are some of their comments.

“The ease of use allows a novice computer user to create a high quality multimedia presentation. I think it allows kids to share their visual work from Pixie, Inspiration, and ImageBlender with a variety of audiences”



Screenshot of a customized music selection.



“My students will be using this program to paraphrase their literature in video form.”

“As administrator, I plan to create video clips for children on the Intranet. They will include videos on acceptable student behavior and activities taking place at the school.”

Some student-created Photo Story 3 projects currently in production include:

- photo explanation with text and music of the Triangle Factory Fire of 1911 discussed in the book We Shall Not Be Moved
- visual and audio guide of a make-believe zoo that includes a menagerie of real and fictional animals. The students had to decide the proper placement of animals taking into consideration the diet, habitat, and their necessities for a healthy life-style, habits



For more information and the link for a free download of the Photo Story 3 software ,



The photo was enhanced by one of the teachers, using the Colored Pencil effect the photos.

please visit <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx> .

## 6 + 1 Traits of Writing

A second grade class used their 6 +1 traits of writing to share their experiences they had with German guest at Thanksgiving. The students are learning the trait of organization using 4 blocks.

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November 25,2008  
Our German Friends

First we went to get our German guests. Then we sang “Everybody’s Welcome”. After that we walked back school.

Second we took them to the music room. We performed The First Thanksgiving. I was very nervous to perform the play. Then the German guests gave us gifts. I got chocolate cookies. We ate lunch together. We played games together and we made turkeys. Last was the sad part. We had to say good bye, but I hope I see them again. The best part was when we ate lunch.



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November 25, 2008  
The Day With The German Friends

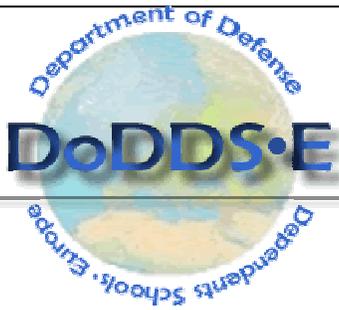
To start with, we got ready to go to pick our German friends up. We got our jackets on and went to the gate. Then we sang “Everybody’s Welcome” to our German guests. Then we went back to school.

Next, they hung up their jackets and we showed them where our seats were. Then my partners gave me some chocolate and some tissues.

Also, we did a play called The First Thanksgiving. Then we sang three songs. Then we went back to the classroom and made some turkeys out of our hands and feet.

Finally, we had lunch. The lunch was good. Then we played a board game with my partners. The best part was the play because the play was the best part of the day.





*Math Matters!*

Nutrition is crucial to children's health and is worth keeping in mind as we approach the holiday season and find ourselves tempted to indulge. Breakfast gets children to lunch, lunch gets them home, and dinner nourishes them overnight. Having a good dinner in the evening just isn't enough; children need to make wise food choices throughout the day, but how do we get them to eat right?

It is important to practice what you preach when it comes to nutrition. You are your children's first and most important teacher, even if your children, particularly your preteens and teens, don't always see it that way. If you start your day with a large coffee and bagel in the car, your children may believe that caffeine and sugar are clever breakfast choices and that eating on the go is normal. Here are some ways to be mindful of what you eat as a family:

Shop for groceries together. Read food labels for nutritional content, and choose foods that are low in sugar and fat.

Discuss the school lunch menu with your child in advance to help him or her make wise food choices. If your child takes a lunch from home, have him or her help pack a healthy one.

Encourage your children to cook with you, and allow them to help plan the week's meals. Slowly introduce some new wholesome foods.

Dine together as a family as often as possible. Although you may spend many hours in the car attending multiple activities, the car is not the dinner table. Try to refrain from eating there as it encourages eating fast food on the run. Dining together not only encourages healthy eating habits, it helps the family to bond.

Stock your home with low-sugar foods and rid the pantry of refined sugar, i.e., processed white sugar found, for example, in many boxed snacks and cereals.

Avoid fast-food restaurants by planning your meals and snacks before leaving home. Be prepared for meal-time changes and food substitutions if necessary.

Food should not be given as a reward.

You know your child better than anyone and can provide food choices that are healthy and tasty. These examples can help guide you and your family toward healthier food choices. As a result, you and your family will achieve a dietary balance that will reward all of you in many ways throughout life.



DIANA J. OHMAN  
Director, DoDDS-Europe

# ParentConnection

Dear Parents/Sponsors of Illesheim Elementary:

For the 2008-09 school year, DoDDS-Europe is implementing a new online gradebook application for teachers called *GradeSpeed*. This electronic gradebook and its accompanying *ParentConnection* web-based portal have many special features valuable to both parents and teachers. The feature you may find most interesting is the ability to view your student's grades and assignments over the Internet. Whether you are at home or away, as long as you have internet access you can login to the *ParentConnection*. Also of interest is the ability to communicate directly with teachers through electronic notes that transfer between the *ParentConnection* and the teacher's *GradeSpeed* gradebook.

As we implement this program, please keep in mind the following information:

You must register over the internet at [dodea.gradespeed.net](http://dodea.gradespeed.net) to gain access to the *ParentConnection*.

Once the webpage opens, click on "Parent" in the first box. In the next box there is a "Click here to sign up" in the lower left corner. Follow the instructions for sign up completely to the end, filling in ALL boxes not just the required boxes. Use the information that you provided when registering your student at the school as this is needed in order to verify and approve the account. Your registration will then be reviewed at the building level to ensure that you are on the student's records.

Once your registration is approved you can login to the *ParentConnection* and begin to view grade and assignment information.

Questions concerning what is viewable on the *ParentConnection* should be directed to the teachers as the data they enter may vary teacher to teacher. At a minimum, an overall average will be available from each teacher after the student has been in the class for at least two weeks.

Be aware that the expectation at the building level for updating grades and assignments in the gradebook is not daily or hourly. We feel the teachers' non-teaching time is best spent planning, preparing, and assessing instruction rather than concentrating on entering grades. Each teacher's timeline for grade entry will vary so you may want to check with the teacher to get an idea of how often you can expect grades to be updated.

Should students who are participating in extra-curricular activities fail to achieve grades to maintain eligibility; the grades will be posted to the *ParentConnection* by teachers.

Parents and sponsors should limit electronic communication through the *ParentConnection* 'Notes to Teacher' feature to only essential and reasonable communications. Please utilize the notes for appropriate written communication and avoid excessive use of the feature.

We hope this new feature will be a great benefit to you and your students and will assist us in our efforts to promote school to home partnerships and communication.

ParentConnection is a program that allows parents/guardians to view their child's online grades, assignments, and attendance. ParentConnection is geared toward students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> and up.

Attached is a small guide to assist you with creating a parent account. If you would like more detailed instructions, please notify your child's teacher or e-mail Melissa Richardson at [melissa.richardson@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:melissa.richardson@eu.dodea.edu). A guide will be sent home. Once you create an account, the account will go into the pending queue until the account information is verified. Once your account is approved, you can log in at anytime using the following web address: <http://dodea.gradespeed.net>.

**Note:** Accounts created for students in Sure Start to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be denied at this time, since ParentConnection is used by grades 4<sup>th</sup> and up. However, if you would like to be able to see your child's attendance information, please e-mail Melissa Richardson. A new policy will go in effect that deletes accounts not accessed after so many days. Right now it looks like 90 days is the cut off. If you had an account last year, it is still active at this time. If you have forgotten your password, please e-mail [melissa.richardson@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:melissa.richardson@eu.dodea.edu). Your password can be reset.