DoDDS survey provides valuable feedback for planning, education

Participation needed by parents, students, teachers for Yokosuka

By Department of Defense Education Activity

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is administering its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) through Feb. 28. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA from its most important customers – parents and students – about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

All sponsors with students enrolled in DoD schools from pre-kindergarten or Sure Start through grade 12 may participate by completing a survey for each school in which they have a child enrolled. Students in grades 4-12 may participate by completing separate surveys for students in grades 4-5, and students in grades 6-12.

The 2008 DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey represents a departure from tradition. 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 and educational support staff will participate in a separate survey, the DoDEA Employee Satisfaction Survey, to be administered in March. 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.

Seventh-grader Christopher Maldonado takes the Survey at Yokosuka Middle School. DODEA is soliciting feedback from parents, students and teachers through Feb. 28 so that they can evaluate the performance of DoDD schools.
Photo by Dale N. Duncan Jr.

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

Sponsors are asked to complete a survey for each child enrolled in a DoD school. 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.

This is the final week of the DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) which closes Feb. 28. The current participation percentage rate for Yokosuka schools is: The Sullivans School at 27 percent; Yokosuka Middle School at 18; Kinnick High School at 14; Byrd Elementary School at 48 and Ikego Elementary School at 72.

Please taking a few minutes to give your child's school valuable feedback. Contact your local school if you have any questions or for more information.

Auto Hobby Shop - great place to tighten belts in tough economic times

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

The weakened economy is forcing many around the world to look for ways to save a buck and the Auto Hobby Shop is doing its part to help Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) residents conserve cash and learn how to be more self-sufficient by providing basic automotive maintenance classes every two weeks.

Learning to identify the early indicators of vehicle problems and how to correct them before they become serious is the best way to ensure that your vehicle stays running safely and efficiently. Tommy B. Johnson, the night manager of the Auto Hobby Shop, believes that the classes they offer are a great way for people to spend an afternoon, learn something useful and save a few bucks in the process.

"We offer beginner classes for people who want to learn how to do basic things to fix their cars," said Johnson. "For example, you come in and you learn how to change your oil. After that when you come, you sign in, get your car on the lift and do it yourself for about $2.50 instead of the $40 dollars or so you'd pay to have someone else do it for you."

Every other week the class focuses on various components of your vehicle and teaches you how to maintain and repair the component. The next class to be held at the shop Feb. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. will cover evaluating belts, the removal and replacement of the primary fan and accessory belts as well as tire evaluation. Attendees will be able to learn why their tires wear more on the inside than the outside and why their belts squeak.

Individuals interested in attending the classes do not need any experience, tools or even a vehicle to take part in the classes. The shop will provide everything needed for the class. The only requirements are that patrons pay $15.00 and daily usage fees that will vary depending on the class. Johnson only asks that patrons aren't afraid, "to get their hands dirty."

(Left) Auto Hobby Shop Night Manager Tommy B. Johnson, explains to Tony Hill and Ben Avey of the CFAY Public Affairs Office how to inspect and replace the various belts in a vehicle's engine. The Auto Hobby Shop offers two classes a month demonstrating basic automotive maintenance and repair.

For more information on the class or the Auto Hobby Shop in general, call 243-5456, check the focus magazine or visit them online on the CFAY Web site located at www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka.

Japan Kanto Plain energy engineers tour co-generation power plant

By Lt. Cmdr. Kristian B. Barton, CFAY Public Works Department

The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), Japan Kanto Plains Chapter, hosted a tour Feb. 11 of the recently completed co-generation power plant aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

Members of the Tokyo Post of the Society of American Military Engineers and the Japanese Society of Professional Engineers joined AEE for an informative tour led by Lt. Joshua Perry of Public Works Department Yokosuka. Tour attendees came from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Camp Fuji, Yokohama, Tokyo and Kobe, Japan.

Before commencing the tour, Perry gave the group an overview of the facility, including an explanation of the energy savings performance contract that financed the construction of this 96 million dollar power plant and associated steam and electrical infrastructure.

Perry explained that the 20 year, $352 million financed project has a contractually guaranteed energy savings of $12.5 million a year and a target energy savings of $14.5 million a year.

Members of the Association of Energy Engineers, Japan Kanto Plain Chapter; the Tokyo Post of the Society of American Military Engineers and the Japanese Society of Professional Engineers poise for a photo during a luncheon following a tour of the recently completed co-generation power plant aboard CFAY.
Photo by Yukiko Toizume

The plant can generate up to 39 MW of 50 and 60 hertz power, provided by a combination of gas turbine generators and gas engine generators. When the plant is running at full capacity, it can generate up to 109,000 pounds of steam per hour to the piers and facilities on base.

The group learned about the plant's integrated control system, roof exhaust systems, compressors, cooling systems (cooling towers and radiators); heat recovery steam generation equipment and the gas turbines and gas engine power generators.

The tour concluded with a luncheon at the Officers' Club, where a short presentation on the Association of Energy Engineers was given by Japan Kanto Plains Chapter President Lt. Cmdr. Kristian Barton.

The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Japan Society of Professional Engineers Vice President Masahiko Tsuchiya, who gave a presentation on the role of the engineer in today's global economy and a status report of the Japan Society of Professional Engineers.