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Principal

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Assistant Principal

# The FAIRHOPE WEST ELEMENTARY PIRATE

MARCH News ♦ 2022

*"Learning and Leading to Empower Our Genius!"*

## Kindergarten celebrates

# 100<sup>TH</sup>

DAY CELEBRATIONS



About this time every year a strange phenomenon hits Fairhope West - kindergarteners and their teachers grow old - overnight! Thank you, parents, for helping make this 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School a ton of fun.

## Important Dates

- Feb. 28-Mar. 4 Mardi Gras Holidays, No School
- Mar. 7-10 Online Homeless Shelter Fundraiser
- Mar. 11 Out of Uniform Homeless Shelter Fundraiser, see article
- Mar. 8 Student Council Meeting 7:15
- Mar. 9 NEHS Meeting 7:15
- Mar. 10 New Family Tours 9:00
- Mar. 14 Green Team 7:20
- Mar. 14 Spring Pictures, Out of Uniform Allowed
- Mar. 17 Peer Helpers 7:15
- Mar. 18 World Down Syndrome Day - Wear blue and yellow
- Mar. 18 Report Cards Go Home
- Mar. 22-Apr. 1 ACAP TESTING (Gr 2-6) see article
- Mar. 23 NEHS 7:15
- Mar. 25 FEEF Golf Tournament
- Apr. 1 Para/PTI/Assistant Principal

## Girls in STEAM



Last month, girls in 3rd and 4th grade attended a "Girls in STEAM" presentation by Jennifer Hutchison and Madelene Loftin with Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology via Zoom. Hudson Alpha is a renowned genomic based research facility working to improve human health and well-being located in Huntsville, Alabama. The girls had an opportunity to learn more about genetics during their

presentation. They were also presented with a hands-on STEAM experience of extracting DNA from a strawberry. Our partners, AMSTI and FEEF, helped with supplying or purchasing materials for the girls to participate during the event. Each student was able to take some DNA home to share with their family and others. Explore more about Hudson Alpha at <https://www.hudsonalpha.org/>.



Camp Connect is a healing bereavement day camp for children ages 6-17 who have suffered a loss or those who have a terminally-ill loved one.



Camp Connect gives children the opportunity to explore and express their emotions, equips them with a better understanding of their grief and offers ways of coping with their feelings – all while making connections with others who have experienced a loss.

“Tommy” attended Camp Connect. There, he met other children who had experienced the death or terminal illness of a loved one. Though they shared a great sadness, Thomas and his new friends found comfort in relating to one another.



Thomas is planning to return to Camp Connect. The grief of losing his mother still weighs heavy on the boy’s heart, but thanks to Camp Connect he knows he’s not alone and that he can be a comfort for others, just as they are for him.

**Saturday, March 5**

**10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**Mobile Carnival Museum**

355 Government St. • Mobile, AL 36602

Masks will be required.

**FAMILY DINNER TO FOLLOW CAMP!**

**Elizabeth Wright**

Children’s Support Manager

Phone: 850.417.2754

CampConnect@choosecovenant.org

**FREE ONLINE  
REGISTRATION**



Limited availability so register soon!  
app.campdoc.com/register/campconnect



choosecovenant.org

**1.855.CARE.365**

## Patron Committee Advice on the Outdoor Classroom

The Fairhope West Patrons met in January to synergize with the school leaders. The patrons advised developing a campus plan strategy before breaking ground and spending the fundraiser money.

Mrs. Pierce was encouraged to meet with the Superintendent’s office to ensure the outdoor classroom would not conflict with any BCBE plans for the future like grounds improvements or possibly even any construction. Christian Preus, a FWE Patron for six years who owns Preus Landscaping Solutions, shared his talent and offered an even larger vision. With an eye for landscaping solutions, Christian pointed out that our entire campus is an outdoor classroom! With his assistance, we will develop a plan for developing multiple outdoor classroom spots from which students can learn. He named the gully with storm water waste, erosion areas due to the slope on which the campus is built, not to mention the variety of trees and plants. Several years ago, he developed a courtyard grounds improvement project, a beautification tree project, and plans for more projects for Fairhope West. Patrons also suggested the principal work with several of the Fairhope beautification committees for more ideas.

The 7 Habits (Leader in Me) teach us that good ideas come from one brain, and GREAT ideas come the synergy of many brains. The Fairhope West Patrons are a valuable part of school leadership! Thank you!

## STUDENTS HAVE A VOICE

### *About the Uniform Policy*

Leader in Me encourages children to find their voice to express thoughts about ways to make the world better. The fifth-grade girls pictured below gathered over 500 signatures on a petition to drop the uniform policy. They met with the Fairhope Baldwin County Board of Education Representative, Cecil Cristenberry and pitched their idea with a PowerPoint presentation. They even dressed in outfits to model their idea of appropriate school wear. Mr. Cristenberry listened carefully and promised to take their ideas back to the appropriate committee for more consideration.

Congratulations, girls, on using your voice to share your views about the uniform policy! *Teagan Harness, Aaleyah Wells, Rebecca Horn, Mary Page Ellis, Addyson Cryar.*



# Volunteer Spirit Creates Nora's Path

Southern Landscape Renovations employee, Ric Bennett, saw a need at the Fairhope West Prek program and jumped in to help. Children four years of age walk down a steep hill to the main building frequently during the week. Because of the incline a wheelchair access ramp was not possible, so Ric created steps! He worked for over two months to prepare the ground for steps so the children, teachers, and paras would have an easier walk to the school. Ric said, "Mrs. Angel Rhodes is our daughter's teacher, and she truly is an angel! I wanted to do something to help her and the children."



Ric's daughter and her friend, Nora, both attend the PreK program. In honor of Nora and her brave spirit, the PreK teachers named the new walkway, Nora's Path, with a special ribbon cutting on February 7th. Our deepest thanks to Ric for donating his love, time, and money, and Southern Landscape Renovations for donating materials and heavy equipment.

*Ric Bennett is the angel!*



## State Testing, is Here! ACAP

Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program

State testing for students in grades 2-6 has begun.

MAR. 22 & 24	Math - grades 2-6
MAR. 29 & 31	English Language Arts (ELA) - grades 2-6
MAR. 22 - APR. 1	Special Education Math & ELA - grades 2-6
APR. 19	Science - grades 4 & 6, only

Parents, we know you want your child to show their very best knowledge on the ACAP high-stakes state test in March.

**A good night's rest, a healthy breakfast, and a calm, encouraging morning at home can make all the difference!**

**These 3 steps ensure optimal performance because the students come in the door with a great attitude!**

iPhones and iWatches are not allowed in the testing room, so please keep them at home. Tardy students will not be allowed to enter a testing classroom. No checkouts will be allowed except in case of an extreme emergency. Thank you for having your students in school on these testing dates and encouraging your child to do their very best!



# BIKE TO SCHOOL

## st. patrick's ride!



Get out your green for Bike to School on Friday, March 11! We are grateful to Anna Ready of Local Properties, who will be distributing water bottles to riders. All participants will also receive a spoke bead. As always, remember to wear your helmet, enter by the HOV line, and walk your bike once on campus. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/BikeToSchoolFairhope](https://www.facebook.com/BikeToSchoolFairhope).

# NEHS Spring Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to the following students for their recent induction into the National Elementary Honor Society. The inductees must maintain all A's and exemplify the Four Pillars of NEHS: scholarship, responsibility, service, and leadership.

Lucas Anderson	Avery Huffty	Sam McClendon
Alexis Carroll	Kade Kirchoff	Sadie Michels
Nicholas Dyas	Ava Kuhn	Maddie Miller
Bess Ennis	Luke Johnson	Jack Myrick
Elizabeth Ree Gibson	Bentley Lolley	Claire Wang
Sophia Gilbert	Acker Luedecke	Rosie Weems
Teagan Harness	Percy Luedecke	Judah White

# APPRECIATION DAYS

for Paras, Tutors, and Assistant Principal

Everyone who works in a school knows that the classified staff and APs are the glue that helps keep it all together! This month, we will honor our special education paraprofessionals, part-time tutors, and assistant principal on April 1st.

*Join with us in honoring these wonderful folks!*

## PARAPROFESSIONALS

Clare Fogarty, Molly DeCardenas, Cece Johnson, Brenda Kelly, Allison Kendall, Ashley Leon, Kelly Parker, Christina Sparks, Melinda Sanford, Stephanie Bell, Tony Edwards, and Vicki Russell

## PART-TIME TUTORS

Vicki Gripp, Stephanie McBride, Lisa Dowdy, Abby Murphy, Karen Hill, Hope Sawyer, and Helen Rivenbark

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Caroline Hollowell



*honor your favorite*  
**TEACHER OR STAFF MEMBER**  
*with a custom tee sign!*



### TEACHERS & STAFF MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- HONORARY TEE SIGN PLACED ON COURSE DURING EVENT
- TEE SIGN PLACED IN SCHOOL CAR LINE WEEK AFTER EVENT
- \$25 TO USE FOR THEIR CLASSROOM

**TEE SIGN FEES & FORM DUE: MARCH 11, 2022**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US HERE:  
 FEEFonline.org | 251-990-3333 | Director@FEEFonline.org

BENEFITING



FAIRHOPE EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION  
*Investing in Students. Preparing the Future.*



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE!

## Artwork on Display!

The artwork of three FWE students are on display at central office and Montgomery! Taylor Scott's art was chosen as part of the Baldwin County Superintendent's Art Show. Two other students' art was selected by the county to compete in a statewide State Superintendent's Art Contest - Koli Arant and Asa Moreno. A special thanks to Mrs. Ina Buchanan for guiding these budding artists!



## Dr. Wanda Logan's Retirement

Dr. Logan's last day was February 28. Her sudden retirement was unexpected. I asked her what she wanted to share. Here are her thoughts.



This was my 34th year. I plan on taking the time for my body to heal. That is my first priority... after that I'd love to be able to travel, get back in the gym, be able to go hiking, kayaking, and biking... but healing is my first priority. I have enjoyed building relationships with the students and parents as well as being a part of the FWES family. I leave with a sad heart knowing how much I will miss these kids....

Dr. Logan has served special needs children her entire career both as a teacher and an administrator. She has such a beautiful heart and faithfully believed and quoted often these words, "Ordered Steps!" Dr. Logan, we will miss you very much and know that you are following your belief of "Ordered Steps."

## More Student Voice-Homeless Shelter Fundraiser

Mia and April lost their home during Hurricane Ida forcing their families to live in a homeless shelter. Eventually, the family found their way to the beautiful town of Fairhope where they now attend Fairhope West. Mia and April will be accepting online donations through the Fairhope West website at My School Bucks. Each donation will earn a student an out of uniform day on Friday, March 11th. Mia and April are wonderful examples how students are using their voice to make the world a better place based on their personal experience.