

**Julie Pierce**  
Principal

**Caroline Hollowell**  
Assistant Principal

**Wanda Logan**  
Assistant Principal

# The FAIRHOPE WEST ELEMENTARY PIRATE

**SEPTEMBER News ♦ 2020**

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

*Dear Parents,*

Welcome to Fairhope West Elementary! Both the staff and the students have loved being back in school. Over the summer, the building was transformed from a K-3 school to a K-6 school, and there have been lots of renovations to the building to help welcome our new students and our 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We have painted and decorated the halls, gym, and the cafeteria. Our theme this year is "Full STEAM Ahead" as we prepare for our STEAM certification visit in February. In addition to STEAM, FWE will promote the love of reading and Leader in Me.

**Connecting each child to books that they love to read so they will read A LOT** will continue to be our academic focus this year. This willingness to read a lot because it's interesting, will lead to volume reading. Volume reading at home is the key! Research proves over and over that the amount of time students spend reading out of school is the biggest predictor of reading achievement. In addition, reading volume is the single greatest factor in reading achievement – greater than socioeconomic status! *This means that getting kids to read at home at a level that is easy for them in a high-interest book is the biggest predictor of reading achievement.* We hope that you will partner with us every day by reading to your child, reading with your child, and encouraging independent reading! **Reading at home can be a game changer!**

In addition to academics, we will help your child discover and develop his or her unique gifts and talents by using the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and the Leader in Me. Opportunities to lead will promote self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative. Your child will continue to learn to work cooperatively with others, encourage one another, and synergize.

For more detailed information about procedures check out the Fairhope Elementary School Student Handbook online at <http://www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary>. The handbook contains the updated calendar, staff listing, procedures, and policies.

We've worked hard this summer to get ready for your children. Should you have any concerns or questions, please know I am available! You may call the school at 251-928-8400 or email me at [jgpierce@bcbe.org](mailto:jgpierce@bcbe.org). The school is very large so give me a few days to get back with you. Again, we are super excited about the upcoming school year, and we know it's going to be one of the best ever!

*Julie Pierce*

**Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and our website!**

Facebook: Fairhope West Elementary

Instagram: fairhope\_west\_elementary

Website: [www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary](http://www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary)

## Important Dates

Sep. 1	Walking School Bus Begins
Sep. 7	Labor Day Holiday, No School
Sep. 9	Fall Picture Day, Out of Uniform
Sep. 11	Out of Uniform for Those With Perfect Attendance, No Checkouts & No Tardies
Sep. 14	School Dismissal Manager Begins
Sep. 18	Progress Reports Go Home
Sep. 29-Oct. 8	Boosterthon

## Baldwin County & FWE UNIFORM POLICY

In addition to the navy and white polo shirts, students may wear any t-shirt purchased from Fairhope Elementary School, including past FES, FIS, or PTC t-shirts, on any day, Monday through Friday. Fairhope Fridays continue - students may wear any shirt that supports Fairhope community or Pirate Pride. BCBOE policy requires khaki, navy, denim, or blue bottoms. Appropriate length for shorts is also required.





# Meet Our New Faculty



**Caroline Hollowell** - Mrs. Hollowell has been the reading coach for Fairhope Elementary, J. Larry Newton School, and the Alabama Reading Initiative. Having served the children of FES for four years, she is now the Assistant Principal. She has an undergraduate degree from Samford University, a master's degree and has a Reading Specialist Certification from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and an administration certificate from the University of West Alabama. Mrs. Hollowell is the mother of two girls. She enjoys swimming and spending time at the beach with family and friends.

**Melissa Pruitt** - Mrs. Pruitt has an undergraduate in elementary education with an emphasis on multilingual/multicultural education from Arizona State University and a master's degree in Leadership and Administration from Northern Arizona University. She has taught kindergarten, fifth grade, reading and math intervention k-4 and is now a reading coach at FWES. She is the mother of twin girls and a son. She loves the beach and spending quality time with her family and friends.

**Jordan Johnson** - Miss Johnson graduated from Robertsdale High School and Mobile University. This is her first year teaching. She loves broccoli, yellow, and butterflies. She has a maltipoo named Sadie.

**Anthony Schaff** - Mr. Schaff has an undergraduate degree from University of South Alabama and a master's degree in Teaching Middle Level Education. He enjoys gardening, biking, and sweet tea. He has a one-eyed cat named Pirate Kitty.

**Tiffany Mulback** - Mrs. Mulback graduated from Western Governors University. She has lived in Pensacola, Georgia, and Texas. She is the mother of 2 daughters, loves Mexican food, and enjoys reality TV.

**Christine Hattaway** - Mrs. Hattaway was born and raised in Athens, AL. She has an undergraduate degree in communications and a master's degree in education. She and her family moved to Fairhope in 2015. She loves going to the beach, fajitas, and running.

**Kelli Kearney** - Miss Kearney graduated from the University of West Florida and is currently working on a master's degree. She grew up in Pensacola and moved to Daphne in 2014. She loves the Crimson Tide, coffee, and her favorite place to be is Whit's Frozen Custard.

**Stephanie Rhodes** - Mrs. Rhodes has been teaching for 22 years after graduating from the University of Alabama. As the daughter of an Air Force fighter pilot, she has lived in 7 states and 3 countries. She is the mom of 3 children. She loves pizza, Alabama football, and gardening.

**Jennifer O'Donnell** - Mrs. O'Donnell has degrees from the University of Alabama, Auburn University and the Film/Theater Acting New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts. She is from Northeast Alabama and is the youngest of 4 children. She has two children, ages three and eighteen months and loves all things water.

**Margaret Dumas** - Mrs. Dumas earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of South Alabama. A Mobile girl with six siblings, she has been married to her high school sweetheart for 45 years and has one daughter. She loves to travel, garden and read.

**Mallory Burgin** - Mrs. Burgin is a graduate of Saraland High School and the University of Mobile. She has transferred from the Saraland City Schools system. Her favorite sport is soccer, and she enjoys photography. She is proud owner of 2 dogs, Kili and Roux.

**Frances Reynolds** - Mrs. Reynolds, a 30-year veteran educator, graduated from the University of Memphis and the University of Montevallo. She is a Primary Reading Specialist for kindergarten – second grade. Mrs. Reynolds recently moved from Alabaster.

**Sheryl McNeely** - Mrs. McNeely graduated from the University of South Alabama and is currently working on her master's degree. This is her second year of teaching. She enjoys cooking, canning, and her favorite color is blue. She has two boys.

**Allison Gersonde** - Mrs. Gersonde recently moved to Fairhope from Orlando with her kindergarten daughter, Lily, and her husband. She has a B.S. in Early Childhood and a M.A in Educational Technology from the University of Central Florida. Her hobby is fitness; she loves tacos; and she has two dogs, Bert and Ernie.

**Kathryn Kier** - Mrs. Kier is a graduate of University of South Alabama. She was born in California and raised in Alabama. She is the mother of two, loves to travel, and enjoys Mexican food, swimming and sitcoms.





## How to Change Dismissal for a Student

Changing a child's dismissal involves a lot of folks - front office staff, teacher(s), child(ren), Mom, and Dad. The challenge with one transportation change is to make sure that everyone gets the word. The challenge in a large school is to make sure that A LOT of folks get the word. Welcome School Dismissal Manager! School Dismissal Manager is an online system that informs all parties of transportation changes with a few clicks of a button. This reduces the chance of error. Beginning September 14, FWE will begin using School Dismissal Manager for afternoon dismissal changes. The system is easy. Detailed instructions will be coming to you the first week of September. In addition, the Student Handbook, located on the school website, has a section with more specific information about SDM.

Some of you may have specific custodial situations that will need to be addressed on an individual basis. Please contact Mary Elizabeth Brock or Julie Pierce for assistance. Mary Elizabeth Brock's email address is mebrock@bcbe.org. Julie Pierce's email address is jgpierce@bcbe.org. The office phone number is 251-928-8400. We are here to help and are excited about making transportation changes via email.

Between August 12 and September 11, dismissal changes should be made by contacting the front office. Oftentimes, teachers do not check email until after school is dismissed, so please go through the office or send a note explaining the transportation change to your teacher for these first two weeks.

## STRESS-FREE Birthday Celebrations at School

In an effort to avoid classroom interruptions and decrease stress for everyone, you may purchase "Birthday Cake Ice Cream Cones" for your child's entire class from the school canteen. The kids love them!

**Here's how it works:** 1-2 weeks before your child's birthday download the order form found on the FWES website under the "Families" tab, under "Forms." Please fill out the form, print and send to the school with a check or cash for \$15 made out to FWES. The teacher will forward the order form and payment to the office where it will be filled and kept cold until the teacher sends for it.

If you forget to plan for the birthday, no worries, we can still accommodate you if supplies allow. Simply call the front office. There is a non-dairy option for classmates with allergies.



Parents! This year's main fundraiser is the FWE Fun Run! It's a two-week program that kicks off with a pep rally on September 29, 2020. Families will then gather pledges for every lap your student runs (30-35 laps), and we'll celebrate at the Fun Run on October 8, 2020. With our big goal of raising \$20,000 for shade and an outside classroom, we asked the Fun Run experts at Boosterthon to power our Fun Run. Please help our school by reaching out to sponsors.

**Families are invited to come out and cheer on your student!**

**Boosterthon Fun Run  
October 8, 2020!**

PreK .....	8:00
1st Grade .....	10:45
Kindergarten .....	9:45
2nd Grade .....	8:45
3rd Grade .....	8:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade .....	12:45
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade .....	11:45
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade .....	1:45

**Thank you for your support!**

## Snacks Available to Purchase in the Canteen!



Fruit Rollups .....	50¢
Rice Krispies Treats .....	75¢
Lay's Potato Chips .....	75¢
Lay's BBQ Potato Chips .....	75¢
Nacho Cheese Doritos .....	75¢
Cool Ranch Doritos .....	75¢
Pretzel Twists .....	75¢

Hot Cheetos .....	75¢
Cheese Ritz Bits .....	75¢
Pepperidge Farm Goldfish .....	75¢
Fudge Poptart .....	75¢
Strawberry Poptart .....	75¢
Cookie Crumble Ice Cream Cone ..	\$1
Frozen Fruit Punch .....	\$1



# Fairhope West

## ELEMENTARY

2020 - 2021

### Sponsors



#### JOLLY ROGER/PIRATE PATRON \$5000

Merrill Lynch - S. Wesley Carpenter  
Comprehensive Pain and Rehabilitation

#### THE BLACK PEARL/PIRATE LEADER \$2500

Chick-fil-A  
Bay Pediatric Dentistry  
The Mill  
Ben Taylor Drones

#### MAN O WAR/PIRATE PARTNER \$1000

Strickland Orthodontics  
UnitedHealth Care  
Fit By Jessica  
Pit Stop  
CenterState Bank  
Bay Animal Clinic  
Exit Lyon Realty - Jaime Cooper  
Frank and Louise Wang  
Dr. Trey Children's Dentistry  
Fairhope Rotary Club  
Jubilee Printing  
Dorrough Creative LLC

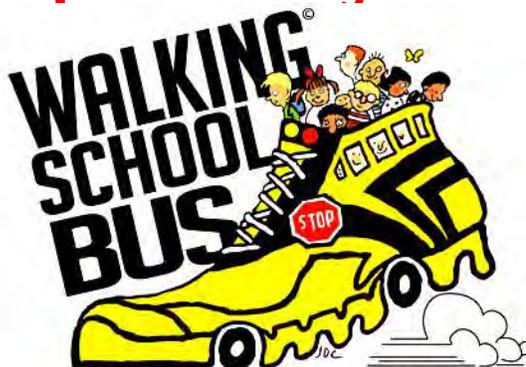
#### SALTY DOG/PIRATE PRIDE \$500

Celebration Church  
Bayside Orthopedics  
Diegmann & Henderson OBGYN  
Gulf Coast Home Inspections  
M & M Bank  
Running Wild  
SOHO  
Piragraphix McCrady  
Galloway, Wettermark & Rutens, LLP  
Peak Alkalinity  
Publix Supermarket Charities  
Father Nature Landscape

#### TREASURE/PIRATE PALS \$250

Fairhope Physical Therapy  
Gigi & Jays  
Agave  
Daniel, Upton & Perry  
Amber Wood (In-Kind)  
K Day Designs  
Eastern Shore Parents Magazine  
Bayview Professional Associates  
McDowell Group  
Renatus Partners, LLC  
Community Bank  
Tony's Towing  
Riviera Utilities

## Escape the Morning Car Line!



### Join Fairhope West Elementary's **FREE** Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus (WSB) is a perfect WIN-WIN for you and your child!

- Teachers and adult volunteers provide a safe escort
- Students arrive at school focused and ready to learn
- Enjoy a quick and convenient drop off - no waiting in a long line
- A pattern of daily exercise leads to better academic performance

#### The Basics:

- WSB starts on September 1, 2020 and operates the entire school year.
- Drop off: 7:05 - 7:20 am on the corner of School St and Fairhope Ave on campus of Coastal Alabama Community College
- Children complete "attendance check in" as soon as they arrive
- Children play (recess before school) before WSB begins each morning
- You may walk with your children or use the car line drop off
- WSB leaves promptly at 7:20 am - students **will not be on time for breakfast**
- Your child may walk every day or on select days. However, regular attendance is preferred
- We walk on rainy days if there is no lightening- rain gear required
- A recognition program exists for monthly "high mileage" students
- Castle Fridays are a special treat enjoyed by our WSB students
- The WSB is a program of the nonprofit Baldwin County Trailblazers in collaboration with FWES and the City of Fairhope.

**Questions?** Register by picking up a WSB form at the school office or WSB website:

<http://fairhopewalkingschoolbus.weebly.com/>.

Call WSB Director Charlene Lee at 251-402-2795,  
FWES Coordinator Cathy Hudson at 251-422-9013,  
or e-mail [walkingschoolbusfes@gmail.com](mailto:walkingschoolbusfes@gmail.com).

Check out the Facebook page:  
Fairhope Schools Walking School Bus.