



HELLO FROM THE KINDERGARTEN TEAM!!

Kindergarten Team Contact Information:

Erin Lafferty Erin.Lafferty@fcps.org	Laura Cleveland Laura.Cleveland@fcps.org	Sandra Chapin Sandra.Chapin@fcps.org	Carmen Flores Carmen.Flores@fcps.org	Christa McClenny Christa.McClenny@fcps.org
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Specials Team:

Your child will participate in specials on a weekly basis.

Music:	PE	Art	Media
Jocelyn Barker Jocelyn.Barker@fcps.org	Beth Cangemi Elizabeth.Cangemi@fcps.org	Emily Bryant Emily.Bryant@fcps.org	Jacki Wood Jaclyn.Wood@fcps.org
Isaac Cheston Isaac.Cheston@fcps.org	Jacob Hoffman Jacob.Hoffman@fcps.org	Sarah Tilton Sarah.Tilton@fcps.org	Paula Burzio (Tues. & Th.) Paula.Burzio@fcps.org

Circle of Care Team:

We have made it a priority to build a robust team to support the social-emotional programming for each and every student at Ballenger Creek Elementary School.

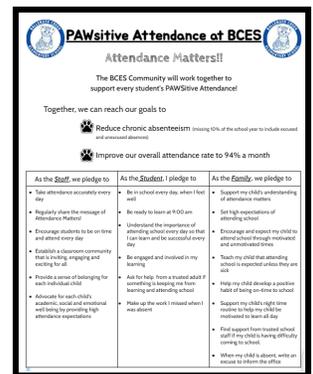
Behavior Support Specialist:	School Counselors:	School Social Worker:
→ Kristen Foreman Kristen.Foreman@fcps.org	→ Kathleen O'Neill (Grades PK-2) Kathleen.Oneill@fcps.org	→ David Humphries David.Humphries@fcps.org
→ Lexie McLister (Kun) Alexis.Kun@fcps.org	→ Julie Melton (Grades 3-5) Julie.Melton@fcps.org	

BCES Attendance:

The Maryland State Department of Education requires that schools take attendance each day. Taking attendance ensures that staff can support students academically and socially, as well as provide them with any resources they may need. Ensuring ALL students are in school everyday, ready to learn will be a goal we will continue to work on this school year. **If your child is sick or has an appointment, please be sure to be in communication with your child's teacher (copied on email communication) and our Attendance Secretary, Alison Fish (BCES.Attendance@fcps.org).**

Excuse notes can be delivered to the teacher in your child's backpack or sent via email to Alison Fish.

Review our [PAWsitve Attendance at BCES Pledge](#) to familiarize yourself with how we will all work together to support attendance every day!



BCES' Family Handbook & Volunteering Information:

Our [Family Handbook](#) has a wealth of information for families to access relating to BCES' expectations, procedures, and processes as well as some information relating to FCPS' family resources and information. Select the [link](#) to review the information.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer this school year, please review the [NEW](#) information and process for signing up to be a volunteer and completing the required training modules.

FCPS Code of Conduct:

[FCPS' Parent/Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct](#)

The FCPS Student Code of Conduct provides a framework to foster positive behavior in alignment with the school system's core mission of demonstrating excellence in the following goal areas: 1. Organizational Culture of Achievement, 2. Operational Excellence, 3. Safety & Wellbeing, 4. Stakeholder Engagement, 5. Student & Staff Experience.

All students are expected to demonstrate behavior in alignment with the expectations contained in this [document](#). Parents/guardians are encouraged to read and reinforce the expectations with their children. Questions or comments about the handbook should be directed to your school's principal or to the FCPS Student Services Department at (301) 644-5238.

Communication with Ballenger Creek Elementary School:

There are so many ways to communicate with your Ballenger Creek Family!

- Monthly grade level newsletters will be sent home with students.
- NEW: [SchoolMessenger](#) will be used to share information with families throughout the year about FCPS as well as news that is specific to Ballenger Creek ES.
- Read the Bobcat Bulletin newsletter that is sent each month from our principal, Megan Stein. This comes out as a monthly email through SchoolMesenger.
- Contact your child's teacher using the information above or send a message on Schoology.

What's Happening in Specials Classes?

Your child will participate in specials on a weekly basis.

Select the link below to learn more about what your child will be learning in specials classes.

[December Specials Newsletter](#)

<u>Upcoming Important Dates</u>	<u>Grade Level Celebrations!</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ December 5th- Picture Makeups/Retake→ December 11th- Quarter 2 Interims Issued→ December 16th- Chorus Concert for Families<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 6:30pm at BCES→ December 20th- Spirit Day: Wear your Pajamas or Comfy Clothes<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Last day of school before Winter Break→ December 22-January 1: Schools Closed: Winter Break. Happy Holidays!<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ School reopens January 2nd→ FCPS Year at a Glance→ Spirit Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Students are working hard to earn PAWsitive Paws! Ask your student how many they earned each day after school and how they are demonstrating good character.★ Thank you to all of the families who participated in our Disguise a Turkey at home project. Keep your eye out for the December project instructions coming home!★ All classrooms can use donations of hand sanitizer and clorox wipes this winter season!★ Additionally, we have some fun family projects coming up and we are in need of some supplies. If you would like to help out, you can contribute: paper plates, white paper bags, big googly eyes, cotton balls, red/green/silver glitter, oatmeal, red pom poms

Kindergarten Curriculum Overview:

<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Recognizing the letters in the alphabet→ Connecting the letters in the alphabet to the sounds they make→ Matching uppercase and lowercase letters→ Pointing to each word as students read→ Counting the letters and words in a sentences→ Listening to stories and answering comprehension questions→ Identifying what happened in the beginning, middle and end of a story→ Sequencing the events in a story	<p>Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Using correct pencil grip to hold pencils when writing→ Writing the letters of the alphabet using correct letter formation→ Writing first names correctly→ Drawing pictures about stories we have read→ Adding details to our pictures→ Tracing words and sentences that were dictated to the teacher→ Learning how to brainstorm ideas and create a list
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- Identifying the characters and setting in a story
- Identifying the job of an author and illustrator
- Reading Quarter 1 and 2 sight/heart words
- Segmenting and blending the sounds in a word (for example, /c/ /a/ /t/ → cat)

- Learning about descriptive words and how we can describe characters, people and things
- Learning how to sequence the events of a story we want to tell and draw pictures to go with the events.

Math:

- Using the calendar to identify numerals 1-31
- Counting to 20
- Writing numbers 0-10
- Making sets to 20
- Matching sets to numerals 0-10
- Comparing sets using the words greater than/more than and less than/fewer than
- Understanding the concept of length and weight by using words such as shorter/longer and lighter/heavier
- Sorting objects by color, size, shape and weight
- Identifying 2D and 3D shapes in our environment
- Identifying 2D shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle, hexagon) and describing their attributes.
- Explore 2D shapes that make faces of 3D shapes
- Recognize 2D shapes in different sizes and orientation (understanding that it is the same shape)
- Using actions, objects, fingers and images to model and solve real world addition and subtraction story problems for numbers up to 5.
 - ◆ Addition and Subtraction within 5
 - ◆ Explore the meaning of the plus and minus signs
 - ◆ Recognize that adding to a group of objects results in more and taking away results in less.
- Decomposing numbers up to 5 using objects, sets or drawings

Focus this month:

- Practice adapting strategies to solve a related problem involving addition within 5 and writing the matching equation/expression.
- Develop brainstorming and planning skills.
- Practice classifying, counting, and comparing to make sense of information.
- Continue to develop an understanding of using a 10-frame to count and recognizing patterns in using a 10-frame to count.
- Continue to explore the idea that there are different ways to make the same number.
- Refine writing numbers up to 10 and understanding that numbers represent quantities

Science:

- Discussing the weather each day
- Discussing the change in seasons

Social Studies:

- Identifying and following class, school and community rules
- Discussing the difference between a need and a want
- Identifying needs and wants in our lives
- Thinking about what we are thankful for in our lives around the holidays

How can I help my child at home?

Reading:

- Complete the December Activity Calendar with your student
- Practice identifying letters and the sounds they make
- Practice reading Quarter 1 and 2 words
- Go on a letter hunt or beginning sound hunt around your house
- Put sight words around your house and look for them!
- Read the decodables and books in your child's reading bag with them
- Read with your child to model fluency! Ask them questions about what you have read.

Writing:

- Complete the December Activity Calendar with your student
- Practice writing first names using an uppercase letter for the first letter only. Use different types of writing tools to make it fun!
- Practice writing letters using the correct letter formation. Write in salt to make it fun!
- Practice fine motor and cutting skills by using scissors to cut coupons from newspapers.
- Practice writing Quarter 1 and 2 words
- Create pictures about different activities you do. Have your child say a sentence to you about their picture, write it in highlighter and have them trace it, or have them sound out their words and write the letters they hear!

Math:

- Complete the December Activity Calendar with your student
- Use playing cards to order numbers
- Practice writing numbers to 10 using the correct number formation.
- Go on a 2D or 3D shape hunt around your house and outside.
- Roll two dice and practice adding the numbers together. Roll one dice and identify the number, roll a second dice and subtract that amount from the first number.
 - ◆ Draw a picture or use objects to represent and solve
 - ◆ If your second number rolled is larger than the first, explain that would result in a negative number, which we do not talk about in kindergarten. Then roll again.
 - ◆ Write the matching equation.
- Use a 10-frame to practice representing numbers and solving addition and subtraction story problems. Write the matching equation.
- Practice representing a number in different ways
 - ◆ Drawing a picture
 - ◆ Dice
 - ◆ Fingers
 - ◆ Numeral
 - ◆ 10-frame
 - ◆ Written word
 - ◆ Tallies
 - ◆ Using objects

Science:

- Discuss the weather each morning! Plan your child's clothes with them based on the weather.
- Go on a walk, look for signs of the changing weather
- Discuss the change in seasons

Social Studies

- Continue to reinforce following school expectations.
- Continue to reinforce using school materials in the appropriate manner.
- Talk about what you see outside. Is it a physical or human made feature?
- Talk about what you are thankful for and how we can show our gratitude during the holidays.

Important Reminders

- ★ Please be sure to look in your child's backpack every day when it comes home. Clean out and return

- folders daily. Return Bobcat Folders on Fridays if they come home on Thursdays.
- ★ Read books sent home in your child's reading bag with them and send the reading bag to school daily.
 - ★ School starts promptly at 9:15. We encourage students to arrive by 9:00 if they would like to eat breakfast.
 - ★ Library books should be returned on your child's media day. If it is not returned they will not be able to check out a book. Below are the library days by class:
 - Chapin: Thursday
 - Cleveland: Tuesday
 - Flores: Thursday
 - Lafferty: Wednesday
 - McClenny: Friday
 - ★ **Please make sure your child has a water bottle at school everyday.**
 - ★ The weather is getting colder, students should wear appropriate clothes and shoes for the colder weather. Please make sure they have a jacket for outdoor recess.
 - ★ Please make sure you write a note when your child is absent, call school or email bc.es.attendance@fcps.org and your child's teacher.
 - ★ Please practice zipping/buttoning/snapping coats and tying shoes with your child and encourage them to try by themselves and then ask for help when needed!

THANK YOU for your partnership this school year! **TOGETHER** we can!

Be Here ◆ *Be YOU* ◆ *Belong*

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team