

From our ELAC Committee....

These are things that we thought would be helpful to you as a new Fairburn family.

## **1. Outline**

The school runs from Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 2:24 PM. There are early dismissal days on Tuesdays from October through May, but since these early dismissals are not every Tuesday you will need to check the Wednesday Wire. The Wednesday Wire is an important communication from the school that is distributed each Wednesday, which lists all the activities and important things going on at Fairburn. Please make sure that you read it each Wednesday so that you know what is going on.

There is no school bus, so it is important that the parents take their children to school. It is important that you bring your children to school before 8AM so that you can get your children in the correct line for their classroom. At 2:24PM you must meet your children at either the classroom or in the schoolyard. Kindergarteners and 1st Graders must be picked up at their classroom.

The teacher is in charge of each of the classrooms. Computer classes, physical education, and art are taught by a specialist. Kids need to bring their homework to school, as well as a snack for 10 AM recess, and their lunch at 12PM. Kids can buy snacks and lunch at the cafeteria if you prefer. You can also buy breakfast at the school cafeteria before 8AM. A sheet of 22 cafeteria tickets costs \$20. There is no need to bring school supplies, like pencils, scissors, paper, notebooks, because they are supplied by the school.

## **2. Yearly Schedule**

Fairburn has 3 Semesters: Fall Semester is September through December; Winter Semester is January through March; and Spring Semester is April through June. At the end of each Semester there is a Parent Teacher conference at which your child's teacher will review his or her work and his or her grades.

**The following are the School Events that you should be sure to put on your calendar:**

- **Back to School Morning**, when the teachers will explain what their expectations are for the school year
- **Halloween**, which has a costume parade and the children bring candy to school for their classmates
- **Gift wrap**, where holiday gift wrapping paper is sold as a school fund raiser
- **Picture Day**, during which your children will have both individual and classroom photographs taken
- **Emergency Drills**, which will happen several times during the year
- **Winter Performance**, where each grade will do a singing and dancing performance
- **Book Fair**, a Fundraiser held in both December and March where children's books are sold for your children
- **Doctor Seuss Day**, when your children will dress up like their favorite Dr. Seuss character

- **Crazy Hair Day**, in February, when your children will dye their hair and/or make it up in a “crazy manner”
- **Pajama Day**, also in February, when your children will wear their pajamas to school
- **Sports Day**, also in February, when your children will dress up in their favorite sports teams/players team wear
- **Pajama Night**, in February, hosted by Mrs. Abramowitz, when she and your children’s teacher will read stories to your children (even they will be in their pajamas)
- **Read-a-thon**, February through March, when you are not to allow your children to watch television on Tuesday nights and read books with them, instead
- **Valentines Day**, February 14th, when your children will exchange Valentine Cards and candies/treats with their classmates
- **St. Patrick’s Day**, March 17th, when your children should wear something green to school
- **Spring Dance**, in April, where each grade will put on a performance in the school yard
- **Spring Fair**, in April, is a very important fundraising event where each parent must volunteer to work in their children’s classroom booth; additionally, there are games, food, a children’s auction, as well as live and silent auctions; if possible, parents should donate items to these auctions
- **Open House**, in May, when you should visit your children’s classrooms to see all of the work they have been doing and to visit with their teachers and the other classroom parents
- **CST Testing**, in May, during the 2 weeks of these California State Tests parents will have limited access to the school during the school day
- Field Trips, the number of class trips and their schedule will vary according the grade; be sure that you look at the trip schedule and are aware of the importance of volunteering to help with the trip
- Thanksgiving Break is the entire 3rd week of November;
- Winter Break is the 2 weeks preceding New Years Day and one week after New Years Day;
- Spring Break is one week preceding Easter;
- Summer Vacation begins at the end of School in June and ends the week after Labor Day in September.

**Be sure to review the School Calendar for exact days**

### **3. Subject and Time Schedule**

Your children will be taught in the following subject areas, according to their grade level: English Language Arts; Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Computer, Health, Physical Education, Music, and Art.

- Period 1      8:10~10:10
- Recess        10:10~10:30
- Period 2      10:30~12:00
- Lunch         12:00~12:45
- Period 3      12:45~14:24

Lunchtime is divided by grades: K, 1,2,3 from 12PM to 12:23; 4,5 12:23 to 12:45

#### **4. Information from the School**

These items are distributed by your children's teacher: the Wednesday Wire is current information about events and things that are going on at Fairburn – it is a mustread! So that you will know what is happening in the school. You can also visit <http://fairburnschool.org/> Each classroom has a Room Parent, who will be distributing emails about your children's classroom. These are very important to read, so that you will be aware of all of the events and issues concerning your children's classroom.

#### **5. Donations**

Because Fairburn is a California Public School there are no tuition fees. In order to fund things like our Computer Lab, Teacher Assistants and our Physical Education Instructor, all parents are asked to contribute to FYAs Annual Pledge Drive as well as other FYA events and fundraising efforts including our Giftwrap drive, Book Fair, Move Night, Spring Fair and Silent Auction, etc. These fundraising programs enable Fairburn to provide the highest quality programs both inside and outside of your children's classroom. Not all parents have the same financial resources to enable them to give equally, but it is very important that EVERYONE give generously to support the high quality of our children's education.

#### **6. Early Dismissal, Absence, or Coming to School Late**

##### **Absence**

When your child returns to school after being absent, it is necessary for the parents to complete a form that is available in the School Office to explain the reason for the absence.

##### **Late Policy**

If your child is late for school (arrives after the 8AM bell), then you must bring them to the School Office because each classroom will be locked after the 8AM bell. The School Office Personnel will then take your children to their classroom.

##### **Early Dismissal**

If your child will need to leave school early, then you must complete a blue early dismissal form at the School Office when you come to school to pick them up.

#### **7. After School**

The basic rule is that your child must leave school at the end of the regular school day, unless they have signed up for an after school program, like the STAR Program (which is an afterschool program for which you will pay a fee for your children to participate in after school activities that could be one class or as late as 6:30PM – if you are interested in these programs, then please be sure to check with the STAR office in the schoolyard)

The Children's Music Workshop is another afterschool program on Tuesday Afternoons, where your children can learn to play an instrument in the Fairburn Orchestra. Please look at their website, [www.childrensmusicworkshop.com](http://www.childrensmusicworkshop.com) for more details.

LAUSD also provides a free afterschool program for 2nd – 5th Grades, Beyond the Bell. You must enroll your children in this program if you wish them to stay at Fairburn for afterschool activities.

### **8. Other Important Items**

California schools require that Elementary School children in 1st Grade and beyond can provide proof that they have a negative Tuberculosis Skin Test, as well as have taken other immunizations. Please ask your doctor for more information about which immunizations are required by law.

\*\*\*\* Glossary with Japanese translation \*\*\*\*\* Book Fair/ Donation/ ELD- English Language Development/ Field Trip / Fund raising/ Home language survey/ Language art & literature / make up / minimum day( Early dismissal) / open house / parents conference / pot-luck/ project / Recess / Report card/ Sack lunch(brown bag) / school picture day / school year book / show and tell / Text book / work habit/