

Thorndyke Happenings

Volume 2, Issue 2

Nov/Dec 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Thorndyke Families,

I hope this finds everyone safe and healthy. As parents, I know this has been an incredibly challenging time. Parents, guardians and caretakers are now charged with an overflowing plate of responsibilities. I wanted to take a moment to recognize your dedication and persistence balancing so many things: facilitating your child(ren)'s learning from home, work, keeping your family safe, and addressing basic survival needs of family members. On a daily basis, I see acts of kindness and concern for others and this makes our learning community a special place to work.

I know many of us will not be able to spend face to face time with our families and loved ones, as we normally have, due to the pandemic. There are a whole bunch of holidays in the next month. Whatever your customs are, please do your best to stay safe and healthy and trust that all of us at Thorndyke are doing the same. COVID is a pervasive virus that can impact even those who are extremely cautious and adhere to all safety and health protocols.

Please read the [COVID Status King County 11.20.20](#) for helpful information.

Trimester I Report Cards

NEW

The first trimester ends on December 1st and teachers are expected to complete the report cards by December 11th. We will mail the report cards home to families Monday, December 14th. This term the report cards will look very different. Read below.

After discussions with elementary principals, the TSD **Teaching and Learning Department** determined it best that teachers use of qualitative statements **instead of quantitative numbers for the first- trimester report cards**. Teachers are expected to write comments in support of building on student strengths, growing resiliency, and increasing engagement.

Because teachers have been instructed not to use standard-based grading for the first trimester report card, **there will not be any marks as usual**, only comments. The reason behind this is two-fold: 1) teachers have not been able to complete an adequate amount of assessments to accurately determine student levels, 2) at the beginning of the year we focused on ensuring student access to technology and family engagement so it would not be equitable to measure student progress based on the standards students are expected to master in the fall. Although our teachers are working tirelessly to provide high quality instruction, assessment is going to be different during remote learning. In order to problem solve, teachers will be engaged in professional development of assessment during remote learning starting in January 2021.

Below is what normally is completed on the report card but **will not** be this term:

4	Exceeding
3	Meeting
2	Approaching
1	Below
NE	Not Evaluated
NA	Not Applicable

We plan to use the standards based grading system for Trimester II report cards when teachers have had more time to measure student progress.

Technology Service Center **NEW**

Unfortunately, employees at the service center were potentially exposed to Covid-19. As a result, the employees had to get tested and quarantine for 14 days. The Service Center will be closed until December 7th. If you are having technical problems, please contact the school and we will do our best to problem solve while the Technology Department is unable to assist students and families with Hot Spots and Chromebooks.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH **UPDATED**

Even though we are engaged in remote learning, our fabulous Community in Schools (CIS) Coordinator, **Sebastian Duckworth**, and Social Worker, **Kimberly Goodman**, will continue to celebrate human virtues and **recognize students** who exemplify the related behaviors. Here is some important information:

- **December Virtue** of the Month is **Authenticity**.
- **When teachers choose a student** who represents the virtue of the month, they will send a short video recording announcing the chosen student.
- A video announcing students to be recognized will be viewed by students at the end of each month.
- **Student of the Month** is another way we can recognize our students for being the wonderful kids they are and encourage them to be at their best.

ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING & HEALTH SCREENING **REPEAT**

In order to ensure health and safety protocols are being followed the main entrance to the building will remain locked during hours of operation. Everyone must complete a health screening upon entrance to the building. Adults have the option of scanning the QR code posted on the door of the main entrance to the building and completing a Google Survey with COVID and health related questions or having a staff member take their temperature and answering health screening questions. When you arrive, call the main office number posted on the entrance door and someone will come meet you to help.

If you have an **iPhone** and wish to complete the QR code and survey, open up your camera and point it to the QR code. The health survey will open up in a Google form and you can answer the questions on your phone. If you have an **Android**, you need to download the app for QR codes first.

All **students must have their temperature taken** and answer questions about how they are feeling.

ATTENDANCE REPEAT

Please be sure to call the office (206) 901-7603 to inform us if your child(ren) will not be attending class online for illness, dentist, etc. If you are leaving for vacation or to go out of town for work or family reasons, all extended absences must be approved two weeks before departure. Students are expected to take their Chromebooks, learning materials, and work packets with them and attend since we are engaged in virtual learning. If the student does not follow the virtual learning schedule and complete work while away, the absence will be unexcused.

TEACHER OFFICE HOURS AND TECH SUPPORT REPEAT

Teacher office hours are 10:45-11:30 Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays and their planning times are Monday through Friday 8:00-8:45 and 10:00-10:45. If you are having technical difficulties, please first reach out to your child's teacher. If you are not able to get onto a Zoom class while it is occurring, please call the main office 206-901-7600. We will do our best to help you over the phone. If you plan to come to the school for technical assistance, please call ahead of time to ensure we have someone on staff to help. If the Chromebook is not working, take it directly to the Tukwila School District's Service Center @ 4160 South 144th Street, Tukwila, WA 98168. The technology department will replace the Chromebook and/or charger.

FREE PARENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT NETWORK REPEAT

One of Thorndykes community partners is Sound Discipline and they have created a regular space for our parent and caregiver community to support each other during this unprecedented time. These weekly online meet-ups take place each Thursday night from 7-8:30pm and are led by Sound Discipline Facilitator and parent to two young kids, Aaron Norikane. All parents and caregivers have extra challenges this year. This will be an interactive, engaging opportunity to share your stories, ask questions, and offer and receive feedback from the community. We look forward to sharing and learning with you! Some of the topics that have surfaced at these meetings thus far include how to establish daily learning routines, assist children with self-regulation, how to create a schedule, how to navigate online learning,

Every Thursday 7:00 to 8:30. Attend as much of the meeting as possible.

To Join Zoom Meeting, click the link below

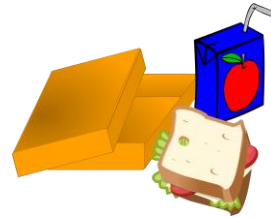
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89120804185?pwd=TkIVdnJxUTAweExSOGZDbDVZY25OQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 2080 4185

Passcode: 823205

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH REPEAT

If you believe your family might qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, please complete an application at your earliest convenience. Each family who qualifies for Free and Reduced Lunch benefits the entire school, as it increases the amount of state funding to our school. Free and Reduced Lunch Applications will be accepted all year. Applications are available in the Thorndyke main office or on the Tukwila School District web page 2020-2021 Free-Reduced Lunch Application.



WINTER BREAK MEAL PICK-UP

This Winter Break the Tukwila School District will be offering meal boxes for the two-week break period. They will be distributing these boxes on Friday, December 18th, along with the regular meal service. Applications are available at lunch pick up locations. Applications must be completed and returned by **Wednesday, December 9th**.



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 9	Early Release @ 1:55 p.m.
Dec 21-Jan 1	NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK
January 6	Early Release @ 1:55 p.m.
January 13	Early Release @ 1:55 p.m.
January 18	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
January 29	NO SCHOOL – Teacher Work Day

THORNDYKE IS A TITLE 1 SCHOOL

Thorndyke Elementary School receives federal money to fund a School-wide Title 1 program. Title 1 programs are intended to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments. The program focuses on promoting reform in high-poverty schools (those with 40% or more students from low-income families) and ensures student access to scientifically-based instructional strategies and challenging academic content. Thorndyke uses most of Title 1 funds to pay for important staff members, including highly qualified Instructional Assistants and our Literacy and Math Interventionists. Funds are also reserved for professional development for teachers that is designed to raise the achievement of low-achieving students by improving instruction throughout the entire school. If you have any questions about our Title 1 programs, please feel free to speak with Ms. Thomas @ 206-901-7605.

The Tukwila School District complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender, color, national origin, or disability. This holds true for all district students, employees, and district employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's title IX/RCW 28A.640 officer and/or Section 504/ADA coordinator located at 4640 S 144th Street, WA 98168: Aaron Draganov Title IX/RCW28A.640 Officer (206.901.8005) and Jennifer Jones, Section 504/ADA Coordinator (206.901.8035)

Thorndyke Elementary is a Schoolwide Title I School