

# Thorndyke Happenings

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Thorndyke Families,

Happy March!

Thank you for the flexibility and responsiveness during our pivot to remote learning. We are delighted to have students learning in the building again!

In the words of Maya Angelou, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel". May we all take a minute to reflect on how we treat those around us and how we want to be remembered. Below are some *words* we hope you will always remember. Check out the new updates in our March Issue!

## SPRING CONFERENCES:

Spring conferences will be held **Mar 16, 2022**. This will be an early release day. Students will be dismissed at 12:45. Please reach out to your child's teacher to schedule a conference if you would like to meet with them. The teachers will be contacting families if they see a need. It is not required for all students to attend a conference.

## NEW MASCOT

The Thorndyke family is in need of changing their mascot name. In 2021 Washington state passed **House Bill 1356**, which means in the state of Washington the bill **prohibits the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, and images as public school mascots, logos, and team names**. The condition to keep a school's namesake relied on the blessings of the recognized Native American Tribe within the school's vicinity. For Tukwila, this is the Muckleshoot Tribe, even though the school resided on Duwamish land. The Muckleshoot Tribe declined our request to keep the name.

## **Next Steps:**

- We plan to form an ad hoc team, meaning this will be a team made of staff, students, families and community members.
- On the ad hoc team, we plan to recruit 2-3 parents to be members of our ad hoc committee to do the work with members from the Race & Equity Team, our

Leadership Team, parents, Duwamish tribal members, and Fifth Grade students.

- The students will be elected by their Fifth grade peers. We will include parents who represent the diversity at Thorndyke.
- The ad hoc team will begin the work on **March 21st from 5:00 to 6:00 pm via Zoom**. At the first ad hoc committee meeting, the team will create a plan to ensure all members of our learning community have a voice in this change. We will also consider providing each class an opportunity to suggest a new mascot for the committee to review.
- The most popular name will be the established new mascot. These 2-3 top mascot choices will be shared on the KTHO News.
- We are looking for one or two more parents to join the team. If you are interested in joining the ad team please email or call Ms.Thomas @ [thomasco@tukwila.wednet.edu](mailto:thomasco@tukwila.wednet.edu) or 206-478-0221.

## **TOYS & GAMES**

Please tell your child(ren) to leave their **POKEMON CARDS, TOYS** and **OTHER GAMES** at home. Too many classroom, arrival, lunchroom, and playground problems are occurring related to Pokemon card exchanges and other toys and games. If a student is caught with such items, the teacher will choose to take it away and might not return it to the students until the end of the day. If the same student brings Pokemon cards again, parent's will be called to ensure the expectations are understood. If the situation persists, then this might lead to a potential write up. Please explain and reinforce these expectations at home as we will also reinforce them at school.

## **VIRTUE OF THE MONTH**

The Virtue of the month for March is **COOPERATION**. Cooperation is about working together and helping others. This kid thrives when doing group work and is capable of leading their team to success! If your child was nominated, they will receive a BJ's Southcenter free kids meal and a "STAR STUDENT" necklace/bracelet. Please encourage and practice **COOPERATION** at home. The student photos will be posted on the morning of Monday, March 28.

## **MASK MANDATE**

Although Governor Inslee and King County Department of Health announced earlier this week that the indoor mask mandate will lift at 11:59 p.m. on March 11, masks continue to be required at school at this time. We will have further guidance after the Department of Health issues an update on March 7. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we receive updated guidance as well as navigate the impact of these changes on the Tukwila Community.

## **PANDEMIC & QUARANTINE REPEAT**

Per the King County Department of Health, CDC, and TSD COVID team, there are new quarantine protocols. The quarantine requirements are different for the Omicron variant. When an individual is deemed to be in "close contact" with an individual who tested positive, they were 3 feet or closer to this individual for a period of at least 15 minutes in a 24hr period. This means they are considered to have been in close contact and required to quarantine for at least 5 days. If a student or staff member

was deemed to have close contact with an infected individual he/she must wait to receive a negative test result from a test taken no sooner than day 5 post-exposure and provide the negative test documentation to the school before returning.

If an individual who is in close contact chooses not to test or does not get tested, he/she must **quarantine for 10 days**.

In summary, the individual deemed in close contact may return to school so long as they are asymptomatic and have tested negative for COVID after five days from exposure or quarantined for 10 days. Symptoms may include: fever (100.4°F and above), cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting, and diarrhea. Individuals with any of these symptoms should remain in quarantine until the symptoms have been resolved.

One other change since the last newsletter is that siblings no longer are required to quarantine when a sibling's class is in quarantine.

During a necessary quarantine, impacted students will pivot to remote learning, be provided a Chromebook, and free meal service. Families of students in quarantine will be contacted by Thorndyke's office staff as soon as the Chromebooks have **arrived at Thorndyke** and are ready for pickup.

Both the education and health of students, staff, and families are top priorities for us. For the safety of our students, the Tukwila School District is following the most current Washington and King County Department of Health guidance on COVID-19 exposures and working to help your student stay engaged in learning.

## **UPDATED ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PLAN**

As I shared in the previous newsletter, The City of Tukwila, Tukwila School District and Thorndyke Elementary have been working together to tackle the challenges regarding student pick-up and drop-off at Thorndyke. It is extremely important that we follow the procedure outlined so we can keep Thorndyke open.

The Tukwila Police Department has informed school administration that staff can take photos of the license plates of cars parked illegally on 150th Street. Please be aware if you park illegally, we may take a photo of your license plate, send it to the Tukwila Police Department and you may be issued a ticket for illegal parking. If you want to avoid this, please follow cue through the parking lot.

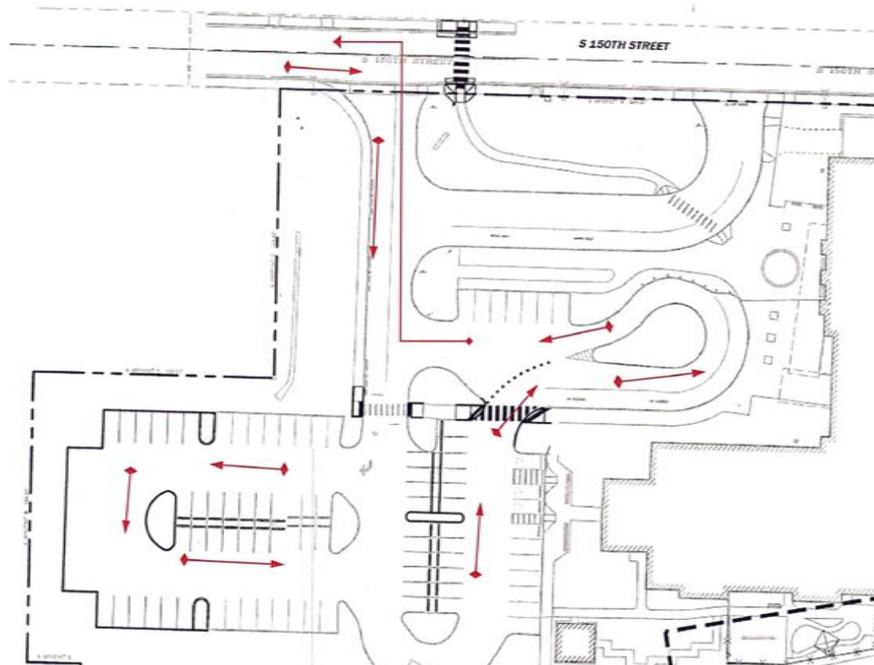
Also, it's really helpful when parents put the sign with their child's name and teacher on their dashboard or passenger window when they come to pick kids up. This way the staff members who work in the horseshoe shuttling students to cars can see which student(s) to shuttle more quickly.

In order to reduce the pick-up wait time, we encourage anyone who is within walking distance to walk to drop off and pick up their child(ren). Also, I will be working with the PTA to encourage **WALKING SCHOOL BUSES**. These are very effective as neighboring parents can share the responsibility in getting students to and from school. Walking and being out in the fresh air is also a healthy choice!

### **Here is the plan:**

- Please follow the layout and traffic flow pattern through the parking lot as indicated by the red arrows in the diagram below.
- There is **NO PARKING** in the designated drop-off area, Bus Zone or on S. 150<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Parents need to follow the line of cars. Stay in your car and teachers will bring your child to you. We will not load your child on the driver's side, as the outer lane in the horseshoe is for loaded cars to pass through. If you choose to park in the lot, you will need to get back into the line of traffic.
- **If you are picking up a child who attends Thorndyke's Head Start or K-5 grade program, please do not arrive prior to 2:50. Our pick up line will only be for our Voices of Tomorrow families from 2:15-2:45 . When parents come too early, it causes an overflow onto 150<sup>th</sup> street and there is no legal parking there.**
- Please do not let your car idle while waiting.
- The Tukwila Police Department has initiated enhanced enforcement in the area and will be ticketing illegal parking and speeding.
- If you park in the lot and walk to pick up your child, please stand back from the entrance/exit and location where students line up by grade level/class under the awning to wait for their ride. We are teaching students to stand in a line where their grade level and class is expected to be so we can find students in an expeditious manner.
- If you are in the pickup line blocking parked cars, please accommodate the parents/guardians who need to get out of their parking spot and get in the line to exit.



## **BUS LOOP & DISABILITY PARKING UPDATE**

I met with the Director of Operations and Facilities, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Director of Transportation in an effort to improve our arrival and dismissal routine. Cars are not allowed in the bus loop by state mandate so the disabled parking spots there will be removed this summer, as these have created a considerable amount of confusion. The plan is to add new disabled parking spots at a different location.

## **FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH**

Due to the public health emergency, USDA has given schools the flexibility to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in the school year 2021-2022. **School/School Districts operating SSO will offer meals each school day at no charge to all students.** In anticipation of a return to normal child nutrition program operations and the potential expansion of P-EBT into the school year 21-22,

we are encouraging families to complete and submit an application for free or reduced price meals. Lunch forms may be turned in to the main office.

## **STUDENT MESSAGES**

If plans change and you must get a message to your student before dismissal, please call the office **BEFORE 3:00 PM**. Requests received after 3:00 p.m. will not be guaranteed.

## **JOIN THORNDYKE PTA!**

More than 30 years of research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved. In school grades are higher, test scores rise, self-esteem grows, and schools improve.

Powerful outcomes result from your active involvement in your child's education. You know the benefits and want to make a difference, but how can you be more actively involved? It's simple – Join the Parent Teacher Association.

For 5 cents a day, you can become a PTA member, joining nearly 6 million other people who share your interest in issues affecting children. Everyone – parents, educators, students and other citizens active in their schools and communities are invited to join our not-for-profit organization. **Attached is our membership form. For \$10 per person, you can support teachers with their classroom needs, field trips for students and other fun school events!**

**BOX TOP ALERT!** Did you know that you don't need to clip any box tops anymore? There is a new app that you can download from Google Play or Apple App stores. It allows you to scan your grocery receipt and it gives the money from the box tops to our school! Please download the app today **OR** you may bring in your receipts so you can start helping your student's school raise money for special events...like field trips!



# Mark Your Calendar

## »» UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

Mar 9	Modified Wednesday, Dismissal @ 2:10 p.m.
Mar 16	Spring Conferences/ Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 21	First Adhoc Meeting for Mascot Change @ 5pm
Mar 30	Modified Wednesday, Dismissal @ 2:10 p.m.
Apr 6	Modified Wednesday, Dismissal @ 2:10 p.m.
April 11-15	Spring Break, No School for Students
April 20	Modified Wednesday, Dismissal @ 2:10



helping  
children  
to succeed

### **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 144<sup>th</sup> 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.**