

TUKWILA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

January 2025

From Ms. Nur...

Happy January, and WELCOME BACK!!!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday or winter break. This was a much-needed time for families, friends, and loved ones to reconnect and rejuvenate our energy for the new year. As we head into the remainder of the school year, we're excited to get back into the groove. With four months of school behind us and six more to go, this month we'll focus on reviewing expectations and reinforcing positive behaviors.

You can help us at home by encouraging and discussing these same expectations:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

These expectations look different in various spaces within our school. To further inspire our Tiger Scholars, we highlight a character trait each month, reminding students to always "Be the Best and the Brightest in all spaces."

Here are some questions you can ask at home to reinforce these values and support our efforts at school:

- How do you show respect and responsibility in the classroom?
- What are some things you need to do when walking in the hallways?
- Why is it important to keep a low voice (or zero voice) in the hallways? How does that help classmates who are still learning?
- What is the character trait of the month? Why is it important to learn about this trait?

Arrival and Dismissal Reminders: We Need Your Help!

We frequently review expectations with students and families to ensure everyone is safe and transitions smoothly.

Arrival:

- **School doors open at 8:30 AM.** There are no adults available to supervise before this time. Please wait with your child or ensure they remain safe until school starts.
- The front of the school is not a playground. Students are often tempted to play or run around, which can lead to injuries. Please remind them to stay in line until it's time to enter the building. **School begins at 8:50 AM.**

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Dismissal:

- Classes are dismissed in grade-level order, starting with **Kindergarten first** and ending with **5th grade last**.
- To keep the process efficient, please follow the dismissal order and plan accordingly.
- Dismissal begins at **3:10 PM**. If you arrive early, we encourage you to park, as it's the fastest way to pick up and leave.

Safety Reminder:

- Please do not pick up students outside of the designated pick-up zone. This creates traffic congestion and unsafe conditions. Following the pick-up process ensures we can complete dismissal safely and efficiently—usually by 3:20 PM or earlier.

Lockdown Drill: Tuesday, January 14th

We will be conducting a lockdown drill on Tuesday, January 14th. While these drills are essential for safety, they can sometimes feel scary for students. We explain to them that drills are a way to practice and prepare for emergencies, just like fire drills or tornado drills.

Here are some talking points to help ease any concerns at home:

- Drills help us practice and prepare for real emergencies.
- This is only practice, not a real situation.
- It's important to listen carefully and follow directions to keep everyone safe.
- Lockdown drills are designed to protect us from unsafe situations at or near the school.
- Staying calm and quiet during drills is essential for safety.

By practicing these drills, we ensure that students and staff are prepared, and our plans are as effective as possible in keeping everyone safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation! Let's make this next part of the school year successful and safe for everyone.

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Get to Know Ms. Sisley, our MLL Teacher!

**How long have you been at
Tukwila Elementary School?**

9 years

Why did you want to be a teacher?

I had a 6th grade teacher who took the time to tutor me in math after school. For the first time in my life, I realized that I could be good at math if I put in the extra work. His dedication inspired me to be a teacher. I still keep in touch with him to this day.

**What do you love most about the
students you work with?**

My students teach me so many new things. They also make me laugh and remind me every day that the little things are often the big things.

**What is one thing you like to do
outside of school?**

I love to go to concerts and comedy shows.

**Who would you choose if you could
pick one person, living or dead, to
have dinner with?**

The Rock (Dwayne Johnson)

What is your favorite color?

Navy Blue

January Character Trait

PERSEVERANCE

This month is all about Perseverance.

One way to think about

Perseverance is “pushing yourself
through challenges and obstacles.”

We all experience challenges in our lives. We all have moments when we feel like we can't do it or that we want to give up on a big task. It is important to develop tools that help us work through those challenges in order to grow in those moments instead of giving up.

How might you practice

Perseverance as a family this month?

January Events

Monday, 1/6: Back to School

Wednesday, 1/8: 1:55pm Early Release

Wednesday, 1/15: 1:55pm Early Release

Friday, 1/17: Popcorn Friday

Monday, 1/20: No School

Friday, 1/24: Talent Show 6pm

Monday, 1/27: No School

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Kindergarten

Welcome back, kindergarten families! We hope you had a restful winter break. As we ease back into school, we will review many things from the beginning of the year. Most importantly, we want to foster student independence in both an academic and social emotional capacity. In literacy, we will continue working on our kindergarten sight words, learn new word families (short i and short o), and isolate sounds in CVC words. In math, we will continue accurately counting groups of items, counting on from any given number, and begin talking about attributes of 2D and 3D shapes. Please please please fill out the volunteer form from the district website, so you are able to help out in the future (in the classroom or on field trips!). As always, thank you for working with your students at home.



Grade 1

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful, relaxing break. We are diving right back into our learning! We start the 3rd unit in math where we will be studying counting strategies to add and subtract. In literacy we will work on long vowel patterns in words, blends, working on finding the main idea and details in a text, author's purpose, suffixes, text features, and pronouns. We also will review school and classroom expectations.

Grade 2

Hello Families! We hope you had a good break. We are excited to be getting back into our routines. This month students will be reviewing class expectations. In math, students will be continuing their work with addition and subtraction. In reading, students will work on answering comprehension questions and using the text to prove their answers.
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Grade 2, continued...

Are you looking for more reading resources to use at home? All 2nd-grade classes have access to the website RAZ Kids. This is a great reading resource for students. There are many books at all levels. Students read a book, listen to it, and answer questions about the book. If you have any questions about logging in, reach out to your child's teacher.



Grade 3

All third grade students are busy learning their multiplication facts (0-10.) Please encourage your child to study each evening to achieve mastery. In writing students are in the process of working on their Animal Reports. They are learning the various stages of the writing process and will be presenting their reports and projects to visiting classrooms. Third grade will be taking the IReady and Dibels tests the second week of January. On January 22, they will be taking the IAB math test as well.

Grade 4

Fourth graders are learning about factors and multiples as we begin our multiplication unit in math. They are working hard to memorize their multiplication facts! In reading, students are practicing making inferences and finding a theme to a fictional story. Our classes did our first IAB test last week. This short practice test gives students experience with a SBA testing format.

Grade 5

Fifth graders are heading to camp January 21-23. Please ensure two forms are completed and submitted: one for the camp and one for the district. If your child requires medicine, a medical form from the doctor must also be submitted. Students should wear old clothing and avoid new shoes at camp. They will do a lot of walking. Pack light enough for children to carry their own luggage, as wheeled bags will not work well on the gravel paths.

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MLL

The MLL department finished 2024 strong. Since September we have been collaborating closely with grade levels to support our MLL students in their classroom. Each day we meet with students to assist them with literacy, math and language skills. During the month of January we will be getting ready to take the annual WIDA test. This test features four sections: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Students can prepare for the test by reading short stories, retelling the story, answering comprehension questions, and writing sentences summarizing the story.

STEAM

The new year brings a lot of new projects into STEAM class. All classes K-5 are learning about coding concepts including what an event and a loop is on a computer program. The third through fifth graders are working with partners on engineering, circuitry, or robotics projects. The kindergarten through second graders are learning about science concepts including gravity. It will be a fun month of learning. Ask your child what they did in STEAM this week.

Music

The music room is busy in Jan as students learn music about Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement in preparation for our MLK assembly. Primary classes will also be working on winter songs and activities, and intermediate students will be doing some African drumming.

PE

Welcome back Tukwila Tigers! In January, students will be working on muscular endurance in the iron cross, wall sit, and plank challenges. Classes will also be playing hockey, medicine tag, and doing activities with the giant parachute.

