

Principal's Corner



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Dear Taku Parents & Guardians,

I hope this finds you well. A snow day in September? That's a first for me. Please review the following updates.

Please Send 2 Masks Everyday with your Student

- We have run low on masks a couple of times already. Thank you for sending 2 masks with your student every day.

Q Parent Connect

- Do you know how to login to Q?
- You can check your student's grades and assignments anytime
- If you are unsure, please talk with your teacher

Covid Update

- Alaska currently leads the nation in Covid positivity rates. Please be safe and talk with your doctor about vaccinations. We are doing our very best to keep all classrooms and schools open.
- Hospitals in Anchorage have begun to ration care based on their crisis plans.
- Taku Elementary, like the rest of Anchorage, has been experiencing high rates of positive Covid cases.
- Thank you for doing your part to keep our students, staff, and community safe

Winter is Coming (or is it here?)

- Please send your student to school with appropriate gear and clothing. We go outside everyday unless the temperatures are below negative 10 degrees

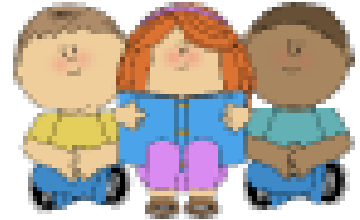
If you have celebrations, questions, or concerns, please call or email anytime. I feel very lucky to be Taku's principal and appreciate our community.

All the best, Chris
Chris Opitz, principal

Specialist News

Library

October @ Your Library



Curriculum

For October, the genre, or style of writing, of the month is Mystery. A mystery is a made-up story in which a detective finds the answer to a question or solves a crime, using clues. Mysteries usually contain an atmosphere of excitement and suspense and are great for developing critical thinking skills because the reader puts together clues to solve the mystery along with the book character(s).

This month in the library, students at specific grade levels are being supported in meeting English Language Arts and Library / Media Literacy standards in the following areas.

Kindergarten – We will emphasize book handling and care, book selection, library locations, and fiction versus nonfiction. In these activities, we will focus on standards asking students to identify characters, setting, and events; to ask / answer questions about unknown words in fiction and nonfiction; to identify front and back covers and title page; to participate in collaborative conversations; and to recognize question words.

First Grade – We will look at book handling and care; book selection and discussion; author, illustrator, and title; library locations; and parts of a book. Through these activities, we will address standards involving asking / answering questions about key details and identifying main topic, and standards addressing collaborative conversations.

Second Grade – We will conduct book discussions; share good ideas for book handling, care, and selection; review author, illustrator, title, publisher, and copyright; look at elements of a story (characters, plot, setting, etc.); explore library locations; examine parts of a book (emphasizing title page); and compare fiction versus nonfiction. Through these activities, we will focus on standards that focus on students asking / answering questions to demonstrate understanding and clarifying comprehension, and standards focused on collaborative conversations.

Third Grade – Through book discussion; demonstration of effective book handling, care, and selection; review of author, illustrator, title, publisher, and copyright; defining elements of a story; exploring library locations; and examining the parts of a book (emphasizing title page, table of contents, index, and glossary), we will target standards that expect students to be able to ask / answer questions to demonstrate understanding, and to use text features and search tools to locate information.

Fourth Grade – By participating in readers' theater, exploring library locations, and conducting library research, we will address standards that ask students to use details and examples, and to differentiate between situations requiring formal and informal English.

Fifth Grade – By participating in readers' theater, engaging in book discussion, and talking about the research process (brainstorming topics, using a variety of sources, and synthesis), we will focus on standards requiring that students quote accurately from text when explaining explicit answers and inferences; requiring that students be able to determine main ideas; and requiring that students adapt speech to various contexts.

Sixth Grade – By participating in readers' theater, engaging in book discussion, participating in the research process (brainstorming topics, using a variety of sources, and synthesis), and investigating the topics of intellectual property and digital literacy, we will address a number of standards. We will compare / contrast the experience of listening versus reading. We will determine an author's point of view or purpose. We will conduct mini-research projects. We will engage in collaborative discussions. Finally, we will continue a series of Online Safety / Responsibility lessons begun in previous years.

Activities

Library Class of the Month

All students will continue to compete to win the Library Class of the Month award. Winning classes will be announced during Quarterly Assemblies. Please plan to attend Quarterly Assemblies where you can celebrate all our students' achievements!

Recess Read-Aloud / Young Readers' Choice

4th and 5th grade students will be invited to attend Recess Read-Aloud sessions, in conjunction with the Young Readers' Choice program. These programs encourage recreational reading, book discussion, and student voting on which book they consider the best written during the year. These programs are a great way to encourage students to read and think critically. Please look for a permission slip for these programs soon.

Maker Space

2nd through 6th grade students will be invited to visit the library once a week during recess to create, explore, collaborate, and learn using a variety of materials ranging from Lego blocks to cardboard tubes, straws, paper plates, tissue paper, and the like. No permission slip is required.

Happy Autumn!

Physical Education



- Healthy Futures:
 - September Healthy Futures logs are due Oct. 1st.
 - October logs will be sent home the last week of September and are due on November 1st.
 - To turn in the completed log:
 - Send to school with your student at the end of the month or take a picture and email to: Washington_natalie@asdk12.org
 - September logs are due by October 2nd.

Thank you,
Natalie Washington
Taku P.E. teacher



Read·A·Thon

Taku Elementary School has decided to hold a Read-a-thon this year!

Our Read-a-thon will get your reader excited about reading, and it will give friends and family the opportunity to encourage your child to read even more.

Our Read-a-thon starts Monday, October 11, 2021.

On September 30th, we will send home instructions on how to activate your reader's personal page. This is where you will be able to view and record their progress.

We've chosen Read-a-thon because it will not take much of your time, gives your child a reason to read, and helps in the development of stronger reading skills.

We hope EVERYONE participates.

Thanks so much,

Taku Elementary Tiger Readers



Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School Flu & Vaccine Clinic

Register Now

Save time by registering at

<https://myhealth.alaska.gov/appointment/en/reg/6461305192>
or scan the QR code.



Saturday, October 9th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School
4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Open to all ASD Staff, Students, and Families.

Vaccines are free of charge. No proof of insurance required.



To also schedule a COVID
Vaccine with Beacon at the same
time/location use this QR Code:





Hosted by: Anchorage School District, Title I

Led by Love and Logic
Trained Facilitator
Meg'n Gall

Dates: Every Thursday (10/14, /10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11,
11/18)

Time: Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 Pm

Location: Zoom link will be provided weekly.

How to Register: Name

Child's school
Email address
Mailing address
Phone number

Questions and to register: Meg'n Gall

gall_megn@asdk12.org

Cost: Free

****Limited seats available

***** This is a class series Registration is for all six weeks.

You will find answers to:

- How do I get them out of bed in time for school?
- How can I stop my children to help with chores without arguing?
- Is there a way to discipline my toddler in public without creating a scene?
- How can I get my teenage daughter to come home at the agreed time?
- How do I get him to eat his dinner without complaining?
- And many more day to day parenting challenges?



October 2021

10/07 – Picture day

10/12 – PTA meeting 5:30 pm Library

10/14 – Jog-a-Thon

10/15 – No school (grade reporting day)

10/20-10/21 – Parent/Teacher conferences (1/2 Days-dismissal at 12:30 pm)

10/22- No school (In-service day)

10/29 – Family Literacy Night 6-8 pm

November 2021

11/9-PTA meeting 5:30 pm Library

11/10-Picture retakes

11/11-No school (In-service day)

11/17- We are Taku Family Night 6-7:30 pm

11/25-11/26-No school (Thanksgiving Holiday)



Thank you to the **Travis and Lynn Mills Foundation** for donating cases of individual water bottles. They were given to teachers to keep in their classrooms for our students. We appreciate you!

Also, thank you to **Costco** on Dimond for allowing them to purchase more than the water limit to support our school and for gifting masks to Taku!

Thank you to **Great Alaska Pizza Co.** for your donation of pizzas for our Student of the Month lunch with Mr.Opitz.



Title 1 Parent Update

September 24, 2021

Dear Parent:

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the parents of students attending Title I schools have the right to request the professional qualifications of their children's teachers. I can assure you that all teachers in the Anchorage School District meet strict state standards and are indeed qualified to teach, but you have the right also to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has issued an Alaska teacher's certificate for the grade(s) and subject(s) he or she teaches.
- Whether the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has decided that your child's teacher can teach without being certified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether any classroom aides or other paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like specific information about your child's teacher or paraprofessional, please contact me. For general information about ESEA, please contact Zareena Clendaniel, Compliance Coordinator, for the school district, at 742-7819.

I know you want the very best for your child. All of the educators in the Anchorage School District join me in wanting to make sure every child succeeds in school. We look forward to working with you to make sure all students get the quality education they deserve and all schools are successful.

Sincerely,

Chris Opitz

School Principal