



**TAKU ELEMENTARY**

Taku will foster a safe and welcoming learning environment to support the diverse needs of all students where everyone is valued and strives for success.

# MARCH, 2026 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary    Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



## Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

Thank you to all who joined us for our Spring Conferences! It was great to see everyone in the building. Shout out to our PTA for hosting the Scholastic Book Fair - we hope you all got some good books to enjoy at home with the kids.

I'd like to welcome Ms. Korinne Engstrom to the Taku Team as our Assistant Principal for the remainder of the year! You'll be seeing her around campus - we're glad she's on the Team.

The end of the 3rd quarter is the end of the week. Make sure to check on Parent Connect for missing/late assignments. Teachers will also be in communication as needed. Report cards will be available online after Spring Break.

The AK STAR Assessment will take place close to the end of the month and/or beginning of April for grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th. More info to come... But, we encourage students to get a good night of rest and maintain consistent attendance!

Some Upcoming Important Dates:

3/3/26 - PTA Meeting @ 5:30 - Starbucks on Dimond

3/5/26 - Explorations!

3/6/26 - End of 3rd Quarter

3/9/26 - 3/13/26 - Spring Break

3/16/26 - Beginning of 4th Quarter

4/3/26 - Family Engagement Breakfast - More info to come! Mark your calendars!

We're grateful for your ongoing support and involvement. Thank you for being an important part of our school community!

Warm regards,  
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

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## Family Survey! Climate & Connectedness

The Family Survey is open through March 20, 2026.

- Family Survey: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily>

Complete the survey. Take a screen shot of completion and send to AskTaku@asdk12.org and your child will go home with a prize!

We will also have chromebooks set up and available to complete the survey during Parent Teacher Conferences!

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## Title I Community Survey

As a Title I school, Taku Elementary receives federal funding each year to capitalize on our schoolwide goals.

Please take a couple minutes to complete our Title I Community Survey below.

<https://forms.gle/vf1K38BxqzEHQS2V6>

Thank you!

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## Title 1 Meetings

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, April 9, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, April 23, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, May 14, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

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## 2026 AKSTAR and Alaska Science Assessment

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success. The State of

Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align and connect the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall and winter.

This balanced assessment system targets instruction to better support meeting students' individual learning needs. In addition, students will take only one assessment per content area (ELA and math) and be provided two scores as follows:

1. Summative assessment result at grade-level
2. MAP Growth interim benchmark result, including growth from fall to spring

AK STAR, the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, is comprised of English language arts and mathematics and is administered to students in grades 3-9. The Alaska Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents and schools an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at grade level.

Parents can locate resources for AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Student Readiness (Practice Tests and Tutorials), student testing times and general assessment information on the ASD website at <https://www.asdk12.org/akstar>.

Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days.

The ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing dates: \_\_\_\_\_

### **2026 ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment Testing Window:**

**March 30-April 17**

*(Make-ups through May 1)*

State of Alaska Window: March 30-May 1

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## **ASD Make-Up Days**

Dear ASD Families and Staff,

So far this year, schools have closed for four days because of weather conditions. The school calendar already included two closure days, so we need to make up two extra days.

The approved school calendar includes make-up days if they are needed. To make up the extra closure days, the following changes will be made:

- **Friday, April 17** will be a **full school day**
- The **last day of school for students** will now be **Thursday, May 21**
- The **last workday for teachers** will be **Friday, May 22**

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## **IMPORTANT REMINDER: FRONT OFFICE ENTRY ONLY**

For the safety and security of all students and staff, **ALL parents and visitors who enter the building MUST come through the FRONT OFFICE and sign in.**

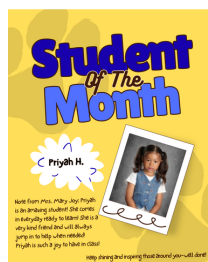
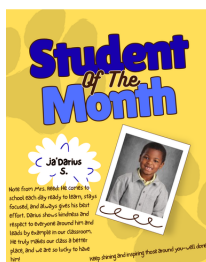
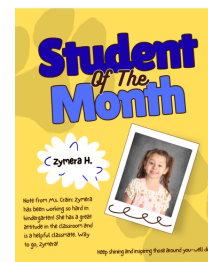
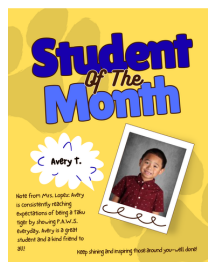
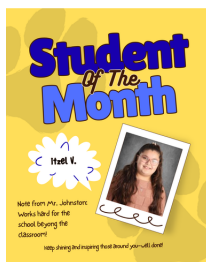
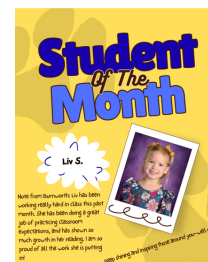
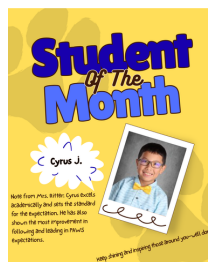
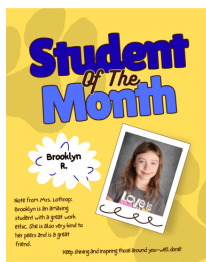
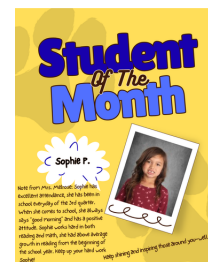
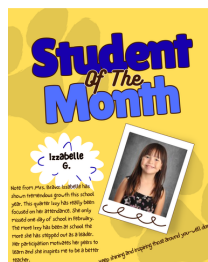
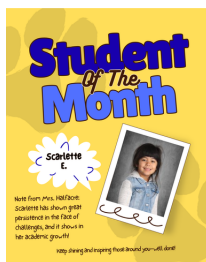
Side doors are NOT to be used by parents at any time – including during drop-off. Even if you are just stepping in briefly, you are required to enter through the main entrance and check in at the office. Thank you for helping us keep our school safe by following this procedure every day!

## February Students of the Month

Congratulations to our Taku Tigers Students of the Month!

These students have been recognized by their teachers for their hard work, kindness, and positive impact in the classroom. We're so proud of the way they represent our school community!

Check out the pictures below with the wonderful notes their teachers shared about them. Way to go, Tigers!



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## Taku's March Staff Recognition

Please join us in celebrating Ms. Musselman, Mrs. Ritter, Mrs. Lopez, and Mr. Heysell for their recognition this month for their outstanding work! Their dedication, hard work, and care for our students make a big difference every day at Taku. We are so grateful for all that they do. Congratulations!



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## Safe Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

### Parking Lot Safety

### Transportation Expectations

Please visit our website below for more information about our [Arrival/Dismissal Expectations](#).

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## Taku's Amazon Wishlist

We've created an Amazon Wishlist with items that would greatly benefit our students. If you're able, please take a moment to look through it and consider purchasing a few items. If you know someone who may be willing to contribute, feel free to share the link with them. Any support is appreciated, and it would mean a lot to all of us!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK40TPPSK/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK40TPPSK/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

# Specialist News

## Art with Liz Feucht

### March:

This month, students are asking “How do artists like me connect with others and the world around me?” One way artists connect with the larger community is through galleries, museums, and art shows. March is Youth Art Month, and it’s a great time for students to observe and appreciate art around Anchorage! You can see art by Anchorage School District Students at:

- The Anchorage Museum
- The Loussac Library
- The Muldoon Library
- The ASD Education Center
- The Eagle River Library
- The MK Gallery at the 5th Avenue Mall

Every child, whether they are featured in the above shows or not, is an artist with ideas, creativity, and perspective to share. Remember to celebrate your own student artists in your home and family by talking about, displaying and sharing their art!



Kindergarteners and 1st graders will be starting a paper mache project after spring break. We will need empty 12 oz water or soda bottles. If you have some at home, you send them to school.

Thanks!

Ms. Liz

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## Note from Nurse Ellie

### Spring Is Around the Corner!

March brings longer days, a little more sunshine, and a great opportunity to focus on **healthy eating and growing strong bodies**. This month we’re highlighting nutrition and simple ways to fuel our students for learning and play.

### Health Focus of the Month: National Nutrition Month – Fueling Growing Bodies

#### Why it’s important:

Children’s bodies and brains are growing every day. Balanced meals and snacks help improve focus, mood, immune function, and energy levels—especially during the busy spring months.

#### Tips for Parents & Students

- **Eat the rainbow** – Include fruits and vegetables in a variety of colors.



- **Power up with protein** – Yogurt, eggs, cheese, nut butters, beans, and lean meats help keep kids full longer.
- **Don't skip breakfast** – A simple breakfast improves concentration and stamina.
- **Pack smart snacks** – Try fruit + protein (apple & cheese stick, crackers & peanut butter).
- **Drink water first** – Hydration supports energy and prevents headaches.

#### Nurse's Notes

- **Cold & flu season is still here:** Please keep children home if they have fever, vomiting, or diarrhea until 24 hours symptom-free.
- **Winter gear still needed:** Snow pants, coats, gloves, and hats should continue coming to school until temperatures consistently rise.
- **Allergy season ahead:** If your child has seasonal allergies, now is a good time to speak with your healthcare provider about a management plan.

#### Healthy Habit of the Month

##### Try one new healthy food this week!

Encourage your child to help pick out a new fruit or vegetable at the store. When kids help choose and prepare food, they're more likely to try it.

Thank you for helping our students grow strong, healthy, and ready to learn this spring!

907-742-5948

Smith\_ellie@asdk12.org

## Important Dates



#### No School 3/9 - 3/13

Spring Break



#### No School - 3/6

Student release grading day.  
End of 3rd Quarter.



#### PTA Meeting - 3/3

Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 7:00pm at the Starbucks on Dimond! Also! Please follow our PTA Facebook with the link below.  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17N1pBj7mH/>

# EXPLORATIONS DAY

## Explorations! 3/5

Explorations is a half-day opportunity for children to explore interests that may not be covered in the course of a typical school day.

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## Thank You for your donation!

A big thank you to Great Alaska Pizza Co. for their generous donation of pizza for our Students of the Month! We're proud to celebrate these amazing students and their accomplishments.



## THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies

HI TAKU FAMILIES!

Just some friendly reminders:

- Absences can be reported in parent connect. If you are planning a vacation please let the office know so we can enter a pre-arranged absence.
- Students who arrive to school at or after 8am (9am on Mondays) need to come through the front office to get marked tardy.
- We are striving to achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher. Please take a moment to review the procedure, and let's keep attendance on point—because every day counts!  
[Attendance Procedures](#)
- If you're coming into the office at dismissal, please park in a designated spot and avoid stopping in the pick-up lane. This helps keep traffic moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation!



~ Rachel **Musselman** (AA) and Rachel **Ketchum** (Secretary) ~

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## Become a Taku School Business Partner!

Are you a local business looking to make a big difference in your community? Taku Elementary is seeking School Business Partners (SBPs) to join us in supporting our students and staff. Whether it's a small donation or a larger contribution, **every bit counts**—and every act of generosity helps us provide more for our amazing kids and dedicated team.

If you or someone you know is interested in partnering with us, please reach out at **907-742-5940** or **asktaku@asdk12.org**. We'd love to connect!

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## Important Update: New Pick-Up Change Policy

We will no longer be able to accommodate pick-up changes after 2:15pm, except in the case of an emergency. Late changes create unnecessary confusion in the office, as we need to locate students, verify bus routes, and ensure timely dismissals. We also want to avoid delays for students on the buses. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth end-of-day routine.

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## Volunteering at Taku

If you are interested in volunteering at Taku this upcoming year, please fill out the volunteer form ASAP. This must be done every school year. Parents who filled out the form last year will need to reapply.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQDHMwPMg/viewform>

We encourage families to do this now, that way, as events, field trips and other volunteer opportunities arise you won't have to scramble last minute. The volunteer process includes a background check and can take up to 5 business days before ASD's Office of Equity approves or denies your application. Once we have received the approval/denial we will email you to let you know.

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### Taku Elementary

Email: [asktaku@asdk12.org](mailto:asktaku@asdk12.org)

Website: <https://www.asdk12.org/taku>

Location: [701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK, USA](#)

Phone: [907-742-5940](tel:907-742-5940)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>



**Taku Elementary**

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

