

# TUKWILA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

April 2026

## A Note from Ms. Nur

Hello Tukwila Tiger Families,

We did it! March is behind us!

Now that we've made it over the hump, things will start to fly by once we return from Spring Break. This year, Spring Break will be from **Monday, April 6th to Friday, April 10th**. We're so excited for our kiddos to get some well-deserved rest and come back refreshed for the final stretch of the school year!

Once we return, we begin the "last push" for academic success. This is a critical time for our Tiger Scholars to stay focused and finish strong as we prepare for the upcoming SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment) and Final Round of I-ready testing! We will be working overtime to flex our perseverance muscles and we need your help and encouragement! Your support at home during this testing season makes a world of difference in their confidence and achievement!

### **April Character Trait: Courage**

Our character trait for April is Courage! This is a big and meaningful trait to develop, especially as students face end-of-year challenges and assessments. Here are some simple ways you can talk about and practice courage with your child this week:

Dinner Table Talk: "Can you think of a time when you felt nervous or scared but did something anyway? What helped you be brave?"

Story Time Connection: Read a book together and ask: "Which character showed courage? What made their actions brave?"

Try Something New: Encourage your child to try something they've never done before—whether it's a new food, a new game, or introducing themselves to someone new. Praise their effort, not just the outcome!

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## More from Ms. Nur...

### Earthquake Drill

We will be holding an Earthquake Drill this month. Safety drills are an important part of keeping students prepared and helping them respond calmly and safely to any situation.

### Why We Practice Drills:

Practicing ahead of time helps everyone stay calm, follow directions quickly, and know exactly what to do. When procedures are familiar, students feel more confident and adults can respond efficiently to keep everyone safe.

### Thumbs Up 3 Reminders:

During all safety drills, our scholars follow three simple expectations to help us move safely and calmly:

Voices Off  
Eyes Looking  
Ears Listening

Please take a few moments to review the Thumbs Up 3 with your Tiger Scholar at home so they feel ready, calm, and confident during our schoolwide practice.



HAPPY  
SPRING



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## Get to Know our STEAM Teacher, Ms. Rice!

**How many years have you been teaching?**

27 years

**How many years have you been at Tukwila Elementary?**

22 years

**What did you want to be when you were younger?**

A Lawyer

**What's your favorite candy?**

Chocolate with Almonds

**If you could meet anyone, who would it be?**

Chewbacca

**If you could only watch one show for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Star Wars



## Upcoming Events

April 1: Early Release, 1:55pm

April 3: Kids Heart Challenge Program Ends

April 6-10: No School, Spring Break

April 13: Regular School Day

April 15-30: YES Day Fundraiser

April 15: Early Release, 1:55pm

April 17: 2nd Grade Field Trip to Seattle Children's Theater

April 22: Early Release, 1:55pm

April 23: Class Picture Day!

April 23: K-2 Character Trait Assembly

April 24: 3-5 Character Trait Assembly

April 29: Early Release, 1:55pm

May 1: 4th Grade Field Trip to Woodland Park Zoo

## Character Trait for April: Courage

We are excited to focus on Courage this month! One way to think about Courage is "choosing what is helpful, right, and kind even when it is hard or scary." Courage can look a little different for everyone. Explore as a family what Courage means to you!

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## Kindergarten News

Spring break is coming up (April 6th-10th)! If you'd like your child to practice reading and literacy skills over the break, they can access iReady, Lexia, or Pebble Go from home. Simply visit [this link](#). You need a QR code to log in. Please check with your child's teacher to get the code.

We're excited to share that our kindergarteners have made tremendous progress in literacy! We have moved on from letter names and sounds as a grade level and are now focusing on sight words, CVC words (consonant-vowel-consonant words like "cat," "dog," and "sun"), and word families (such as -at, -an, -ig). Please take a moment to check in with your child to ensure they know all their letter names and sounds. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's learning! Enjoy a restful and joyful spring break!

## First Grade News

Hello families! This month in phonics and reading we will be learning how to spell words with vowel teams, diphthongs (aw, au, ew, etc) and the tricky y. We will also continue to build our vocabularies and further our understanding of books, including both fiction and nonfiction. In math, we will be working on adding two digit numbers that require us to look at both the ones and tens places, for example  $43 + 25$  and then we will be switching over to geometry. For the final few months of school, we will be working really hard to become stronger writers to get us ready for second grade. Please make sure to work with your student on their sight and spelling words each week and to make sure they are reading at least 20 minutes a day.

## Music News

We have finished our opera unit in music class and enjoyed a wonderful performance of a scene from the Barber of Seville, by Rossini. Many thanks to the Raisbeck Foundation for funding the performance! In April, we will be learning about classical composers and songs about earth day and nature. 4th and 5th graders will be learning to play the recorder! I have enough to provide each student with a sanitized recorder to use at school, but if they prefer to have their own, you can usually find them at Target, Fred Meyer, or Amazon: [recorderonamazon](#). Please avoid the dollar store. The instruments tend not to work correctly. 2nd and 3rd graders will spend some time working on note reading on bell kits. K-1st graders will be doing vocal exploration, singing, and playing various percussion instruments.

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## Second Grade News

Second graders continue to work hard. Please continue to read with your child daily. We have been working on Non-fiction reading in class. Ask your child about the parts of a nonfiction piece like: diagrams, maps, headings and subheadings. We are excited for our field trip to the Seattle Children's Theater on April 17th.

## Third Grade News

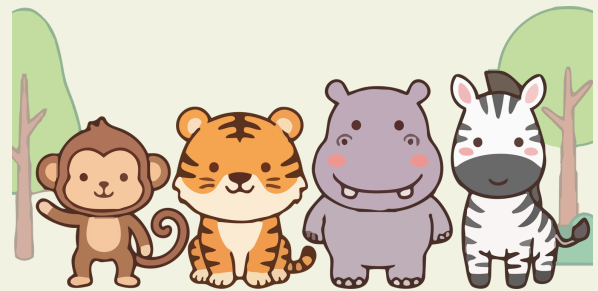
Third grade has been working hard preparing students for the SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessments) reading and math assessments. Our focus in math has been on fractions, measurement, data, time, and geometry. Our reading work continues to focus on reading comprehension in both fiction and non-fiction and slowing down to understand what is being asked to better answer questions. We highly recommend students and families practice this test at home. Use the link below for Practice and Training Tests.

[SBA Practice Tests](#)

## Fourth Grade News

Learning about fractions and decimals is an important part of fourth grade math, and we started that important work this month. Students are building skills to decompose, add, subtract, and compare fractions using a variety of strategies. In reading, we're learning about elements of poetry along with text structures for informational and fictional texts. Fourth graders continue to work through the writing process for opinion, informational, and narrative writing. We're especially working on the conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and paragraph structure. After spring break, we will begin practicing and reviewing for SBA tests in May.

On May 1, we will have a field trip to the Woodland Park Zoo.



## MLL News

The ML students at Tukwila have been getting back into the swing of things after taking a break for the WIDA test. It has been wonderful to see the students again and talk with them about their experiences when taking the test. The WIDA test had four sections: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Many of the students shared that their favorite part was the Speaking section where they got to speak their answers into a microphone attached to headphones. Also last month our school got the opportunity to meet with families during Spring Conferences. Interpreters were provided when requested by families and conferences were a success.

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## Fifth Grade News

April has been an exciting month in 5th grade! We had such a wonderful time during outdoor school at Camp IslandWood, where students explored nature, made observations, and learned so much about the world around them through hands-on experiences. It was a joy to see their curiosity, teamwork, and enthusiasm shine throughout the trip. We are also looking forward to Spring Break from April 6th–10th, and hope it is a restful and fun time for everyone.

When we return, our class will be working toward some important learning goals. In Math, we will continue working on multiplying and dividing rational numbers while also preparing for the SBA. In Science, we will begin our study of space and strengthen skills for SBA prep by focusing on using evidence to support thinking. In ELA, students will practice reading and responding to multiple sources and citing evidence clearly in their writing. We are excited for a strong month of learning ahead!

## STEAM News

Hi Tukwila families! STEAM is springing up new projects. The third through fifth graders are working on new projects with new partners this spring. Please ask them what they are creating in STEAM. The Kindergarten through third graders are learning cooperation by building with teams. Many students are sharing with me how they build and design at home! Thank you for your support. We are a school of engineers.

## P.E. News

Welcome back from Spring Break! Coming up in PE, third, fourth, and fifth graders will be learning new games such as Bring it Home and Capture the Cone. They will also be doing more fitness challenges including the second round of PACER to earn a customized bookmark. Kindergarten, first, and second graders will be doing a variety of activities including relay races and parachute. All classes will be practicing games and activities that will be part of our upcoming Field Day on June 12th.

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## YES Day is Back!

This year the PTA is bringing back our BEST and most important fundraiser of the year – “YES Day!!!! Thank you everyone for making it so successful last year – we raised over \$10K!

Most of our school PTA events are break-even events and/or out of pocket expenses, so we really need to maintain the one fundraiser per year to bring in the money to support all our activities. We hope to have all your support to execute.

### The Details:

- Fundraising will begin after Spring Break for 2-weeks: 4/15 – 4/30.
- We will be handing out flyers on Monday 4/13 to teachers to send home with students.
- We will also be advertising on TTN and Talking Points. We will send a pre-scripted email to teachers as well if they want to forward it to parents.
- Once the fundraising is LIVE – just like last year, we will share class stats / fundraising amounts.
- Each grade will have a winning class (so six winning classes) that earned the most money.

### About “Yes” Day

- YES Day is based on the ideas in the book and the movie. We circulated a few of the books around last year. I know a few classes also watched the movie.
- Each grade will have a winning class based on funds raised – for the “Yes” Day parties the winning class teachers must say “YES” to their students’ requests (don’t worry – you’ll get to pre-approve your list beforehand). Some of the fun ideas from last year: glow stick dance party, silly string battle outside, lego building party, McDonald’s party, etc.... let your imagination decide!

**YES**