

DECEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER
TUKWILA ELEMENTARY

NOTES FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MS. NUR

Hello Tukwila Tiger Families,

December is always an exciting time at Tukwila Elementary! We're right in the middle of the holiday season, and the joy and energy in the building are definitely growing as we head toward winter break. During this busy time, please continue to engage in conversations with your child about school expectations, staying focused, and finishing the month strong.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Recently, we've noticed an increase in families picking up students in unsafe areas during dismissal. Our team has been working hard to ensure dismissal is safe, smooth, and completed in under 10 minutes, helping families get home quickly and efficiently. With your partnership, we can keep this going! Here's how you can support a safe dismissal:

🚙 Don't want to wait in line? You are welcome to bypass the line and park in the lot.
🚗 Please remain in your car if you are in the pick-up loop – we will bring your child to you!
🏫 All pick-ups MUST go through Mrs. Boline. Our designated pick-up zone begins only after you enter the school loop. Mrs. Boline is your guide – if you see her, you're in the right spot!
👨‍👩‍👧 If a family member is picking up your child, they cannot return to the car in the unsafe zone. They must walk to the parking lot or the designated pick-up area before returning to the vehicle.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE DRILL - HAZARDOUS WASTE

As part of our continued commitment to student and staff safety, we will be conducting a Shelter-in-Place Drill on December 11. This practice focuses on what to do in the event of a hazardous waste or environmental concern in our surrounding area.

We explain to students that this is just a practice, similar to a fire drill or earthquake drill. These routines help everyone feel prepared, confident, and calm should an unexpected situation arise.

💬 Reassure your child that safety drills are about being prepared, not being scared.
💙 Explain that sometimes we stay inside to keep the air clean and safe.
🧩 Practicing together helps us move with confidence and follow directions quickly.



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KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Happy December, Kindergarten Families! As we head into December, please continue practicing sight words and number recognition from 0-20 at home. Remember to read with your child for 15 minutes every night in any language! We are working on building independence in the classroom, so please practice having your child zip up their own jacket and tie their shoelaces independently. A few important reminders. Our kindergarten field trip is coming up on December 10th! Please keep this date in mind. More information will be shared as we get closer. Regular school attendance is very important! Please make sure your child comes to school every day and arrives on time so they don't miss out on important learning and classroom activities. Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2, Early Dismissal, 1:55pm

December 4, PTA Movie & Craft Night, 6:00pm-8:00pm

December 9, Early Dismissal, 1:55pm

December 10, Kindergarten Field Trip

December 11, Shelter-in-Place Drill

December 16, Early Dismissal, 1:55pm

Winter Break
December 21 - January 1

School Resumes
Monday, January 4



CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH: EMPATHY

This month's focus is Empathy. One way to think about Empathy is "understanding and connecting with other people's feelings." Empathy is a practice that can help us grow strong relationships. Empathy is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Kind. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.



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GRADE 1 NEWS

This month first grade will continue building our understanding of fiction and nonfiction texts, as well as our academic vocabularies. In phonics we will begin working on reading and writing words with long vowel teams and will continue working on words that begin with two letter consonant blends. For grammar, we will be learning more about the different parts of speech including: common & proper nouns, adjectives, verbs, and pronouns. In math we will be finishing up our first unit of adding and subtracting within 10. Finally, for social studies we will be learning about different types of traditions, celebrations, and holidays people in our community have and celebrate. The weather is getting colder, please make sure that your student is bringing a jacket every day because we go outside rain or shine! Have a wonderful December!

GRADE 2 NEWS

December is a busy and exciting month in second grade! We continue to work on strengthening our reading, writing, and math skills. Winter break is a great opportunity to keep learning through everyday activities. Encourage your child to read daily, practice math facts, and write about their experiences. We wish all our families a wonderful winter break.



GRADE 3 NEWS

Third grade has been working on multiplication, place value, and addition/subtraction. Our focus in reading has been spelling, phonics, and comprehension. Writing has focused on the fundamentals of writing i.e. topic sentences, adding detail, elaboration, and expanding sentences. Third grade students also participated in art creating whimsical watercolor images of a squirrel in the fall.





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GRADE 4 NEWS

Fourth graders are continuing to build their math skills in Unit 2, with a focus on multiplication and algebraic thinking. Throughout this unit, students will work toward identifying factors and multiples as part of our grade-level growth goals. In writing, we are using Mystery Writing lessons to strengthen our writing skills. In reading, students are continuing to develop foundational reading skills and strengthen their comprehension strategies. We encourage everyone to read for at least 30 minutes at home each day for homework.



MUSIC NEWS

Music classes are focusing on songs for the Winter Sing Along! Students in all grades are learning about the music of Peter Tchaikovsky through the Nutcracker Ballet. We will focus on ballet, the Nutcracker story, the composer, and musical form and instrumentation of several pieces from the Nutcracker through singing, visuals and movement. Within these activities, we always work toward singing in tune and performing rhythms accurately.

GRADE 5 NEWS

Our second trimester begins December 1, and we're looking forward to more chances to learn about the place we call home. Nature Vision, a local nonprofit, will visit on December 8 and 15 to help students explore our local waterways and learn how to care for them. On December 10, a naturalist from the Environmental Science Center will help us wrap up Salmon Heroes with a hands-on project that helps local salmon. Ask your fifth grader what they've learned about salmon this fall. They might surprise you!

We'll check in on students' reading growth with DIBELS from November 30 through December 11. Fifth graders will also take interim assessments in English language arts on December 14 and math on December 15. Look for first-trimester report cards to come home on December 18.

We're excited to bring back Safety Patrol and give our fifth graders a chance to lead by helping keep arrival and dismissal safe. We're also looking forward to building gingerbread houses together on December 17! If you'd like to donate supplies, please reach out to your child's teacher to see what's needed. Thank you for all the ways you support our fifth graders. We hope your family has a restful winter break!



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M.L.L. NEWS

Greetings from the MLL department. Our school had a very successful week of Parent Teacher Conferences last month. Families were able to connect with teachers, alongside interpreters to get information on how students can be successful learners. Interpreters are always available per request for meetings or phone calls throughout the school year.



P.E. NEWS

This December, 2nd-5th grade will have the jump rope contest. Winners will receive a personalized bookmark! Third through fifth will wrap up learning about the names of bones with a quiz. The games they will be playing in December are Rescue Tag, Medicine Tag, and Hockey. Kindergarten through second grade students have been learning about sportsmanship by giving pre and post game high-fives to their opponents, saying "Good luck" and "Good game". They have also been learning the basic skills and rules of soccer.



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

Friendly Reminders from the office:

- Bring a coat every day
- Many illnesses are going around the school. Your student must be fever/diarrhea/vomit free for 24 hours without medication before they can come back to school.
- Do you want to volunteer for a field trip? You must be approved through the district's volunteer background check. Fill out the form here: Volunteer Application

