

# Tiger Tracks

## Northern Lights ABC School Newsletter



### CHARACTER BUILDING BLOCKS

**Friendship**  
**Respect**  
**Perseverance**  
  
**Patriotism**  
**Generosity**  
  
**Compassion**  
**Tolerance**

Dear NLABC Families,

Welcome to the first Tiger Tracks newsletter of the 2021-2022 school year. Tiger Tracks is our school's newsletter that we send out twice a month. Be sure to read it as it contains lots of information about our school and upcoming events.

With Covid numbers increasing daily, it is imperative that if your child is sick that they stay home. Please let us know if they are sick so our nurse can be in touch with you. We are proud of our Covid safety history as last year only one class had to close due to Covid cases and close contacts.

As we approach our third week of school for our 1st-8th grade students, I'd like to remind you that we focus on students being independent. At this stage, we encourage students to be able to walk themselves to breakfast and to their classrooms without parents. If you are entering the building, you will need to sign in at the office when you arrive and when you leave. The purpose of this is to know who is in our building for safety reasons.

Routines are now established in the classrooms. We have begun our beginning of the year assessments. Currently, we are taking our iReady diagnostics, Fastbridge will take place at the end of the month. Students in 3rd-8th grade will take the MAP tests at the end of September.

Parents will receive the PEAKS results on September 7th. As a school, we were quite successful with our math and English language arts. Despite a year with online learning and multiple changes last year, our students demonstrated their academic excellence and our teachers a dedication to the art of teaching. Special thanks to you, our parents, for supporting our program.

Again, I am looking forward to making this the best year yet! We do need more noon duties, and afternoon crossing guard, and parents to join our ABC Board (oversees curriculum and history of NLABC) and PTA Board (fundraising and activities). Together, we can accomplish many great things for our students.

Partners in Education,

Tammy Duff

Pg 1.....	Principal Message
Pg 2.....	Calendar/Dress Code/Handbook
Pg 3-5 .....	Meet our Staff
Pg 6 .....	Tiger Reading
Pg 7.....	PTA/ABC Boards
Pg 8-9 .....	Reminders
Pg 9.....	Art to Remember
Pg 10 .....	Picture Day
Pg 11.....	Join the PTA/ Handle with Care
Pg 12.....	Covid Links/ASD Links
Pg 13.....	Character Building Blocks

## Dates to Remember

9/6/21 -	NO School-Labor Day
9/9/21-	Cross Country meet at Service HS
9/14/21 -	Cross Country meet at Kincaid
9/16/21-	Picture Day-Please pay online
9/17/21-	Constitution Day/Citizenship Day
10/1/21-	RWB Assembly-5th grade presents

See what upcoming events are happening at our school. Watch the school calender!

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/90>

### Winter Dress Code

Please remember to watch the weather as we get closer to fall and winter to make sure your child(ren) have the appropriate gear for recess.

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5586>

### Northern Lights ABC Parent Handbook

Please take time to read through our Parent Handbook. It goes into detail about our grading scale, dress code, schedules, and much more.

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/12486>



## Please Welcome Our New Staff!

Debbie Maestas - Teacher, Kindy Randi

Slama - Teacher, Kindy Kathryn Shaw-

Case - Teacher, 4th grade Kjirsten

Swanson - Teacher, 5th grade Andrew

Pierce - Librarian

Jill Holley - TA Library

Darinda Congdon - Music teacher

Bernadette Wright - Health teacher

Amanda Reale - PE

Kristin Parsons - Art Teacher (Itinerant)

Tatainya Taylor - Counselor

Jaime Freeman - Secretary

Naomi Keil - Migrant Education

### Debbie Maestas -Kindergarten

I have an abundant background working with children: babysitting during my youth; leading Girl Scouts; operating my own home daycare; having a Master of Arts degree in Teaching; being a certified kindergarten teacher in Alaska and Texas; and teaching pre-kindergarten in a private school. I am also an author of children's books.

I lived in Alaska for almost 20 years and then moved to Texas for 6 years. I moved back to Anchorage the summer of 2021 and am enjoying seeing the beauty of the mountains (Houston didn't have any mountains!) I also love to play handbells.



## Ms. Shaw-Case, Fourth Grade

Hello, and nice to meet you! I am a UC Davis alum originally from Kent, England. I have also spent some time in Vancouver and Nova Scotia, Canada. So please excuse the inconsistent accent! I am an ardent reader and like to try my hand at various mediums of art. I also enjoy games, as I have a bit of a competitive streak. That may be because I have five siblings! My mentality and outlook steers toward growth and positivity. There isn't anything too tricky that a good strategy and smile can't fix! Living in Alaska has been a beautiful adventure so far and I can't wait for it to continue. I look forward to getting to know this wonderful community! Go Tigers!



## Library

"Hello! My name is **Mr. Pierce**, and I'm the new **librarian at NLABC**. We also have a terrific new **library aide, Ms. Holley**. We are both new to NLABC and the library, but we're excited to be here! It has been wonderful getting to meet and learn about this school, the staff, and most of all the amazing students. Our former librarian and aide, Ms. Collins and Ms. Kelly, were amazing but Ms. Holly and I will do some things the same and some things differently as we settle into our new roles. This is my 13th year with Anchorage School District, but the first 12 were as a Speech and Language Pathologist. During those 12 years, I taught eight different elementary schools all over the district, but I'm delighted and proud to call NLABC home.



# Welcome To PE

With Mrs. Reale



## About Me:

I've been teaching PE in the ASD for the past 7 years. I started at Mears, then Kincaid and now I'm excited to be a Tiger. I have lived in all 4 corners of the lower 48 and have been in Alaska for 13 years now and love it! I'm a Philly girl at heart and love all their sports teams! I Graduated from Drexel University where I played 3 NCAA DI sports. After landing in Anchorage, I earned another BS in Physical Education and Masters Degree in Education from UAA. In my spare time I like to keep busy fishing, downhill mountain biking and skiing, restoring old trucks, woodworking, playing with the 4 cutest bloodhounds in Alaska, and coaching for and running the Scotty Gomez Foundation Hockey Association. When there's ice outdoors that's where you'll find me!



## What to Expect for the year:

K-2nd will focus on learning the fundamental and foundational skills for lifelong sport and fitness enjoyment. Dribbling, throwing, catching, balance, rolling, weight transfer, creative movement, Indigenous Northern Games, along with the character to be a good teammate, hard worker and friend.

5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will expand on the foundations and learn more advanced games, scoring systems & strategies for team sports, individual and dual activities and teambuilding challenges.

I can be reached via email [reale\\_amanda@asdk12.org](mailto:reale_amanda@asdk12.org)



# T.I.G.E.R. Reading Club

*Traveling Into Great Exciting Reading*

*2021-2022 Parent Information*

The goal of Northern Lights ABC's T.I.G.E.R. Reading Club is to encourage young readers to become avid, consistent, and recreational readers.

Dear Parents/Guardians of Northern Lights ABC Students,

NLABC K-6 students are invited to participate in T.I.G.E.R. Reading, and they are recognized/rewarded for meeting pre-determined goals during Red, White, & Blue assemblies. Cumulative reading records are maintained for students throughout the year. Monthly reading logs, Double-Goal logs, Student Reading Log Due Dates, and a Leveled Prize List (based on cumulative pages read) are posted on the T.I.G.E.R. Reading page of our NLABC website under the "Library" tab.

## Tiger Reading QR Code



### Guidelines for the program:

1. Completed and signed reading logs/online submission are due monthly on the first school day of the month. Late submissions will be entered with the following month. Please submit all logs, even if the monthly goal is not met.
2. T.I.G.E.R. Reading Logs - While it is NOT necessary to use the T.R. Log form, all submitted pages must include
  - a. Student's first and last name
  - b. Student's grade level
  - c. Classroom teacher's name
  - d. Month the reading was done
  - e. An accurate total of pages read
  - f. Parent/Guardian initials & signature
3. Monthly Reading Goals
  - a. Kindergartners & 1st Graders – 500 pages a month
  - b. 2nd – 6th graders – 700 pages a month
4. Inclusions to pages-read counts on reading logs
  - a. Side-by-Side read-togethers (tracking words as the book is read) may be included in K-1st reading logs
  - b. Audiobooks with accompanying text may be included in reading logs
  - c. All books are eligible
  - d. Books may be counted for Tiger Reading one time per month.

**\*\*Honor System:** T.I.G.E.R. Reading is based on students/families accurately recording the number of pages read. Thank you for helping us to maintain this important NLABC program by checking your child's log carefully prior to submitting it. Mrs. Duff, NLABC Principal

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NORTHERN LIGHTS ABC PTA & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS ABC ADVISORY BOARD?



## NORTHERN LIGHTS ABC PTA BOARD

OUR MISSION OF THE PTA IS TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES AT NORTHERN LIGHTS ABC, WHILE HELPING ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION, FOCUSING ON NLABC'S TRADITIONS AND FOUNDATIONAL VALUES. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, WE NEED SUPPORT FROM ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE FUNDRAISE TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. TO SHOW A UNITED FRONT, WE ASK YOU JOIN THE PTA & CONSIDER FILLING A BOARD POSITION.

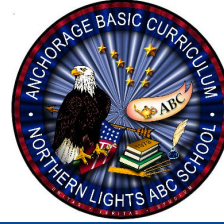
### WE ARE LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING PTA BOARD POSITIONS

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY

\*VICE PRESIDENT\* OF THE  
FOLLOWING:

WAY & MEANS COORDINATOR  
PUBLICITY & OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR  
COMMUNICATIONS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES  
HISTORIAN

[NLABCPTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NLABCPTA@GMAIL.COM)



## NORTHERN LIGHTS ABC ADVISORY BOARD

THE MISSION OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO UPHOLD THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ANCHORAGE BASIC CURRICULUM AT NORTHERN LIGHTS ABC AS DEFINED IN THE APPROVED PROGRAM PROPOSAL AND TO ADVISE, CONSULT AND ASSIST THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE NLABC PROGRAM.

### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS OF ADVISORY BOARD APPLICANTS

HAVE A MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AT NLABC AND UNDERSTAND THE PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF NLABC

HAVE AT LEAST 1 YEAR OF EXPERIENCE OF ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERING WITH OUR NLABC PTA WHO WE SUPPORT

1 -2 YEAR COMMITMENT

COMMITMENT OF 2 HOURS A WEEK, MUST NOT MISS MORE THAN 2 MEETINGS

HAVE AT LEAST 1 YEAR OF EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTEERING WITH OUR NLABC PTA

[NLABCBOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NLABCBOARD@GMAIL.COM)

# Reminders

## **We Need Noon Duties**

We have immediate openings for noon duties at NLABC. You would work for approximately 2 hours a day with the students in the lunch room and outside. The hours are 10:50am-12:50 pm. If you can only help for a couple of days a week, we would appreciate it!

Unfortunately, you cannot bring younger children with you for the position. You can apply at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) and it is job # 9807 – Service Area Temporaries.

## **We Need a Kindergarten Teaching Assistant**

We have an immediate opening for a kindergarten teaching assistant. The hours are 8am-1pm.

You would assist the teacher in the mornings and help with covering lunch duties.

You can apply at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) and it is job # 9844.

## **Reminder about Masks**

All students and adults entering the building must be wearing a mask. You will not be allowed into the building without a mask on.

## **Adults Entering the Building**

All adults entering the building MUST SIGN IN at the front office. If you are walking your student to their class (they should be able to do this independently now), you must sign in.

## **Hats**

Please remember to take off your hat or hood when you enter the building.



## Indoor Line Up

Some days we have indoor line up depending on the weather or if there is a situation (like a moose on the playground) when students need to enter the building. We will do our best to send out a text to let you know of the situation. If you do see students not outside, please send your student inside.

Students K-2 will go to their classrooms and sit in the hall outside their door.

Students 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> will go to the MPR and sit.

Students 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will go directly to their classrooms.

Students may not enter the building before 7:50am unless they are here for breakfast. Breakfast ends at 8:00am.

# Attention Parents!



Our school is participating in a creative fundraiser with Art to Remember that allows you to purchase keepsake products customized with your child's art. Right now, children are busy creating colorful, fun artwork, and soon you will receive a personalized order form. Here's what you can expect:

- Over 50 keepsake products featuring your child's artwork
- Many of the products are less than \$15
- A percentage of every order goes right back to our school
- Safe, secure online ordering at ArtToRemember.com. You can even share your order code with other family members and invite them to place an order!
- Satisfaction guaranteed



**Art to Remember keepsakes are the perfect gift for any occasion!**

Please notify your child's teacher if you do not want your child to participate in this program.





Lifetouch.

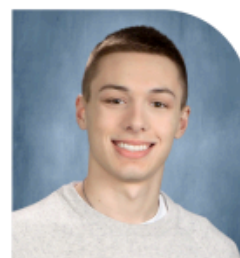
# PICTURE DAY IS COMING



Order your school pictures  
today on [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com)



Thursday, September 16, 2021  
Northern Lights ABC School



- ① Visit [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com)
- ② Enter your Picture Day ID  
**EVTBRG6H3**
- ③ Order your perfect package—  
and don't worry about returning  
anything on Picture Day!

Lifetouch  
**REWARDS**™

Earn exclusive offers for your  
online picture purchases.



## Handle With Care

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay.

If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please email me "Handle with Care". Please include your child's name and teacher.

Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra tie, patience, or help during the day.

[duff\\_tammy@asdk12.org](mailto:duff_tammy@asdk12.org)

# COVID-19 LINKS

## Trusted Official Websites to stay informed about COVID-19:

CDC [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

WHO [World Health Organization](#)

DHSS [State Department of Health and Social Services](#)

ANCHORAGE. [Municipality of Anchorage](#)

# ASD COMMUNICATION

**Note: Always check your email and text messages**

**Anchorage School District: [ASD Homepage](#)**

**Northern Lights ABC School: [NLABC Homepage](#)**

**Northern Lights ABC Facebook: [NLABC Official Facebook](#)**

- **[0410 Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities](#)**

The School Board is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, physical or mental disability, Vietnam era veteran status, genetic information, good faith reporting to the board on a matter of public concern, or any other unlawful consideration. The Board shall promote programs which ensure that discriminatory practices are eliminated in all District activities.

# Character Building Blocks

---

## Friendship

Respect Perseverance

Patriotism Generosity

Compassion Tolerance

Courage Honesty

Self-Discipline Humility

Self-Confidence Work

Independence Helpfulness

Sportsmanship Loyalty



September 2021

FRIENDSHIP- Relationship, Bond, Camaraderie

WORK- Labor, Achievement, Accomplishment



-End of Newsletter-