

March 2023 Tiger Tales

Taku Elementary · Kaitlin Tallman, Acting Principal



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

Happy March! I am definitely starting to notice the longer days and sunshine... But it is still cold outside! Please make sure to be sending your child dressed for the mischievous weather - snow pants, boots, gloves, hats, and a warm coat! We go outside for 30 minutes every day up to -10 degrees.

We are excited to be moved into our new front office! At the start of this week, we will use our new front doors at the front of the building. We will no longer be using the side door as our entry. Drop off and pick ups will remain the same. Please pull all the way forward in the drop off loop and students will walk to the appropriate entry door. If students are late, they MUST use the new front entrance. At the front entrance, there will be a doorbell button to push. Ms. Joy and Ms. Alexia will then be able to buzz you in. As always, please use the appropriate sign in and sign out procedures. Preschool families should come in through the new front entrance, sign their student in, and then wait for their teacher to pick them up at the benches. Your pick up routine will remain the same!

Also, the Taku Science Fair is coming up! Science projects are due Monday, 3/6. Judging will take place Tuesday, 3/7, and then projects will be on display for our Science Family Night on Wednesday, 3/8 from 6:00-7:30. Projects must be taken home Thursday, 3/9.

March 10, 2023, is the last day of the 3rd quarter. Please be in communication with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. This means that 3/9 is the last day of our extended school day! When we come back on 3/20, we will go back to our

original dismissal time of 3:30pm. We will remind you about this closer to the date as well.

Please reach out with celebrations, concerns, or questions. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Kaitlin Tallman
Acting Principal
Taku Elementary



February Student of the Month

Pizza Lunch with Principal Tallman



Molly of Denali PK-3 Assembly



Thank you Molly of Denali for visiting Taku!



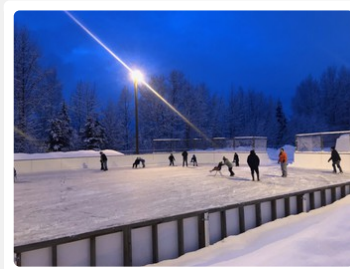
NURSE'S NOTE, Laura Beckett

Excellent vision is critical to success in school. We test many of our students for either distance or near vision to make sure they can see ok. If you need assistance with getting your child an eye exam and/or glasses, please feel free to call my office. There are resources available to get your child seen by an optometrist at no cost.

~~~~~ MARCH FEATURES ~~~~~

February Skate Night Success!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Family Skate Night in February! We had a full house ... or should I say...FULL RINK! We had a total of 258 people attend this event. Huge thank you to Kaladi Brothers for donating coffee/cocoa and Alpine Services Inc. for servicing our ice rink!



Science Fair Reminder

The 2023 Science Fair Timeline:

March 6

ALL projects due AT school (Early and/or late submissions will not be accepted)

March 7

Fair Judging Day - students will present their projects and complete their interviews

March 8

Individual classes can sign up to walk through and look at all the projects

Family Night for STEM/Science Fair from 6:00 - 7:30 (activities, science fair, pizza)

March 9

Winners announced and ALL projects go home (any remaining projects will be discarded)



Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Primary Experiment: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mention

Primary Demonstration: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mention

Intermediate Experiment: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mention

Intermediate Demonstration: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mention

~~~~~ ASD FEATURES ~~~~~

Kindergarten Round Up

ASD Preschool will host Kindergarten Round Up this year with two community events in April. Please see the flier [HERE](#).

- Friday, April 14, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm at Wendler Middle School
- Friday, April 28, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm at Hanshew Middle School

Families will learn how to help prepare their child for kindergarten, receive information on registration, and children will have an opportunity to participate in fun activities.

School Climate and Connectedness Survey

ASD wants to know what you think about your school. The information from this survey will help ASD understand what you think about your school, and what they can do to make it a better place.

Families can use the survey link below from 2/20 - 3/24:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bEKrJTavZsaFzqXh_3lebR9Dio6DscWdLP1e17E3jsg/edit?usp=sharing

2023 AK STAR 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 test 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.

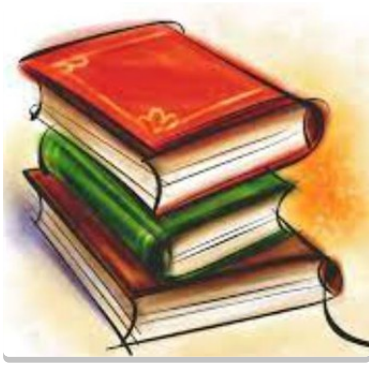
The ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing!

2023 AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment Testing Window

March 27-April 14

(Make-ups through April 28)

~~~~~ SPECIALIST NEWS ~~~~~



## Library

In March, all students will study the genre of Science Fiction. Science Fiction is rooted in currently existing science, or science that can be reasonably predicted for the future. Today's Science Fiction for children frequently addresses ethical concerns like environmental issues and the fairness of governments. As such, Science Fiction lends itself to being taught alongside the social studies curriculum. I look forward to exploring the possibilities for the future with our students!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Johnson, Taku Librarian

## Music

Hello Taku families!

Taku Tiger musicians in 2nd -6th grades have been learning about dynamics in music. Dynamics are how loud and soft music is. Ask your child what dynamics are and the Italian words for dynamics. 4th and 5th grade musicians have been learning about the Treble Staff to prepare them for Band and Orchestra in the future.



Sincerely,  
Ms. Menapace, Music Teacher



## PE

Our Healthy Futures program began again in February. This program encourages kids to be physically active for at least 60 minutes a day and then log it on the exercise logs. Students can get incentives for doing at least 15 days in the month and turning in the log. K-3 Logs came home 4-6 Logs stay in PE Class.

Gym Shoes: Reminder: your student needs a clean, non-marking pair of gym shoes to leave at school for PE class.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Washington, PE Teacher

## Art



Taku Families,

March is Youth Art Month in Anchorage. Taku artists will have work displayed all over town. We hope you can take the opportunity to go see them and celebrate their achievements!



Sincerely,  
Ms. Feucht, Art Teacher



Pearl Yang, 5th Grade

"Galaxy"  
Midtown Mall



3rd Grade Student

"Angel"  
Midtown Mall



Nathan Graham, 4th Grade

"Untitled"  
Anchorage Museum



Valentina Hernandez,  
3rd Grade

"Mountains and Sky"  
Anchorage Museum



Maelah Henry, 3rd Grade

"The Mama Duck and Her  
Baby"  
Anchorage Museum



Abigail Tagalooa, 1st Grade

"The Dot"  
Muldoon Library



## Health

Welcome to Health class!

We have just wrapped up our unit on Human Growth and Development and will be examining talking about Substance Abuse in Unit 7.

Be safe, be kind!

Sincerely,  
Katrina Hill Rhodes, Health Teacher

~~~~~ IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH ~~~~~



**FAMILY
SCIENCE NIGHT**

WHEN: 3 / 8
TIME: 6 - 7 : 30 PM
WHERE: TAKU ELEMENTARY

**JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT
VIEWING, STEM
ACTIVITIES, PRIZES AND
PIZZA!**

Student Council Presents

TAKU ELEMENTARY 2023

Food Drive

MARCH 20, 2023 -
MARCH 31, 2023

Food Donations For Children's Lunch Box

Every can donated supports a child in your community!

We accept donations of non-perishable food in jars, and cans. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables in cans or jars, honey, and peanut butter

Donation boxes will be in your classrooms and the class with the most donations wins an ice cream party!

Thank you, Taku Student Council



happy
**Spring
Break**

3/10 thru 3/19 Spring
Break

PTA
MEETING

3/21 - PTA Meeting
5:30pm in the Library

**Students
of the
Month**

3/31 - Lunch with the
Principal



THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies

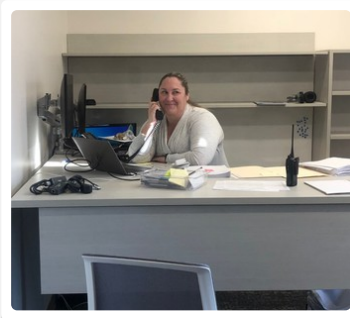
Taku Families,

We are excited to be back in the front office with all the new renovations! Joy and I are feeling super blessed and grateful for the new office!

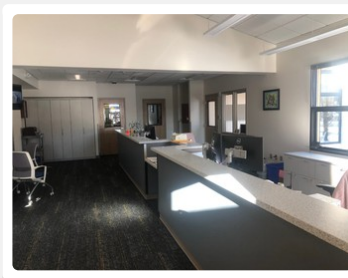
Just a reminder, all students will be going to their grade hall doors (either on the side or back of the building) in the morning. **ONLY** tardy students should be coming through the front office. We still have a doorbell, so please ring the bell and we will buzz you in (listen for the beep). You will come into the main entryway where you will be buzzed in again through the interior door (listen for the click).

Old News... but still important:

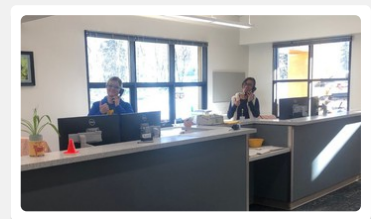
- **January 30th to March 9th:** 30 minutes will be added **to the end** of the instructional day (**Restores 3 days of instruction**)



Principal Tallman Loving Her New Office



The New Front Office



Office Ladies Hard at Work





Taku Elementary

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☎️ 907-742-5940

🌐 asdk12.org/taku