

Principal's Corner

Dear Taku Families,

Fall is in the air and we are settling into the school year. Right now, our main mission is to keep our staff and students safe and in school, learning. Just like the rest of Anchorage, we are seeing a significant increase in Covid cases in our community.



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All Covid cases have come from outside of the school and no known transmission has occurred in the school. We are carefully implementing the following safety measures.

- All students and staff are wearing masks
- We are spreading out to the maximum extent possible
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
- As soon as there is a positive case, we are contact tracing. All close contacts (who are not vaccinated) must quarantine for 10 days.

Please understand that any person refusing to wear a mask in school may have serious consequences, including suspension. I am not talking about masks slipping down or little kids having a hard time keeping their mask up, but rather students who refuse to wear and keep their masks up during the school day. Again, keeping our students and staff safe is our number one mission. This will allow us to keep schools open. I understand people have different feelings about Covid, masks, and vaccinations and I respect each of your perspectives. We will strictly follow ASD's Covid policies.

I know that quarantining is a hardship for families. Please understand this is absolutely necessary to prevent the spread of Covid in our schools. Teachers will do their best to provide school work when your student is out of the school. Teachers will provide paper packets to work on at home. For families with internet and devices, your child may also use iReady online to practice math and reading at home. Your teacher can provide information on this as needed.

What can families do at home to help schools stay open?

- Monitor your child and help Keep ASD Symptom Free - do NOT send students to school if they have Covid like symptoms.
- If you have a positive case in your family and your student is a close contact (living together within 6 ft), your student must quarantine. When there is a Covid case in the household, the quarantine period is often longer. (10 days for the positive individual, THEN 10 days for the close contacts since families often cannot isolate from each other)
- If your student has Covid like symptoms, get them tested.
- Talk with Nurse Laura - please call
- Be careful in our community. Community spread is high and rising right now.
- Talk with your doctor about vaccinations.

Thank you for your partnership. We are so excited to have students in the building and want to keep our students learning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email anytime. I feel very lucky to be at Taku. Have a great weekend.

Chris Opitz, principal 907-742-5940 opitz_chris@asdk12.org

Taku Elementary School Newsletter

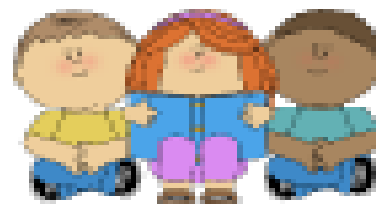
September 2021

Specialist News

Library

September @ Your Library

Greetings! We look forward to a new year of nurturing our students' love for reading and lifelong learning. Taku Library offers a full program of activities to support students' development of critical literacy skills.



Curriculum

In the library this month, students are being supported in meeting Library, and English Language Arts, standards in the following areas.

Kindergarten - Through the sharing of stories, songs, and rhymes, we will address standards involving asking and answering questions to seek help, get information, or clarify; organization and features of print; and author and illustrator.

First Grade - We will share stories that introduce the library and classic examples of children's literature. We will focus on standards relating to retelling stories; asking and answering questions about story details; and characters, setting, and major events.

Second Grade - By sharing school, family, and friendship stories, and through a treasure hunt game in nonfiction, we will address standards about story structure; using information gained from illustrations and text to demonstrate understanding; and clarifying comprehension, gathering information, and deepening understanding.

Third Grade - Through the sharing of picture books and a chapter book, we will target standards involving asking and answering questions to demonstrate understanding through explicit references, and standards related to characters' contributions to the sequence of story events.

Fourth Grade - We will share several picture books and explore the nonfiction section of the library. Through these activities, we will focus on standards that ask students to use details and examples to explain explicit text and inferences, and on standards that ask students to report on a topic.

Fifth Grade - We will look at several examples of realistic fiction, and we will investigate the topic of cyber community citizenship. Through these activities, we will address standards that require students to compare/contrast stories in the same genre, and begin a series of online safety/responsibility lessons.

Sixth Grade - We will look at several examples of realistic fiction and review how realistic fiction differs from other genres. We will review how to access online magazine, encyclopedia, and newspaper articles via our library computer system. In these activities, we will focus on standards that ask students to compare/contrast texts in different genres, and that invite students to collaborative discussions, with emphasis on rules for collegial discussions.

Art

Ms. Feucht is back! Hello (again), Taku Families!

My name is Elizabeth Feucht (say "Foyt") and I'm so excited to be back at Taku after being away last year. I'm the art teacher and I can't wait to get your kids started with glue, paint, clay and other creative, sticky things. Speaking of sticky... we try our best to be careful in art class, but sometimes accidents happen. Your student's art day is NOT the best day to show off brand new clothes. If you are wondering which day your student has art (or you have any other questions), feel free to contact me at feucht_elizabeth@asdk12.org. Let's enjoy our year together!



Health

August 20, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to let you know that your child's class will be receiving age-appropriate lessons on child sexual abuse and assault prevention education as required under the state's [Alaska Safe Children's Act \(Erin's Law\)](#).

Erin's Law Education is comprised of quarterly grade level lessons will be taught during the Health classes. Combined, these lessons meet the full requirements for student training under the Alaska Safe Children's Act, Erin's Law, and are designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse. These lessons will be presented in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

If you have any questions about the content of the program or if you wish to inquire about opting out, please contact our Elementary Health Specialist, Katrina Rhodes, at Rhodes_katrina@asdk12.org

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Katrina Rhodes
Health Teacher



Physical Education



- Healthy Futures:
 - Healthy Futures begins September 1st.
 - Please look for the letter and first log. They will be sent home with your student.
 - To turn in the completed log:
 - Send to school with your student at the end of the month or take a picture and email to: Washington_natalie@asdk12.org
 - September logs are due by October 2nd.

Thank you,
Natalie Washington
Taku P.E. teacher

HAVING FUN IN GYM CLASS!



MEET THE counselor

Ms. Erickson

WELCOME

This is my first year at Taku and I am so excited to get to know all the wonderful students and families! I look forward to a year of learning, skill building and most importantly FUN!

CONTACT

The best way to reach me is by email!

Erickson_julia@asdk12.org

Office: 907-742-9179

ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Julia Erickson. I am a life-long Alaskan and love to spend my summers outside fishing or hiking. In the winters you might find me at the ice rink or dance studio with my two children! I hold a Bachelor and Master degree in Social Work from UAA. I found my love for counseling during my BSW counseling internship at Willow Crest Elementary in 2014 and have been with ASD ever since!

THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS..

- Weekend movie marathons with my kids!
 - Hiking, kayaking and fishing!
 - Spending time with my family!



September 2021

09/06 – No school (Labor Day holiday)

09/07 – PTA meeting 5:30 pm Library

October 2021

10/07 – Picture day

10/12 – PTA meeting 5:30 pm Library

10/14 – Jog-a-Thon

10/15 – No school (grade reporting day)

10/20-10/21 – Parent/Teacher conferences

10/22- No school (in-service day)

10/29 – Family Literacy Night 6-8 pm

TAKU STAFF WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL!!

