

# APRIL, 2025 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary     Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



## Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

Spring is in full bloom at Taku! April is a month filled with growth, new opportunities, and plenty of learning adventures. With the warmer weather and longer days, we encourage students to stay engaged, active, and curious as we head into the last couple months of the school year. Be sure to maintain your morning and evening routines to ensure students are coming to school well

rested and ready to learn!

A BIG round of applause to our 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders for their hard work on our state testing last week! We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and growth. Our primary students will be showing everything they know in a couple weeks during our mClass assessment. This will show students' growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

Make sure to read at home every day! Research shows that daily reading builds stronger brains. Reading just 20 minutes a day can significantly improve vocabulary, comprehension, and cognitive development. When parents and teachers read aloud to children, it enhances listening comprehension, creativity, and language acquisition. Ask your child about their favorite books, visit the library together, or ask about what they're reading in school!

April is National Volunteer Month, and we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing parent and community volunteers. Your time and dedication make a tremendous difference in our school, and we appreciate all you do!

April is also a time to recognize and celebrate our incredible paraprofessionals, Admin Assistant, Secretary, and Nurse! Your dedication, patience, and support make a tremendous impact on our students every day. Whether assisting in the classroom, providing one - on - one support, or helping with daily school operations, you play an essential role in our school community. We appreciate all you do - thank you for your hard work and commitment!

Attendance continues to be a focus for us at Taku. In February, 62.9% of students attended school 90% of the time. Our goal is for 70% of students attend school 90% of the time. We know if students are here, we can get them learning! Please send your child to school every day on time. How can we help get kids here? Let us know.

**Important Dates:**

4/4/25 - Taku Chuck E Cheese Night! 3:00 - 9:00 - just tell them you're with Taku and we get 20% of sales!

4/8/25 - PTA Meeting at 5:30 in the library

4/16/25 - Romig Middle School Counselor visit

4/18/25 - No School - April closure day

4/22/25 - 2nd/3rd/4th Field Trip Alaska Junior Theatre

4/24/25 - Creative Kid Family Night! 4:00 - 5:00

4/24/25 - Spring Registration Window opens!

4/25/25 - mClass Assessments for Kinder - 3rd grade

4/25/25 - Ready, Set, Kinder! 2:00 - 3:00

4/30/25 - April Student of the Month Pizza Lunch!

Thank you for your continued support in making Taku Elementary a great place to learn and grow. Wishing your a fantastic April.

Go Tigers!

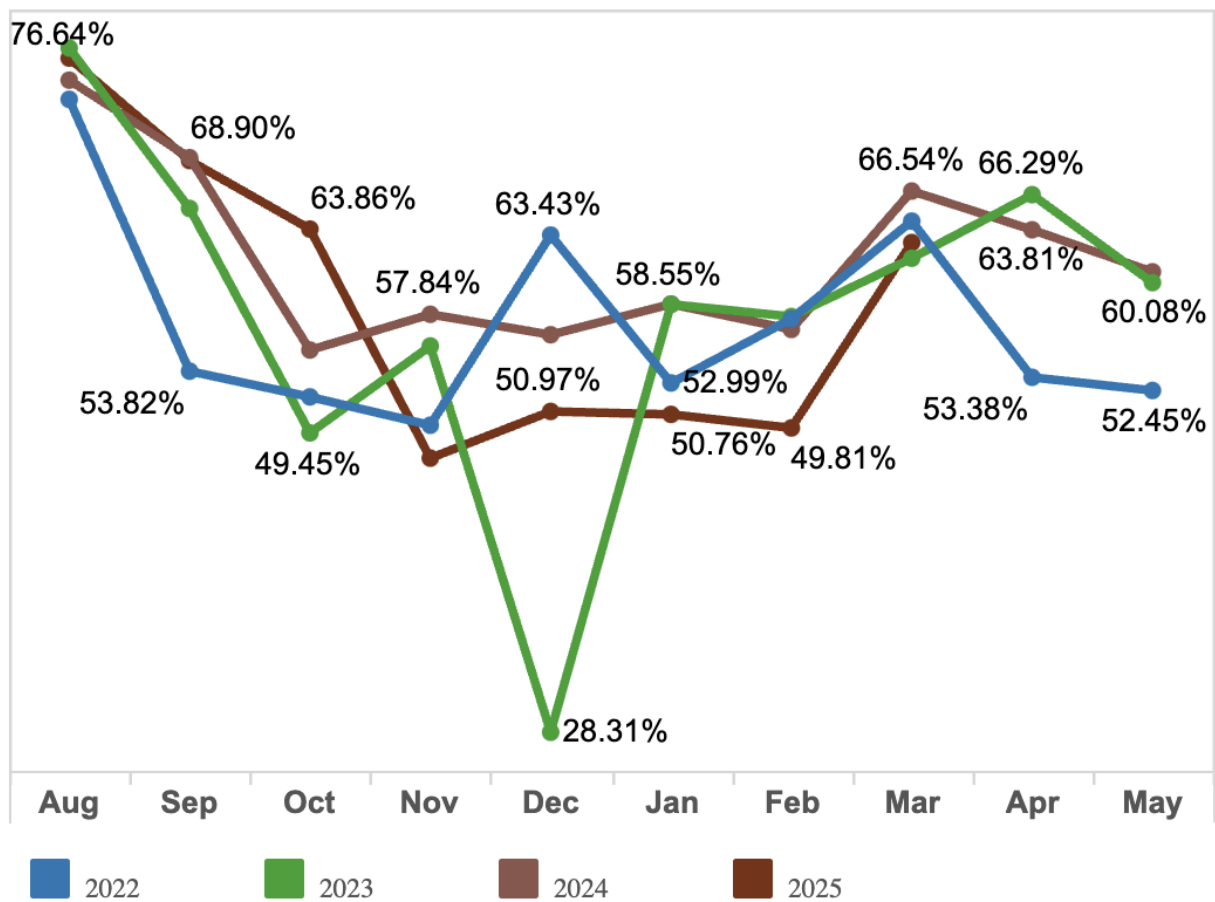
Warm regards,

Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

Sara Kriz, Assistant Principal

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**Taku Attendance**



## 90% Attendance by school for the month of March

Taku Elementary School

62.90%

## Parking Lot Safety

Safety for our students is our number one priority.

If you are picking up or dropping students off, please stay in your vehicle when going through the car line. If you need to get out of your car, please park, and walk up to our parent waiting zone to pick up your child(ren).

For everyone's safety, please use the crosswalk when crossing the street if you are parked down the block. **Avoid** walking in the bus zone, as it can be dangerous and drivers may not be able to see you around the buses. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe!

For the safety and smooth operation of our school, please note that students should **not** be dropped off or parked at the ice rink side of the school. All students must be dropped off and picked up at the **front pick-up/drop-off zone**. This policy helps ensure the safety of all students and prevents disruption to the flow of buses departing the school.

A quick reminder: for safety reasons, students **cannot** be dropped off **before 8:40am on Mondays** and **before 7:40am on Tuesday-Friday** due to low staffing. We ask that you **not have your child wait outside until those times**, as staff are not yet available to supervise students.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.



Also, please **stay off phones** while driving in the parking lot at Taku during pick up and drop off.

Thank you for your assistance with this!

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## Ready, Set... Kindergarten!

### Ready, Set... Kindergarten!

An orientation for our tiny  
scholars + families



Is your child starting kindergarten in  
the Anchorage School District in the  
2025-26 school year?

### Join us!

- ▶ Learn how to help prepare your child for kindergarten
- ▶ Activities to do at home to support kindergarten readiness
- ▶ Enrollment information and requirements
- ▶ Meet your school community members
- ▶ Tour the school



### Ready, Set... Kindergarten! Event

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

**TAKU ELEMENTARY**

701 E. 72nd Ave. Anchorage, AK 99518

2:00pm- 3:00pm

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## Taku Chuck E Cheese Night! 4/4



# CHUCK E. CHEESE® FÛNdraising

Turning Fun into Funds™



**CHUCK E. CHEESE  
DONATES  
20%  
ON THE SALE**

generated from this event  
to your child's school.

Friends and family members are  
encouraged to help support this event.  
*Mention your school when ordering!*

Bring this flyer to Chuck E. Cheese.

## EVENT INFORMATION

**LOCATION:** **CHUCK E. CHEESE®**

**TIME:** 3 : 0 0 PM

**SCHOOL:** TAKU ELEMENTARY

**EVENT DATE:** FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH 2025

**EVENT ADDRESS:**

308 E. NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD

ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

To find out more, check out [chuckecheese.com](https://chuckecheese.com)

**CHUCK E. CHEESE®**

FR Panel #0166

**120  
PLAY POINTS** | for **\$30**

**EXPIRES 12/31/25**

Limit one per check. Valid with coupon and only on night of Fundraising Event.  
Only at participating locations. Play card or band activation not included. Dine-in only.  
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**CHUCK E. CHEESE®**

FR Panel #3396

**\$29<sup>99</sup>** | **1 Large (1 Topping) Pizza  
& 4 Drinks**

**EXPIRES 12/31/25**

Limit one per check. Valid with coupon and only on night of Fundraising Event.  
Only at participating locations. Dine-in only. ©2024 CEC Ent. Conc. LP. All rights reserved.

Sales include all food and merchandise purchased at the registers. Delivery & Carryout Orders  
placed directly at [ChuckE Cheese.com](https://ChuckE Cheese.com) now also apply towards your fundraiser. You must add the item  
"School or Organization Fundraiser" to your cart before check-out and order from the location noted at right.

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## Taku's Creative Kids Night!



# ASD Online Registration

for 25/26 school year



Opens April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Returning students can be registered through Q/Parent Connection for  
25/26 school year on April 24<sup>th</sup> - August 2025

\*The online Registration System works best in Chrome/Firefox/Safari browsers

Use the link below to register your student(s) on April 24th!  
<https://studentconnect.asdk12.org/production/parentportal>

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# Family Donation Request

Hello Taku Families!

We are looking for families willing to donate gift cards for our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week during the first week of May. Any amount and store or restaurant are greatly appreciated-- we'd love to have a variety.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

You can contact us at 907-742-5940 or  
you can come into the office!





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## ASD's Mount Spurr Preparedness Information

ASD is committed to keeping you informed and prepared.

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/21131>

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## PTA Board Nominations for the 2025-2026 School Year

We're now accepting nominations for the PTA Board at our next meeting on **April 8th**. Nominations can be submitted in person or by form. We invite you to become a part of our amazing community and be a voice for our students! Together, we can make a lasting impact. It truly takes a village!

Thank you,

### Taku PTA Board 2024-2025

- Taku President

- Leads the Parent Teacher Association.
- Coordinates and works with the executive board, presides meetings, advocates for families, and students.
- Creates agenda's with board.
- Leadership: cover all affairs of PTA.

- Supports school PTA functions.
- Taku Vice President
  - Assists the President and assumes duties in their absence.
  - Helps facilitate communication with the president to other board members.
  - Works hard with the executive board for updates.
- Taku Treasurer
  - Manages finances, budgets incoming/outgoing charges.
  - Ensures financial records are maintained.
  - Has reports printed for monthly meetings.
- Taku Membership
  - Helps with membership campaigns, promotes membership growth and works with the executive board on duties.
  - Reports the total number of members.
  - Reports what is needed.
- Taku Secretary
  - Is responsible for recording meeting minutes.
  - Manages correspondence throughout the executive board and for PTA.
  - Help comply and help PTA follow policies.

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## TAKU NOMINATIONS FOR PTA BOARD POSITIONS 25/26 YEAR

### — President

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

### — Membership Consultant

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

### — Vice President

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

### — Secretary

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

### — Treasurer

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

This form is due at the current board meeting on April 8th. Your voice and presence are important.

The swearing-in and crossover for the new board for the 2025-2026 term will be held on May 6th at 5:30 PM.

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## Reminder: Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications Available Year-Round

Did you know you can apply for free and reduced-price school meals at any time during the school year? If your financial situation has changed—due to job loss, reduced work hours, or changes in household size—you may apply or reapply, even if you've already submitted an application for the 2024-2025 school year.

📧 **Apply online anytime** at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/anchorage>.

### Who Should Apply?

- ✓ Families with at least one student attending a pricing school (a school that charges for meals) should list all ASD students and household members—including those receiving a Permanent Fund Dividend—along with income details and frequency.
- ✓ Households receiving **SNAP or TANF** benefits can apply using a case number and a copy of the **Free Meal/Direct Certification** document from Public Assistance.
- ✓ Foster parents should submit documentation showing the child is a **ward of the state of Alaska or a Tribal entity**.

### ✉ **Submit Documents & Get Help**

Email the required documents to [snadmin@asdk12.org](mailto:snadmin@asdk12.org). Have questions? Contact the **Student Nutrition Programs Section** via email or call the **Free & Reduced-Price Meal Hotline** at (907) 348-5145.

★ **Need paper applications or information in other languages?** Visit

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/19907> and click on the **Free & Reduced-Price Meal** tab.

Ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals is important—apply today if you qualify! 🍽️ 🙌

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## Taku's Amazon Wishlist

We've created an Amazon Wishlist with items that would greatly benefit our students. If you're able, please take a moment to look through it and consider purchasing a few items. If you know someone who may be willing to contribute, feel free to share the link with them. Any support is appreciated, and it would mean a lot to all of us!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK40TPPSK/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK40TPPSK/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)



Specialist News

**Library with Amy Johnson**



For April, the genre, or style of writing, of the month is Poetry. In addition, highlights of what students at specific grade levels will learn during April include the following:

K - Exploring Mother Goose and other poetry titles; Book handling, care, selection; Library locations; Parts of book; Fiction versus nonfiction  
1 - Exploring various titles, with discussion of elements of a story (main and supporting characters, setting, plot); Fiction versus nonfiction; Call numbers;

Dewey Decimal System

2 - Book discussion with emphasis on characters and setting; Dewey Decimal System; Call numbers

3 - Book discussion with emphasis on comprehension, character, and theme

4 - Book discussion with emphasis on comprehension, character, and theme

5 - Book discussion with emphasis on comprehension, character, and theme

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Ms. Johnson  
Taku School Librarian



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## PE with Mr. B

Hello Taku Tiger Families, it's Mr. B with P.E. The snow is melting, and the outdoor field is starting to get dry and show some signs of green grass. We are glad to see that Spring is on its way! This month PE activities will revolve around dribbling with hands, feet, and handled objects, as well as throwing, catching, kicking, and punting: basketball, soccer, floor hockey, lacrosse, kickball, T-ball, and football skills. With warmer weather, and daylight coming sooner, P.E. classes will be held outside as much as possible so students can take in some fresh air while exercising and learning fun sports skills. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Stay active and healthy.



Brian Sheffield  
Physical Education/Health Teacher, M. Ed.

# Important Dates



## Chuck E Cheese - 4/4

Come join us for some delicious pizza and good times! Don't forget to bring the coupon flyer attached above to enjoy exclusive discounts when you visit!



## PTA Meeting - 4/8

Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 6:30pm!



## Family Night - 4/24

More information to come.



## Ready, Set, Kindergarten!

4/25/25 from 2:00 - 3:00



## No School - 4/18

April Closure Day

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## Thank you Great Alaska Pizza Lake Otis Pkwy



A big thank you to Great Alaska Pizza Co. for their generous donation of pizza for our Students of the Month! We're proud to celebrate these amazing students and their accomplishments.

HI TAKU FAMILIES!

Just some friendly reminders:



- Absences can be reported in parent connect. If you are planning a vacation please let the office know so we can enter a pre-arranged absence.
- Students who arrive to school at or after 8am need to come through the front office to get marked tardy. We have breakfast in the office for late students.
- We are striving to achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher. Please take a moment to review the procedure, and let's keep attendance on point—because every day counts!  
[Attendance Procedures](#)
- Our Lost and Found is filling up! If your student is missing any items, please encourage them to check there first.
- If you're coming into the office at dismissal, please park in a designated spot and avoid stopping in the pick-up lane. This helps keep traffic moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation!
- We will no longer be able to accommodate pick-up changes after 2:15pm, except in the case of an emergency. Late changes create unnecessary confusion in the office, as we need to locate students, verify bus routes, and ensure timely dismissals. We also want to avoid delays for students on the buses. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth end-of-day routine.

~ Rachel **Musselman** (AA) and Rachel **Ketchum** (Secretary) ~

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### Important Update: New Pick-Up Change Policy

We will no longer be able to accommodate pick-up changes after 2:15pm, except in the case of an emergency. Late changes create unnecessary confusion in the office, as we need to locate students, verify bus routes, and ensure timely dismissals. We also want to avoid delays for students on the buses. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth end-of-day routine.

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### Volunteering at Taku

If you are interested in volunteering at Taku this upcoming year, please fill out the volunteer form ASAP. This must be done every school year. Parents who filled out the form last year will need to reapply.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQDHMwPMg/viewform>



We encourage families to do this now, that way, as events, field trips and other volunteer opportunities arise you won't have to scramble last minute. The volunteer process includes a background check and can take up to 5 business days before ASD's Office of Equity approves or denies your application. Once we have received the approval/denial we will email you to let you know.

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## PTA Vacancies for 24-25 School Year

The following PTA positions will be vacant for the upcoming 24-25 school year:

- Teacher Representative
- Parent Volunteers
- Vice President

We would love to have you [join](#) the Taku PTA! If you are interested, please join us for the September PTA Meeting!

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### Taku Elementary

Email: [asktaku@asdk12.org](mailto:asktaku@asdk12.org)

Website: <https://www.asdk12.org/taku>

Location: [701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK, USA](#)

Phone: [907-742-5940](tel:907-742-5940)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/taku\\_elementary365/](https://www.instagram.com/taku_elementary365/)



### Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters