

December, 2023 Tiger Tales

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

Taku Mission Statement



Taku will create a safe and welcoming learning environment to support the diverse needs of students where everyone believes they are valued and capable of success.



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Taku families,

I want to start the newsletter with expressing gratitude. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility of remote learning while our roads were not safe for our greater community. We know some families and educators were more or less impacted. I appreciate that as a community, we did our best to ensure the safety of everyone. A special thank you to our BPO, Mr. Joel, for clearing our

sidewalks and playground to make our walkways safer for all. A big thank you to all of you for driving slowly through the parking lot and keeping our parking lot entrances clear of vehicles so our busses can safely enter and exit.

Our Family Reading Night was rescheduled due to the remote learning days to December 14th, from 5:30-7:00 pm. This will be a fun event where Taku Tigers can enjoy awesome reading activities in the gym and art room while parents learn more about ASD's online intervention program, Boost. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00 pm in the MPR and then we will branch off into activities from there. There will be prizes!

As a reminder, attendance makes a significant impact on your child's academic success. Please send your child to school every day unless they are sick. Additionally, every child needs to have appropriate winter gear including a warm winter coat, snow pants, boots, hat and gloves. If you need assistance in getting these materials for your child(ren), please let us know. We go outside every day!

If you need assistance with anything, please contact us via email (asktaku@asdk12.org) or by phone (742-5940). We are here to help you. It is an honor to serve the Taku community. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to be in contact.

Kaitlin Tallman,
Taku Principal

MAP Growth Newsletter Information 2023-2024

MAP Growth is the ASD and State of Alaska required benchmark/interim assessment for students in grades 3-9 in reading and mathematics. Grades 10-12 students identified as needing Tier II and Tier III reading and mathematics support also take MAP Growth as part of the Anchorage School District's MTSS framework.

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has partnered with NWEA to implement a creative approach to a balanced statewide assessment that connects fall and winter MAP Growth benchmark/interim assessments and the Alaska spring AK STAR summative assessment. AK STAR eliminates the spring benchmark/interim assessment window for grades 3-9 by combining the summative and benchmark assessment into one test that produces a spring benchmark score, which includes a growth measure. More information is available at the State of Alaska AK STAR website, education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar. MAP Growth is an online, adaptive assessment that provides each student a personalized testing experience with data that speaks to their individual progress and growth in mathematics and reading.

The MAP Growth reading and mathematics benchmark will be administered in person during the 2023-2024 fall and winter benchmark windows. The spring benchmark will be embedded in the AK STAR summative assessment as outlined above.

- Fall Benchmark 1: September 5 - September 15 (make-ups through September 22)
- Winter Benchmark 2: December 4 - December 15 (make-ups through December 21)
- Spring Benchmark 3: embedded in AK STAR administered during the summative assessment window: March 25 - April 5 (make-ups through April 26)
 - *MAP Growth assessment only: Grades 10-12 identified as needing Tier II and III support*

MAP Growth practice tests and tutorials allow students and families the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions and tools available on the actual MAP Growth assessments such as the highlighter and calculator. An overview of these resources with links to the practice tests are compiled on the [MAP Growth Practice Tests Quick Sheet](#).



FALL

MAP GROWTH

— Projected proficiency —



WINTER

MAP GROWTH

— Projected proficiency —



SPRING

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

— Summative proficiency —

Information related to grade-level expectations

— RIT —

— RIT —

— RIT —

Grade-independent information and normative growth measure

Professional learning supporting formative instructional practice



Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten Build the Habit of Good Attendance

DID YOU KNOW...

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build relationships.
- Develop good attendance habits.

High quality preschool and kindergarten has many benefits!

- The routines your child develops will continue throughout school.
- Make the most of early grades by encouraging your child to attend every day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Work with your child and his/her teacher to develop your child's strong attendance.

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Share ideas with other parents for getting to school on time.

Before the school year starts

- Find out what day school starts and begin a countdown!
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Attend orientation with your child to meet teachers and classmates and find out about health and safety procedures.

Ready, Set, GO!

- If you are concerned your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice. Ask for resources to continue learning at home if needed.
- Ask family members or neighbors for assistance if you need help.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your child seems anxious about preschool or kindergarten, talk to the program director, teacher, your doctor or other parents for advice.

Revised October 2021



Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

mClass Family News

mClass Newsletter Information

2023 - 2024

As part of The Alaska Reads Act, the State of Alaska requires that districts administer an early literacy screening tool three times a year to students in grades K-3 to identify potential reading difficulties in order to improve reading outcomes for students. Families can read more about this comprehensive K-3 reading policy at The Alaska Reads Act website:

education.alaska.gov/akreads

mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition Assessments is the State of Alaska Department of Education's and ASD's Early Literacy benchmark screening and progress monitoring tool for students in grades K-3 in reading. mClass utilizes curriculum-based measures and is used by schools as part of the ASD Comprehensive Assessment System to support informed instructional decisions.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development explains the decision to adopt mClass as the statewide literacy screener here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>

mClass screening assessments will only be administered in-person during the benchmark window listed below:

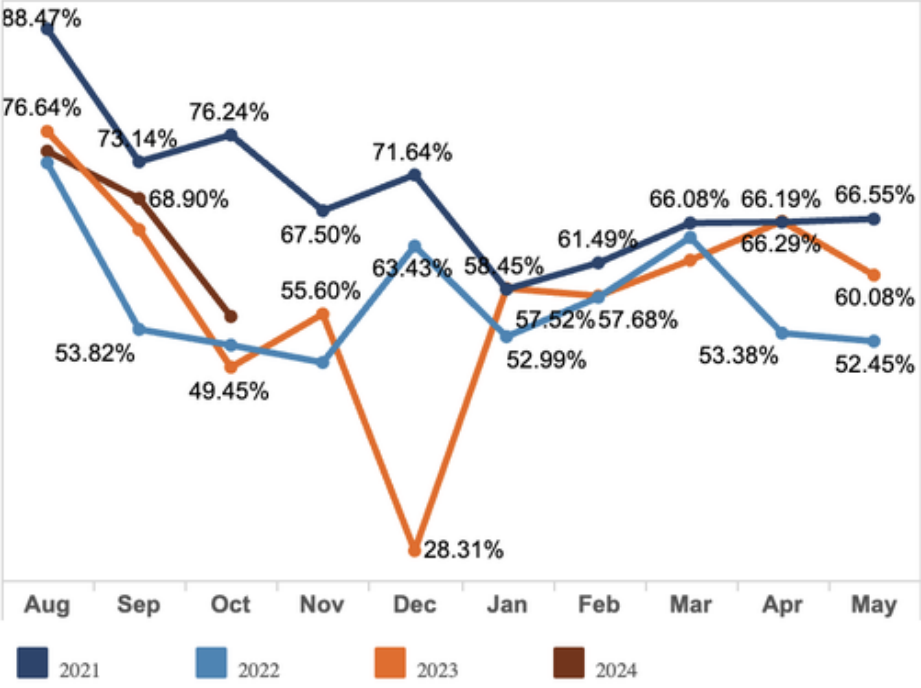
- Winter(MOY) 2023: December 4 - 15

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect by January 5, 2024: [ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide](#): parentconnect.asdk12.org

Taku's Second Quarter Attendance

62.29%
90% ATTENDANCE 2023-2024

School Year: 2023-2024
 Division: Elementary School



90% Attendance by school for the month of October

Taku Elementary School	55.31%
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Taku's attendance data shows that about 55% of students attended school 90% of the time.

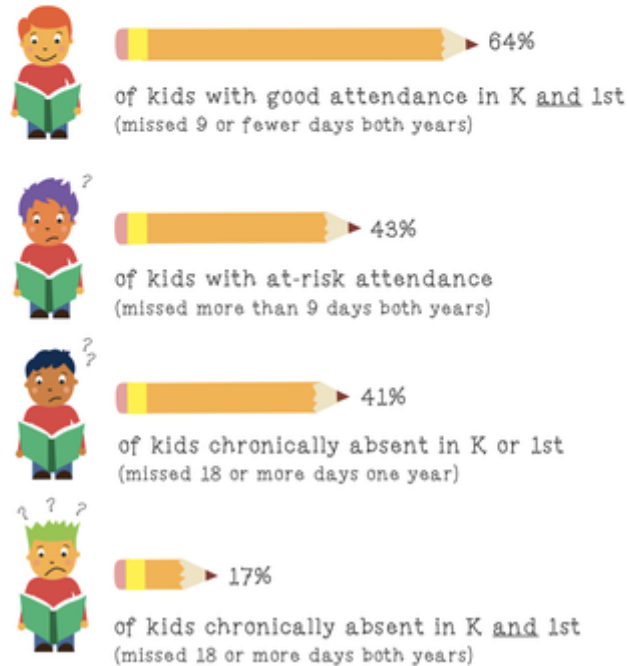
Please send your child(ren) to school every day on time, unless they're sick!

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



Read·A·Thon™

Congratulations to our Read-a-Thon participants!

Our Taku Read-A-Thon results are in! The students that participated read over 15,000 minutes in total and raised over \$3800.00 for our school PTA. Amazing work!

Here are a few Read-A-Thon stats:

Top reader: Malachi Tagaloa

Top minutes by class: Ms. Thomas

Top fundraiser: Cora Umu

Top fundraising by class: Ms. Lovejoy

We are so proud of your commitment to continuing your love of learning and for supporting your school community.

Keep reading, Taku!



Please join us for our Season's Reading Night! There will be pizza and games. Don't miss out on the fun!

We are Hiring!



Are you interested in working with the Taku Team? Maybe you know someone who would be a great addition to our learning community? We are hiring for several positions, including an administrative assistant, classroom teacher, special education teacher, substitute teachers, and noon duties.

You can apply online here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?>

[AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22](https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22)

Want to search all of our job openings: Follow this link: [asdk12.org](https://www.asdk12.org), click the yellow tab labeled, "I want to...", click "Apply for a Job", and then click "View External Applicant Positions."

Come and work with us!

Join our next PTA meeting!

We will be meeting in the Taku Library 12/12/23 at 5:30! Please join us!



Support Your PTA!

We're calling on all parents, teachers, and supporters to join hands and support our school's initiatives. Your donation will go a long way in funding important programs, activities, and resources for our students. To make your contribution and help us reach our goals, please visit <http://takupta.memberhub.com> and donate today. Every dollar counts and helps us provide a brighter future for our students. Thank you for being a part of our dedicated PTA community!

PTA Vacancies for 23-24 School Year

The following PTA positions will be vacant for the upcoming 23-24 school year:

- Vice President
- **Treasurer**
- Parent Volunteers

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

Parking Lot Safety

Please remember safety is our top priority at Taku!

Some reminders in the parking lot during pick up and drop off:

- Students and families should use the cross walk when appropriate.
- Students should stay in vehicles until you reach the drop off zone in the drop off loop.
- No running through the parking lot during drop off.
- Families should not drop off or pick up in the Bus Loop.
- Please do not block the parking lot entrances and exits.

Thank you to all of you for helping to keep our students safe!

Basketball is under way! Taku has two teams separated by ability level. Please talk with your player to see what team they are playing on. Here is the schedule for the season. Please come support our players.



Upper League Schedule 23/24
Wolverine League

1. ANCS 1 12/1 @ Trailside 12/8 Fairview 12/15 Lake Otis *12/19 @ Baxter 1/12 Northwood 1/19 @ Taku 1 1/26 W. Crest 1 2/2 @ Chinook	2. Baxter 12/1 @ Taku 1 12/8 Chu. Opt. 1 12/15 @ Klatt 1 *12/19 ANCS 1 1/12 @ North Star 1/19 Spring Hill 1/26 @ Trailside 2/2 Bayshore 1	3. Bayshore 1 12/1 @ Spring Hill 12/8 Chinook 12/15 Kincaid 1 *12/19 @ Trailside 1/12 @ Lake Otis 1/19 Sand Lake 1/26 Taku 1 2/2 @ Baxter	4. Chinook 12/1 Sand Lake 12/8 @ Bayshore 1 12/15 Gov. Hill *12/19 @ Taku 1 1/12 Klatt 1 1/19 @ O'Malley 1 1/26 @ Spring Hill 2/2 ANCS 1	5. Chu. Opt.1 12/1 O'Malley 1 12/8 @ Baxter 12/15 @ Fairview *12/19 Spring Hill 1/12 @ Kincaid 1 1/19 Northwood 1/26 @ Sand Lake 2/2 Trailside
6. Fairview 12/1 Northwood 12/8 @ ANCS 1 12/15 Chu. Opt. 1 *12/19 @ Sand Lake 1/12 Gov. Hill 1/19 @ North Star 1/26 O'Malley 1 2/2 @ Taku 1	7. Gov. Hill 12/1 @ North Star 12/8 Trailside 12/15 @ Chinook *12/19 O'Malley 1 1/12 @ Fairview 1/19 Lake Otis 1/26 @ Northwood 2/2 Spring Hill	8. Kincaid 1 12/1 @ Lake Otis 12/8 Taku 1 12/15 @ Bayshore 1 *12/19 @ Northwood 1/12 Chu. Opt. 1 1/19 Klatt 1 1/26 @ North Star 2/2 Sand Lake	9. Klatt 1 12/1 @ W. Crest 1 12/8 Spring Hill 12/15 Baxter *12/19 North Star 1/12 @ Chinook 1/19 @ Kincaid 1 1/26 Lake Otis 2/2 @ O'Malley 1	10. Lake Otis 12/1 Kincaid 1 12/8 @ Sand Lake 12/15 @ ANCS 1 *12/19 W. Crest 1 1/12 Bayshore 1 1/19 @ Gov. Hill 1/26 @ Klatt 1 2/2 Northwood
11. North Star 12/1 Gov. Hill 12/8 @ O'Malley 1 12/15 @ Trailside *12/19 @ Klatt 1 1/12 Baxter 1/19 Fairview 1/26 Kincaid 1 2/2 @ W. Crest 1	12. Northwood 12/1 @ Fairview 12/8 W. Crest 1 12/15 Taku 1 *12/19 Kincaid 1 1/12 @ ANCS 1 1/19 @ Chu. Opt. 1 1/26 Gov. Hill 2/2 @ Lake Otis	13. O'Malley 1 12/1 @ Chu. Opt. 1 12/8 North Star 12/15 @ Spring Hill *12/19 @ Gov. Hill 1/12 Trailside 1/19 Chinook 1/26 @ Fairview 2/2 Klatt 1	14. Sand Lake 12/1 @ Chinook 12/8 Lake Otis 12/15 @ W. Crest 1 *12/19 Fairview 1/12 Taku 1 1/19 @ Bayshore 1 1/26 Chu. Opt. 1 2/2 @ Kincaid 1	15. Spring Hill 12/1 Bayshore 1 12/8 @ Klatt 1 12/15 O'Malley 1 *12/19 @ Chu. Opt. 1 1/12 W. Crest 1 1/19 @ Baxter 1/26 Chinook 2/2 @ Gov. Hill
16. Taku 1 12/1 Baxter 12/8 @ Kincaid 1 12/15 @ Northwood *12/19 Chinook 1/12 @ Sand Lake 1/19 ANCS 1 1/26 @ Bayshore 1 2/2 Fairview	17. Trailside 12/1 ANCS 1 12/8 @ Gov. Hill 12/15 North Star *12/19 Bayshore 1 1/12 @ O'Malley 1 1/19 @ W. Crest 1 1/26 Baxter 2/2 @ Chu. Opt. 1	18. W. Crest 1 12/1 Klatt 1 12/8 @ Northwood 12/15 Sand Lake *12/19 @ Lake Otis 1/12 @ Spring Hill 1/19 Trailside 1/26 @ ANCS 1 2/2 North Star	1. Alaska Native Charter School 1 2. Baxter 3. Bayshore 1 4. Chinook 5. Chugach Optional 1 6. Fairview 7. Government Hill 8. Kincaid 1 9. Klatt 1	10. Lake Otis 11. North Star 12. Northwood 13. O'Malley 1 14. Sand Lake 15. Spring Hill 16. Taku 1 17. Trailside 18. Willow Crest 1

Tournament Date: Feb. 10, 2024

Tournament site: Clark Middle School

Starting time TBD

Lower League Schedule 23/24

Winter League

1. ANCS2 12/1 Chu. Opt. 2 12/8 @ Muldoon 12/15 @ W. Park *12/19 Bowman 1/12 @ Klatt 2 1/19 M. View 1/26 @ C. Gate 2/2 Kincaid 2	2. Bayshore2 12/1 Bowman 12/8 @ M. View 12/15 @ Taku 2 *12/19 W. Park 1/12 Kincaid 2 1/19 @ Klatt 2 1/26 @ Chu. Opt. 2 2/2 C. Gate	3. Bowman12/1 @ Bayshore2 12/8 Klatt 2 12/15 @ O'Malley 2 *12/19 @ ANCS 2 1/12 C. Gate 1/19 Kincaid 2 1/26 @ W. Crest 2 2/2 Chu. Opt. 2	4. Chu.Opt.2 12/1@ANCS2 12/8 Kincaid 2 12/15 Muldoon *12/19 @ W. Crest 2 1/12 W. Park 1/19 @ C. Gate 1/26 Bayshore 2 2/2 @ Bowman	5. C. Gate 12/1 W. Crest 2 12/8 @ W. Park 12/15 @ M. View *12/19 Williwaw 1/12 @ Bowman 1/19 Chu. Opt. 2 1/26 ANCS 2 2/2 @ Bayshore 2	6. Kincaid2 12/1 Williwaw 12/8 @ Chu. Opt. 2 12/15 Klatt 2 *12/19 Taku 2 1/12 @ Bayshore 2 1/19 @ Bowman 1/26 W. Park 2/2 @ ANCS 2
7. Klatt 2 12/1 Taku 2 12/8 @ Bowman 12/15 @ Kincaid 2 * 12/19 @ O'Malley 2 1/12 ANCS 2 1/19 Bayshore 2 1/26 @ Williwaw 2/2 W. Crest 2	8. M.View12/1@O'Malley 2 12/8 Bayshore 2 12/15 C. Gate *12/19 Muldoon 1/12 @ W. Crest 2 1/19 @ ANCS 2 1/26 @ Taku 2 2/2 Williwaw	9. Muldoon 12/1 W. Park 12/8 ANCS 2 12/15 @ Chu. Opt. 2 *12/19 @ M. View 1/12 @ Williwaw 1/19 W. Crest 2 1/26 @ O'Malley 2 2/2 Taku 2	10.O'Malley2 12/1 M. View 12/8 @ W. Crest 2 12/15 Bowman *12/19 Klatt 2 1/12 @ Taku 2 1/19 @ Williwaw 1/26 Muldoon 2/2 @ W. Park	11. Taku 2 12/1 @ Klatt 2 12/8 Williwaw 12/15 Bayshore 2 *12/19 @ Kincaid 2 1/12 O'Malley 2 1/19 @ W. Park 1/26 M. View 2/2 @ Muldoon	12. Williwaw 12/1@Kincaid2 12/8 @ Taku 2 12/15 W. Crest. 2 *12/19 @ C. Gate 1/12 Muldoon 1/19 O'Malley 2 1/26 Klatt 2 2/2 @ M. View
13. W. Crest2 12/1 @ C. Gate 12/8 O'Malley 2 12/15 @ Williwaw *12/19 Chu. Opt. 2 1/12 M. View 1/19 @ Muldoon 1/26 Bowman 2/2 @ Klatt 2	14. W. Park 12/1@Muldoon 12/8 C. Gate 12/15 ANCS *12/19 @ Bayshore 2 1/12 @ Chu. Opt. 2 1/19 Taku 2 1/26 @ Kincaid 2 2/2 O'Malley 2			1. Alaska NativeCharterSchool 2 2. Bayshore 2 3. Bowman 4. Chugach Optional 2 5. College Gate 6. Kincaid 2 7. Klatt 2	8. Mountain View 9. Muldoon 10. O'Malley 2 11. Taku 2 12. Williwaw 13. Willow Crest 2 14. Wonder Park

Tournament Date: Feb. 17, 2024

Tournament site: Clark Middle School

Starting time TBD

Nurse's Note

Hello families!

It is getting colder outside. Please make sure your student has snow pants, a jacket, gloves, and hat at school. I have a limited supply at school and want to prevent any cold injuries.

I am taking donations in my office for pants and shirts. If you have extras of either, I promise I will put them to good use.

Also, It's flu season! I encourage all students and their families to get a flu vaccine! Attached is a hand out that includes places that are doing free flu vaccines!



<https://asdk12ak->

[my.sharepoint.com/:b/r/personal/ketchum_rachel_asdk12_org/Documents/\(Immunizations%20-%20Handout\)%20Community%20Immunization%20Clinics%20%20\(2\)%20\(1\)%203.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=b7mTF9](https://my.sharepoint.com/:b/r/personal/ketchum_rachel_asdk12_org/Documents/(Immunizations%20-%20Handout)%20Community%20Immunization%20Clinics%20%20(2)%20(1)%203.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=b7mTF9)

The Buzz with Bauer

In order to thrive, relationships need frequent care and attention. Family rituals allow families to slow down and connect, and they're associated with powerful benefits. They give you and your children a sense of security, identity and belonging. They can help children feel safe during

uncertainty or change. Whether it's a shared coffee/hot chocolate every morning, or a ten-minute check-in before bed, it is a special time for you and your families to connect, share affection, and be fully present. Family rituals are a way to focus energy with your families this holiday season and into the new year!



As a family, use the tips and examples below to create your own rituals:

Just be together:

Spend quality, uninterrupted time together, even if it's only for five minutes.

Eliminate distractions:

Turn off the TV, put away/silence cell phones, and move away from any other distractions that interrupt.

Keep it simple:

A ritual doesn't have to be a big event. It can be as simple as listening to a favorite song together.

Make it a priority:

Protect the time you set aside for your ritual, even when life gets busy.

Be completely present:

Spend time mindfully, focusing on your family and the experiences you're sharing.

Keep it simple:

A ritual doesn't have to be a big event. It can be as simple as sitting and reading a book together or going on a short walk.

Do it consistently:

Make it a routine of doing the ritual weekly (more if you want).

A few ideas for family rituals:

Arrivals & Departures:

When leaving for the day or returning home, connect with your family for a few moments. Discuss plans for the day, share an embrace, or talk about something that's on your mind. Have a mindful interaction, versus a rushed goodbye.

Morning or Evening Walk:

Take a walk around your neighborhood after dinner. Be mindful, paying attention to the sights, sounds, and smells outside that you would normally overlook. After a few minutes, take turns sharing what you noticed.

Quality time:

Choose a day and time each week to do something together that brings you joy.

Get moving:

Go for a walk, run/jog, practice yoga, play a favorite sport, or any physical activity. Get in a routine of doing exercise together daily or certain days of the week.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

Abby Bauer

School Counselor

Specialist News

Library with Amy Johnson

December and January @ Your Library

Curriculum:

For December, the genre, or style of writing, of the month is Folk and Fairy Tales. In January, all students will study the genre of Fantasy.



Activities:

The Library Class of the Month competition will continue through December and January, and for the rest of the school year.

All of us at Taku Elementary School wish you and your family a fabulous winter holiday.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson, Taku Librarian

P.E. with Natalie Washington

Physical Education News:

Coming events:

- Healthy Futures log
 - Thank you for participating in the Fall Healthy Futures logs!
 - The next log will be in February.



Gym Shoes:

- Your student needs a clean, non-marking pair of gym shoes to leave at school.
- These are used for PE class to ensure they can participate safely and keep our new gym floor clean!

Thank you

Natalie Washington

Washington_natalie@asdk12.org

Important Dates



12/14 - Band & Orchestra Winter Concert

Join us for our Band & Orchestra Winter Concert! Let's make it a musical celebration you won't want to miss! It's from 10:30am - 11:00am.



12/14 - Family Reading Night

Join us on 12/14 at 5:30 pm for our Family Reading Night! More information to come soon.



12/12 - PTA Meeting

Join us at the PTA meeting at 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm!

Donor Thank You

CU1 Donation

BIG SHOUTOUT to CU1 Bank for their incredible generosity! Thank you for warming our hearts and gearing us up for winter with your donation of winter gear and backpacks to our school. Your support means the world to us!



The Bulletin Board, Office Ladies

Please join us in saying goodbye to Joy. She'll be missed, but we're cheering her on from here! Go conquer the world, Joy!

Student Handbook: https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1179/23-24_ES-Student-Handbook_Accessible.pdf

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/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQD_HMwPMg/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.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12 PTA Meeting 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	13	14 Band & Orchestra Winter Concert 10:30 am - 11:00 am Family Night 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	15 Sing along Assembly	16
17	18	19 2nd Quarter Assembly	20	21 Students of the Month	22 In-service Day	23
24	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30
31						



Taku Elementary

Email: takuattendance@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/>



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters