

MAY, 2025 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

It's hard to believe we are already in the final stretch of the school year! May is a busy, exciting month, and I want to take a moment to reflect on how proud I am of our students, staff, and families. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and resilience, and we're not done yet! We still have a month left of school, and we'll finish strong!

We are hosting a Spring Registration Fest at Taku on Saturday, 5/10, from 12:00 - 2:00! We will have Food Trucks, face painting, activities from the Anchorage Fire Department, Girl Scouts, Anchorage Public Library, and more! We hope you can join us for the festivities and to register your students for the upcoming school year!

Just a reminder that cellphones are not allowed at school per ASD's Elementary Student Handbook. If students have them, they should be turned off and stored in students' backpacks. Also, we are not liable for lost or stolen phones. Please remind students their phones should not be utilized during the day. If you need to be in contact with students, please call the office, and we can help get you in touch with or pass on a message to your child. Thank you for your help with this!

Teacher Appreciation is next week! I encourage all families to join us in showing gratitude to our dedicated Taku staff. Whether it's a thank you note, a kind word, or a classroom supply donation, every gesture makes a difference!

Our End of Year mClass assessment took place last week, and our preliminary growth data is spectacular! You should be hearing from your teachers soon with more information.

Looking ahead at summer learning - we want to keep our students engaged even after the school year ends. Challenge your child to participate in summer reading programs, reading challenges or

some online resources to help keep young minds active.

Important Dates:

5/5 - 5/9 - Teacher Appreciation Week! Celebrate our Taku Teachers!

5/5 - 5/9 - Spirit Week - see specific days below

5/6 - PTA Meeting @ 5:30pm in the library

5/10 - Taku Spring Registration Fest! 12:00 - 2:00

5/10 - Super Sweepers - 11:30 at Taku

5/16 - 4th Quarter Award Assembly - times TBA

5/21 - Field Day - Times vary determined by grade level

5/21 - PreK Celebration @ 11:30

5/21 - Kinder Promotion in PM

5/21 - Last Day of school for students & end of 4th quarter!

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

Go Tigers!

Warm regards,

Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

Sara Kriz, Assistant Principal

Taku Attendance

<div>50.53%</div> <div>90% ATTENDANCE 2024-2025</div>	
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School Year

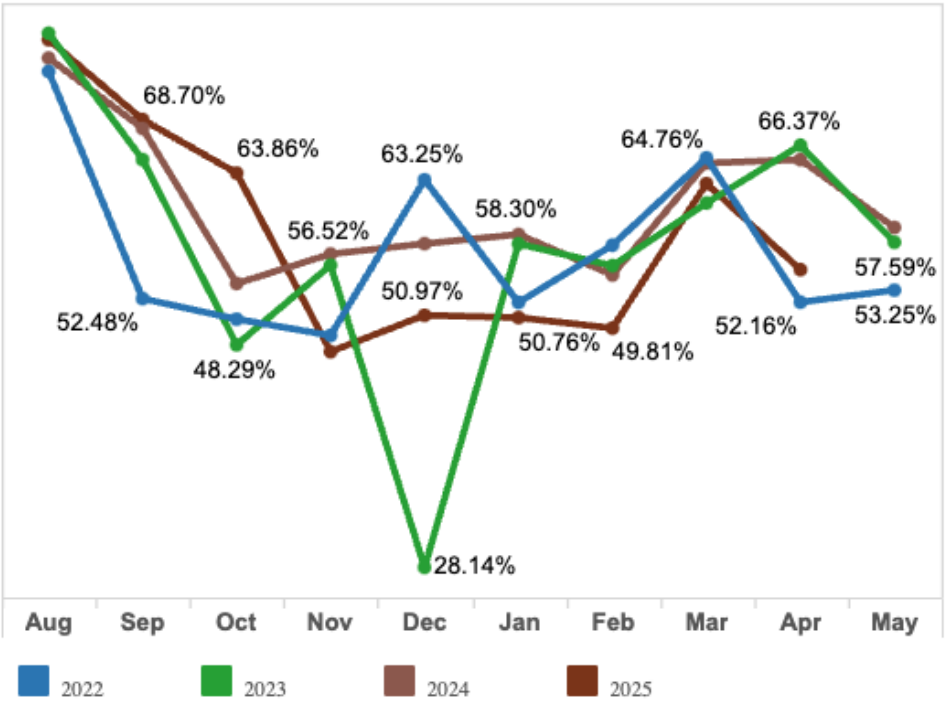
2024-2025

Division

Elementary School

School

Taku



90% Attendance by school for the month of April	
Taku Elementary School	55.10%

Taku's May PTA Meeting

Join the PTA

May Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

5:30PM - 6:30PM

TAKU LIBRARY

Agenda

- Election for the PTA board of the 25/26 school year
- Review tentative PTA calendar for 25/26 school year

Board Nominations 25/26

President:

- Erica Duffy

Vice President:

- Laurel Olsen-Piscoya

Secretary:

- Pauline Bustillo

Treasurer:

- Julia Hollingsworth

May Spirit Week



Taku Super Sweepers

TAKU SUPER SWEEPERS

SATURDAY, MAY 10

11:30-1:30



2 WAYS TO WIN:

- Participants get snacks!
- Participants and their families enter their names into a raffle box to win a Fred Meyer gift card. The more people you bring to participate, the more chances you have to win!

2 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Meet us at Taku Lake Park at 11:30. We will walk around the lake to collect garbage and then return to Taku.
- We will get back to Taku at 12:30. We will walk around the school grounds to collect garbage until 1:30.



Taku's Registration Fest



Use the link below to register your student(s).

<https://studentconnect.asdk12.org/production/parentportal>

Bike Helmets!

Is your BRAIN ready to ride?



Bike helmets will be available to kids & teens at no cost at Anchorage Fire Department stations beginning April 15, 2025

***Must be present to have helmet fit & adjusted**

***Supplies limited to stock on hand**

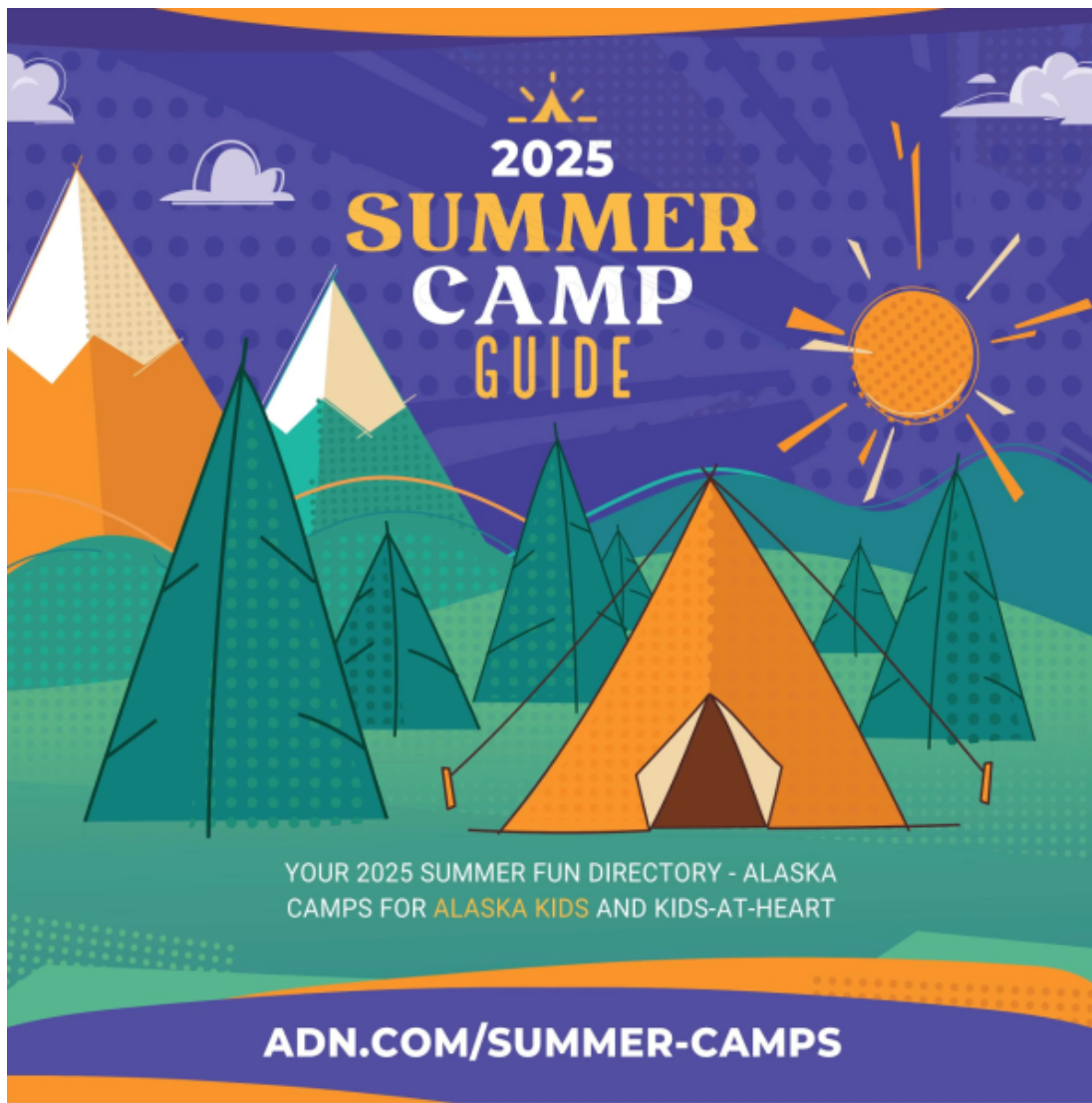
- Program intended for those who could not otherwise obtain bike helmets
- Program coordinated by Safe Kids Alaska, AFD, & IAFF Local 1264

For more information, contact Safe Kids Alaska

Phone: 907-212-3194 Email: safekidsak@providence.org



Summer Camp Guide



https://issuu.com/61degrees/docs/2025_summer_camps_guide

ASD's Mount Spurr Preparedness Information

ASD is committed to keeping you informed and prepared.

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

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. 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! 🍽️ 🍷

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

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!

Specialist News

Library with Amy Johnson

Dearest Taku Elementary School Community:

It is with quite a lot of sadness, and also an awful lot of excitement, that I share with you the news of my impending retirement at the end of this school year. Having managed our library for 22 years now, I'm filled with pride and happiness that I'm now hosting the children of former Taku students for library book checkout and activities, and in some cases, working as a peer with wonderful former students. It has been a great joy to call the Taku Library much more than my second home for all these years; it's been my absolute privilege to nurture our students' love for literature and reading, and to inspire them toward enthusiasm and curiosity for lifelong learning.



Thank you so much for your support of both me and our library all these years. I wish each and every one of you a bittersweet, fond farewell.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson
Taku Elementary School Librarian
2003-2025

PE with Mr. B

Hello Taku Tigers Families! It's Mr. B with P.E. The end of the year finish line is in our sights and classes will be focusing on Fitness Concepts to be ready for Taku's Field Day events at the end of the year. The weather is getting better, so classes are going outside for activities as much as

possible. To make the end of the year fun and memorable classes will get to pick their favorite exercises, games, and activities and end 2024/2025 with a BANG!

With a mix of excitement, and heartbreak, I wanted to inform families that I will not be returning to Taku as P.E. teacher next year. My family is moving to Idaho to be closer with relatives, and to start a new adventure. I wanted to let families know how much I enjoyed being the P.E. teacher this year and getting to know and create special relationships with the students. I hope I was able to bring joy and happiness through physical education to my classes so they will continue to choose athletics for a healthy lifestyle. I wish all students a wonderful 2025 - 2026 school year. Stay active, healthy, and happy. Take care!

Brian Sheffield

Physical Education/Health Teacher, M. Ed.
Taku Elementary - Taku Tigers
701 E. 72nd Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99518
1 (907) 742-5940



Note from Nurse Ellie

Thank you, Taku Tigers, for a great school year. I have enjoyed getting to know you all. I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer! Wear your helmets, apply sunscreen and eat healthy. I look forward to seeing you all back at Taku in August, for another great school year.

-Nurse Ellie



Important Dates

Last Day of School!

PTA Meeting



Last Day of School - 5/21



Field Day!

More information to come.

PTA Meeting - 5/6

Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 6:30pm! This will be our last of the year and we will be voting in our nominated board members. Don't miss out!



Super Sweepers - 5/10

11:30AM at Taku

PreK Celebration - 5/21



Spring Registration Fair - 5/10

We have several vendors coming.... Food trucks, face painting, Anchorage Library, Girl Scouts, etc. Check out flyer above for all details!



Kinder Promotion - 5/21

5/21 - Kinder Promotion in PM



May Spirit Week - 5/5 - 5/9

See specific days above.



4th Quarter Award Assembly - 5/16

Times TBA



Teacher Appreciation - 5/5 - 5/9

We have a fun activity planned for each day to help celebrate our amazing teachers:

- **Monday** – Send your teacher their **favorite**

snack to show your appreciation.

- **Tuesday** – Create and send a **homemade bookmark** for your teacher.
- **Wednesday** – Make a **thank-you card** to brighten your teacher's day.
- **Thursday** – Surprise your teacher with their **favorite drink**.
- **Friday** – Write or draw a **favorite memory** from this school year and share it with your teacher.

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.

THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies

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!

As we wrap up another wonderful school year, we (your Taku admin ladies!) want to wish all of our families a fun, restful, and safe summer. We will miss seeing our amazing students each day and can't wait to welcome everyone back next school year. Enjoy every sunshine-filled moment!

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

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.

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.



Taku Elementary

Email: 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/



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

