

October 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,

Earlier this month, your child took a reading assessment called mCLASS DIBELS 8. This assessment will help gauge current reading proficiency levels. All parents will receive a report of their child's results. This is called an mCLASS Home Connect Report. Parents of students in grades 1st - 3rd who scored "well below" reading proficiency levels will receive an additional letter next week that outlines the next steps we will take together to help improve reading skills. Please take a minute to check out the short video below that explains how to read an mCLASS Home Connect Report. All parents are encouraged to attend parent conferences October 25 - 26 to learn more about their child's progress in school and their reading proficiency. We will be sharing information on how to sign up for conferences soon.

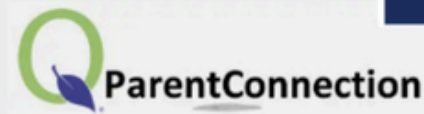
Alaska Reads Act Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CC6gdpSBZ8w>

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up! Keep your calendar available for 10/25, 10/26, & 10/27. That week, Wednesday and Thursday students are dismissed at 12:30pm, and on Friday, there is no school for students. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with our families and sharing student progress. Each conference is 20 minutes, so it is important that you arrive on time so we can maintain our tight schedules those days. More information about scheduling your conference(s) will be coming to you soon!

It's an honor to serve the Taku community. If you have any questions and/or concerns, don't hesitate to be in contact.

Kaitlin Tallman
Taku Principal

ELL - Technology Help Night



English Language Learner **TECHNOLOGY HELP NIGHT**

FREE PIZZA!



Tuesday, October 3, 2023
5:30 - 7:00 pm



Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School - Commons/Library Annex
4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd. 99508

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- * Get help with ASD's Parent Connection program in Spanish, Hmong, Samoan, or English (support for other languages if requested in advance)
 - * Learn how to check your child's grades, homework, attendance, and more!
 - * Get information about the ACP internet discount that could save you \$75/month on Wifi at home
-

**Please let us know if you are coming, to plan for food, and to
know what you need help with!**

RSVP by form: <https://bit.ly/ASDELL>

or by phone: 907-742-2171

or by email: bisson_katie@asdk12.org



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Join our next PTA meeting!

We will be meeting in the Taku Library 10/10/23 at 5:30! Please join us!



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 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.

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

Arrival / Drop Off / Attendance

Just a reminder that our school start times for the 23 - 24 school year is a bit different.

Mondays will now start later than usual. Drop off begins at 9:40am and the first bell rings at 9:50am. Instruction begins at 10:00am.

Tuesdays - Fridays are normal drop off and pick up times. Drop off begins at 8:40am and the first bell rings at 8:50am.

Drop off: Students should not be on school grounds or released from cars until you see the staff come outside. When released, students need to enter the school through their grade level doors on the side and back of the building. Parents are welcome to walk students, as needed, to their outside door and say goodbye before students enter the building. If you wish to visit the classroom, contact the teacher ahead of time to schedule it with them. If ever unsure, come see the front office!

Tardy students will need to enter through the front office doors. Parents do not need to check tardy students in, that is the job of the front office and they can be dropped off at the front doors.

Dismissal: Plan your pick up and drop off routine in advance and communicate that with teachers so they know how your students are getting home. If you are picking up students please pull through the car rider line or meet your student at the crosswalk.

Early pick up: The cut-off time for early pick up is 3:15pm. If you arrive after 3:15pm, you will be asked to wait until the bell rings at 3:30pm. We understand emergencies happen and we will release your child to you if that type of situation arises. Parents picking up students early do not need to call ahead of time. Please plan accordingly to come in the front office and sign out your student for early release.

Absences: For pre-arranged (vacations) absences please call the office. To excuse your student please log into parent connect to report the absence. If you are unable to log in, please call the office at 907-742-5940 or email takuattendance@asdk12.org

Nurse's Note

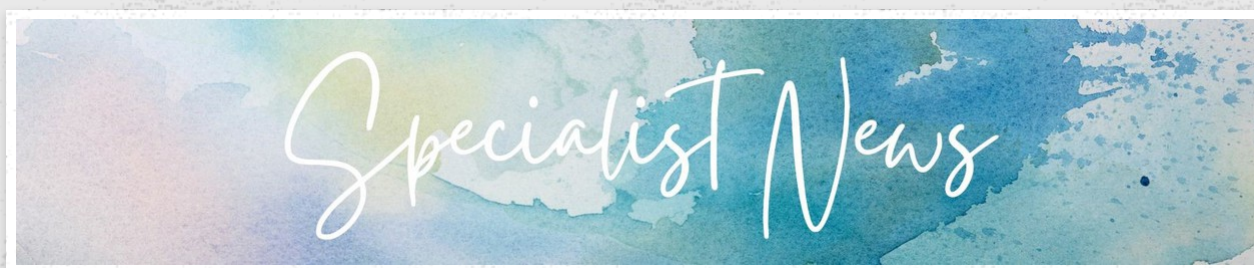
Hello from the nurse!

I hope you and your families are doing well and staying healthy this season! I am seeing a lot of viruses going around, unfortunately. If you have any questions regarding if your student should come to school, please see the attached flier. Also, never hesitate to call me if you have any questions.



In accordance with the Alaska Reads Act, I am screening all students' vision and hearing. Students in grades pre k, k, 3 and 5 will have a growth screening that includes height and weight.

Providence Alaska Medical Center sponsors Safe Kids Alaska. This program generously offers reflective tape strips that are placed on student's jackets. This safety measure helps ensure students are seen by drivers during our dark months. In the coming weeks, I will be helping students place reflective tape strips on their jacket zippers while they are at school.



Library with Amy Johnson

Happy October, All!

In the library this month, we'll be exploring the genre, or style of writing, called mystery. A mystery is a made-up story in which a detective finds the answer to a question or solves a crime, using clues. Mysteries usually contain an atmosphere of excitement and suspense and are great for developing critical thinking skills because the reader puts together clues to solve the mystery along with the book character(s). Have fun exploring mysteries with your students by asking lots of questions and looking for clues to the answers!



Sincerely,

Ms. Johnson,
Taku Librarian

PE. with Natalie Washington

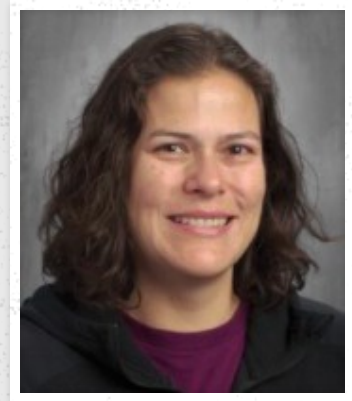
Coming events:

Healthy Futures log

- October logs began on the 1st and are due on November 1st!

Gym Shoes:

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



I am looking for to a great year in PE!

Natalie Washington

Washington_natalie@asdk12.org



10/4 - Picture Day!



10/20 - Family Literacy Night

Join us on 10/20 for our Family Literacy Night! More information to come soon.



10/25-10/27 - Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are 10/25, 10/26, & 10/27. That week, Wednesday and Thursday students are dismissed at 12:30pm. Friday, 10/27, is no school for students! Teachers will be in touch soon with more information about how to schedule your conference(s).

Donor Thank You



Great Alaska Pizza Company generously donates pizzas for our Students of the Month every month! The winners get to enjoy a pizza lunch with the principal in the office. Taku greatly appreciates Great Alaska Pizza Company's generosity and their delicious pizza.

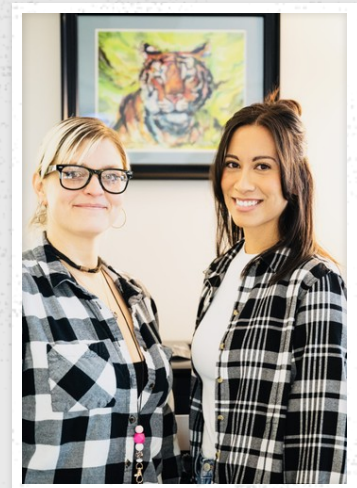
The Bulletin Board, Office Ladies

Joy's Joke of the Month:

People always talk about the "eye of the tiger".
What about the other 4 letters?

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/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.

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!



Taku Elementary

 Facebook

 701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchor...

 takuattendance@asdk12.org

 907-742-5940

 asdk12.org/taku