

NOVEMBER, 2024 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

As we welcome November at Taku Elementary, it's a perfect time to reflect on the many things we are thankful for in our school community. This month is not only about celebrating Thanksgiving but also about fostering gratitude, kindness, and togetherness among our students, staff, and families.

Thank you all for joining us at our Texas Roadhouse Dining Night and for all of your support with our Read - A - Thon! There are only a few days left to get your read on and to get those donations! We have exceeded our goal of reading 4,500 minutes... Drumroll, please.... So far, Taku has read over 6,500 minutes!! GO TIGERS!!

I also want to shout out to all the parents and families who joined us for Parent Teacher conferences! We very much appreciate your continued support of your child's learning.

The snow is here! Students go outside every day for 30 minutes for recess. Please make sure students have a coat, snow pants, hats, gloves, and boots.

Let's celebrate our increase of attendance this year! Last year, in October (2023), Taku had 55% of students attend 90% of the time. This year, 62.2% of Taku students attend school 90% of the time! Way to go! Our goal is for 70% of students to attend 90% of the time. Keep coming to school! Let's also keep focusing on getting students to school **on time**. If you need an alarm clock, let us know! If you need a wake up call, we can make that happen! Work hard to be on time.

What else is happening at Taku this month?

November 5, is a Remote Learning day due to the General Election. Staff will be communicating out plans to you for the day.

No school for students November 11.

Our 5th graders will be attending a UAA volleyball game on November 21. If you are interesting in volunteering, make sure you fill out the volunteer information below.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving weekend with your friends and families November 28-29. We'll see students back at school Monday, December 2.

Wishing you all a fantastic November!

Go Tigers!

Best regards,
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal
Sara Kriz, Assistant Principal

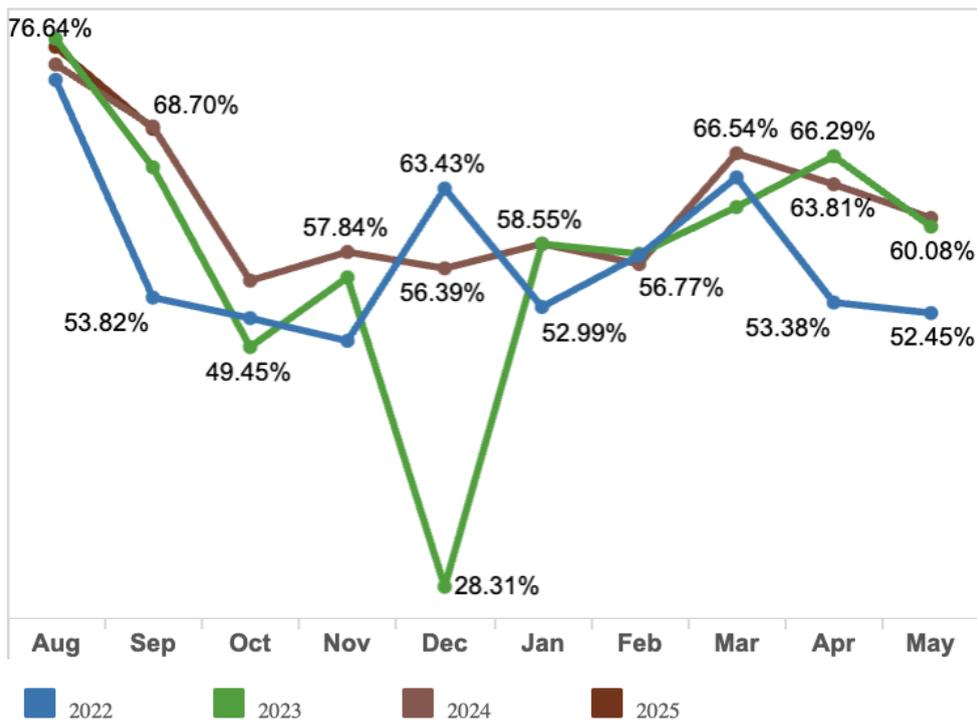
Taku Attendance Data - 67.72%

Regular attendance is important for your child's success. And most classrooms begin learning right away at 8:00, so being on time is crucial.

Taku's attendance goal this year is to have 70% of students attend school 90% of the time.

67.72%
90% ATTENDANCE 2024-2025

School Year: 2024-2025
Division: Elementary School



90% Attendance by school for the month of September

Taku Elementary School 68.70%

Need Snow Gear?

If your student needs snow gear, let us know! Students go outside every day for 30 minutes, and we want them to be warm and dry. AskTaku@asdk12.org

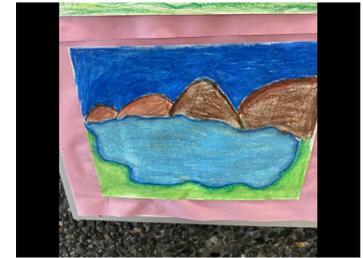
Family Night Feedback Needed!

Please complete the following Family Survey about upcoming Family Nights! We'd love to get your feedback.

[FILL OUT THE SURVEY HERE!](#)

November is Alaska Native/Native American Heritage Month

Alaska Native/ Native American Heritage Month celebrates the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities to ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation. Taku will be celebrating with an NYO demonstration from the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Traditional Tuesdays (students and staff are invited to wear their favorite traditional clothing), and Rock Your Mocs Week is Nov. 10-16!



Red Ribbon Spirit Week

Thank you to everyone who made Red Ribbon Week a success! 🎉 We loved seeing so many students show their school spirit with Taku wear, team jerseys, Halloween costumes, and red or

tropical gear. Check out some of the highlights in the photos attached—our students and classrooms really embraced spirit week!



And students at recess!!



Nurse's Note



Snow Day Health Tips

Some ideas from Nurse Elle for staying healthy on Snow/Ice Remote Learning Days

- » **Get outside!** – Fresh air and movement are important parts of keeping a healthy body.
- » **Dress for the weather** – Wear your winter gear, dress in layers, & change wet socks and gloves to stay warm.
- » **Dry Lips and Nosebleeds-** The cold weather makes the air dry, which increases the risk of chapped lips and nosebleeds. Avoid licking your lips, use lip balm instead. A humidifier and nasal spray can help prevent nosebleeds.
- » **Limit screentime!** - read a book, play a board game, write a story, build some Legos, start a band, level up your imagination!
- » **Fuel your body-** Remember to drink water, eat fruits and vegetables, and make healthy food choices!

I wish you a very safe and healthy extra day home from school! Go have some fun, and we will see you on our next school day!

Specialist News

Library with Amy Johnson

November @ Your Library

For the month of November, we'll be exploring the genre, or style of writing, called Historical Fiction. In historical fiction, a story is made up about something that happened in the past. Some events are based on fact, but most characters and other events are fictional. To write historical fiction, the author does research into the time period and includes accurate details about everyday life. Historical fiction can be a more difficult genre for students to understand because they don't yet have enough life experience to help them relate to events from the past. Families who share stories from their own past with their children can help students develop an understanding of the past. Have fun sharing family stories!



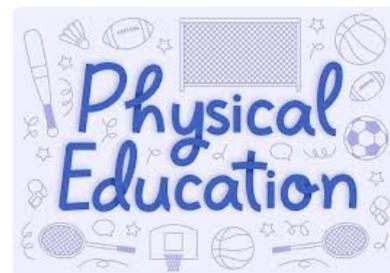
All of us at Taku wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson
Taku Librarian

PE with Mr. B

Hello Taku Families! It is Mr. B with P.E. For the month of November students will be focusing on games and activity skills that focus on jumping and landing, throwing and catching, dribbling with the hand (basketball, volleyball (bumps/sets), badminton, and hockey sticks). Students are engaging in sportsmanship, collaboration, and positive participation and effort. With snowy weather conditions, please remember to have you student bring a pair of gym shoes to keep in their classroom so they are ready to place their best foot forward as they enter the gym. As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions.



Take care. Mr. B

Physical Education/Health Teacher, M. Ed.
(907) 742-5940

Important Dates



2nd/3rd/4th field trip - AK Junior Theatre

Exciting news! Our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders will be attending the AK Junior Theatre on November 8th for an enriching experience.



PTA Meeting - 11/12
Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 6:30pm!



General Election - Remote Learning Day
Taku Elementary will serve as a polling location for the General Election.



Veterans Day - No School

There will be no school on Monday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day. Enjoy the day off as we honor and remember those who have served.



5th grade UAA Women's Volleyball Game Field Trip

All ASD 5th Grade Field Trip to the UAA Women's Volleyball Game is scheduled for November 21st! Get ready for an exciting day and team pride!



Thanksgiving - No School

There will be no school on November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope everyone enjoys a restful and safe break!

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. More details on our new attendance procedures will be provided soon.
- Our Lost and Found is filling up! If your student is missing any items, please encourage them to check there first.



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 24-25 School Year

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

- Teacher Representative
- Parent Volunteers

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



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/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/taku_elementary365/



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

