

# MAY 2024, 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,

The end of the school year is right around the corner, and GREAT things are happening at Taku! I want to spotlight our Kinder through 3rd grade students on their huge growth and achievement this year! The students completed their Spring mClass assessment, and they did absolutely outstanding! Teachers will be sharing results with you in the upcoming week, and I encourage

you to celebrate your child's successes.

**Our office staff is reaching out to parents about ASD's Summer Learning Program.** This year, it will be offered to qualifying 2nd and 3rd graders. If your student qualifies, I highly encourage you to consider this opportunity. It could be the difference your child needs to catch up!

**Do you know your student's grades?** Is your child missing work? Parents can check their student's grades and work any time using Q Parent Connect. Login into [Q Parent Connect](#). You can also [Reset your Parent Password](#), if needed.

**The last day of school for students is Wednesday, 5/22/24.** Students should not bring their backpacks on this day. They will get to participate in a fun filled Field Day in the morning and eat a sack lunch provided by the Taku Cafe outside on our field.

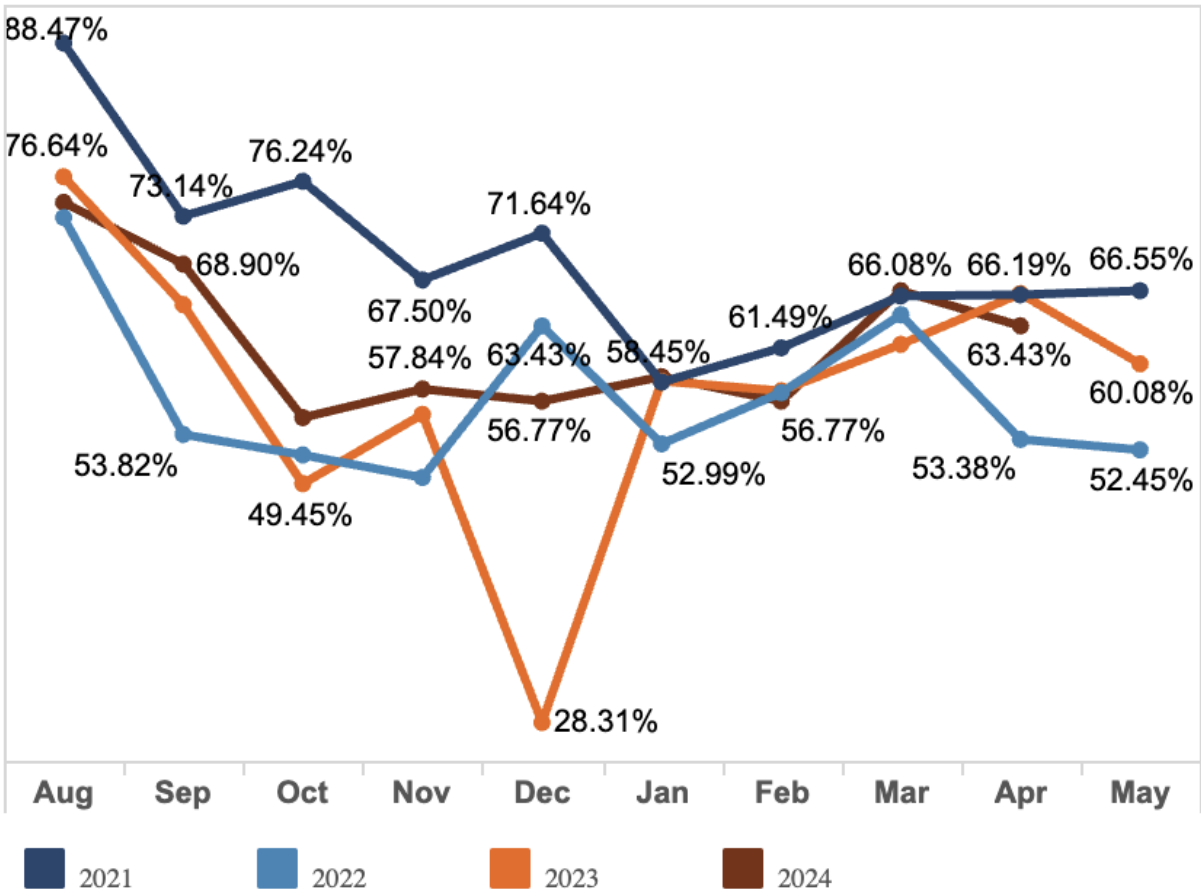
Lastly, I want to celebrate all of our Teachers and staff at Taku for Teacher Appreciation Week next week. Our staff work extremely hard with our students and support in many different ways. I am grateful Taku Staff work tireless to connect with our students and families, and they do it with passion, flexibility, and grace. Thank you!

If you need assistance with anything, please contact us via email ([asktaku@asdk12.org](mailto: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

## Taku Attendance

Attendance for the Last 7 Days	Attendance for the Last 30 Days	Year-to-date Attendance
90.13%	89.35%	89.39%



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

Taku Elementary School	63.43%
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# WALK BIKE & ROLL

TO SCHOOL

**JOIN US MAY 8, 2024**

**STUDENTS: REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR HELMETS AND  
MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS.**

**DRIVERS: WATCH FOR STUDENTS WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOL.  
ALWAYS YIELD FOR PEDESTRIANS.**



Bike to School Day is coming up on Wednesday, May 8th!

Students are invited to ride to school on their bikes or scooters, remembering to wear a helmet for safety. Once they arrive, they can check in at the flagpole to grab a snack and sign in. By participating, students will be entered into a city-wide drawing to win a bike and have the chance to win door prizes at school.



## Off the Chain

1406 W. 33rd Ave, Unit D,  
Anchorage, AK 99503

*Your child must be present  
at the time of pick up.*



Also! Off the Chain is a local non-profit that takes donated bikes and refurbishes them for the community. They offer free bikes for students—just show up, and they'll help fit your child for a bike! Adults can also enjoy steep discounts. This is a great opportunity for families to access affordable and quality bikes. Don't miss out!

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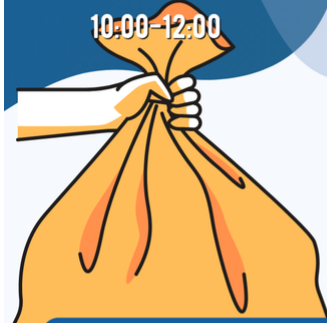
*Taku Super Sweepers*



# TAKU SUPER SWEEPERS

SATURDAY, MAY 4

10:00-12:00



## 3 WAYS TO WIN:

- Participants on 5/4 get snacks!
- Participants enter their teacher's name to the raffle box to win an extra recess for their class. The more participants your class has, the more chances you have to win!
- Participants also enter their own names into a raffle box to win a Fred Meyer gift card. Again, the more you participate, the more chances you have to win!

## 3 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Meet us at Taku Lake Park on 5/4 at 10:00 am to clean the lake trail and the walk to school. Each person from your family gets to add their names to the raffle boxes!
- Meet us at Taku School on 5/4 at 11:00 am to clean the school grounds. Each person from your family gets to add their names to the raffle boxes!
- Take a bag home anytime between 4/26 and 5/3. Go out with your family in your neighborhood or around town to collect litter. Return your bag to Taku between 11:00 and 12:00 on 5/4. Enter a raffle ticket for every full bag you return!



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*Taku Yearbook*

**ORDER YOUR TAKU  
YEARBOOK- NOW ON  
SALE**

**2023-2024  
\$15.00**

**USE THIS CODE FOR THE  
PTA GIVEBACKS  
WEBSITE.**

CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD NEEDED.



**SCAN QR CODE**

Taku Family,

That nostalgic time of year has come for your Taku Elementary student(s) to be the proud owner of the one and only Taku Elementary 2023-2024 Yearbook!

In a world where technology and online memories are stored in a computer or smartphone, let's go back to a time when we got to open a book and relive our school days instead of "logging on". There is something magical about the smell of a brand-new yearbook. The memories and photos can be enjoyed with a simple flip of a page. With laughter, those happy tearful moments, and core memories of a time when kids could be kids can be easily acquired through the old-fashioned mode of obtaining information book with a whole year's worth of your child's experience as a Taku Elementary Tiger, can be with you at home simply by scanning either the Taku PTA Cash App QR code or the PTA Givebacks QR code (PTA Giveback's website is formally the Taku PTA Memberhub).

The Taku Yearbooks this year are \$15.00. If you feel it in your heart or are able to donate a yearbook to a child that may not be able to financially obtain one, you may also do so by stating in the memo line of either Cash App or on Giveback's site that the payment is for a donation. The Taku PTA board members are so thrilled that we can provide these beautiful, extraordinary visual memories for your student.

We thank each and every one of you for providing the inspiration and guidance needed to raise these amazing students!

Sincerely,

Jennifer DeGidio- Taku PTA Secretary  
and

Laurel Piscoya- Taku PTA President

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## **Sonic Boom is Back!**

Thursday May 2 at 7:30 p.m.  
at the **Sullivan Arena**

The Anchorage School District Fine Arts Department proudly presents Sonic Boom! 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the musical accomplishments of all ASD 6th grade orchestra and band students. The rehearsal and concert take place on the same evening.

All students will remain in place for the entire program (no early release). There will not be a break, so please be sure your child has eaten and used the restroom before arriving.

**TICKETS:** There are no tickets required. The concert is free and open to the public.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Parents/guardians are responsible for all transportation to and from the event. Parking is limited; please try to form carpools with other families.

**STUDENT DROP OFF / PARKING:** Parents/guardians should drop off students by 6:00 p.m., then find parking. (See other side for student drop off and parking information.)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Instrument only (no stands or music - all songs will be performed from memory). Percussionists should bring only their bell sets.

**CONCERT CLOTHES:** Nice white (or light) shirt and black (or dark) pants/long skirt. You don't need to buy anything new; come as close as you can.

**AFTER THE CONCERT:** All students will remain in their seats after the concert until instructions are given over the P.A. system regarding meeting parents. Students must

# New School Start Times 24-25



PLC Monday Schedule	Start Time	Release Time
Elementary	9 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
High	9:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Middle (grades 6-8)	10:30 a.m.	4 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday Schedule	Start Time	Release Time
Elementary	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
High	8:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Middle (grades 6-8)	9:30 a.m.	4 p.m.

In some cases, preschool, charter and alternative programs may have different schedules.

### START PLANNING NOW

New start times may affect schedules outside of school. Consider how it could impact your family and start thinking through changes you may have to make.

- Before-school programs
  - After-school programs
  - Transportation to/from school
  - Sports and activities
- Childcare
  - Teen after-school jobs
  - Parent/guardian work start or end times



Point your phone camera to this QR code and then click the link for more information on changing school start times.



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

[asdk12.org/schoolstarttimes](https://asdk12.org/schoolstarttimes)



# Anchorage CHILD CARE CONVERSATIONS

**\*\* Child care & food provided! \*\***

Parents - are your child care costs reasonable for your family? Have you had to make difficult decisions to be able to find quality, safe, and affordable care for your kids?

Join the Anchorage Child Care and Early Education (ACCEE) Fund Implementation Team to give us your feedback about child care access in Anchorage and learn about the Fund and the ways it can help support families and businesses across the Municipality!



## Tuesday, January 30

🕒 6 - 8 p.m.

📍 BP Energy Center,  
1014 Energy Court, Birch Room

## Sunday, February 18

🕒 7:30 - 9 p.m.

📍 Zoom. Register:  
[careforkidsanchorage.com/events](https://careforkidsanchorage.com/events)

## Tuesday, February 27

🕒 6 - 8 p.m.

📍 Eagle River Town Center  
Community Room

## Thursday, February 29

🕒 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

📍 Girdwood Community Room  
250 Egloff Drive, Girdwood

## PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

We want to hear from YOU about what is needed now in the child care sector and how we can use the funds to meet those needs in the short term while also looking down the line at Anchorage's child care sustainability far into the future.



[www.careforkidsanchorage.com](https://www.careforkidsanchorage.com)



*Moving to Middle School*



**Starting in August 2024, all 10 ASD comprehensive middle schools will include grades 6-8.**

- Begich • Clark • Gruening • Mears • Romig
- Central • Goldenview • Hanshew • Mirror Lake • Wendler

Steller Secondary also will welcome sixth-grade students.

Students who attend their neighborhood elementary school and are going into sixth grade will attend middle school.

Aquarian Charter, Chugach Optional and Denali Montessori will keep their sixth-grade classrooms.

#### **Start Planning Now**

This adjustment may affect schedules outside of school, such as transportation, activities and afterschool programs. Consider how it could impact your family and start thinking through changes you have to make.

#### **New opportunities and long-term benefits for students**

Sixth-grade students in a middle school setting have the opportunity to receive:

- More options for core instruction
- Increased elective opportunities, including music, CTE and world languages
- Daily PE classes and participation in sports and activities
- Greater access to school counseling
- Increased daily instruction in social studies & science
- Availability of higher-level math, including algebra & geometry
- Access to middle school sports, clubs and activities



Point your phone camera to this QR code and then click the link for more information on the middle school move  
[asdk12.org/middlemerge](https://asdk12.org/middlemerge)



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

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## Pre-School Programs

Anchorage School District

## Neighborhood Preschool Programs

Apply  
Online Now!

[asdk12.org/preschool/gened](https://asdk12.org/preschool/gened)



### Program Details

- Children must be 4-years-old on or before September 1st of the current school year
- Families must live in the school zone of where the program is located (exceptions apply)
- Visit [asdk12.org/preschool/gened](https://asdk12.org/preschool/gened) to review eligibility and selection information
- Children attend 3 hours on Monday, 4 hours per day Tuesday through Friday and follow the ASD school year calendar



### Benefits for Children

- Comprehensive program with focus on all areas of development: social and emotional, physical, language, cognitive, math, and literacy
- School readiness including social emotional skills, increased self-confidence, and positive relationships with others
- Family engagement including home visiting

ASD Preschool  
907-742-4140  
[asdpreschool@asdk12.org](mailto:asdpreschool@asdk12.org)



## AK Reads Act Updates - Progression vs Non-Progression

### Alaska Reads Act Requirements



Part of the Alaska Reads Act is identifying students who are 'well below' and who might need additional time and support to catch up.

Students in grades K-3rd who show that are in the well below category for the assessment, will be considered for non-progression or more commonly known as retention. This conversation will be introduced to families at February conferences. The conversation will include parents/guardians, teacher and principal. The family will make the final decision on whether or not their child will progress to the next grade level. The state is requiring districts to have families of 3rd grade students who are well below, sign a waiver with their decision around progression/non progression and agreeing to 20 hours a summer school.

### Join our next PTA meeting!

We will be meeting in the Taku Library 5/7/24 at 5:30 pm! 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!



Hello from the nurse's office!

They say April showers bring May flowers. That means it is wet outside. Please consider putting extra pants in your student's backpack. I am seeing a lot of wet pants from recess and do not always have extras.

If your family has any clothing dentations, please consider donating to my office. There is always a need.

As this year comes to an end, please be thinking about next school year's vaccines. There are many clinics in town that offer vaccines at little or no cost. ASD says, no vaccines, no school.

I wish everyone a healthy close to the school year!

Nurse Karra



## Specialist News

### Library with Amy Johnson

Check out what's happening at the Anchorage Public Library this summer. Happy reading!

Ms. Johnson

Taku Elementary School Librarian







## P.E. with Natalie Washington

Physical Education News:

Farwell Taku!

This is my last year at Taku as I will be moving up to Romig Middle School next fall. I just wanted to thank all the families and students at Taku for being amazing! The past 22 years here have been wonderful and I will miss you all!



Mrs. Washington

[Washington\\_natalie@asdk12.org](mailto:Washington_natalie@asdk12.org)

Important Dates



### 5/8 - Bike to School!



### 5/20 - 4th Quarter Assembly

K - 2/3 ~ 2:50pm to 3:20pm  
3rd - 6th ~ 2:15pm to 2:45pm



### 5/7 - PTA Meeting

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



### 5/22 - Last Day of school for students

Regular pick up and drop off  
times: 8:40 - 3:30



### 5/22 - Kinder Promotion

11:30 - 12:00 - More info  
coming from Mrs. Akaran and  
Ms. Burnworth



### 5/22 - Preschool Celebration

@ 2:15 - More info coming  
from Ms. Lovejoy

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.



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★Celebrate our superhero lunch ladies on 5/3



## 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: [takuattendance@asdk12.org](mailto: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