

# TUKWILA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

*“THE BEST & THE BRIGHTEST”*

NOVEMBER, 2015

## Principal's Message

*Tukwila Elementary  
is a Title I school-wide school*

### Dear families,

What a fantastic month of October we had. Our students continue to work so hard and we (the staff) can see the progress our students are making.

I must request that you continue to read—to your child every night, **with** your child every night, or both of you read different books and then talk about them to each other. It is so important that our kids see us read and read different types of books. Our kids are making positive reading progress because you are working with them at home on reading. If you have questions about what level of books your child should read or what type of books, just ask their teacher.

The November weather is starting to get colder and wetter. Please remind your child to wear warm clothes to school.

PARENTS - Thank you for helping to keep the traffic moving after school by picking up your child from the appropriate line.

We have technology that you can use at home that will help your child be better prepared for learning at school. Contact your child's teacher to learn more about these opportunities.

Have a wonderful November.



Steve Salisbury,  
Principal

## Early Release days and parent / teacher conferences November 10, 12, and 13

Classes will meet **9:00-12:45, on November 10, 12, and 13**, to allow teachers to conference with parents in the afternoons. Classes will be back to regular schedule on Monday, November 16.

Please try to keep your parent/teacher conference appointment or call the school to reschedule.

## No school - November 11

Our school will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11**, for the Veterans' Day holiday. Classes will resume on Thursday, November 12.

## Student picture retake day November 17

Leo's Photography will return to our school on **Tuesday, November 17**, for picture retake day. If your student missed out on the original picture day last month, or you are not satisfied with the picture package you ordered, your student can have their picture taken on November 17. Please send back the original pictures and they will be retaken. Picture retake notices will be sent home with students prior to picture retake day.

## Thanksgiving break

Students will be **dismissed at 12:45 on Wednesday, November 25**, and there will be **no school on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27**, for Thanksgiving break. Classes will resume on Monday, November 30.

## Did you know.....

You can call in an absence for your student (206-901-7503 or 206-901-7502) at any time, 24 hours a day. **Please include the name of your student, the reason for the absence, and a phone number where you may be reached if there is a question.**

For the safety of our students and staff, please enter our school **only** by the main entry door. Visitors must sign in/out and wear a visitor pass.

Students should arrive at school **no earlier than 8:30am** and depart **no later than 3:30pm** unless they are enrolled in a supervised school activity before/after school.

You are encouraged to leave last-minute messages for your student **no later than 2:45** so there is time for the messages to be delivered. Thank you!

If you wish to volunteer, either at the school or on field trips, you **must** complete a volunteer packet at least three weeks prior to the activity. Once cleared, the background check is good for two years.

You can hear about weekly school activities by dialing 206-901-7501 OR check out the district web site at [www.tukwila.wednet.edu](http://www.tukwila.wednet.edu).

Applications for low-cost student school insurance are available in the school office.

Our lost and found is located at the rear of the main lobby. Please check often as this collection piles up quickly.

Our school collects Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels. Please deposit them in the marked containers in the main office.



## Calendar of Events

11/1	Daylight savings time ends Set clocks <b>BACK</b> one hour
11/6	9:00-11:00, Play & Learn early childhood program
11/10	<b>Early release day, 12:45 dismissal</b> <b>Parent/Teacher conferences</b>
11/11	<b>No school, Veterans' Day holiday</b>
11/12	<b>Early release day, 12:45 dismissal</b> <b>Parent/Teacher conferences</b>
11/13	<b>Early release day, 12:45 dismissal</b> <b>Parent/Teacher conferences</b>  9:00-11:00, Play & Learn early childhood program
11/16 - 11/20	SMILE Partners dental screenings
11/17	Picture retake day
11/18	3:30-7:30, CARE clothing giveaway  6:30 Tukwila PTA meeting
11/19	Tukwila PTA butter braid fundraiser begins
11/19 & 11/20	Student vision/hearing screenings
11/20	Tukwila PTA Popcorn Friday  9:00-11:00, Play & Learn early childhood program  9:15-1:50, 5th grade field trip (Seattle Aquarium)
11/25	<b>Early release day, 12:45 dismissal</b>
11/26 & 11/27	<b>No school, Thanksgiving break</b>
11/30-12/11	SMILE Partners dental treatments
12/2	<b>Early release day, 12:45 dismissal</b>  Tukwila PTA butter braid fundraiser ends
12/4	End of 1st trimester  9:00-11:00, Play & Learn early childhood program

# Classroom News

Look at all the activities in our classrooms!

November, 2015

**In kindergarten we are as busy as ever!** We work on building number sense each day by counting, comparing numbers, and writing numerals. We are also identifying and describing shapes. We continue to do lots of reading each day - we read by ourselves, with a buddy, and listen to stories that our teachers read us. We can work on reading at home, too! Please read to us 20 minutes a day and talk with us about stories. We continue to practice writing our names and letters the kindergarten way. We are also working on writing sight words and the beginning sounds of words. Kindergarten teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents during conference week and discussing the progress we are making!

**Second grade** is busy beginning a couple new units. Over the next few weeks, we will be learning about the pond ecosystem. Students will learn about different animals that live in the pond and have the chance to teach their groups about what they have learned. The unit is full of nonfiction reading and new vocabulary words. We are excited to get started. In math, students will be working on place value. Students will "show" a number in a variety of ways. They will also be adding 2-digit numbers. One way you can continue to help at home is by practicing single-digit addition facts (example:  $5+3$ ,  $9+4$ ).

**4th graders** at Tukwila Elementary have continued working on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) focused activities, such as designing and building models of parking garages, analyzing designs to add stability while building towers, or learning about how engineers design technology that keeps humans safe in outer space. In math, we are working on multi-digit multiplication and story problems. We have also been busy with daily reading and writing activities. It has been a great year so far! We are excited to see how the students have been engaged in their learning.

Students receiving math services in the **LRC 1 program** are quickly adapting to the direct instruction approach with the new math curriculum. They are learning how to solve mental math problems and are working with place value and identifying the correct operation in a story problem.

Reading groups are working with a number of different themes including mammals, kindness and rhyming.

Students who work at the independent work areas are refining their skills with letter identification, letter sounds and a variety of tasks involving number recognition and calculation skills.

**We've been working hard at establishing routines in the library.** The 5th graders are learning about the Newberry award nominees and Ms. Ring's class will also get to participate in voting process. Please make sure your child is responsible with the library books and return them on their library day.

## Music News

5th graders are working on music for Veteran's Day. 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be arranging, playing and singing songs and rhythms on xylophones and small percussion instruments. They will learn about ABA and rondo (ABACA) form. 2nd graders will learn about ABA form on xylophones as well as focusing on singing in unison and in canon. 2nd graders will also learn about ballet. 1st and kindergarten students will play instruments to create tone color for songs and stories as well as working on singing in unison and reading rhythms. As we head into December, all students will be learning about the music of Tchaikovsky through different versions of the Nutcracker ballet!



## A NOTE FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

The rain has finally hit, making this a very busy time in the health room. Many children will often play in the rain, the puddles, or muddy fields. When they least expect it they take a tumble and wind up wet or muddy. Unfortunately the health room has run out of small boys and girls pants. This means that often times parent are called at work to bring in an extra pair of clothes for their child or if parents are not reached the child may be stuck wearing his or her wet clothes for the remainder of the day. We strongly believe that children should be dry and comfortable in order to feel good and focus in class, so we are asking to please donate any pants you no longer need to help keep our students dry, comfortable, and healthy. If you are unable to donate any clothing then please consider packing an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack for those rainy days or unforeseen accidents. Please also remember to send your child to school with his or her coat so they can keep warm and dry while at recess.

## HEAD LICE PARENT EDUCATION

We would like to increase head lice awareness as a preventative measure so that you may take steps at home to help prevent your child from acquiring head lice.

Anyone can get head lice. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not transmit disease. Spread from one child to another can occur during direct head to head contact or by sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, caps or helmets. Lice do not jump, fly or swim. They are, however, good crawlers. Check your child's head weekly for lice and/or nits (eggs). We **do not** do school-wide, classroom-wide checks or screening, because a check at one point in time does not mean a child is lice or nit free.

If you find head lice on your child, please notify the school and properly treat him/her at home. There are many options for treating head lice. One of the most effective is combing out your child's hair with a lice comb. Continue to examine all family members for 3 weeks and treat if live lice or nits close to the scalp are found. Check regularly and treat quickly! Help keep head lice off your child.

For more information regarding head lice or its treatment, please feel free to contact us, your physician, or your local health department. There is also information available on the CDC website, found at;

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>

Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,  
Health Assistant  
Arita Colin



Tukwila Elementary School Extra-Curricular Activities for November, 2015  
Times listed at the bottom

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11/2  REACH program PBIS video crew	11/3  Advanced choir Robotics club REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	11/4  REACH program	11/5  Choir Coding club Robotics club REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	11/6  REACH program
11/9  REACH program PBIS video crew	11/10  Advanced choir  <b>Early release day 12:45 dismissal</b>  REACH program	11/11  <b>No school</b>	11/12  Choir  <b>Early release day 12:45 dismissal</b>  REACH program	11/13  <b>Early release day 12:45 dismissal</b>  REACH program
11/16  REACH program PBIS video crew	11/17  Advanced choir Robotics club REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	11/18  REACH program	11/19  Choir Coding club Robotics club REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	11/20  REACH program
11/23  REACH program PBIS video crew	11/24  Advanced choir Robotics club REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	11/25  <b>Early release day 12:45 dismissal</b>  REACH program	11/26  <b>No school</b>	11/27  <b>No school</b>
11/30  REACH program PBIS	12/1  Advanced choir <b>Robotics club</b> REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	12/2  REACH program	12/3  Choir Coding club Robotics club REACH program Mexican dancing Girls on the Run	12/4  REACH program

**Mexican dancing**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15-5:00

**REACH after-school program**

Monday through Friday, 3:15-5:30 (12:45-5:30 on early release days)

**Choir - grades 3-5**

Thursdays, 8:15-8:50

**PBIS video crew**

Mondays, 3:10-4:10

**Advanced choir - grades 4-5**

Tuesdays, 8:15-8:50

**Robotics club**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:10-4:10

**Girls on the Run - grades 3-5**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:20-4:45

**Coding club**

Thursdays, 3:10-4:10

# Take advantage of opportunities to build your child's thinking skills

Abstract thinking involves learning concepts and applying them to various situations. A child who has learned to count, for example, can get out the correct number of plates when setting the table for dinner.

Help your child think about common elementary school subjects, such as:

- Language arts. Before, during and after reading, encourage your child to answer questions. Try asking questions that start with "Why" and "What if." "Why do you think the character did that?" "What if she had made a different decision?"
- Math. Challenge your child to catch mistakes. For example, you might count by twos and say, "2, 4, 6, 7." Can he figure out what's wrong? Also do activities that include building and sorting. "Let's build a tiny model of our car." "Can you help me reorganize this shelf of canned food?"
- Science. Read about nature and encourage your child to use what he learns. "The leaves are falling off that tree. What's that type of tree called?" "The flowers we planted last year grew back. Are they annuals or perennials?" "Look at that fly. Do flies have four wings or two?"

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# Experts link diet, sleep habits and exercise to school success

It's time for school, and your child is ready to go. He has his jacket, glasses, backpack and homework. But is he really ready to learn?

That depends on many factors, including his diet, sleep habits and exercise routines. All of these have an impact on learning.

It's important to:

- Plan nutritious meals and snacks. Eating well helps kids stay healthy, which means they miss less school. It also provides the energy kids need to do their best.
- Make sure your child gets enough rest. Experts say school-age kids need at least 10 hours of sleep, and some need more. Late bedtimes make it hard to wake up and be on time for school. Lack of sleep also hurts focus and learning. Enforce a consistent bedtime that allows plenty of time for sleep. Make nighttime routines relaxing, too. Choose activities such as reading and talking instead of watching TV or using a computer.
- Be active together. It's one thing to say, "It's time to exercise." It's another to say, "Let's play a family game of tag!" Help your child see that exercise is fun, and keep in mind that it builds strength and well-being for school, sports and other activities. Exercise also improves your child's memory and ability to think. Put exercise on your family schedule. Take walks. Ride bicycles. Play music while cleaning up.

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# Increase your child's vocabulary with four effective strategies

Reading at home is one of the best ways to boost your child's vocabulary. That's because reading exposes your child to new ideas, concepts and words.

Here are four effective strategies that will help you increase your child's vocabulary:

1. Read many different kinds of books to your child. If you usually read fiction, go to the library and get a book that explains how something works instead. Check out a book about a country you'd like to visit. Or read a biography about a person your child admires.
2. Look for words your child might not know as you read. "It says here that George Washington went to school to become a surveyor. What do you think that word means?"
3. Listen for new words as you're watching TV. News programs often include words your child may not know. "Have you ever heard the word tsunami before? Let's look it up to see what it means."
4. Help your child create her own dictionary. All you need is a notebook with a page for each letter. When your child discovers a new word that she wants to remember, help her write it down in the notebook. Then go back and review those words from time to time.

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# Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School

Steve Salisbury  
Tukwila Elementary School



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## Parent & Child Activity Calendar

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Teach a card game to your child. Play it with the whole family tonight.	<b>2</b> Ask your child what she would do if she were invisible for a day.	<b>3</b> If you don't have time to read to your kids at night, read in the morning. It's a real "power breakfast."	<b>4</b> Let your child pick a word. Together, put its letters in alphabetical order.	<b>5</b> Start a sentence-a-day story. In a special notebook, have your child write a story by adding one sentence each day.	<b>6</b> Do a crossword puzzle with your child. It's a great way to learn new words.	<b>7</b> Collect canned goods for a shelter or food bank. Take your child with you as you deliver them.
<b>8</b> With your child, learn how to count to 10 in at least three different languages.	<b>9</b> Make today "dictionary day." Talk with your child about new words that he thinks should be in the dictionary.	<b>10</b> Ask your child to pretend she's the town mayor for a day. Have her list three ideas to make your community stronger.	<b>11</b> Have your child replace adjectives on a printed ad with their opposites.	<b>12</b> When you're in the store, ask your child to figure how much tax you will be charged.	<b>13</b> Dissolve some salt and water in a glass. Watch for a few days. Talk about what happens.	<b>14</b> Squash is a native American vegetable. When you're in the supermarket, choose a new squash to try.
<b>15</b> Go for a walk or bike ride today. Challenge each other to spot something you haven't seen before.	<b>16</b> Post a new vocabulary word and its definition on the bathroom mirror. Change it every three or four days.	<b>17</b> Have your child hold his nose while he eats. Does it affect the taste of the food?	<b>18</b> Hum a song and see if your child can guess the name of the song.	<b>19</b> Today is the anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Read it aloud with your child.	<b>20</b> Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher this month.	<b>21</b> Let your child stay up 30 minutes past her usual bedtime. The catch? She must use that time to read in bed!
<b>22</b> Draw a picture of a word. See if your child can guess the word. Then let your child pick a word to draw.	<b>23</b> Think of a meaningful quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it.	<b>24</b> Ask your child to guess how many times he blinks in a minute. Then check!	<b>25</b> Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.	<b>26</b> Make a list of all the things that make your family members thankful.	<b>27</b> Watch a TV program with your child. Track the time spent on commercials vs. the program.	<b>28</b> At bedtime tonight, tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.
<b>29</b> Have everyone in the family spend a ½ hour picking up the house. Many hands make light work.	<b>30</b> It's Mark Twain's birthday. Read one of his short stories with your child.	<h1>November 2015</h1>				

# Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School

Steve Salisbury  
Tukwila Elementary School



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

## Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School  
**Parents**  
make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December</b>		<b>1</b> Plan to get some exercise with your child every day this month.	<b>2</b> Make a bookmark. On a piece of thin cardboard, have your child draw a scene or write a quotation from a book.	<b>3</b> List animals your child loves. If he could have any animal as a pet, which would it be? Why?	<b>4</b> Ask your child to give you a "6 o'clock report" about what went on today. What's the lead story?	<b>5</b> Have your child draw a picture of something that describes and defines December.
<b>6</b> Teach your child to make paper snowflakes. Use some to decorate your windows.	<b>7</b> Make a crossword puzzle with your child to review spelling words.	<b>8</b> During the holidays, have your child talk to older relatives about their childhood days.	<b>9</b> Set an example for your child. Let her see you reading. Then say, "Reading is so much fun!"	<b>10</b> Holidays have you feeling hassled? Share the responsibility. As kids help, they appreciate holidays even more.	<b>11</b> Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a friend or neighbor.	<b>12</b> At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the best buy?
<b>13</b> Brainstorm with your child about ways your family can do something for others this holiday season.	<b>14</b> When you read aloud, choose an exciting place to stop. Ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?"	<b>15</b> Ask your child to name something he has done in his life that he is proud of.	<b>16</b> Tonight, look at the moon. Have your child draw the shape. Is it a crescent, full circle, half circle?	<b>17</b> Have your child listen to different types of music. Ask her to describe how it makes her feel.	<b>18</b> Have your child write directions for making a sandwich. Then follow them exactly. Did they work?	<b>19</b> Bake cookies with your child. If you're doubling a recipe, have your child do the math.
<b>20</b> Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a family pet.	<b>21</b> Talk to your child about the importance of writing thank-you notes for gifts.	<b>22</b> Do body arithmetic. Ask your child how much his fingers, knees, toes and nose add up to.	<b>23</b> Learn a tongue twister with your child today. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.	<b>24</b> Tell your child family stories you can remember from when you were a child.	<b>25</b> At dinner, have each family member say something nice about every person at the table.	<b>26</b> Read a book aloud that you and your child can both enjoy.
<b>27</b> Play a game that uses math skills, such as Monopoly®.	<b>28</b> Talk to your child about people she admires. Ask her why she admires them.	<b>29</b> Read an article from the newspaper with your child today.	<b>30</b> Ask your child to tell you what he would like to make an annual tradition. Then start it!	<b>31</b> Help your child create a time line of 2015.	<b>2015</b>	
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