



Tonasket Elementary

Focused on Learning and Linking Learning to Life.

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Dear TES Families,

December 16, 2020

Season's Greetings to you! These past few weeks have been full of great opportunities for the community to be involved in spreading holiday cheer to families in need.

Last month, our food drive brought in hundreds of pounds of food for Tonasket Elementary students prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Over the past few weeks, our school counselor, Cayla Monroe-Sellers, planned and organized a Giving Tree to provide holiday gifts for children in need, and businesses and community members responded in full force! Thanks to your support, we were able to help more than 50 students receive gifts and necessities for the holiday season. We hope that this will bring a smile to each child and a little less stress to the families.

As we look forward to our return to school in January, we will be focusing on re-establishing routines and reminding students of our schoolwide ROAR expectations. After getting back into the school routine, students will be taking their mid-year NWEA tests to measure progress and help teachers plan for future instruction.

We will also begin our schoolwide Second Step theme on **empathy**. In our morning announcements, and in classrooms, we'll be reminding students to have empathy, identify their own and others' feelings, notice and respect the same and different feelings, and show compassion. Compassion involves saying kind words or doing something helpful to show you care how another person feels. When students can identify, understand, and respond in a caring way to how someone else is feeling, it helps create a positive and accepting school climate.

Second Step lessons specifically teach about empathy. You'll be receiving Home Links describing why empathy is important and including fun activities to do with your child to help him or her identify feelings and practice showing empathy and compassion. We hope you find them helpful.

As with everything else these days, our First Friday Coffee has gone virtual. Please save the date of our **First Friday Coffee** of the new year! It will be held on January 8th. We'll host a Spanish session at 8:00 am and an English session at 8:45 am. I hope you will be able to join. Joining information is below:

English Session: 8:45 AM, go to meet.google.com/gbm-yqny-zwc To join by phone, call +1 929-238-0130 and enter PIN: 309 120 977#

In the meantime, it is my hope that your holiday season is filled with love and laughter.

Warmly,
Mrs. Martin

January 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 First Day Back | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 First Friday Coffee 8:45am | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Early Release 12:30pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 MLK Day – No School | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Mid-Year Day No School | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Early Release 12:30pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Dates to Remember

Jan. 1st-3rd No School – Winter Break
 Jan. 4th First Day Back to School
 Jan. 8th First Friday Coffee 8:40am
 Jan. 13th Early Release 12:30pm
 Jan. 18th No School MLK Day
 Jan. 22th No School – Mid-Year Day
 Jan. 27th Early Release 12:25pm

Anoten en sus Calendarios

1-3 de Enero - Vacaciones de invierno – no escuela
 4 de Enero Todos de regreso a la Escuela
 8 de Enero Primer viernes Café 8:40-9:05am
 13 de Enero Salida Temprana 12:25pm
 18 de Enero No escuela – día de Martín Luther King Jr.
 22 de Enero – No escuela - mitad del año
 27 de Enero Salida Temprana 12:25pm

Attendance Reminders:

Thank you for partnering with us in your child’s academics! We know and understand that it is hard to juggle schedules and school for families. The state requires the school to document accurate attendance for students both during their remote learning times as well as their on campus time.

What that means for you: On days when your child is not physically present at school, they are still responsible for doing their work and checking in daily with their teacher. This may be as simple as making sure that your child is completing Seesaw or Google Classroom assignments, or working in your binder for the lower grades. Any days missed, your child will be marked absent. Please call the school to excuse.

Your child is also responsible for joining the Wednesday morning meetings with their class at 8:30am.

If you end up having to be out for an extended time please be in contact with your child’s teacher.

Meals for Gold Cohort Students: The school will not be providing meals over the break. If you are in the Gold Cohort, you can receive breakfast and lunch in a sack on January 4th at the Grab and Go site at the High School from 8:00 to 11:00.



Migrant News



The migrant program is proud to close another year with great progress despite the pandemic. All of the accomplishments were only made possible by the wonderful parents of the Tonasket community. It was only with the participation of you, wonderful parents, that we were able to achieve these results. Congratulations to all who took the opportunity to receive the flu shot accompanied by a pantry, information, and good wishes. Also, congratulations to the parents who attended the computer classes; We hope that you will continue to practice what you have learned because remember “practice makes perfect”.

This 2021 we will start with new students in computer classes and a PAC meeting to review and if necessary add services to our migrant students.

Notes from Our School Psychologist

So anyway....

First and foremost, I need to apologize. With the, ah, unusual nature of this school year, I have been very neglectful in my newsletter. This will not happen again.

Second, I need to be thankful. I need to be appreciative for all of the families in our district who have stepped up to help us with education during these very difficult times. Teaching kids is challenging under normal conditions; and we have been trained to do so. To come off the bench cold and be asked to fill in, even part time.....wow. You all are amazing.

I am appreciative of all those in our community that have been willing to help our families in need. We have all experienced varying degrees of trauma during this pandemic. We have all needed a helping hand at some point. It's a good time to live where we do.

So, in the months to come, I'm hoping, we will begin to return to something resembling “normal” again. Whenever this happens, this is going to be yet another transition for our kids / families. I believe that we will find some children delighted to return to school, some more nervous about it and some just down right terrified. In psychology, we have a term: exogenous anxiety. In English, this means being anxious / fearful when you have a good reason to feel this way.

I want to emphasize that Ms. Monroe-Sellers and I are going to be very proactive in providing support services as kids return to school full time and restrictions are lifted. We intend to continue to work with kids on the playground, in groups as well as individually. We are anticipating that there will be many children that will need some support as we rediscover school.

Please, if you have concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing now, or as we move back into “regular school”, don't hesitate to give us a call. Currently our direct contact with students is quite limited, but we can do some work virtually. This will continue to change based on recommendations and guidance.

For the time being, please accept our thanks for all that you are doing to support the school district. Please continue to keep your families safe and well. If there is anything that I / we can do to support your efforts, please let us know.

Happy Holidays to each and every one. Be safe, be kind and know that you are valued and appreciated.

Jim Huckaby / School Psychologist

Cayla Monroe-Sellers / School Counselor

EMERGENCY SCHOOL LATE START/CLOSURE INFORMATION

Tune into KNCW FM 101.7, KHQ Channel 6 Spokane, and KHQ.com to find out information about emergency closure, early release, or late start due to emergencies/weather, by 6:00am.

When possible the school district will send out an automated call and post on Facebook.