

Tonasket Elementary

Focused on Learning and Linking Learning to Life.

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Dear Tonasket Families,

It is hard to believe that it is nearly November already! Parent-teacher conferences are just around the corner on November 7th and 8th, and teachers are looking forward to the opportunity to meet with parents and work collaboratively to maximize your child's success in school. Partnering with your child's teacher can help your child have a more positive outlook on school, and provide the teacher with valuable insight to personalize instruction for your child. If you haven't yet scheduled your parent-teacher conference, please call the school office to arrange a time you can meet with your child's teacher.

I have received questions about our **homework policy** and wanted to address it in this month's newsletter. Our staff has spent a great deal of time reviewing research on homework. What we have learned is that traditional homework has very little impact on academic achievement in the primary grades. The exception to this is in the area of reading. In fact, the amount of time students spend reading is one of the best predictors of reading achievement. In light of this information, our homework policy is as follows:

- Homework activities should include reading, playing board or card games with family members, and talking with family members about topics your student is learning in school.
- Time spent on homework each night should be no more than 10 minutes per grade level. For example, 20 minutes for 2nd grade, 30 minutes for 3rd grade, etc.

It is our hope that this also frees up time for your child to be able to participate in other important activities such as playing outside, participating in team sports or learning to play a musical instrument.

If you feel that your child is struggling with a concept, I encourage you to talk with their teacher for additional ideas on how to support them at home.

This month, our *Second Step* schoolwide theme is Skills for Learning: listening, focusing attention, using self-talk to stay on-task, and being assertive when asking for help with a learning task. In our morning announcements and school assemblies, we'll be reminding students of these skills, which help students be successful learners.

Our Veterans Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th at 9:00 AM. Students and staff alike enjoy this opportunity to honor veterans. Parents are welcome to attend.

Finally, don't forget First Friday Coffee is just around the corner on November 1st at 8:45 AM. I always enjoy this time to talk with parents, answer questions they may have, and gather feedback on how we are doing at meeting the needs of our students and their families. First Friday Coffee just happens to coincide with our schoolwide pajama day this year. Parents, feel free to join me in your PJs as well!

Warmly,
Lilly Martin



When to Keep your Child home from school

As we head into cold/flu season please remember the following guidelines. Please make sure the office has the correct phone/emergency contact information in the event your child needs to be picked up during the school day!

Fever-please keep your student home if they have a temperature above 100.4 degrees. Keep your student home until they have been fever free for 24 hours **WITHOUT** the use of fever controlling medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen

Vomiting/Diarrhea-Student should be kept home if they have vomited or had watery stools within the past 24 hours.

Persistent/productive cough-(one that you would not want your well child to be around).

Strep Throat/Pink Eye/Other contagious infections that require antibiotics -Students may return 24 hours after treatment is started

Rash or skin infection - take your student to health care provider for diagnosis and treatment.

Lice - Keep your child home until hair has been treated and live bugs removed. Nits need to be combed daily until all nits are gone.

For the health and safety of our students and employees, your child will be sent home if any of the above symptoms/conditions/illnesses are found or suspected during the school day.

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of illness. Soap and water for at least 20 seconds is still the best way to stay healthy!

Children with asthma or other life-threatening conditions are at high risk for severe symptoms from influenza and other viruses. Please discuss and update your child's asthma action plan with his/her doctor. Please make sure your child is using his/her controller medication as prescribed and also has access to his/her emergency medications, such as inhalers, etc.

Parents of student in younger grades-Bathroom accidents are common in ES. It is a good idea to keep an extra set of clothes in your student's backpack, especially if you are noticing they are coming home in different clothes frequently. We have limited sizes and space to keep extra clothes. Sometimes we do need parents to bring clothes in if your student has had a bathroom accident.



Winter is almost here! Our 6th annual **Fall Food Drive** is just around the corner! November 18th-22nd will be our Elementary Food Drive. All kids are encouraged to donate food to help take care of our community. All food stays local and most goes to school families in need. *If you are a family who could use a little extra food around the holidays, please call the school at 486-4933.*

The counselor is also collecting **coats and boots** that are in good condition. If you have any extra, please bring them to the school office.

Royal Neighbors Coat Closet will be giving free coats to all that come to their event at the old Oroville Depot Museum November 2nd from 9am-2pm. If you are in need of a coat, this is a great recourse!

So anyway.....

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the colder days. I mean, there coming one way or another so why not take it with a smile.

Positive behavior support; let's keep going. When last we visited I shared about two very powerful teaching methods; shaping and chaining. Recall that these are both methods for teaching while ensuring success. Sometimes we call this errorless teaching because it's about impossible to make a mistake or error.

I ended last month with a thought that I would like to elaborate on today. I cannot over emphasize how vastly important it is to know why (adult, student, child, whatever) someone did something or failed to do something. Almost as important, what happens if we're wrong.

Remember; hill, will and skill. Let me explain. Mrs. Huckaby (I wonder if she ever gets tired of me using her in the newsletter...?) asks me to make 4 loaves of rye bread and a batch of split pea soup. Knowing that I love to cook, she was surprised to come home and find it not done. What should she do? It really, really depends.

Let's start with **skill**. I tried to make the bread but putting the yeast into boiling water didn't seem to work (which it never will). I tried twice. So will punishment work in this situation....no. Regardless of what the consequence / punishment is, it won't work. I simply don't know how to do the behavior. I need teaching.

Hill; I know how to bake bread but when I was also trying to make soup at the same time, disaster ensued. In other words, I can perform the tasks separately but doing them together was just too much. Real important, if I look at the task and think it's too hard and I can't do it', I am typically correct. Perception of a task is 90% of it. So, will punishment work here? Probably not. I already feel pretty bad because I either failed, gave up or didn't try. Sure I may hide it under a bunch of "not fair" or "I don't care" but really, how great does not getting something done make you feel. The fix; presentation and practice. A little coaching aimed at reaffirming my culinary skills. Plus, maybe presenting the job a bit differently next time. Practice is always a good idea.

But what about **will**? I can do the behavior, fluently and competently, but just really don't want to. Can this be punished away...perhaps. Before we go down this road, I ask you to reflect on just how important this battle is to fight. If I am teaching my daughters (now long grown) to look, listen and go when crossing the street, this is one I am not walking away from. I can honestly say that I couldn't care less if they are not interested in or care about cross walk signals; they are going to do the behavior correctly! It really is a matter of health and safety.

But should I apply this same logic or perspective to a different behavior like picking up her socks?

And...let's consider being wrong. Mrs. Huckaby **ASSUMES** I know how to do the behavior, it's not too hard and I am just refusing. So I get grounded from my motorcycles for 100 months. If what I need is instruction or reframing or practice, punishment not only will not fix it but now we have lots of hard feelings to go with the behavior I can't do. Swell!

So let's turn the tables; we reteach the desired behavior. Even twice. Have I really done any damage? Plus, after reteaching and watching, there's no assumption involved. You know I can do the behavior. Food for thought.

Be well, stay in touch and give me a scream if I can be of service.

Jim Huckaby / School Psychologist

Parent Teacher Conferences

November 7th 11:00am - 6:45pm

November 8th 8:45am - 3:45pm

Teachers will be sending reminder slips home with your conference times.

Please note that there is NO SCHOOL on both days.

★★★★PTO NEWS★★★★

Our next meeting will be this Thursday, November 7th at 6pm. We've got lots of exciting events coming up including a movie night in November to help raise money for the K-1 playground, Candy Cane Bingo in December and Missoula Children's Theatre in January.

Amazon Shopping



Did you know that you can **donate money** to the Tonasket Elementary School PTO **without having to spend any extra money**? Amazon has a way to donate to the charity of your choice by switching to smile.amazon.com when you shop on Amazon. Your account stays the same and when you purchase an item on Amazon, they will give a portion of it to the charity of your choice. Simply log in to smile.amazon.com and pick Tonasket Elementary Parent Teacher Organization as your charity and start Shopping!!!

Box Tops Update: Thanks for sending your box tops in. Keep them coming! We were able to send 2100 box tops in which equals \$210 for our school. Keep saving and sending your box tops into the school. Also, we have scanned \$23.70 worth since September! Don't forget to scan your receipts within 14 days or bring them to the office and we will scan them for you!

Migrant News

CONGRATULATIONS! to all who acquired the flu vaccine or had the opportunity to have an iron or blood glucose test, as well as those who did the eye screening. Did you know that many times the fatigue is due to an iron deficiency? We suggest that if you find any irregularities in the results about your health, visit your doctor.

Our next monthly meeting will be very interesting. Join us on Wednesday, November 20 at 5:30 pm! We will project an educational film for you, about the screens; Yes on electronic device screens! This is a movie for the whole family. Come, have dinner, enjoy the film and your family and at the same time get valuable information!

Fun Fact: Did you know that cell phones are changing skulls? Well, it's what an Australian scientist discovered.

Note: Dinner, film and childcare are free of charge for you and your family.



Stay Connected with Tonasket School District Mobile App! You can download it for free from your App Store or Google Play.

Book Fair Volunteers

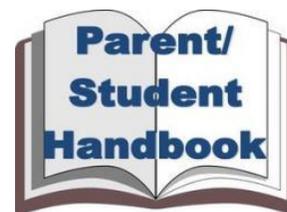


This year's book fair is December 2nd-7th. To make the week be a successful week, we need volunteers to help run the book fair. Times are available in 3-hour time slots every day. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office at 486-4933.



Picture Retake Day- If you missed out on picture day don't worry, picture retake day is right around the corner!!! Mark your calendars for November 5th from 1:30-3pm. Siblings are welcome at 3:00pm.

Student and Family Handbook – The student handbook is located on the district website this year. To access it directly you can use the following link: www.tonasket.wednet.edu/handbook. If you would like a hard copy of one, you can get one from the office or there will be ones available in the pods during conferences.



The Importance of Regular Attendance

One topic that we've focused on over the past month has been attendance. There is a growing body of research highlighting the importance of students attending school regularly. Did you know:

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Excessive absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up

Put simply, regular attendance at school is essential to your child's success in learning.

This past week, students were awarded certificates for perfect attendance during the month of September. Students will have an opportunity to earn attendance awards each month throughout the school year.

PLEASE JOIN US!!

For a special screening of a great documentary

When: November 20, 2019

Time: 5:30pm

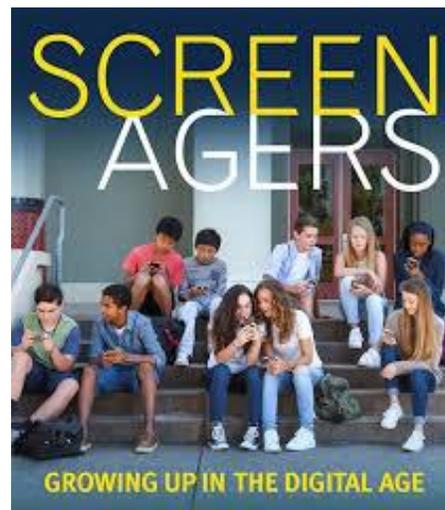
Where: THS Commons

Cost: Free

Childcare for age 5 and under.

Dinner will be provided for everyone!

For questions contact any school office



November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 First Friday Coffee 8:45am	2
3 Daylight Savings	4	5 Picture Retake Day 1:30-3pm	6 Veterans Day Assembly 9am	7 PTO Meeting 6pm No School Parent/Teacher Conferences	8 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences	9
10	11	12	13 Early Release 12:25pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Monthly Hispanic Meeting 6pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Turkey Torchlight Reading Day Early Release 12:25pm	28 Thanksgiving Break No School	29 Thanksgiving Break No School	30

Dates to Remember

Nov. 1st First Friday Coffee 8:45am
 Nov. 3rd Daylight Savings
 Nov. 5th Picture Retake Day
 Nov. 6th Veteran's Day Assembly 9am
 Nov. 7th PTO Mtg. 6pm
 Nov. 7th-8th No School
 Nov. 7th – 8th Parent Teacher Conferences
 Nov. 11th No School – Veteran's Day
 Nov. 13th Early Release 12:25pm
 Nov. 18th-22nd Food Drive
 Nov. 20th PAC Meeting 6pm
 Nov. 27th Early Release 12:25pm
 Nov. 28th-29th Thanksgiving Break- No School
 Dec. 2nd -7th Scholastic Book Fair

Anoten en sus Calendarios

1 de Noviembre Viernes de Café 8:45am
 3 de Noviembre cambio de tiempo
 5 de Noviembre Toma de Fotos Otra Vez
 6 de Noviembre Asamblea del día de los Veteranos 9am
 7 de Noviembre Junta de PTO 6pm
 7th-8th de Noviembre No Escuela
 7-8 de Noviembre Conferencias por Estudiantes
 11 de Noviembre No Escuela – Día de Veteranos
 13 de Noviembre Salida Temprana 12:25pm
 18-22 de Noviembre – unidad de comida
 20 de Noviembre Reunión Mensual Para Padres 6pm
 27 de Noviembre Salida Temprana 12:25pm
 28-29 de Noviembre Día de acción de gracia – No escuela
 2-7 de Diciembre Feria Escolar de Libros