



# Tonasket Elementary

**Focused on Learning and Linking Learning to Life.**

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Dear TES Families,

September has been a busy month for us here at Tonasket Elementary School! As students have been settling into the routine of school, teachers have been busily gathering assessment data to better meet the needs of our students.

Our maintenance department has been hard at work as well, overseeing the installation of our new HVAC system. The final transition to the new system will take place during the first weekend in October. We are so thankful to the community for making this possible through the capital projects levy. We are looking forward to having an efficient system that keeps us cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Speaking of new systems, our office staff would like to thank you for your patience as we transitioned to online enrollment this year. We also made changes to our annual update of information process. Instead of handing out packets of papers to complete at open house, we asked families to login to Skyward and complete the forms online. We learned a great deal about the process this year, which will help guide our process next year.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, social emotional learning has become a focus at our school this year. Through the use of the Second Step program, students learn how to understand and manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. When kids are equipped with social-emotional skills, they're better able to learn and contribute to a positive school climate. Our Second Step program focuses on a different theme each month. Next month, our theme will be skills for learning.

Finally, I want to make sure to share with you our Harvest Party plans this year. As in years past, we will continue to have a no-costume policy on Halloween. Instead, we will be having a schoolwide Harvest Party celebration on Friday, November 1st. Students and staff may wear pajamas on this day. The PTO will be sponsoring a trunk or treat again this year for those who would like to dress up in costumes to celebrate Halloween.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You are also welcome to join me for First Friday Coffee. We meet on the first Friday of every month at 8:45 AM. Our first meeting of the year is scheduled for October 4th. Hope to see you there!

Warmly,  
Lilly Martin

## **PTO News**

Our next meeting will be this Thursday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. We will be voting in new officers and mapping out the rest of the year.

This year will mark the *PTO's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Trunk or Treat*. We are excited to watch it grow each year, while providing a safe place for our children to Trick or Treat. Trunk or Treat is open to ALL children, regardless of their enrollment at TES. Trunk or Treat will take place on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the elementary school parking lot. To make Trunk or Treat a success, we are asking for volunteers to provide a decorated trunk at the event. This is open to everyone in our community; parents, guardians, businesses/ organizations or just folks who love Halloween. It is a wonderful way to advertise your business. If you are interested, please contact Katie at 429-0434 or Tracy at 425-941-7395 for more information. If you are unable to have a trunk and would still like to help, we are also seeking donations of candy or other goodies.

Please continue to scan your receipts and turn in your **Box Tops** to the elementary school. We will be sending them in at the end of the month to meet the Nov. 1 deadline for Box Tops. Please help raise money by downloading the app and scanning your receipts. It's quick and simple!

## **Monthly Migrant News**

Hello Families! We had a great kickoff for the September Monthly Migrant Meeting with more than 40 families attending, well organized, emotional, and over all instructional. Was incredible the participations of parents update students records that night. Thank you, thank you, thank you! with your contribution we almost reach the goal. Our next Monthly Migrant Meeting will be held October 16, 2019 @ 6:00pm at Elementary Commons. Everyone is welcome!

### **From the Bus Garage**

Students 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger will need to have an adult or older sibling present at the bus stop before we can leave them there. Waiting for the child to enter a home is not expectable, the bus driver needs to see someone. If parents would like their child to be dropped off without an adult present they can give a note to the bus driver stating so.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences Coming Next Month!!! November 7th-8th.**

Please note that there will be no school on those days!  
Sign-ups will be in the hallway Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

So anyway.....

Well, we are far enough into the year where everyone seems to be settling into their official school routine. The air is getting crisp, leaves are starting to change and very soon pumpkins will be making their way to porches and windows everywhere. Not summer, but a nice time of year.

As promised, I would like to continue my rant about Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). To briefly recap, we are well served to focus on increasing the behaviors we want to see in tandem with trying to decrease unwanted behaviors. Why; punishment is quite limited (let's face it, Mrs. Huckaby can only send me to the garage for so long) while reinforcement presents nearly endless possibilities. Plus, there are literally thousands of research articles that tells us this stuff works.

So, with that said there are a couple of real important terms or ideas that I want to float. The first is what we call **shaping**. In behavioral terms, we would describe this as "reinforcing increasingly close approximations of the target behavior". In English, this means that you don't have to get it perfect the first time.

Example; My beloved wants me to do the laundry. The first time, she overlooked the overly full machine, mixed colors, hot setting and grimy shop towels. The question: DID YOU PUT DETERGENT IN? A "Yes" got me praise. Next time, the bar went up and she nixed the greasy towels. And the bar keeps going up and getting closer to the target. I have to keep getting closer to the actual desired behavior to get reinforcement.

This works well with simple, short behaviors and is much more effective then feeling like a failure the first 6 times you try a new behavior.

But what about more complicated or complex behaviors? We can use a process referred to as **chaining**. It goes like this; we look at all of the major components and teach them one by one. Each new behavior is added to the last so we really are building a chain. This works just dandy if we start from the end and work forwards or from the beginning to the end.

Let's pretend (and this really is fantasy) my daughter gets up before me in the morning. I really want her to make coffee (and have it drinkable). So, we are going to start at the front of the chain; just turn the coffeemaker on. GREAT JOB! Next time, put water in and turn it on. THANKS, your amazing! Next time, take the basket out, add water and turn the machine on.

At some point the process may go awry. If that happens, we will know exactly what went wrong and what step we need to reteach. Pretty cool, huh?

These are methods for teaching a new skill / behavior. It does not address motivation but does make sure that we are not asking kids to do something that they really don't know how to do and or are afraid to try. So let's put that in our toolbox. It may turn out to be useful at some point.

Parting thought: Howard Garner, well known for his thoughts on Multiple Intelligences, suggested that we look at a failed behavior in terms of **Hill, Will and Skill**. If the hill is too steep (task too hard), will too low (really don't care) or we lack the skill, we will not succeed (or perhaps even attempt) a behavior. Shaping and chaining are tools to address a Skill deficit.

Sadly, my space runs short. Things are good here. As always, if there is some way Ms. Cayla or I can help, give us a call.

Jim Huckaby  
School Psychologist

## October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 PTO Meeting 6pm	4 First Friday Coffee 8:45am	5
6	7	8 Cookie Dough Orders Due	9 Early Release 12:25pm	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Monthly Hispanic Meeting 6pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Early Release 12:25pm  Conference Sign Ups in the Hallway	24 Conference Sign Ups in the Hallway	25 Conference Sign Ups in the Hallway	26
27	28 Conference Sign Ups in the Hallway	29 Conference Sign Ups in the Hallway	30	31 PTO Trunk or Treat		

### *Dates to Remember*

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> PTO Mtg. 6pm  
 Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> First Friday Coffee 8:35am  
 Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Cookie Dough Due  
 Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Early Release 12:25pm  
 Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> PAC Meeting 6pm  
 Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> Early Release 12:25pm  
 Oct. 23-29 Conference Sign Ups  
 Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> PTO Trunk or treat 5:30-7pm

### *Anoten en sus Calendarios*

3 de Octubre Junta de PTO 6pm  
 4 de Octubre Viernes de Café 8:40am  
 8 de Octubre Masa de galletas  
 9 de Octubre Salida Temprana 12:25pm  
 16 de Octubre Reunión Mensual Para Padres 6pm  
 23 de Octubre Salida Temprana 12:25pm  
 16-22 de Octubre Hacer una cita para las conferencias  
 31 de Octubre dulce o travesura 5:30-7pm