

Thorndyke Happenings

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Thorndyke Families,

We are off to a fantastic start! Visit Thorndyke and witness how, with a Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade student body exceeding 430, we are bursting with a fervor to teach and learn each and every day. We have spent time in September establishing personal and professional goals for the year. Students are taking baseline assessments, reflecting on the data, and determining what growth looks like for them. Teachers, principals, and staff are examining their practices, and identifying opportunities to grow. We are also reviewing school performance data and pinpointing areas for improvement.

This year we will work together to improve student attendance. Last school year our average daily attendance (ADA) rate was 94%. In other words, on any given day approximately 372 out of 396 students were present. We believe this can be better, but we need your help! Be sure to send your children to school unless they are running a fever, vomiting, or seriously sick. Schedule doctor appointments before or after school, or during vacations. Did you know that if your child is absent two times per month, he/she will end up missing 10% of the school year? While two absences does not seem like a lot, it adds up! We will also team up to improve student behavior. Last year over 220 office referrals were written for offenses such as defiance, disruptive conduct, and disrespect. While this is lower than the previous year, we believe it can be reduced even more. We continue to implement the "Thunderbird Three" behavior expectations: Be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. We are teaching the positive behaviors that support each of these expectations. Please use this language as you have conversations with your children around positive behavior at school. Let's work together to establish a productive learning environment for all! Though we saw increases in academic achievement at Thorndyke, there is opportunity to do better! Be sure your children are reading every night. Additionally, stay engaged in what they are learning at school by asking open-ended questions such as:

- *"What was the best thing you did at school today?"*
- *"What class expectations has your teacher said are important?"*
- *"Tell me about two students in your class."*
- *"What was the best thing your teacher asked you to do today?"*

We thank you for trusting in us to educate your children. We can assure you that your young learners are in the care of highly capable and effective educators. Our teachers and staff are the best and brightest, most energetic, passionate, and dedicated professionals doing this this work. Here is to a wonderful year of joyful and rigorous learning!

Aaron Draganov
Principal

Javier Roman
Assistant Principal

WELCOME

We are excited to welcome several new staff members this year!, Sarah Hendrickson, 3rd grade teacher, Morgan Music, Music Teacher, Kyla Crawford, 4th grade teacher, Coleman Coates, 5th grade teacher, Echo Aguirre, Kitchen Leader, Krystyna Dral, Nurse, Erin Kupay, Behavior Specialist, Liz Schibly, and Community in Schools Liaison..

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

International Night is September 28th! It will run from 4:30 to 6:30. We will have a night full of fun celebrating the many cultures of Thorndyke! What better way is there to show our unity than FOOD, FASHION, ART and DANCE?! Please look for the flyer that has been sent home with more information. Please let us know if you are able to help make this night special by bringing food, running an activity, being in the fashion show or performing a dance or song!

IMPORTANT: PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

This is a reminder that when you bring students to school in the morning or come to pick them up in the afternoon, ***THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE DROP-OFF LOOP!*** We have a number of parents who leave their cars in the loop, and this causes frustration for others, and also creates a safety issue with cars needing to back-up and squeeze around parked cars. ***DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UN-ATTENDED!***

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rights & Responsibilities handbook has been sent home. Please sign and return the bright pink cover sheet to your teacher if you have not already.

PICTURE DAY IS COMING

Picture Day is Tuesday, October 10th. Please include cash or check payable to Leo's Photography in picture envelope which is due on picture day. Picture envelopes will be sent home soon.

JOIN THORNDYKE PTA!

More than 30 years of research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved. In school grades are higher, test scores rise, self-esteem grows, and schools improve.

Powerful outcomes result from your active involvement in your child's education. You know the benefits and want to make a difference, but how can you be more actively involved? It's simple – Join the Parent Teacher Association.

For 5 cents a day, you can become a PTA member, joining nearly 6 million other people who share your interest in issues affecting children. Everyone – parents, educators, students and other citizens active in their schools and communities are invited to join our not-for-profit organization. **Please pick up an envelope in the office and enclose \$10.00 to join.** For more information contact ThorndykePTA@hotmail.com.

Did You Know.....

- ❖ Students should arrive at school **no earlier than 8:30 a.m.** and depart **no later than 3:30 p.m.** unless they are enrolled in a before/after school activity.
- ❖ You can call in an absence for your student @ 206-901-7603 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.
- ❖ You can check your student's meal account balance by calling 206-901-8000. Keeping your child's account current is very much appreciated.
- ❖ If you wish to volunteer, either at school or on field trips, you **MUST** complete a volunteer application.
- ❖ You can find out about school activities online at www.tukwila.wednet.edu
- ❖ Our lost and found is located at the rear of the main lobby. Please check for lost items as this collection piles up quickly.
- ❖ Our school collects Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup labels. They can be deposited in the marked container in the office.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Sept 20 – EARLY RELEASE at 12:45 p.m.
- Sept 20 – PTA Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept 28 - International Night, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Sept 29 – Student of the Month Assembly, 9:10 a.m.
- Oct 10 – Picture Day
- Oct 13 – NO SCHOOL
- Oct 17 - Terrific Tuesdays Begin, 8:00 a.m.
- Oct 18 – EARLY RELEASE at 12:45 p.m.
- Oct 18 – PTA Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Oct 19 - McTeacher Night at Southcenter McDonald's
- Oct 25 - Progress Reports sent home
- Oct 27 - Student of the Month Assembly, 9:15 a.m.



helping
children
to succeed

THORNDYKE IS A TITLE 1 SCHOOL

Thorndyke Elementary School receives federal money to fund a School-wide Title 1 program. Title 1 programs are intended to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments. The program focuses on promoting reform in high-poverty schools (those with 40% or more students from low-income families) and ensures student access to scientifically-based instructional strategies and challenging academic content. Thorndyke uses most of Title 1 funds to pay for important staff members, including highly qualified Instructional Assistants and our Literacy and Math Coaches. Funds are also reserved for professional development for teachers that is designed to raise the achievement of low-achieving students by improving instruction throughout the entire school. If you have any questions about our Title 1 programs, please feel free to speak with Mr. Draganov @ 206-901-7605.

The Tukwila School District complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender, color, national origin, or disability. This holds true for all district students, employees, and district employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's title IX/RCW 28A.640 officer and/or Section 504/ADA coordinator located at 4640 S 144th Street, WA 98168: T.C. Wallace Title IX/RCW28A.640 Officer (206.901.8005) and Gayle Wilson, Section 504/ADA Coordinator (206.901.8035) **Thorndyke Elementary is a Schoolwide Title I School**

