Greetings from Principal Benfield!

Welcome to February! Thank you to those who joined us on Wednesday for our final Racial Equity Speaker series with Dr. Felder, Tilman Smith and Delbert Richardson. While the speaker series concluded, our work together is just beginning. In case you missed it, read on for more information.

Our staff and families came to common trends and beliefs that include the following:

- TC ensures that every child and family are represented culturally and are surrounded by the community to help every student thrive, feel included and valued.
- TC wants to grow in fostering academic and social emotional learning.
- TC wants to be known as a welcoming community by recognizing, accepting, showcasing, and celebrating diversity.
- TC has values for dismantling racism and establishing educational justice.

Our staff and families came to common trends and beliefs about the upcoming action plans including:

- Developing a work plan that the TC community endorses and clarifies roles for creating a welcoming environment.
- Everyone feels their voice is heard and there is a well-defined process for making decisions, personnel and school-wide improvement plans.
- TC would like to have measures of improvement towards a safe and welcoming environment that can be celebrated and built upon.

Community Gathering

Please join us on Wednesday, February 10 at 8:45am for our 3rd virtual Community Gathering. Teachers will be showing a video from Beckie’s 4th grade class. They will be sharing how you can share your feelings safely through words, body language, and actions. They have been using the mood meter to explore different feelings and how they are expressed in their bodies, and they are excited to share their learning with the TC community!

Upcoming Events

- **February 1-28** Black History Month
- **February 1-5** BLM at School
- **February 2** Groundhog Day
- **February 2** TC-PTA BLM Fund Shifting Event 1:00pm-3:00pm @Thornton Creek
- **February 4** TC-PTA BLM Fund Shifting Event 1:00pm-3:00pm @Thornton Creek
- **February 8** SC-Special Education Committee meeting 6:30pm-8:00pm
- **February 9** Site Council Meeting 6:30pm-8:30pm
- **February 10** Community Gathering 8:45am-9:00am
- **February 14** Valentine’s Day
- **February 15** No School President’s Day
- **February 16-19** No School Mid-Winter Break

Current Office Hours:

COVID-Compliant - Admittance by Appointment Only

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am–3:00pm

Wednesday: 8:00am–12:00pm

Closed for lunch daily: 11:30am–12:00pm
Important News from SPS

SPS Technology

SPS has put together technology resources for families and students. They have translated videos to support logging in to, Seesaw and Microsoft Teams for Students, setting up an SPS iPad and laptop. [Tech Support FAQ and Videos]

Student Meals During Remote Learning

SPS is offering free student meals at 40 school locations and eight bus routes. Meal sites are open Monday-Friday from 11:15am-1:15pm [Student Meals]

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

What is Social Emotional Learning? Can I use it at home? [Learn more on the SPS website]

Black Lives Matter at School

The 13 guiding principles of Black Lives Matter

Seattle Public Schools is committed to racial justice and recognition of the lived experiences of our Black youth every single day.

At the regular board meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, the Seattle School Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020/21-17 to declare that the lives of Black students matter — as well as the lives of all of our underserved students, affirm the demands of the Black Lives Matter at School Movement, and encourage participation districtwide in the national Black Lives Matter at School Week from February 1-5, 2021.

Read more about [Black Lives Matter at School].

Read about our [commitment to unapologetically serve students furthest from educational justice, Seattle Excellence]

News from the Office

Is your student going to be missing school? Email both the teacher and attendance at thorntoncreek.attendance@seattleschools.org or leave a detailed message at 206-252-5304

If your student will be gone 3 or more consecutive days, you will need to fill out a Pre-Planned Absence form. You can find the form on our [Attendance page].

Library News!

Tuesdays and Thursdays: TC Curbside Library Day for all grades from 1pm-3pm

Due to new Covid-19 restrictions there will be no browsing. You can still place books on hold and pick up either day. Want to know how to place a hold? Check out Kirsten’s video on Seesaw.

SPL offers Free virtual Tutoring and Printing

Seattle Public Library has launched free virtual tutoring in a variety of subjects for K-12 students. This service will be available 7 days a week in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese and help is available in math, writing, science, history, and more. Sign up for Library Link using your SPS student ID and get access to thousands of free tutors today. [SPL Virtual Tutoring]

Don’t have a printer at home? [Seattle Public Library can assist].
Community News

Community Pantry - TC PTA + Eckstein PTSA Partnership

TC-PTA Community
The pantry continues to offer free access to school supplies, toiletries and household supplies, masks, winter coats, hats, gloves and more to support current community needs.

When: Mondays & Fridays during SPS meal pick-up, 11:15am - 1:15pm
Where: Eckstein Middle School parking lot, on the west side of the portables

Support this work: TC-PTA Community Pantry has seen an increase in needs over the past few weeks. Please help meet these needs by donating to the upcoming supply drive. In partnership with Eckstein PTSA, TC-PTA will be collecting NEW full sized toiletries and cleaning supplies as well as gently used winter coats at the following dates/times and locations:

Thornton Creek PTA Table (in front of TC Elementary): Sat, Jan 30, 2-4pm / Tues, Feb 2, 1-3pm / Thurs, Feb 4, 1-3pm

Eckstein Middle School (west parking lot 30 Ave. NE and 75th St. NE): Sat, Feb 6th, 10am-12pm

For more details on the supply drive, please visit the TC PTA website. Please contact Liz Benko (pantry@tc-pta.org) with any questions or special requests.

Eckstein PTSA Invites 5th Grade Parents to a Guest Speaker

Date: February 8, 2021
Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm
Pre-Registration Required

Presented as part of the Eckstein PTSA's General Meeting (Speaker begins at 7:30pm)

Jo Langford is a local author, therapist and educator. For the last 20 years he has worked in the intersection between adolescence, technology, and sexuality. He speaks internationally using information, education, and humor to help parents and educators increase their knowledge and self-confidence navigating conversations with their kiddos.

Jo has agreed to share his wisdom and talk to parents about how this specifically relates to our kids in the time of virtual school, unprecedented screen time, and increased isolation. Join this engaging conversation regarding role clarification between teachers, parents, and students, and how to set boundaries for your kids.

TC Children’s March

Thank you for all the wonderful posters and children that have been dropped off so far, they have been such an inspiration to us all. When coming to pick up library books or class materials look for your poster. We will continue to add them as they come in! This is just a small sampling of what we have up in the windows.
Thank you to the volunteers who are helping restore the landscape at Thornton Creek! It's a big job and we are making progress. We continue to work in small groups of no more than 5 people at a time. Adults only, kids are not allowed right now. Upcoming dates are February 6th and March 6th from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Please sign up if you can join us.

In preparation of Pre-K launching an Outdoor Pilot program. We are seeking donations of gently used outdoor clothing. All donations should be sized for 3-5-year olds. We are looking for rain jackets, warm clothes, socks, rainboots, long pants, etc. Donations can be dropped off at the main entrance of Thornton Creek, 24/7. We will be accepting donations February 1-12. Half of all donations will be given to the Early Learning Department for other Pre-K sites across the district. Thank you in advance of your donations.

Student Support Tip – Black History Month

The whole family can take part in the Celebrating Black Voices Bookmarks series to continue important conversations at home about history, identity, diversity, justice, and action. This Netflix Read Aloud series is free on YouTube. You can also find a list of Black Lives Matter read alouds through SPS: BLM Booklists.

Reading Tip!

Courtesy of Cindy Deshler, Reading Interventionist

For younger students you can play phonetic awareness games with your kids. These are good to do in the car or on a walk. Ask your child to do things like:

Say am - now add a "h" sound to am - what do you get?
say at - now add a "m" sound to at - what do you get?
Say rip - now add a "d" sound to rip - what do you get?
Say rink - now add a “sh” sound to rink - what do you get?
Say tuck - now add a “s” to tuck - what do you get?
For something a bit harder try:

Can you say trip without the "r" sound?
Can you say stick without the "t" sound?
Can you clap with the "l" sound?
Can you say frog without the "r" sound?
Celebrating Black History Month

On February 10, 1976, President Gerald Ford brought Black History Month into existence with the following statement, “In the Bicentennial year of our Independence, we can review with admiration the impressive contributions of black Americans to our national life and culture. One hundred years ago, to help highlight these achievements, Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. We are grateful to him today for his initiative, and we are richer for the work of his organization. Freedom and the recognition of individual rights are what our Revolution was all about.”

National Museum of African American History & Culture

Expedition Corner

Our 3rd graders are exploring Salmon and Cedar

Why are salmon important to the Pacific Northwest?
What can salmon teach us?
Why is cedar called The Tree of Life?
What can cedar trees teach us?

Our expedition launched with learning about the life cycle of salmon. Students are studying the stages and producing writing and illustrations to demonstrate learning. Knowledge of salmon life cycle builds a foundation and context for students to explore the cultural significance of salmon to Indigenous People through storytelling. We will explore Indigenous Peoples’ storytelling to seek answers to these questions:

What can salmon teach us?
What can cedar trees teach us?

we invite you to explore our virtual exhibitions, and online collections. Please visit our calendar of events for the latest updates.

Our Parent Partners

- Thornton Creek PTA
  - Thornton Creek PTA Website
  - Opt-in to TC PTA Newsletter
- Site Council - Website coming soon!
  - Opt-in to Site Council Newsletter
- Thornton Creek Parent Group