January 2021 Newsletter

Greetings from Principal Benfield!

Hello and happy new year! I hope you have taken time to rest, recharge and relax.

Our teachers and staff are dedicated in providing the best virtual experience for our students. This is built through continual collaboration with their grade level teams, interventionists, special education and support staff. Look at the third page for some pictures of our staff going the extra mile in challenging times! It also involves professional development and growing as educators. This includes necessary work around racial equity, enhancing our expeditionary learning approach, using a critical eye when analyzing data to propel student learning forward and embedding social justice into our social emotional learning.

Families will soon be attending virtual school tours across the district and learning more about what makes individual schools unique. Growing as professionals and individuals, defining our mission and vision together will attract and retain families-particularly students and families of color. Thornton Creek would like to build a school culture that fosters positive identity, belonging and purpose.

I look forward to 2021, and our work together towards building a safe and welcoming environment for all. The final event in our speaker series is at the end of January, but our work as a community is just beginning. This is part of my journey as well- educating myself and taking action over time to make systemic changes. Please join us in the work, as we want the school to be a representation of all of our voices. Your voice is important.

Together we’ve got this!

Warmly,
Alexandra

Upcoming Events

January 1 Happy New Year!!!
January 4 Welcome Back
January 12 Site Council Meeting 6:30–8:30 p.m.
January 14 Principal Check-In TBD
January 18 No School Martin Luther King Jr Day
January 19 Digital Engagement 6:30-7:00 p.m.
January 25 PTA Winter General Meeting 7:00-8:30 p.m.
January 26 Virtual School Tour 4:00-4:30 p.m.
January 27 Co-Sponsored by the TCPG & TCPTA Adult Education Lecture on Racial Equity Part 3 6:30-8:30 p.m.
January 28 No School Day Between Semesters
January 29 Virtual School Tour 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Current Office Hours:

COVID-Compliant - Admittance by Appointment Only

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday:
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Closed for lunch daily:
11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
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 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Student Meals

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

What is Social Emotional Learning? Can I use it at home? Want to learn more? click here

Community Pantry - TC PTA + Eckstein PTSA Partnership

Every Friday from 11:15-1:15, TC PTA is hosting a free community pantry at Eckstein Middle School in the parking lot outside the portables. The pantry will offer school supplies, personal and home care supplies, masks, and more. If you are interested in volunteering or donating goods or funds to the pantry, please fill out this form. If you have questions, please contact Liz Benko at pantry@tc-pta.org.

School News and Tips

Want to stay connected? Don’t want to miss an event? You can now subscribe to the SPS Thornton Creek Calendar that shows all our events! Please subscribe by using this iCal link: click here or go on the website for more options.

Library News!

Tuesdays and Thursdays: TC Curbside Library Day for all grades from 1 - 3 p.m. 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.

Book Fair Update: Our community graciously spent a total of $3,172.75 at U Bookstore for a final fundraising total of $317.28! Not to mention the books that were gifted to the library and to individual teachers. Thank you!!

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 click here for details.

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.
A Look Back at 2020

Sue Doty, PE Teacher, using her new screen is engaging students in participation while doing the "sticker challenge"

Mim Turnbull, Lisa Calvert, Robyn Haggerty and Laurie Macy, our Fabulous 5th Grade Team, Social Distancing, a distribution for their students.

Sue received a new screen through Donors Choose

Donors Choose has been Supporting teachers and students since 2000 Their Mission statement is: We make it easy for anyone to help a teacher in need, moving us closer to a nation where students in every community have the tools and experiences they need for a great education.

Holy Baber, Occupational Therapist and Angela Suh, Kindergarten Teacher also received a second screen!!

A group of 4 people spent a few hours doing some landscape work on the TC grounds. The event was organized by Jana Dilley, co-chair, Site Council, Facilities committee. In a short time, the group filled 22 bags of weeds and left a pile when the bags ran out. The work focused on the inner courtyard where the group battled waist high thistle and blackberries.

Sophia Yackshaw, Pre-School Teacher, finishing her lesson in the parking lot. Way to go the extra mile!!

Thank you for all the hard work!! The next work party will be February 6th sign up here to join in the fun.
**Reading Tip!**

Courtesy of Debbie Kosman, Reading Interventionist

When your child is reading out loud to you and they come to a word they don’t know, one strategy is to direct them to the vowel. “What does the vowel say?” Often if they can focus on the vowel and read that, then the rest of the word comes more easily.

If it is a vowel that they don’t know, you can give them the vowel sound and they can figure out the rest of the word. “The vowel says /ou/.”

Then there are situations when the word is just unfair. (Example: would. There is no way to sound out this word.) In those cases, just tell them the word and have them keep reading.

**Student Support Tips!**

SPS created culturally responsive Social Emotional Learning videos for teachers, students, and families. To ring in the new year, included below are grade-level videos on reflection from our district SEL video collection that you can find on our webpage or YouTube.  

**Expedition Corner**

**Our 2nd graders are exploring**

Salmon in the Trees

*The trees that shelter and feed the fish, are themselves nourished by the fish.*

Big ideas and questions:

- What do salmon need in order to survive?
- How are forests and salmon connected?
- How does the energy of the sun move through an ecosystem?
- What is our role in protecting salmon?

Student will address these big ideas and questions through a range of remote activities. We begin to address what salmon need to survive by researching and writing about the salmon life cycle and the healthy conditions and habitats salmon need for each stage of their life span. Students create a salmon stream poster in the fall, an ocean in the winter and a riparian zone poster in the spring. We research about how salmon and forests are connected through native plant and animal study. This also ties in with the energy of the sun through the ecosystem with a study of soil and decomposers. All year we acknowledge that we are living on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish, we honor their traditions by learning how to be stewards of all salmon habitats. Through our studies of the nature in our neighborhood and city we are developing an understanding of our role in protecting salmon. We hope to come out of this expedition with a greater understanding of how our actions can help or hinder salmon survival.

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**Our Parent Partners**

Thornton Creek PTA
Site Council
Thornton Creek Parent Group