Greetings from Principal Benfield!

Happy Monday TC Families and Caregivers! I look forward to seeing you virtually this Thursday for our Principal Check in from 12-12:30. I am varying the times each month in hopes of being flexible to family needs and schedules.

If you have a question, please submit below on the link and I’ll do my best to find an answer: Submit Questions Here

Special Education Community Forums (from the SPS Special Education Department): Join us to share your experiences during this pandemic period. All sessions are facilitated, and language supports will be available. Register at specialed@seattleschools.org.

Vietnamese & Chinese Bilingual Family Community: Friday, December 4, 6:30 - 8:00pm

• Spanish Bilingual Family Community: Friday, December 11, 6:30 – 8:00pm

• Native Indian and Pacific Islander Family Community: Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 -8:00pm

• Black Family Community: Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 – 8:00pm

• Somali & Oromo Bilingual Family Community: Friday, January 15, 6:30 – 8:00pm

• BIPOC Family Community: Tuesday January 19, 6:30-8:00pm

• Amharic & Tigrinya Bilingual Family Community: Friday, January 22, 6:30 – 8:00pm

• All Special Education Families: Tuesday, January 26, 6:30 -8:00pm

In Partnership,

Alexandra

Community Gathering

Please Join us on Wednesday, December 2nd at 8:45 for our 2nd virtual Community Gathering. Teachers will be showing a video from some 4th graders at TC to learn about growth mindset.

Upcoming Events

December 1 End of First Trimester

December 2 Community Gathering 8:45-9:00 a.m. virtual

December 3 Principal Check-in 12:00-12:30 p.m.

December 4 TC-PTA All Community Listening Session 4:00-5:00 p.m.

December 7 TCPG Special Education Committee 6:30-8:30 p.m.

December 8 Site Council 6:30-8:30 p.m.

December 14 TC-PTA All Community Listening Session 7:00-8:00 p.m.

December 17 Digital Engagement 6:30-7:00 p.m.

December 18 1 Hour Early Dismissal

December 21 Winter Solstice

December 21 - January 1 No School

Winter Break

December 31 Happy New Year!!!

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

FamilyWorks Resource Center

Available Wednesday 12:45-3:00 p.m. at the south entrance of Nathan Hale High School. They are available to help families navigate various services and resources.  FamilyWorks

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

Advanced Learning Referral Open Until December 7

Submitting a referral for your student is the first step in the process of any student being identified for Advanced Learning or Highly Capable services. A family member must submit a referral on the Source before the student can be assessed for eligibility. For English-speaking families, if you believe your student may benefit from Advanced Learning services, you can submit a referral on The Source. For families who would like to refer in their home language, or need support with translations, please visit the Advanced Learning website.  Advanced Learning Referral

Mental Health Supports

During these uncertain times you might find that you’re in need of support. On our website is a list of Community Based Providers and Crisis Support contacts to help support you and your family during this time.  Mental Health Supports

Community Pantry - TC PTA + Eckstein PTSA Partnership

Mondays & Fridays during SPS meal pick-up time, 11:15am - 1:15pm  Eckstein Middle School parking lot, near portable.

Thank you to all the families who donated items to the PTA Community Pantry this month. In addition to the regularly stocked items, a selection of winter coats, hats, and gloves in various sizes are now available. We have also added another day of operation - look for the sandwich board on Mondays and Fridays from 11:15am - 1:15pm at Eckstein Middle School when remote learning is in session. If you would like to support this work, you can do so by donating goods via our Amazon or Target shopping lists or fill out this form to inquire about volunteering opportunities. If you have questions, please contact Liz Benko at pantry@tc-pta.org

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 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.

Progress Reports will be available on the Source on December 18th

Please continue to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines during library and material distribution times.

Library News!

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

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

SPL offers Free virtual Tutoring!

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
Virtual Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the Fall Online Book Fair!

December 3rd- 20th

In partnership with the University Bookstore via Bookshop.org

Ten percent of purchases will support the TC library to add diverse books to our collection. Books will ship directly to purchaser. This is a great way to support our school and community during the holiday season. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

https://bookshop.org/shop/ubsbookfair

Browse a wish list of books for TC teachers here

Expedition Corner

4th grade will be exploring

Innovation, Engineering Design, and Technology

Here are our Guiding Questions

- What are some inventions that have improved the quality of people’s lives?
- What do engineers do in their daily work and how do they develop solutions?
- How can I use engineering methods to solve problems?

The students began this expedition learning about the Engineering Design Process. They used the steps of the process to experiment with different design challenges and get hands-on experience. They got an introduction to various branches of engineering through these design tasks.

This fall students researched and wrote a paper about an invention of their choice. They will follow up with a detailed diagram and have a chance to present to classmates.

Late winter/early spring, students will continue to work with various hands-on projects.

Another important investigation in this expedition is to learn about inventors, particularly underrepresented inventors from history. Most people know about Edison, Bell and the Wright Brothers, but do they know about Marie Van Brittan Brown or Garrett Morgan?

To round out the year, students will learn about sustainability and how engineers are working to save the planet.

As challenging as this year is, students will still have lots of opportunities to think critically and creatively and to work with their hands to be engineers.

Student Support Tip!

Try using the Mood Meter to check in daily with yourself and with others.

How are you feeling? How do you know? Do you want to feel this way? Does this feeling help with schoolwork and friendships?

Reading Tip!

S—T—P

Stop-think-paraphrase

Stop reading; cover the text with your hand

Think about what you read

Paraphrase by softly telling yourself what you read in your own words.
News from our Parent Partnerships

Site Council

Join us for the next meeting of the Site Council! Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID 968 0245 7918
For more news, subscribe to the Site Council newsletter

Thornton Creek Parent Group

We are making great strides towards our 20-21 fundraising goal! The Thornton Creek Parent Group Annual Appeal has raised 20% of the $87,500 goal with family participation distributed across all grade levels. Thank you to those of you who have joined us. We welcome the support of those who have not had the chance to support the Annual Appeal this year, as we aim for 100% participation. We are often asked how much should I give? If every family donates $200 per student, we will make our goal! Your gift at every level makes a true impact for our students, teachers and administration.

We are grateful to our TC community for helping us reach our goals by December 31st!

In partnership,
Kathleen Phan and Jen Schlobohm
fundraisingchair@thorntoncreek.org
Fundraising Committee Co-chairs on behalf of TC Parent Group

Thornton Creek PTA - Supporting Racial Equity at TC

As this very challenging calendar year comes to a close, Thornton Creek PTA would like to thank our community for your engagement this fall. Though our encounters were at a distance we have felt your presence in many ways:

- Supporting our growing Community Pantry PTA Partnership
- Fund-Shifting to assist local farmers and Title I schools
- Folding origami cranes in solidarity for migrant rights at our Family Fold-ins
- Expanding our membership with families and teachers to record levels
- Reaching out to us via email, phone, or Zoom listening session

TC PTA December Listening Sessions
Fri, Dec 4, 4-5pm - Everybody Welcome
Mon, Dec 14, 7-8pm - Everybody Welcome
Zoom Meeting ID: 437 568 4658 / Passcode: PTA

Engage further with TC PTA by visiting our website, join as an annual member, or subscribe to TC PTA’s email newsletter.