

# TURNER TIMES NEWSLETTER

January 13, 2025

## YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

Dear Turner Community,

As we welcome back our students from winter break, I hope this message finds you all well and rejuvenated! The new year brings with it fresh opportunities for growth, learning, and connection within our school community.

We are excited to begin the second half of the school year with renewed enthusiasm. Our dedicated staff continue to develop engaging lessons and activities that will inspire our students and foster their love for learning. We encourage you to stay involved and support your children as they continue their academic journey!

Please take note of the upcoming school events, and mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you at our various activities and meetings, as your participation is vital to our school's success.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, let's make this a fantastic year for our students!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Efrom

Principal

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## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

1/14-15: Winter MAP Testing

**1/20: NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

1/24: Turner PTO Neon Glow Dance @ 6:00-8:00 pm

1/31: Trimester 2 Midterm Grades @ 4:00 pm

2/7: 1st & 4th Grade Music Program @ 2:00 pm

**2/17: NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day**

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## MAP TESTING THIS WEEK!

This week, starting January 14th, all students will participate in taking the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Assessment. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is a computerized adaptive assessment that measures your child's knowledge of reading and math. All students are asked the same number of questions, but the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier and then become progressively more challenging. This enables the assessment to precisely identify the full spectrum of a student's strengths and weaknesses. MAP tests are aligned to the national Common Core Standards.

MAP assessments are used to measure student progress and growth in reading and math. These assessments will help teachers understand your child's areas of strength and areas for growth and provide appropriate instruction.

## MAP TESTING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

As we approach the week of MAP testing, we want to share some important tips to help ensure our students perform their best:

1. **Rest Well:** Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep each night leading up to the tests. A well-rested mind is more alert and focused.
  2. **Healthy Breakfast:** A nutritious breakfast is key to providing the energy needed for a successful testing day. Encourage your child to eat a balanced meal. Students will be provided a snack at school prior to taking the MAP assessment.
  3. **Stay Hydrated:** Remind your child to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated, as this can help with concentration.
  4. **Positive Mindset:** Encourage your child to approach the tests with a positive attitude. Remind them that their best effort is what truly matters.
  5. **Arrive on Time:** Ensure your child arrives at school on time to avoid any last-minute stress.
- Thank you for your support in helping your child prepare for testing. Together, we can make this a successful week!

Check out this week's episode of the Turner News: MAP Edition for additional test taking tips!

[Turner News: MAP Edition Episode](#)

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## WEATHER & BUS REMINDERS

As we enter the colder months, we would like to remind you that our bus schedules may be affected by weather conditions such as very cold temperatures, ice, and snow. On these days, buses may run behind schedule.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we prioritize the safety of our students during these challenging weather conditions!

## HERE COMES THE BUS – MOBILE PHONE APP

Please click on the links below if you would like to download the "Here Comes the Bus" app to your mobile device. Please note, this app is not controlled by West Chicago Elementary District 33.

[Here Comes the Bus App - Spanish Download Directions](#)

[Here Comes the Bus App - English Download Directions](#)

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## MONTHLY TEAM UPDATES

Here is a space where Turner staff will offer families a glimpse into classroom activities, special projects, and important milestones, fostering collaboration and communication between home and school. This dedicated space allows parents to stay informed about their child's learning environment and the exciting developments taking place throughout the school.



### **K/1- Mrs. Goolish**

**Literacy:** Students are working on answering WH- questions along with learning about authors and illustrators. We continue to work on identifying letters, sounds, and the formation of the letters. We then take the sounds to help blend and read words.

**Math:** Students are showing 1:1 correspondence for numbers up to 20. They are also working with simple addition and subtraction problems. We continue to work on identifying coins and parts of a clock.

**Functional:** With cold and flu season we are working on using a Kleenex and washing hands. We are also working on personal space and walking in a line.



## Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have been working in their Zoology Science unit, learning all about different animal groups. In math, kindergarten students have been identifying numbers 0 to 10 and have started to look at teen numbers. We have also worked in our geometry unit, learning different 2D and 3D shapes. Students should be about to count to 40 or above by now. Students are continuing to write new CVC words (for example: cat, pig, web, sun, hot). Students are working on writing a simple sentence with new "heart words" (sight words) and CVC words.



## 1st Grade

When we return from break, First Grade students will finish their study of animals. They will also complete their study of needs and wants. All will continue working on learning long vowel sounds in English. Students working in Spanish will continue working with open and closed-syllable words and consonant blends. All first-grade students will work focused on reading fluency.

In Math, first graders will begin their third math module focused on ordering and comparing length measurements as numbers and will have it completed by the end of the month.



## 2nd Grade

In literacy, we finished our unit on Greek myths. The students wrote their own myths about winter animals. Our next unit is the War of 1812. We will learn about U.S. history and how we gained our independence and maintained it.

In math, we are continuing to learn how to add and subtract 3-digit numbers with regrouping. This is an important skill that students need to master in second grade. Please practice with your child at home.

Please remember to have your child read each night for 20 minutes. Students in second grade should begin to read short chapter books.



## 3rd Grade

### Literacy

Third graders recently wrapped up their Amplify unit on Ancient Rome. They were able to read about the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and produce their own writing on Rome's greatest contributions to the world. We are looking forward to a unit on light and sound.

### Math

Students finished a unit where they studied the different properties of multiplication, using these properties to solve several types of

problems. After break, we are beginning a new unit where students will study area and perimeter.

### **Social Studies**

Students studied leaders in their community, developing an understanding of how they can inspire and create change in their own community.



### **4th Grade**

#### 4th Grade Literacy

Students finished their ARC animal research lab and web page project! Coming soon! American Historical Fiction genre lab. Please read with your student each evening. Discuss the text together.

Thank you for your support.

#### 4th Grade Math

Students continue to work on Module 3. Coming soon! Module 4: angle measure and plane figures. Please send your student to school with a protractor. This math tool is required for Module 4.

#### 4th Grade Social Studies / Science

Students will soon transition from science to social studies.

Students will learn about the establishment and development of Illinois.



### **5th Grade**

5th graders have started investigating ecosystems diving deeper into the research process and developing their informational writing skills.

In math, students are beginning Module 3 which covers fractions, in particular with addition and subtraction with mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators. Furthermore, students are beginning to develop oracy and presentational skills through modeling problems for their peers and explaining step-by-step how they got their solutions.

In social studies, students are learning about the causes of political revolutions and analyzing the American Revolution, in particular.

Finally, it is crucial that over break, students take time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. Likewise, we hope that they also take some time over break to refine their foundational skills in math and literacy. We have our winter MAP testing soon after the break, and as we continue our data discussions, we want to ensure that they are continuing to make the gains necessary to excel.



## Art

**Kinder-** Created snowy polar bears using paint, chalk pastels, and oil pastels.

**1st Grade-** Created pine tree collages using oil pastels, tempera cakes, and construction paper.

**2nd Grade -** Created Northern Light collages using chalk pastel, tempera paint, and magazines.

**3-5th Grade-** created a collaborative art piece that will be displayed on a large bulletin board in the 3-5th grade hallway. The artwork will be a "Gingerbread house Village".



## SEL/Health

**All grade levels** completed their units on health, hygiene, and/or body systems. **K, 1st, 2nd, & 4th grades** have all started new SEL units about emotions, while **3rd & 5th grades** have begun an 8 week unit on life skills training.

**Kindergarten** students are learning to recognize and name emotions, as well as learn ways to demonstrate self-control and coping strategies.

**1st graders** are learning how our emotions should only take over our thinking when we are in dangerous situations (i.e. We see a coyote in our yard and run into our home right away to be safe.) and any other time, we need to use the thinking part and emotional part of our brain together to make good decisions.

**2nd graders** are learning strategies to recognize and regulate their emotions in different settings/situations.

**4th graders are learning** how to verbally express emotions appropriately in various life situations.

**3rd & 5th graders** were introduced to West Chicago Police Officer O'Neill, who is team-teaching with Mrs. Castro for 8 weeks. The students just began with a lesson on self-esteem.



## Music

Kinder students are exploring different classroom percussion instruments. We are learning to play different instruments and using body percussion to perform and show a steady beat to songs of different tempos (speed level). We had fun showing a steady beat and playing bells and wood blocks to the song Sleigh Ride and showing the form (pattern) of the song in body movement.

1st grade students have been introduced to eighth-note rhythm patterns. We have been exploring playing classroom percussion instruments to a song called Ta Ti-ti Tango. We have been identifying one or two sounds in different fruit rhythm words like apple (2) and grapes (1).

**\*Please Save the date-February 7th, 2025 will be the 1st and 4th grade Valentine's Music Program at 2:00pm\***

2nd Grade students have been learning about the story and music from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. We have explored musical elements like high/low sounds, tempo (fast/slow), and dynamics (loud/soft).

3rd Grade students are starting to learn about the time signature  $\frac{3}{4}$ . These songs have a waltz feel and we will learn how to make rhythm patterns of 3. We recently have been having fun learning a partner clapping game to the rhythm chant Alligator Pie.

4th Grade has been reviewing different melodic solfege notes of Do-Re-Mi-Sol and La. We read about the creation of the music staff and have been playing instruments and singing to different solfege patterns. We also have been exploring different classroom percussion instruments and rhythm patterns!

**\* Please Save the date-February 7th, 2025 will be the 1st and 4th grade Valentine's Music Program at 2:00pm\***

5th Grade has been reviewing melodic patterns of Solfege like Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do'. We read about the creation of the music staff and have been playing instruments and singing to different solfege patterns. This last week before break, 5th-grade students went caroling around the school to different classrooms.



### Physical Education

**(Grades K-2)** Students have been playing holiday-themed games (Home Alone Tag, Snowman Tag, Snowman Bowling, Fetch the Presents, The Grinch) that include a variety of dodging & fleeing, throwing, rolling, and teamwork.

**(Grades 3-5)** Students have been playing holiday-themed games (Home Alone Tag, Snowman Tag, Snowman Bowling, Fetch the Presents, The Grinch) that include a variety of dodging & fleeing, throwing, rolling, and teamwork.



### Library

Way to go Turner! We have checked out a total of 3,900 books so far this year!

**Kindergarten** has been reading classic and contemporary picture books about bears such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See.*, *Corduroy*, and *Mother Bruce*.

**First Grade** finished up our author study on Julia Donaldson. We had a great time learning about rhyming words and sequencing events in stories.

**Second Grade** has been having a great time learning about "just right" books and fun fantasy chapter book series.

**Third Grade** has been working on Library Location Skills, specifically a basic intro to the Dewey Decimal System.

**Fourth Grade** read a book about the Nantucket Sea Monster and learned about fake news.

**Fifth Grade** has been reading Caldecott contenders and participating on a Mock Caldecott Committee to determine the most distinguished picture book published in the last year.



## **MLL Instructional Coach, Instructional Coach, & Instructional Technology Coach**

Dear Parents,

Between January and February, students identified as English Language Learners will participate in the ACCESS test. This important assessment helps measure your child's English language proficiency. Students will continue taking the test annually until they achieve an overall composite score of 4.8 or higher.

As the test dates approach, your child's teacher will share specific details about when the test will take place.

To help your child feel confident and prepared, we recommend:

- Ensuring they get a good night's sleep before the test.
- Providing a healthy breakfast on testing days.
- Sharing words of encouragement, such as:
  - "Try your best and show all the English you have learned!"
  - "Use the amazing English vocabulary you know!"
  - "I'm so proud of you, you are going to do great!"

If you are curious, about the the ACCESS test, you can click [this link](#) for more information. Feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for supporting your child's success!

Sincerely,

Kellie Barros, Multilingual Learners Instructional Coach

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## **TURNER PTO (PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION)**

Our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) organizes community-building events and raises funds to support Turner students, teachers, and staff. The only way the PTO works is if parents, guardians, and staff get involved by volunteering a little bit of their time, ideas, and resources. Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between student success in school and positive and collaborative parental/guardian involvement in school life and activities. There are many ways you



can help out with the PTO this year! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or you can e-mail us at [turnertigerspto@gmail.com](mailto:turnertigerspto@gmail.com)

## 2024-2025 PTO MEETING DATES

All meetings are held in the Turner Library from 3:45-4:30 pm

January 9

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

*Do you need childcare to attend? We got you covered! Please email the PTO at [turnertigerspto@gmail.com](mailto:turnertigerspto@gmail.com) with 24 hours notice!*

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## 1/24 TURNER PTO NEON GLOW DANCE!

We are excited to host our second Neon Glow Dance hosted by Turner PTO on **Friday, January 24 from 6:00-8:00 pm** in the Turner Gym for our Neon Glow Dance hosted by Turner PTO!

A few reminders:

- Snacks, drinks, and glow items will be available for purchase (cash only)
- Students must be accompanied by an adult/guardian 18 years or older to enter the building/dance
- Additionally, students must be supervised at all times

We look forward to seeing you all on January 24th!

**Neon Glow Dance Flier - SPANISH**

**Neon Glow Dance Flier - ENGLISH**

## PTO NEON GLOW DANCE VOLUNTEER FORM \*BELOW\*

Turner staff and families, please consider volunteering for our PTO Neon Glow Dance by completing the form below!

## Staff & Family Volunteer Form

### SMENCILS FOR SALE!

First Thursday of each month \$1 each (cash only)! Smencils will be sold during each lunch period.

February 6

March 6

April 10

May 1

June 5

### CORE VALUES CORNER

At District 33, our five core values—**Positive Interactions, Responsibility, Respect for Others, Readiness to Learn, and Orderly Transitions**—serve as the foundation for a thriving school community. These values guide our students in developing essential social and emotional skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. By fostering positive interactions, we encourage collaboration and empathy among peers. Emphasizing responsibility instills a sense of accountability in our students, while respect for others cultivates a welcoming and inclusive environment. Readiness to learn inspires curiosity and a love for education, and orderly transitions help create a structured atmosphere conducive to learning. Together, we can reinforce these values at home and ensure our children grow into respectful, responsible, and engaged individuals.

Thank you for your continued support in nurturing these important principles!

[Core Values Behavior Matrix \\*CLICK HERE\\*](#)

### ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES REMINDER

As a reminder, the parking lot is only accessible to staff, busses, and authorized taxis from 7:45-9:00 am and 2:30-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Please park in the lot at the corner of Ingaltan Ave. and James Ave. and use the crosswalk for safe crossing.

8:15 am: Students may enter door 1 and enjoy breakfast in the gym or wait outside until morning recess by the path/playground

8:30: Students may access the playground

8:40: Students enter the building and instruction begins

Please view the maps linked below for more information! Thank you for your support!

**ENGLISH - Dropoff and Pickup Procedures**

**SPANISH - Dropoff and Pickup Procedures**

**Morgan Efrom**

Principal, Turner Elementary School

**Contact**

[efromm@wego33.org](mailto:efromm@wego33.org)

Ph: 1.630.293.6050 ext. 7201

750 Ingaltan Ave.

West Chicago, IL 60185