

# Turner Times Newsletter

December 2025

Welcome back! I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the warmth, support, and partnership you bring to our school community each day. Your involvement, whether attending conferences, volunteering, helping with homework, or encouraging curiosity at home, is making a meaningful difference in your child's learning and in our school culture.

With colder weather approaching, please make sure your child has appropriate outerwear for outdoor play. On days when students go outside for recess, students will need snow pants and boots to play in the snow. The temperature must be 10 degrees or above (including the "feels like" temperature) for students to go outside for recess.

Thank you for your continued trust and collaboration. Together, we create a safe, caring, and joyful environment where every student can thrive.

Mrs. Efrom  
Principal

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## Upcoming PTO Events

### PTO Holiday Shop Volunteer Form

PTO Holiday Shop: December 16-17

### Hawthorne's Backyard Fundraiser

Thursday, December 11th 2025 from 11am-10pm

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## Turner Volunteer Interest

Please quickly check any volunteer opportunities you're interested in. Increasing parent and family engagement is one of our goals — your participation helps strengthen our school community. We'll use your selections to match you with roles and send more details. Thank you for your support!

### Turner Volunteer Interest Form

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## School Hours

 **School Hours:** 8:40 AM – 3:25 PM

**1/2 Day Dismissal Time:** 11:45 am

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## Office Contact Information

**Turner Main Office:** 630-293-6050

**Attendance Line:** 630-293-6050 ext. 7207

**Morgan Efrom, Principal:** 630-293-6050 ext. 7201

**Kelly Reinmann, Assistant Principal:** 630-293-6050 ext. 7205

**Connie Michiels, Secretary:** 630-293-6050 ext. 7200

**Sabrina Williams, School Nurse:** 630-293-6050 ext. 7202

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## Upcoming Dates to Remember!

**December 4:** Turner PTO Meeting (3:45-4:30)

**December 5:** D33 Ballet Folklorico Posada Kermes (Leman Middle School, 6:00-8:00 pm)

**December 11:** D33 Art Show (Leman Middle School, 5:00-6:30 pm)

 **December 15-19: Winter Spirit Week** 

December 15: Holiday Accessory Day

December 16: Candy Cane Day, Wear Red & White

December 17: Holiday Shirt/Ugly Sweater Day

December 18: Grinch Day, Wear Green

December 19: Pajama Day

**December 16-17:** PTO Holiday Shop (9:00-3:00)

**December 17:** No Clubs, Only CAPE (Faculty Meeting)

**December 22-January 4: NO SCHOOL - Winter Break**

**January 5:** Students & Staff Return from Winter Break

**January 8:** Turner PTO Meeting (3:45-4:30)

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## Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

### 🚗 Student Drop-Off/Arrival

- Students may be dropped off starting at **8:15 AM**.
- ***With safety as our number one priority. Please do not drop off your student before 8:15, as supervision of students begins at 8:10.***
- Students arriving **after 8:40 AM** are considered tardy. **A parent/guardian must walk them into the front office to sign them in.**

### 🚗 Important Safety Reminders

- Stay in your car during drop-off and pick-up.
- A staff member will assist your child in getting in or out of the car if needed.
- Always watch for staff walking through the parking lot to and from their cars.
- Maintain a safe speed and stay off your cell phone at all times while on school grounds.
- Staying in your vehicle and being alert helps keep everyone safe and keeps the car line moving efficiently.

## Arrival & Dismissal Information/Procedures

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## Dismissal Changes

### If Your Child Has a Bus Route

- If your student has an assigned bus route but will be a **car rider** this year, please notify our **Secretary, Mrs. Michiels, at 630-293-6050 ext. 7200** as soon as possible so we can update our records.
- **Important:** Any student with a bus route will be placed on the bus at dismissal unless we have received different instructions from you.

### Changing Dismissal Plans

- If you need to change your child's dismissal for a particular day, please call the **front office no later than 1:30 PM**.
- This ensures we have enough time to notify teachers and get your child to the correct location at dismissal.

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## Bus Route Information

You should have received information regarding your child's bus route yesterday, August 11th through Parent Square. As a reminder, only kindergarten and special transit students get door-to-door pick-up and drop-off.

If you did not receive information regarding your child(ren)'s bus route, please

If you would like to request a change to your child's bus route, please fill out [this form](#).

It always takes a few days for the bus drivers to get used to their new routes. This means that busses may run early or late. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we get the new school year started.

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## Here Comes the Bus Tracking App

In partnership with our transportation provider, Illinois Central, District 33 has launched Here Comes the Bus™, a bus tracking and transportation communications app for your smartphone or desktop! The app provides:

### Tracking Features

- Shows the real-time location of your child's bus on a map
- Gives scheduled and actual arrival times at home and school for bus routes
- Provides push and email notifications when the bus is near

### Sign Up Instructions For Parents

- Download Here Comes the Bus app or visit [herecomesthebus.com](http://herecomesthebus.com)
- Click the "Sign Up" button
- Enter school code 30061 and click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
- Complete the "User Profile" box
- Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number
- Once you confirm your information, you're ready to begin

Parents can download Here Comes the Bur™ in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. For more information, and links to download the app visit <https://www.wego33.org/Page/1228>.

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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.



### Ms. Goolish's Class

In life skills, the students continue to work on following the rules, routines, and expectations through Whole Body Listening and CHAMPS. They have also continued to practice sharing, taking turns, and having conversations to help and keep friends. We have added ways to keep and make friends (such as using kind words, etc.).

In phonics, students continue to work on recognizing and identifying all letters and their corresponding sounds. Students have been working on blending sounds to read and write words. We have also been working on correct spacing and formation of writing letters and sentences.

In reading, we work on listening and reading stories to answer simple wh-questions. Some of the stories in our unit have covered is looking at weather patterns.

In math, we work on patterns, one-to-one correspondence, simple addition and subtraction, place value, telling time to the hour, and identifying basic coins.



## **Kindergarten**

Science:

Kindergarten students have been learning all about plants in Amply (Science unit), learning all about the parts of a plant, the needs of a plant, and how humans and plants interact.

Math:

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 able to count to 40 or above by now. Finally, we have been working on measurement in class.

Reading:

Students are continuing to write new CVC words (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**

**Literacy:**

We are completing our unit on Ancient Civilizations and will begin a new unit that focuses on Early American Civilizations. In UFLI, we are completing our digraphs and will begin working on long vowels.

**Math:**

We continue to work on our second module, which focuses on adding and subtracting within 20, and will finish the module just before our winter break.



## 2nd Grade

### Literacy:

We completed our unit on Ancient Greece. The students learned about the contributions from Greek civilization, including the Olympic Games, the marathon, architecture, and democracy. We also learned about some famous Greek philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Our next unit is on Greek myths. We will learn about Greek gods and read some stories about them.

### Math:

In Module 3, the students learned about place value and different ways to write numbers. We learned standard form, expanded form, unit form, and word form. In Module 4, we will learn to add and subtract three-digit numbers with regrouping. We will also learn different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems using mental math.

### Homework:

Please remember to complete the packet by Friday each week. Students should be reading 15-20 minutes every night. The time they spend completing the reading passages in the packet counts towards their reading minutes. After each knowledge unit, students will also receive a study guide to complete at home. These are optional, but they are an excellent way for your child to review what they have learned and prepare for the test.



## 3rd Grade

### Literacy:

We completed our human body unit! Students learned about the muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems. The students practiced identifying the main idea and key details, and used the text to answer questions — their skill in returning to the text has grown tremendously. Next, they will embark on an exciting unit on ancient Rome.

### Math:

Students finished a measurement unit where they learned to read clocks and scales, round numbers, and calculate elapsed time. They are now beginning a unit on multiplication word problems, exploring how the properties of multiplication can be applied to the world around them.

### Social studies:

Students explored rules, government, and local leaders. Students studied different leaders and the impact they made to gain a deeper understanding of how they can make a difference in their own communities.





## 4th Grade

### Literacy:

Students have begun Unit 3 of Amplify CKLA, which focuses on poetry. So far, we have been reading and analyzing poems, learning about various literary devices, and crafting our own poems.

Coming soon: Unit 4: Eureka, where students will become inventors, learning the invention process through close reading and writing.

### Math:

We are continuing with Module 3, which focuses on multi-digit multiplication and division. Students are applying their math skills to solve real-world problems using strategies based on place value and geometry concepts.

Coming soon: Unit 4: Angle Measure and Plane Figures.

### Lectoescritura / English Language Development (ELD):

Students are practicing reading and writing skills through Lotta Lara lessons and dictados to strengthen spelling, fluency, and comprehension. Dual language students complete these activities in Spanish, while monolingual English students complete them in English.

### Social Studies:

Coming soon: Illinois Unit. Students will discuss and research the establishment and development of the state of Illinois.



## 5th Grade

The fifth graders are preparing to wrap up Trimester 1 and have achieved many accomplishments so far.

Additionally, students are starting Unit 3 of Amplify, which focuses on poetry, and finishing up Unit 2, which covered ancient civilizations. Students have developed their research skills and learned to cite texts accurately.

Finally, 5th-grade math students are beginning work with fractions and extending their former knowledge to solve more complex problems, with a focus on word problems and interpreting the information to solve them.



## Art

### Connect to Artsonia and engage in the art room!

Artsonia is an online platform for student art portfolios- a digital museum where students, teachers, and families can celebrate creativity!

Families can view and comment on artwork, join fan clubs, and even order custom keepsakes featuring their child's masterpieces.

Go to [www.artsonia.com/parents](http://www.artsonia.com/parents) and enter this Parent Code:



## SEL/Health

**Kindergarten**-We are in the unit “Healthy Practices and Hygiene”. In this unit, students learn everyday habits that keep their bodies healthy and discover how body parts have specific functions that help them learn about their environment, communicate with others, and interact with the world around them.

**1st**-We are in the unit “Healthy Practices and Hygiene”. In this unit, students learn everyday habits that promote wellness for their body systems/organs.

Additionally, we are learning that our body parts have specific functions that help us understand our environment, communicate with others, and interact with the world around us.

**2nd**-We are in the unit “Healthy Practices and Hygiene”. In this unit, students learn that there are negative consequences to poor hygiene and positive consequences to maintaining daily hygiene.

**3rd**-We are in the unit “Healthy Practices and Hygiene”. In this unit, students are learning that muscles and bones work together to help us move. We recognize that maintaining positive, healthy routines and avoiding negative choices and environmental impacts will help preserve the health of these systems.

**4th**-We are in the unit “Healthy Eating and Nutrition”. In this unit, students learn that proteins and carbohydrates are important for our bodies. There are a variety of healthy sources of both proteins and carbohydrates. Students need to identify healthy sources of proteins and carbohydrates.

**5th**-We are in the unit “Healthy Eating and Nutrition”. In this unit, students learn about the major nutrients (water, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, proteins, and minerals), as well as which foods provide essential nutrients and how these nutrients help our bodies. Students will work on how to make healthy choices in their daily lives.



## Music

**Kinder:** We have been using the songs Itsy Bitsy Spider and Row row row your boat to practice our Whispering, Speaking, Shouting and Singing voices. We also have been practicing our high and low voices in following vocal pathway lines. Students have also been exploring how to create their own vocal pathway lines.

**1st Grade:** We are learning how to identify and perform Quarter notes and Quarter rests in music. Students composed Quarter note and Quarter Rest patterns on Thanksgiving Turkeys, and we performed each pattern in class.

**2nd Grade:** Students are learning to identify and perform tied quarter notes, half notes, and half rests. Students have been working on composing rhythm patterns in the song Ghost of John and performing these rhythms in small groups.



**3rd Grade:** We are learning about songs in Rondo Form and created our own class performance of the song Who's That. We sang, clapped rhythms, and then played a rhythm guessing game of spooky rhythms. We are identifying and performing sixteenth notes using Thanksgiving foods, and classes have composed their own food composition. We are working on performing these in class.

**4th Grade:**

We are learning about theme and variation, how music can use a melody and change part of it to make a variation. We are working on performing and composing our sixteenth-note variation patterns using nursery rhymes in small group performances.

**5th Grade:** We are learning syncopated rhythms using Thanksgiving phrases through drumming and the use of handheld percussion instruments. We are also learning how to play melodic patterns on the barred instruments using correct playing techniques, as demonstrated in the song "Pass the Pumpkin."



## Physical Education

**Grades K-2:** We are finishing up our throwing and catching unit. Students have been working on both underhand and overhand throwing skills. We have been using various objects such as scarves, bean bags, and foam balls. Students have been using the throwing skill in multiple games/activities that tested their accuracy and power.

**Grades 3-5:** We are finishing up our throwing and catching unit. Students have been working on both underhand and overhand throwing skills. Students have been using the throwing skill in various games/activities, such as hoop rollers, castle ball, and cone hole (similar to cornhole).



## Library

Our students have checked out an impressive 4,592 books so far this year!

We celebrated Children's Book Week (Nov. 3–9) by spotlighting the always-popular books of Dav Pilkey. Ask your child which one of his series they enjoy the most! We've also been celebrating KNOWvember, highlighting our nonfiction section and encouraging students to read to learn something new. Nonfiction titles are especially fantastic for curious or reluctant readers.

All of our students have done an excellent job returning their books on time and keeping them in excellent condition for others to enjoy. Thank you for supporting their reading habits - keep up the great work!



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

Updates Coming Next Month!



### Math - Ms. Thompson

Across my various math classes, students are learning to explain their thinking, compare and connect strategies, justify solutions and communicate with precision. We also have a special math chant that I originally wrote just for our weekly Math Talk sessions; a fun and motivational way to celebrate clear reasoning and confident communication.

Recently, several of my math students participated in my "Compare and Connect" math task for CCSS.4.NBT.5, exploring different strategies for multi-digit multiplication. Their thoughtful work and mathematical dialogue were featured on the Turner News Show as an example of how students can engage in academic conversation, explaining, debating and connecting strategies to deepen their understanding.

Research supports that students who can represent and solve problems in more than one way demonstrate a higher level of conceptual understanding and flexibility in reasoning. The ability to compare math strategies, justify choices and make connections across methods reflects true mathematical mastery; not just procedural skill, but deep comprehension.

I will soon be sharing photographs of my hallway math display via ParentSquare. The math display showcases student math writing, math strategy comparisons and problem-solving work.

Please take a few moments to discuss these 'math experiences' with your student. Additionally, ask your Math Master about his / her Brilliance Bracelet.

Thank you for your continued support.

-Miss Thompson



### Reading - Ms. Lyons

Students in reading class have been working hard to strengthen their reading skills through daily reading practice of words, phrases, sentences and short stories. Their effort and progress are great to see. Consistent nightly reading practice at home continues to make a big difference in building word recognition, accuracy, automaticity and fluency. Thank you for your continued support!

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## West Chicago School District 33 Wellness Policy: Supporting Healthy Students

Our district is committed to creating a positive and healthy learning environment where every student can succeed. The Wellness Policy guides our efforts to promote healthy nutrition and regular physical activity before, during, and after the school day. This includes offering nutritious meals that follow federal guidelines, providing free access to safe drinking water, and integrating nutrition education into our curriculum.

*To support student health, we will no longer allow food to be brought into school for birthdays or classroom celebrations. This means items like cupcakes, pizza, cookies, juice boxes, and other treats sent for birthdays will be sent back home with the student. Instead, we encourage non-food alternatives such as stickers, bookmarks, small toys, or craft and activity-based celebrations.*

### D33 Wellness Policy

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#### Morgan Efrom

Principal, Turner Elementary School

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