

## Tarawa Terrace Elementary School

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www.dodea.edu/TarawaTerraceES/ T: 910-450-1635

### Tiger Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already in February. While these times remain uncertain there is one thing that we are certain of and that is the appreciation that we have for you as vigilant parents and the dedication to excellent instruction from our staff. Please continue to review the COVID-19 prescreening form each morning before your child departs for school. Also, if your child is sick please keep them at home until they are feeling better. As the weather continues to be cold, it is important that your student wears the proper attire to stay warm. The potential for inclement winter weather is always a possibility. Therefore, it is important that we have your updated contact information on file. If any of your contact information has changed, please let the front office staff know so that we can update our records accordingly.

Communication is an area that we strive to excel in at TTES. One way that you can be up to date about the wonderful things happening at TTES is by joining the school Facebook page "DoDEA Tarawa Terrace ES". Our Facebook page contains great things that are occurring at school as well as other important information. We host virtual coffee chat session on our Facebook page which provide a great opportunity for you to be aware of the great things happening at TTES.

While we are on the topic of communication, we want to remind you that we have an open door policy if you ever need to talk to either of us. You may reach us via phone by calling the school directly or via the email addresses below. We work diligently to return all phone calls and email messages within 24 hours.

leigh.kapiko@dodea.edu  
james.m.brown@dodea.edu

Thank you for continually supporting your child and helping make TTES an amazing place. We hope that your families stay well in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Leigh Anne Daniel-Faulkner, Principal

James Brown, Assistant Principal

Terence Walton, Administrative Officer



### Upcoming Events February

- ✓ **3** Early Release Day
- ✓ **10** Early Release Day
- ✓ **11** 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- ✓ **12** Prof. Learning Day  
No School for Students
- ✓ **15** President's Day  
No school for students or Staff
- ✓ **17** Early Release Day
- ✓ **24** Early Release Day



<https://www.dodea.edu/TarawaTerraceES/meals.cfm>

The link listed above will give you access to the monthly lunch/ breakfast menu, free/ reduced lunch application, and to the online meal prepay site!

## Information Center (Library)



Who loves to read???? I DO!! And the month of February is a great time to prepare for our Read Across America (RAA) Celebration coming up the first week of March!

RAA is celebrated each year in honor of children's author Dr. Seuss! Join us the week of March 1-5, 2021 as we highlight the importance of reading in our lives! Daily events and two contests! One is an Art Contest and the other is a Virtual Library Scavenger Hunt! Happy Reading!

Check out the TTES Virtual Library! The scavenger hunt for the RAA contest has questions that you will find answers to on this site.

<https://sites.google.com/student.dodea.edu/ttes-library/home>  
More information coming out soon!

Information Specialist

### Reading Tip for Parents: Building Vocabulary

Vocabulary plays a significant role in the reading process and to a reader's comprehension. A reader cannot understand a text without knowing what most of the words mean. Students learn the meanings of most words indirectly, through everyday experiences with oral and written language.

Here's what you can do to support your child in building vocabulary:

- Engage your child in conversations every day. If possible, include new and interesting words in your conversation.
- Read to your child each day. When the book contains a new or interesting word, pause and define the word for your child. After you're done reading, engage your child in a conversation about the book. Choose books that are above your child's reading level, since you will be reading to your child. This is a great way to introduce new words in a nonthreatening way.
- Help build word knowledge by classifying and grouping objects or pictures while naming them.
- Help build your child's understanding of language by playing verbal games and telling jokes and stories.
- Encourage your child to read on his own. The more children read, the more words they encounter and learn.

Here is a fun game that develops new vocabulary. Try it!

Hot Potato (version 1) – Play hot potato with synonyms. Choose a word, and then your child has to think of another word that means the same thing. Take turns until someone is stumped. For example, you may say, "Cold," and your child might say "Freezing." Then you could say "Chilly," and so on. Try the game again with antonyms.

Hot Potato (version 2) – Play hot potato with categories. For younger children, the categories can be simple: pets, clothes, family members. For older children, the categories can be quite complex: the Revolutionary War, astronomy, and math terms.



### Some Facts

- 20 percent of students ages 10 to 18 report experiencing cyberbullying (Cyberbullying Research Center, Hinduja and Patchin, 2010)
- Perpetrators of cyberbullying are usually the same age as their target (Wolak, 2007)
- Mean or hurtful comments (14 percent) and rumors (13 percent) are the most common forms of cyberbullying (Cyberbullying Research Center, Hinduja and Patchin, 2010)
- Nearly half of social workers at elementary, middle, and high schools report they do not feel equipped to deal with cyberbullying at their schools (*Children & Schools*, Slovak and Singer, 2011)

### What's the Issue?

Spreading rumors and bullying is nothing new. Kids have always found ways to be cruel to one another. But computers, cell phones, and digital technologies make bullying easier and more widespread. Kids now use their cell phones and computers to hurt, humiliate, and harass each other, and it's starting at younger ages. Cyberbullying is defined as repeatedly sending or posting harmful or mean messages, images, or videos about someone else using the Internet, cell phones, or other digital technologies. Kids may call each other names, say nasty things about one another, threaten each other, or make others feel uncomfortable or scared.

Children's increased access to digital technology has created more pathways to communicate — for both good and for bad. Although cyberbullying is typically associated with tweens and teens, more cases are now being reported with younger children. Cyberbullying is especially disturbing because it is constant, inescapable, and very public. It can happen anytime — at school or at home — and can involve large groups of kids. The combination of the boldness created by being anonymous and the desire to be seen as “cool” can cause a kid who normally wouldn't say anything mean face to face to show off to other kids by cyberbullying someone. Younger kids may bully to get attention, because they think it will make them popular, or because they want to look tough and make others afraid of them. And because it happens online, it can easily go undetected by parents and teachers.

### Why It Matters

Cyberbullying is a growing problem among younger kids. Younger kids are starting to use online communication and at the same time they are exploring ways to test other people's reactions. For instance, kids who send a mean message might not fully understand how another person might react to that message. What's more, hurtful information posted on the Internet is extremely difficult to prevent or remove, and anyone can see it. Imagine being publically humiliated in front of everyone you know. Such behavior usually happens when adults aren't around. So parents and teachers often see only the anxiety or depression that results from their kids being hurt or bullied. Parents can help by becoming aware of the issue, learning to identify the warning signs of bullying, and helping kids to understand how to be respectful to others online.



## Common Sense on Cyberbullying

### For Elementary Students

#### common sense says

- **Limit online socializing.** Because there is more risk for bullying on sites where kids can openly communicate, avoid open and free chat sites and look for those that offer prescribed or prescreened chat options, like Webkinz or Club Penguin.
- **Explain the basics of good behavior online.** Remind your kids that being mean, lying, or telling secrets hurts — both online and offline. And remember to praise your child when you see good behavior.
- **Remind your kids not to share passwords with their friends.** A common form of cyberbullying is when kids share passwords, log on to another child's account, and pretend to be that person. Kids can protect themselves by learning that passwords are strictly private, and they should be shared only with their parents.
- **Make sure they talk to someone (even if it's not you).** A child should tell a parent, teacher, or trusted adult if he or she is being bullied online. Tell your child that this isn't tattling, it's standing up for him- or herself.
- **Advise them on how to handle cyberbullying.** Even though they might be tempted to, your child should never retaliate against a cyberbully. They can stop the cycle by not responding to the bully. Also remind them to save the evidence rather than delete it.
- **Establish consequences for bullying behavior.** If your child is mean to or humiliates another child, consider taking phone and computer privileges away and discuss what it means to be respectful to others.

#### What Families Can Do Together

- Make a list together of how talking online is different than talking face to face. Get kids to think about how it might be easier to say things online you wouldn't say in person, and how this may be good sometimes and a problem at other times.
- Practice writing a text or chat message to a friend. Model for your child how to compliment people and how to avoid mean words or behaviors.
- Point out that it's important to stick up for others, online as well as in the real world. Discuss ways they can support friends who are bullied and report bad behavior they see online.



National Guard and Reserve families sometimes have trouble accessing support services from military installations. During deployments, these families may lose income when their military member leaves a civilian job to accept a military position overseas. The loss of income and lack of resources can create gaps that are hard on families. Our Military Kids fills these gaps with a simple grant program that pays for their children's activities.

### 2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

"Since our founding in 2004, we have provided more than 71,000 grants totaling over \$28,000,000. Through it all, we have maintained a laser focus on efficient use of our donors' funds resulting in consistent Charity Navigator 4-star ratings and GuideStar's highest platinum rating. Eighty-two percent of every dollar goes directly to grants for military kids."

#### HOW IT WORKS

✓ STEP 1

Make sure your child meets the program requirements.

Select your activity and submit your documents.

✓ STEP 2

An award packet with several tokens of appreciation is sent to your child's home and will include a check made out to the chosen organization. Your child will also receive a letter letting them know how grateful we are for their sacrifice.

✓ STEP 3

The child participates in the grant activity and has fun doing something they love. Each child also receives a "Thank You" postcard to send to the donor who paid for their grant. This is a great opportunity for the kids to reach out and show their gratitude to the people who support our program.



**For more information please visit <https://www.ourmilitarykids.org/>**



## CHILD FIND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN Ages 3-5

Your preschool child is learning and growing in many areas that lead to being  
*“Ready to Learn”*

Sometimes children experience difficulty in their development that may cause problems  
when they start school.

### Personal-Social Development

1. Has difficulty following routines in Preschool/CDC/Day Care
2. Doesn't respond to adult redirection or interaction
3. Does not play or talk with peers
4. Tantrums frequently in public
5. Does not separate from parents without tantrums

### Communication

1. Is difficult for most people to understand
2. Doesn't seem to understand directions
3. Language sounds much different than other children his/her age
4. Adults wonder if the child is hearing them
5. Does not use verbal speech or language to communicate

### Learning

1. Doesn't seem to remember what was learned from one day to the next
2. Doesn't seem interested in learning
3. Doesn't want to participate in activities that involve learning and exploring

### Motor Skills

1. Seems to fall often/is very clumsy
2. Has great difficulty holding utensils/holding writing or coloring tools
3. Doesn't seem to have strength when coloring/drawing

### Self-Help

1. Is not potty trained and all others of the same age seem to be potty trained.
2. Does not put on even simple clothing items
3. Has great difficulty feeding himself or herself

**Do any of these concerns sound familiar?**  
**Call your local elementary school today to request an appointment  
for Child Find!**

**Delalio Elementary: 910-449-0601**  
**Heroes Elementary: 910-449-8000**  
**Johnson Primary School: 910-451-2431**  
**Tarawa Terrace Elementary: 910-450-1635**