

November, 5 2021

Dear Totem Middle School Families,

November is Native American Heritage Month. During the month of November, the Marysville School District and our schools are honoring The Tulalip Tribes by raising the Tulalip flag at each school in the Marysville School District, at the Educational Service Center, and Transportation Center.

On Wednesday, November 17th at 11:30am, our school is scheduled to raise the flag at a special ceremony.

Parents and guardians are welcome to join us. This will be a great day to honor and celebrate our continued partnership with The Tulalip Tribes. The flag-raising reflects our collective desire to work together and create a sense of belonging for our students, families, and community members who are members of The Tulalip Tribes, a sovereign nation, and other Native American Tribes.

Tribal sovereignty is the authority of a people to govern themselves. Tribal sovereignty guarantees their inherent right as a government to raise revenue for their community. Government services, family and senior housing, education, health and dental services, law enforcement, fire protection, infrastructure improvements, and economic growth are all funded within the Tribes. Treaties, court cases, and the U.S. Constitution have upheld Tulalip's status as a self-governing nation.

The Tulalip flag displays The Tulalip Tribes logo, a Killer Whale. The legend behind the logo is told in "story". Tulalip storytelling is an oral tradition in which stories are passed down by voice and there is no notion of fixed text. Read more about the "Story of the Killer Whale: The Legend behind our logo" and how stories are put into text [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keri Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keri Lindsay
Principal

[Story of the Killer Whale courtesy of The Tulalip Tribes <https://www.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/>]