



The Woodchuck Review

Parents, Teachers and Students Working Together
2021-2022 *Edition*

VOL 6. NO 5

JANUARY 14, 2022

PRINCIPAL, NICK STRAW

Gladys Wood Community,

Happy New Year!

We're off and running and students are actively refining their skills in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, art, music, health, pe, and library.

The ice rink has recently been hot mopped and available for use. If any parents would like to volunteer to help watch students during recess one day or a couple days of the week please contact Mr. Straw.

straw_nicholas@asdk12.org or call 742-6760. Recess times are as follows: 6/1st grade 11:25am-12pm, 2/3rd grade 12-12:35pm, 4/5th grade/Kindergarten 12:35pm-1:10pm.

It was good to see families at the PTO Meeting this past Tuesday, January 11th. If you are not a PTO member yet, please consider joining us at: [GW PTO Membership](#) we'd love to hear from you!

The ice rink, the playground, and the sledding hill are available to all of you to use in the evening and on the weekend. Please come get some fresh air and play. Yes adults, you too!



The Straw family wishes you a safe and joyful January and will continue to think about all of you and keep you in our prayers.

Mr. Straw

Mark Your Calendars

January

1/14 Hat Day

1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - No School

1/28 Family Skate Night 6:30 - 8:00

February

2/11 Jersey Day

2/16-17 Parent/Teacher Conference Days

2/18 State Released Professional Development Day

2/21 President's Day Holiday - No School



Anchorage School Board Members

- Dr. Deena Bishop - ASD Superintendent
- Margo Bellomy - President
- Andy Holleman - Vice President
- Kelly Lessens - Treasurer
- Carl Jacobs- Clerk
- Pat Higgins - Member
- Dora Wilson - Member
- Dave Donley - Member



Parents and guardians:

Please make sure students dress for the weather outside. We will have recess daily unless the temperature or wind chill factor reaches minus 10.

Elementary school start and end times are 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The earliest students may be dropped off at school is 8:45 a.m. and pick up is at 3:30 p.m.

Message from the Office:

Gladys Wood has an attendance e-mail, if your student is ever absent please contact us:

gw_attendance@asdk12.org

After School Activity

Battle of Books 3/4 - Meets Tuesdays from 3:35 - 4:30p.m.
- On January 18. Meet in Mrs. Williams classroom B136

Battle of Books 5/6 - Meets Tuesdays from 3:35 - 4:30p.m.
- On January 18. Meet in Ms. Hanks classroom C121

Intermediate Chorus - For grades 4, 5, and 6th. On Week A intermediate chorus students will meet after school Wednesday, from 3:30 - 4:30. On Week B intermediate chorus students will meet Thursday, from 2:55 - 3:25.

Primary Chorus - For grades 2nd and 3rd. On Week A primary chorus students will meet Thursday, from 2:55 - 3:25. On Week B primary chorus students will meet after school Wednesday, from 3:30 - 4:30



Thank you everyone for supporting the Bookfair at Barnes & Noble in December. We earned \$2,000 for new books for the library!



Family Skate Night

On Friday, January 28th Gladys Wood is having a Family Skate Night! Join us for skating, music, and hot cocoa from 6:30 - 8:00pm.

FAMILY SKATE NIGHT – JANUARY 28

We are excited to host family skate night on January 28! Join us for an evening of skating, music, and hot cocoa from 6:30 - 8 pm. We encourage participants to skate within their family bubble. No Skates? No Problem! We have a limited number of kids skates available.

A few things to note about skate night:

- This is not a drop off event.
- NO bathroom facilities will be available.
- There will be a limited number of skates available to use.



SPIRIT DAY

Friday, February 11
Jersey Day



Wear a jersey from
your favorite team!

2022 SPORT-A-THON

Kick-Off: Friday, January 28

Sport-a-Thon Day & Pledges Due: Friday, February 11

This year's event will be skating! Students will have the opportunity to raise funds for the school and the restoration of the hockey rink while taking part in a healthy activity. Watch for more information to come on January 28!

PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The ice is in and students can skate during recess, but they need adult supervision to do so. If you have any time to spare during the week, from 11 am - 1 pm, please let us know! It can be once a week for 30 minutes during your child's recess. Any amount of time helps! Stop by the front office, call Gladys Wood, or email gladyswoodpto@gmail.com to volunteer.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE HAPPENINGS AT GLADYS WOOD!

School Nurse News

GLADYS WOOD ELEMENTARY

KATHLEEN EASLEY BSN, RN, NCSN

907-742-6761

JANUARY 2022

COVID is unfortunately still very much a part of our daily lives. In the school setting we have masking, some distancing, hand washing, testing, vaccination, and isolation/quarantine to help prevent the spread in our community. When positive, there is now a shortened isolation of 5 days, with return on day 6 with some caveats. All info and updates are on ASD's website.

COVID vaccines are available for children ages 5 and older! Boosters for 12+ if it is > 5 months since their last vaccine. If you have not gotten your child vaccinated, speak to your healthcare provider for medical advice or direction. COVID vaccines are not required, but I do encourage all students (and their family members) that are able get vaccinated do so. Make these individual choices with informed help of medical experts and trusted sources.

I am here to answer questions or help in whatever way I can. ASD has a page with all of our COVID policies listed out, if there are changes they will be there!

Thank you for all of your help keeping our community safe!

Nurse Kathy

easley_kathleen@asdk12.org

COVID Testing

COVID testing will be available at school starting 1/18!

Currently we will only be testing:

****Students/Staff that BECOME symptomatic/ill at school. Please DO NOT come to school if you are sick!**

****Students/Staff that have had close contacts in the school setting.**

****Others on individual basis or as time allows.**

Students/Staff **MUST** be registered on our testing platform and consent to testing **BEFORE** any tests will be done.

We have nasal swabs or saliva collection- both are PCR/molecular tests that I take to Beechtree labs here in Anchorage. Results are generally within 24 hours. GW website has the link and we will email info soon!

Report COVID

Please report ALL positive cases of COVID

easley_kathleen@asdk12.org

742-6761

Report Absences

If your child is ill or you have another reason they will be absent notify the office!

gw_attendance@asdk12.org

742-6760

ANTIGEN TESTS...

No antigen tests are allowed for return to school at this time. These are the at home tests and some providers use these for quicker results. While antigen tests are a great way to screen for COVID, they are not allowed at this time. These type of test can and do detect COVID well, but you have a possibility of negative results in symptomatic people (false negatives) because it needs a larger amount of virus to be able to detect it (and show it is positive). Generally molecular- PCR/NAAT type tests are more **Sensitive** (they pick up even very small amounts) and more **Accurate** (they detect it at a higher rate if it is there).

Masking...

While none of us enjoy wearing masks, it is very important that we ARE wearing them in the school setting. We have lots of close contact in smaller spaces and we are indoors. I encourage looking for a well fitting mask that can be tolerated for long periods of time. There are many places that talk about best masks- but medical grade or better do better at filtering. They are a pain- I think we can all agree, but I do not want to share COVID and I don't think anyone else does. It is just ONE of the things we can do to help reduce spread. Are they perfect- No! I like to think of this as using a Kleenex when you sneeze, you catch a bunch of the particles that would be carried all over with this covering (when we speak, cough, or sneeze) and they have been shown to reduce spread. It won't be forever!

INFO...

ASD COVID Information

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18672>

Anchorage Muni- Testing and vaccines

<https://anchoragecovidtest.org/> and <https://anchoragecovidvaccine.org/>

State of Alaska DHSS

<https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/covid-19/default.aspx>

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Please bring extra masks for your student!

KEEP ASD SYMPTOM FREE



At Home COVID-19 Health Screening for Parents and Guardians

Ask these questions at home before sending students to school. Anyone who answers “yes” to questions #1 or #2 must not enter the school or participate in a school sport or activity. Students do not need to stay home if they’ve answered “yes” to question #3. See guidance below.

1 Within the last 5 days, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had a positive test for the virus?

2 Have you had any of these symptoms in the last 24 hours?

- Fever (defined as a temperature 100.4F or higher)
- Chills
- New trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- New cough
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Joint pain
- Muscle aches or body aches
- New rash
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache
- New congestion
- New runny nose

3 Do you live in the same household or have you had close contact in the last 5 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Close contact counts if you have been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes (cumulative over 24 hrs), or if someone from public health contacted you to let you know you are a contact.

Note: If a child or staff member lives with someone else who was named as a contact, it is okay for the child or staff member to go to school. We do not quarantine contacts of contacts.

Yes
STAY HOME or go home immediately if the answer is YES to one or more questions above.

Parents / guardians should follow the Return to School Options pathway (see reverse) to determine when to send students back to school. **DO NOT** send student to school with any of the above symptoms.

4 Are you vaccinated?

No
5-day quarantine is recommended but not required. CDC recommends a molecular-based test on day 5 of initial exposure. This is not required by ASD. CDC recommends masking in public and monitoring symptoms for 10 days from last day of exposure.

Yes
CDC recommends masking in public and monitoring symptoms for 10 days from last day of exposure. ASD recommends but doesn't require a COVID test 5 days after last exposure.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

www.asdk12.org

Return to School Options

For Anyone with COVID-19 Symptoms or a Positive COVID-19 Test Result:

1

If you test positive, stay home for 5 days after your first symptom or positive test, whichever is earlier. After 5 days, you may return to school when you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine, as long as your other symptoms are improving.

2

If you test negative, you may return to school once you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine as long as your other symptoms are improving.

3

If you do not get a test, stay home for 5 days. You may return after 5 days if you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine as long as your other symptoms are improving.

4

If your healthcare provider determines your symptoms are from something else, you may return to school with a note from your provider as long as you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine and your other symptoms are improving.

Content for this flier borrowed with permission from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Start Strong website.

Dave Donley

Pat Higgins

Anchorage School Board: Margo Bellamy, President

Andy Holleman

Carl Jacobs

Kelly Lessens

Dora Wilson

Superintendent: Dr. Deena Bishop



AnchorageSchoolDistrict



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