

# GIRDWOOD NEWS

## *Note from the Principal*

Dear Girdwood PK-8 Families,

February is known as the month of love and friendship. We believe that love extends farther than the love we have for our family and friends as it can extend to those in need in our community. We hope you join us in taking this opportunity to encourage and express friendship, love, and appreciation to all our students, staff, and families. We can do this by teaching our students different ways to help others and through encouraging students to show kindness and appreciation to all.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on Wednesday, 2/12, and Thursday, 2/13, with evening conferences taking place on Wednesday. **Please sign up for conferences with each of your child's teachers before Tuesday, February 11th, so we can plan for our conference dates.** The link for families is: <https://apps.asdk12.org/ConferenceScheduling/StudentScheduleStartExt.aspx>. Our school traditionally has met with the families of all of our students. Let's keep this tradition alive!

Please remember that students will be dismissed early at noon on both 2/12 and 2/13 due to parent/teacher conferences. There is no school on Friday, 2/14, due to a state released professional development day for staff. There is also no school on Monday, February 17th, in observation of President's Day.

The Anchorage School District is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the School Climate and Connectedness Survey ©, a statewide survey for students, staff, and families. This survey measures perceptions of each school's climate, including the engagement of students, staff, and families. We value and need input from our families. You are an important partner as we work to continually improve our school's environment. We are asking that one parent/guardian complete one survey from now until March 31st. If you have more than one child attending our school, you only need to fill out one survey. The survey should take less than 5 minutes. **The link for accessing the family survey is: [surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb). The access code for families is: **girdwoodfamily**.** All of the surveys are voluntary, anonymous, confidential, and do not ask questions about students' families. Results from this survey will be used to identify student, staff and family perceptions of school climate issues within our school(s). School staff use the results to inform their efforts to ensure schools are safe, supportive, and caring places for all students. Thank you for your cooperation in this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey©.

As you are making plans for the spring semester, please remember that our 3rd-8th grade students are scheduled to take our state-wide PEAKS testing in reading and math, March 30th through April 10th. As we know, student attendance is always important. Absences during this time will impact the student as well as the school schedule. Please try to schedule appointments and any absences outside of this time frame.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a teacher or me directly. We are here to work together to provide the best possible education for your student! Have a great Valentine's Day, parent/teacher conference, and President's Day weekend and we hope you can help us continue to demonstrate being respectful, responsible and ready to do our best!

Take care,

Kari Anderson

Acting Principal, Girdwood PK-8

## Upcoming Events

- 2/3-2/6 Artist in Residency: Jimmy Riordan
- 2/4 Visit Our Schools Tour 9:30 am
- 2/4 Middle School Boys Basketball Game @ Wendler  
Girdwood vs. Goldenview 6pm
- 2/5 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ ERHS 5:30 pm
- 2/7 School Ski Day
- 2/10 Mix It Up Monday
- 2/11 Visit Our Schools Tour 9:30 am
- 2/11 Spelling Bee 1:30 pm on the Stage
- 2/11 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Service 5:30 pm
- 2/11 Middle School Boys Basketball Game @ Hanshew
- 2/12 Parent/Teacher Conference 1/2 Day for Students
- 2/13 Parent/Teacher Conferences 1/2 Day for Students
- 2/14 No School for Students State Released Professional Development  
Day for Teachers
- 2/17 No School President's Day
- 2/18 Middle School Boys Basketball Game @ Goldenview
- 2/19 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Chugiak 5:30 pm
- 2/20 Middle School Boys Basketball Game @ Goldenview
- 2/21 School Ski Day
- 2/25 Visit Our Schools Tour 9:30 am & 6 pm
- 2/25 Middle School Cross Country Ski Freestyle Championships @  
Kincaid 5:30 pm
- 2/25 Middle School Boys Basketball Game @ Goldenview, Girdwood vs.  
Hanshew 7 pm
- 2/27-3/4 Sister School Exchange Girdwood Goes to Scammon Bay
- 2/28 School Ski Day
- 2/29 Middle School Debate @ Begich Middle School

### **Anchorage School Board**

**Starr Marsett**, president  
**Alisha Hilde**, vice president  
**Elisa Vakalis**, treasurer  
**Margo Bellamy**, clerk  
**Dave Donley**  
**Andy Holleman**  
**Deena Mitchell**

**ASD Superintendent**  
**Dr. Deena Bishop**



Girdwood K-8 and the  
Girdwood PTA are on  
Facebook. Please check  
our pages out and  
“**LIKE**” us! We will be  
posting frequently and  
our pages will have the  
latest school  
information.



### **TEXT MESSAGES**

Sign Up and receive text  
messages from ASD  
regarding school closures  
and late buses. You must  
opt in. They are not  
automatic. Visit ASD's  
website to learn more  
about receiving text  
messages:  
<http://www.asdk12.org/>

## Battle of the Books

This week, Girdwood students in grades 3/4 and 5/6 went to the district competition of Battle of the Books in Anchorage. The teams competed against all SW Anchorage schools in their age/grade categories.

Our students have been working very diligently for the past several months reading all 12 books on the lists. They have spent several lunch periods in the classrooms doing mock battles, memorizing titles and authors and recalling very detailed events from each book.

Coming home with a 5th place ribbon was 3/4 team 11: Irene Blue, Passage Stinson, Tre Peterson, and Allie Zellmer. Team 12: Harper Landry, Hardy Wade, Maria Nafzger, and Nonie Mucha gave it their all and did an amazing job, beating our 3/4 team score from last year. The 5/6 team, Luca Ragozzino, Austin Murphy, Finn Gross, and Teagan Kuber also did a great job and represented our school admirably. They all showed great teamwork at the battle and worked very hard to prepare. **Congratulations** to all students who participated!







## Box Tops for Education

We are continuing to collect **General Mills Box Tops For Education**. Mrs. Bethanie, in the office, will be collecting the Box Tops and keeping track of which class collects the most. The class that brings in the most Box Tops by the end of April will win a root beer float party. For each Box Top a student brings in, Girdwood K-8 School receives ten cents. We use the money for Grizzly Buck supplies, and other miscellaneous items, so please continue to cut out those Box Tops and send them in. There is also a new APP out that you can download onto your smartphone. You can scan your grocery store receipt from your phone and the number of Box Tops will be automatically calculated for you!

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Below are the basic guidelines for reporting a student's absence:

If your child will not be at school, please call the school office at 742-5300, **before** 10:30 am, to excuse their absence. Please make sure you call the office, even if you have told their teacher.

If you know in advance of a scheduled absence, please call the office and send a note to the classroom teacher ASAP. This will help the teacher to gather schoolwork, if needed. If your child will be gone for more than a couple of days, please fill out the extended absence form. You can get one in the office.

Tardy students must stop in the office, sign in, and get a late pass, before going to class.

If parents want their child to ride a different bus home or get off at a different bus stop, they must send a note for the bus driver and have it signed by the office.

Parents picking up students before the end of the school day must come to the office to sign them out. We will call them down from their classroom when the parent gets here.

Please refer to the ASD Student Handbook for complete District policy.

## Outdoor Gear...Be Prepared!

Brrrr, it's cold! Please make sure your child has winter gear: boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing to keep them warm and dry during recess. Students in grades K-3 are required to have gloves, a hat, snow pants, a snow coat, and snow boots. Older kids should be dressed for the weather, also. We do go out in temperatures down to 10 below with the wind chill and also if it's raining. Please send your child to school with appropriate gear, regardless of what is happening outside when they leave in the morning.



## ARTIST

## IN

## RESIDENCY



Our Artist in Residency is still going on for the week of February 2-6. Artist/Printmaker/Bookbinder Jimmy Riordan will be at the Girdwood School again Monday through Thursday. He will continue to work with each class, K-6, on individual printmaking techniques, such as making stamps, monoprints, carving lino block cuts, etching, and screen printing.

In addition, Tommy O'Malley will be here for an after-school "Winter Arts Camp" for all ages, adults included! The idea he has, is to use the printmaking concepts for carving printing blocks to make a Girdwood-themed Alphabet postcard that can be printed and shared with the community and beyond. More information will come soon, and registration will take place through FVCS.



Girdwood School Parents:

Glacier Valley Transit is providing an after school activities service at The Girdwood School. The GVT bus will stop at the Girdwood School Mondays through Fridays, at 4:40 pm heading toward Alyeska Resort and looping back toward the Seward Highway.

**There is no charge for this service.** For more information about Glacier Valley Transit and for current bus stops and schedules please visit [www.glaciervalleytransit.com](http://www.glaciervalleytransit.com) or contact Sam Marshall, Operations Manager, at 907-382-9908.



We would like to shout out a big THANK YOU to Subway and the Ice Cream Shop, Girdwood K-8's school business partners! If you know of anyone else who would like to be our



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Drop-Off Bin

For those of you who don't know, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska has provided Girdwood with an additional donation drop-off box. This bin is located in the over-flow parking lot on the right hand side of Hightower Road, before you get to the school. Please donate gently used clothes, shoes, and cloth items only. To donate household items, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 563-1997 to set up a time for pick up. This service is provided for free by Big Brothers Big Sisters. These donated items are used to stock local Value Village locations and the proceeds of the items are given to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska in order to help them reach their yearly goal of serving 2,000 children across Alaska.

### **Bus Note Expectations**

Per the 19-20 ASD Student Handbook page 14, students must ride their assigned bus unless presenting a note to the driver from their parent/guardian that has been initialed by the principal or front office.

### **ASD's Mobile App**

Downloading our ASD app is a great way to get the information you need in the palm of your hand. Our free app is available to anyone in our community who wants to stay connected. ASD families and students have access to additional features within the app found at <https://www.asdk12.org/mobileapp>



## Parent Guide

*Dear Parents, We hope this guide helps with your talks with your tweens and teens about mental wellness. Consider having short weekly conversations on topics in the film such as stress resilience, emotional agility, and healthy screen habits. Tech Talk Tuesday (TTT), our weekly blog, has helped thousands of families have such talks. Sign up for it and get other resources at [www.screenagersmovie.com](http://www.screenagersmovie.com). Sincerely, Delaney Ruston, MD & Lisa Tabb*

### Building Skills for Stress Resilience

- **Validate Feelings:** There is an art to validating our teens' feelings effectively. Work to tell them you see and appreciate the challenge of what they are feeling, and try not to follow it with statements such as, "Oh don't worry, it will get better."
- **Empower Problem Solvers:** Rather than jump in to try and fix their problems, ask, "Do you have any solutions in mind?" or "Let me know if you want any input from me."
- **Talk About Your Emotions:** Let them know about how you work to handle stress and other difficult emotions. It is not about burdening them but sharing feelings appropriately.
- **Support with Resources:** If your teen is systematically avoiding the social time, school work and other activities due to anxious and/or sad feelings, get support and find resources for help on our website. This includes learning what you can do at home, such as opposite action, exposure interventions, and behavioral activation.
- **Prioritize Sleep:** The American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends 6–12-year-olds get 9-12 hours of sleep a night, and 13–18 year-olds get 8–10 hours a night. Keeping phones and other devices out of their room at night is important. For teens with devices in their bedrooms, 36% report that they wake up and check it at least once a night. Another study shows that just having a phone (or other mobile devices in the bedroom) negatively impacts sleep duration and quality even if teens report not checking them.
- **Teach the 3 Ex's of Worry:** This is a great skill for both youth and adults regarding everyday worry. Author Lynn Lyon teaches the 3 Ex's strategy. "**Expect**" -recognize that worry often arises and practice accepting it; "**Externalize**"-pull it out and personify it, "Hello worry "; "**Experiment**" do the opposite of what the worry demands, -it demands attention. Instead, don't get into a discussion with it, but pivot into other activities or thoughts. This takes practice.
- **Prioritizing Face-to-Face Time:** Find more ways teens can have screen-free time with peers, younger kids, and adults of all ages. Examples include jobs, getting to know their friend's parents, having neighbors for dinner.

(See reverse side)



## SCREEN AGERS NEXT CHAPTER

### Seeking Support

Unfortunately, “parenting and private” are two words that often go together. We are in a major tech revolution that warrants open conversations and help-seeking. We agree with the teacher in the film who says, *“The most successful people in life are those that can ask for help.”*

- Letting your kids know examples of when and how you have reached out for help is a great way to have discussions and model this important skill.
- Ask your teens whether they know where to go for support. Also, see if they have a teacher they can talk to and other adults, such as family or a friend’s parent.
- Get support yourself when you are facing the emotional challenges of your teens or screen time issues. Offer your insights to others! Our website has resources for support.

### Advocate for More Stress Resiliency Skills in Your School

More and more schools are implementing programs to build resiliency skills. Parents can make a big difference in organizing together and working with their schools.

- **Social-Emotional Curriculum-** Visit our website for the programs in the film and others.
- **Wellness Clubs and Peer-to-Peer-** Many models exist. And programs where teens, with training, teach others about safe social media and communication skills are impactful.

In conversation with your teens, determine guidelines for your family. Sometimes you will decide on a rule that your teens will disagree with—that is OK, but explain your reasoning. For example, let’s take sleep. Share with them the science of sleep and that you want to parent in line with **your values**. You value good sleep for their emotional wellbeing and having tech off and away is essential to achieve that.

- Car rides without devices (we allow them for directions and other quick planning issues)
- Phones and other electronics out of the bedroom at night
- Family meals without devices
- Plan ahead. For example, consider emailing guests before they come for dinner that it will be phone-free because you want to ensure everyone gets to have undistracted time together —kids may groan for a moment but so often they are truly happy afterward
- When together out in the world, i.e. doing errands, have phones mostly away

### Tech Talk Tuesdays

We have hundreds of blogs, full of relatable stories, examples, and science to help you with all sorts of parenting issues. Also, we know it is hard to decide what limits are right for your family and hard to see them through. On the TTT blog there we have many writings on making rules work! **Sign up for new weekly blogs:** <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/tech-talk-tuesdays>.



## Reach new **PEAKS** of learning! Ways to Help Your Child

PEAKS is a computer-based assessment administered to students in Grades 3-9 (English language arts and mathematics) and grades 4, 8 and 10 (science) each spring. This state-required assessment provides students the opportunity to show their understanding of important skills in these content areas at their grade level.

Here are some ways you can help your child prepare for a test:

- ➡ Talk to your child about testing. It's helpful for children to understand why schools give tests. For more information about the importance of taking the PEAKS test, visit [www.asdk12.org/peaks](http://www.asdk12.org/peaks).
- ➡ Encourage your child. Praise him/her for the things they do well. If your child feels confident, he/she will likely do their best on a test. Children who are afraid of failing are more likely to become anxious about test taking.
- ➡ Ensure your child attends school regularly. Testing days are important days to be at school on time to allow for the least stressful testing experience for your child. Avoid scheduling appointments on testing days.
- ➡ Help your child get a good night's sleep the night before a test.
- ➡ Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of a test. Hunger can distract a child from the task at hand. Many ASD schools serve breakfast. Learn more at [www.asdk12.org/studentnutrition](http://www.asdk12.org/studentnutrition).

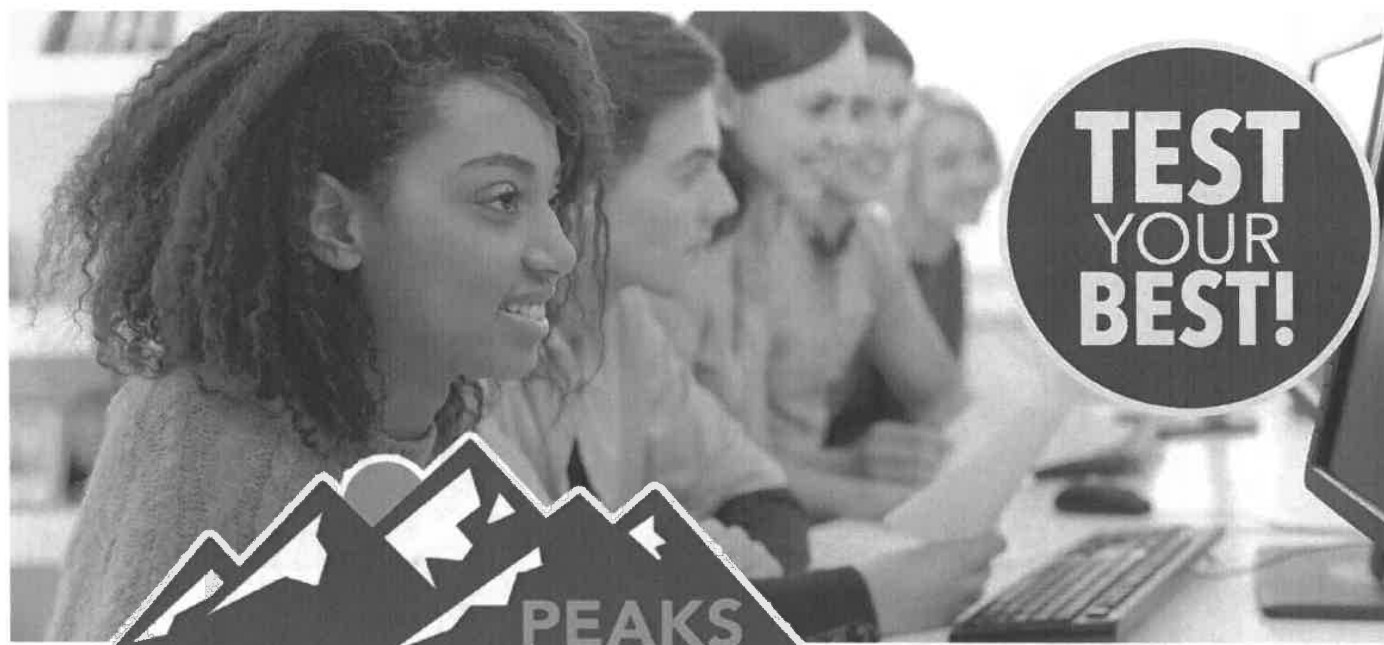
For more information, including your school's testing schedule, contact your child's teacher or principal.

**[www.asdk12.org/peaks](http://www.asdk12.org/peaks)**

Source: U.S. Department of Education







## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR ALASKA'S SCHOOLS

### Reach new **PEAKS** of learning!

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success.

Get ready to reach new peaks of learning during our ASD assessment window.

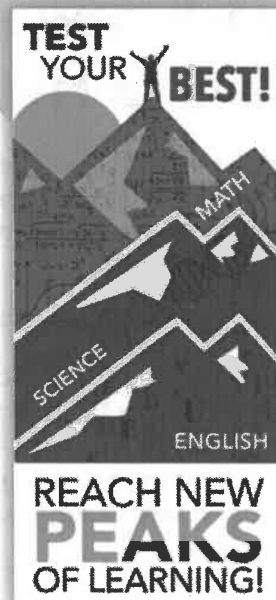
#### **ASD PEAKS window**

**March 30–April 10**  
(Make-ups: March 31–May 1)

*To ensure success, schools need all students present and ready to do their best.*



For more information on how to prepare your child to show what they know, visit [www.asdk12.org/peaks](http://www.asdk12.org/peaks).



**With each test,  
reach a new peak!**

Receive a sticker  
by taking each test.  
Collect all the stickers  
to reach the summit.



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

# Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and You



## What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

## Can people in the U.S. get 2019-nCoV?

The 2019-nCoV does seem to be able to spread from person-to-person although it's not clear how easily this happens. Limited person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected with this virus in the United States. At this time, this virus is not spreading in communities in the U.S., so the likelihood of someone in the U.S. getting sick with this virus is very low. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

## Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in the U.S.?

Yes. The first infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States is available on CDC's webpage: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html)

## How does 2019-nCoV spread?

This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html).

## What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

## What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

## How can I help protect myself?

This virus is not spreading in the United States right now, but the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

## If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

## Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

## Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

# Pediatric Experts Available at Your School

PM Pediatrics, the nation's largest provider of specialized Pediatric Urgent Care, now offers Virtual Pediatric Care from your School Nurse's Office



## Quality, convenient care for your child

With our new telemedicine service, a pediatric expert can care for your child — including checking their ears, throat, heart and lungs — with state of the art technology to diagnose most common pediatrics conditions directly from the school's nurse's office.

Available at select schools in Alaska:

- Eagle River High
- Goldenvue Middle School
- Gladyswood Elementary School
- College Gate Elementary School
- Girdwood Elementary School
- Turnagain Elementary School
- Willow Crest Elementary School

## It's simple to request an exam.

- 1 Your child visits the school nurse.**  
The nurse determines if a virtual exam is needed.
- 2 The school nurse calls you.**  
The parent/guardian must provide verbal consent to the exam.
- 3 You request a PMP Anywhere exam.**  
Visit [pmpatschool.com](http://pmpatschool.com) or download the PMP Anywhere app to create or access your account.
- 4 A pediatric expert examines your child on video.**  
State of the art telemedicine equipment securely records and transmits exam results to your PMP Anywhere account.
- 5 You receive the exam results.**  
We'll give you a detailed explanation. A full summary will also be available via your PMP Anywhere account.
- 6 We contact your pharmacy.**  
If a prescription is needed, we will send it electronically to your pharmacy for your convenience.

Get started now by downloading the app  
or by visiting [pmpatschool.com](http://pmpatschool.com)



**For more information on this program and the  
PMP Anywhere app, please visit [pmpatschool.com](http://pmpatschool.com)**

## Kindergarten 100 Days of School Project

If you have walked down the hallway, you may have noticed a large map of the United States full of red push pins. In celebration of 100 days of Kindergarten, we are mailing out 100 letters to 100 different schools across the country. We are hoping to get 100 responses. The children worked hard on writing the 100 letters. We figured out with 28 students in the class everyone would need to write 4 letters. We did learn that doing this would give us more than 100 letters so some schools might get 2. We are hoping to walk to the Post Office on Tuesday to mail the letters. Thank you to some of the 5th graders for locating and marking the towns we are sending the letters to. Please take some time to look at the map and responses we get.

—Mrs. Donnelly's Team Kindergarten



### Come see what we're doing

During the month of February, we are opening the doors of every school for guided, public tours.

We welcome everyone to join us by visiting our community's schools, whether you have children in ASD or not.

***Every Tuesday***

***Every school***

***9:30 a.m.***

***All February***

**Evening tour at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25 only**

[www.asdk12.org/visit](http://www.asdk12.org/visit)



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*



AnchorageSchoolDistrict



@asd\_info @DrDeenaBishop

Tell us what your favorite part of your tour was by using the hashtag #MyASDSchoolVisit



# Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

## Now Accepting Applicants

Girdwood Rotary is sponsoring two 10th or 11th graders to travel to Homer, AK on 5-8 March 2020.



### WHAT is RYLA?:

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership training program sponsored by Rotary International that promotes, encourages and rewards outstanding young people who want to become better leaders. District 5010, Alaska, RYLA focuses on participants who are high school sophomores and juniors.

RYLA consists of an all-expense paid two and a half-day conference that brings together a special group of young men and women from across Alaska/Yukon to share ideas about becoming better leaders. Action-packed activities, like problem solving games, challenge course, group discussions and team building activities, help participants build confidence and leadership skills. RYLA's intent is to encourage students to be more effective leaders. The following topics naturally arise during RYLA activities and discussions:

- \* Fundamentals of leadership
- \* Ethics of positive leadership
- \* Importance of communication skills in effective leadership
- \* Conflict management and problem solving
- \* Rotary's purpose and service to the community
- \* Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- \* Elements of community and global citizenship



For an application, please contact Christina Hendrickson BEFORE February 9th at [christina.cope@gmail.com](mailto:christina.cope@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/District5010RYLA2013/>



# **FVCS Nordic Ski Club Gr. 1-6 & Kinderski with Coach Ari**



**Practices: Mondays January 27-March 2**

**FVCS Nordic Ski Club Gr. 1-6: 4-5:30p  
Kinderski w/ Coach Ari 4-5pm\* parent help required**

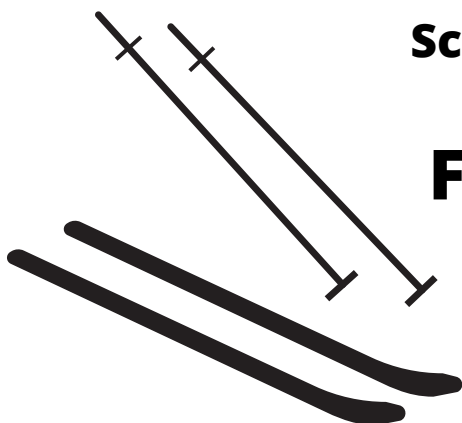
**Nordic Gear: We have a limited amount of loaner gear  
available to check-out. Call 742-5317 to arrange.**

## **Costs:**

**FVCS Nordic Ski Club \$40**

**Kinderski: \$25**

**Scholarships Available**



**Full program details and  
online registration**

**[www.fourvalleys.org](http://www.fourvalleys.org)**

# Sign up for FVCS Classes!

Four Valleys Community Schools has classes going on now for community members of all ages and they are constantly rolling out new ones. Go to our website, [fourvalleys.org](http://fourvalleys.org), to see what's available. If you feel unable to take any of our classes due to class costs, please contact Catherine at [cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org](mailto:cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org) or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.

## ASD Statement of Nondiscrimination

### **Board policy 114 Nondiscrimination & Harassment**

The Board is committed to an environment of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, economic status, union affiliation, disability and other human differences. No person shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, any academic or extracurricular program or educational opportunity or service offered by the District. The District will comply with the applicable statutes, regulations, and executive orders adopted by Federal, State, and Municipal agencies.

All students and employees of the Anchorage School District have a right to pursue their education or occupation in compliance with applicable law and policy with dignity in a safe environment. Neither discrimination nor harassment of employees, students or volunteers is permitted in the District. This policy applies with regard to District facilities, premises, vehicles, computers, servers, and electronics located both on and off school property; and conduct on non-school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-related activity or is otherwise subject to the authority of the District.

### **Board policy 114.1 Inappropriate Behavior**

The Anchorage School District supports respectful learning and working environments and believes strongly this environment must be structured to reflect diverse cultural traditions and contributions. The District values diversity among students and staff and believes that all students and staff have the right to participate in school activities free from harassment. Behavior by Board members, administrators, employees, parents, volunteers, students, vendors, or others doing business with the District, that ridicules, harasses, intimidates, or threatens students, staff or community members, or otherwise undermines a respectful safe, and effective school environment, is prohibited. Individuals or groups are in violation of this policy if they engage in any of the above behaviors in a way that is disruptive to the work or education environment, such as:

- Making demeaning remarks directly or indirectly such as name-calling, racial slurs or “jokes”; or
- Physically threatening or harming an individual; or
- Displaying demeaning visual or written materials; or
- Defacing, damaging, or destroying property or materials; or
- Performing any other act that is clearly harassing in nature.

Any student, staff, or community member who believes that he or she has been the subject of harassment and/or discriminatory behavior should report the incident immediately to the principal or department supervisor. Complaints regarding harassment/discriminatory behavior will be investigated immediately.

Any student, staff, or community member who violates this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Inquiries or complaints regarding any rights protected by law or policy may be addressed to the School District Equal Employment Opportunity Director, who serves as the Title IX Coordinator, ASD Education Center, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99504-3135, (907) 742-4132 or to any of the following external agencies: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services.