

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from the Principal

Dear Girdwood PK-8 Families,

The fall colors are here and the snow is slowly moving down the mountain with many of us anticipating a snow filled winter to enjoy the various outdoor activities we all enjoy to stay happy and healthy! The Girdwood PK-8 School community is incredibly tight-knit, passionate, and resilient. Those traits are the very things we need to focus on as we navigate a school year that is starting just as non-traditionally as the last one ended. We must be ready for changes along the way that do not occur in a "normal" school year and I appreciate all of your flexibility. Our students' participation in the ASD In-School Blended Learning model and ASD Virtual shows that our students and their families value education. We know that we have all experienced some "bumps" along the way, but that our students, parents, teachers, and our community are learning new ways to expand our thinking and we are growing stronger together.

Our students spent the first few weeks of school making connections and getting to know their classmates. Now teachers are diving into the content areas of math and language arts, also touching on social studies and science. While we do not have the specialist classes: health, music, art, library, and PE, we hope as a family you are still able to explore the learning activities found on your student's Canvas account to ensure the development of the whole child. Almost all of our students, K-8, completed the iReady diagnostic assessment which is quite impressive. We truly appreciate all of your help in ensuring your child completed the iReady assessment at home.

You should have all received an email from ASD Superintendent, Dr. Bishop, with an overview of the district's re-entry plan with the revised matrix for school start in the building. Our district has a re-entry task force with many work groups who are continuing to work together to make the best decisions for our school and community. Here at Girdwood School, we have been actively planning and practicing safety protocols since our front office staff returned to the school building in mid July and our teaching staff returned in early August. Details about what a safe return to the building looks like will be shared by ASD, as well as in correspondence from our school, as the information becomes available. I feel optimistic about the idea of our students returning and want you to know we will lead with safety as our priority to create the safest learning environment for our students possible!

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family good health! I feel confident that when we all return together, it will be with a greater sense of belonging and a renewed perspective on all of the values that make Girdwood PK-8 School such a special place. We consider your children our children as we plan for their safe return. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give us a call. We appreciate our families immensely!

Go Grizzlies!

Kari Anderson

Principal, Girdwood PK-8

Upcoming Events

10/16 No School for Students. End of 1st Quarter. State Released Professional Development Day for Teachers.

10/23 No School for Students. State Released Professional Development Day for Teachers.

11/3 No School for Students. State Released Professional Development Day for Teachers.

11/11 No School for Students. State Released Professional Development Day for Teachers.



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 partner, please let us know.



Anchorage School Board

Elisa Vakalis, president

Margo Bellamy, vice president

Starr Marsett, treasurer

Andy Holleman, clerk

Dave Donley

Alisha Hilde

Deena Mitchell

ASD Superintendent



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.



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>

TEXT MESSAGES

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

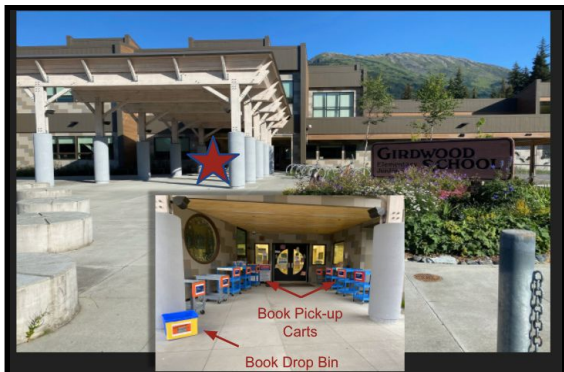
Team Kindergarten 20/21

We would like to take the time to introduce and welcome our kindergarten students and families to Girdwood School. We started the year with finding out what the kindergarten kids were excited about. Families shared a family photo that I put with each child's quote. We are excited to get to know each student and their family. It has only been a few weeks of school and we are seeing growth and progress already!

Last week the kindergarten students planted some flower bulbs into the 'Kindergardens'. Next spring we will get to enjoy watching them grow and bloom, bringing more color to our school grounds.



News from the Girdwood Library Fall 2020



The Girdwood School Library is Open!

All of our books are available and ready for you to check out via curbside!

Monday- Friday 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
(you will be notified when your books are ready)

How to check out books video

<https://asdk12.instructuremedia.com/embed/4223ccf2-03a8-43dd-adaf-96198af80dc9>

Log in using their 14 digit library card number. The PIN is the **last 4 digits**.

Girdwood School Library Catalog

<https://pac.asdk12.org/?config=220#>

Library Book Search Form

<https://forms.gle/NPsZUZ9UyHBttExU6>

Access to Sora E-books/Audio Books

<https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/200795>

Log in to sora using your Google/ASD login username and password



Lunch with the Librarian

Monday's from 12:00-12:30 pm (the Zoom link is in Canvas and Clever)

Overdue Books Notices!! It is time to return books to the library that you may have had out since last school year. When COVID shut down our schools so did the book return. However we are now asking for any and all library books to be returned. There is a book drop bin out front of the school each day and books can be returned with no late fees!! It is important that we get our books back as we have hundreds of books missing. Each book costs anywhere from \$5.00-\$40.00 and the costs are enormous for replacement. Please search your homes for any books that are barcoded with Girdwood School on the back or have a spine label. We appreciate your help in returning our school resources. Notices will be going home with students missing library books soon. Thank you for your help.

Gaggle Cybersecurity Software

With the onset of online learning across the District, ASD has an obligation to ensure that students are not accessing or exposed to inappropriate content or engaging in any destructive online behavior when using the District network or computers. In an effort to keep students safe from potentially harmful online activity, ASD monitors all activity through all Google applications for any content related to:

- Drugs & Alcohol
- Harassment
- Nudity & Sexual Content
- Profanity & Vulgar Language
- Suicide & Self Harm
- Violence Towards Others

This monitoring process screens documents generated by, shared by, or shared to students via Google Drive, which includes documents that may be submitted via Google Classroom. These documents include but are not limited to Google Suite and Microsoft Office documents, spreadsheets, and presentations, as well as a variety of image file formats. When questionable content is identified, it is flagged and a report is forwarded to school administrators, who will in turn notify parents or guardians. Again, the focus here is maintaining a safe and healthy online learning environment for all of our students.

Schools have always borne the responsibility of monitoring students' school-related work and communication. Given that all instruction, communication and work submission is web-based, this safety check has taken on a new form. All monitoring follows the strict guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which safeguards sensitive student information. The District takes staff, student, and family confidentiality very seriously and has robust systems in place to ensure that information is not released in an unauthorized manner.

For more information and resources to help guide the discussion with your children about safe internet use and online behavior please go to www.asdk12.org/safecomputing.

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 0 N U R S E N O T E S

Welcome back! Nurse Summer and Raquel look forward to helping keep all of your children safe and healthy at school when students return to the building. We are all well aware that 20/21 is off to an unusual start. There are changes to school routines and how things look in classrooms. What it looks like for students when they have even a runny nose will be different this year too. We are here to support you through all of this!

The information we know now about Covid-19 has informed us in our planning and preparing for school start. As we learn more we will adapt to best serve our Girdwood pK-8 families. One significant change is the guidelines for "when to stay home from school." We will send out more specific information as we near students returning to school.

Generally, if your child has a symptom that could possibly be due to Covid-19 we will ask you to keep your child at home. If your child develops symptoms at school we will ask you to pick them up. We will work with you so you know how long to stay home and where you can obtain testing if needed.


We expect that students with any symptoms of illness will be out of school for greater lengths of time than years past. We understand that this will be challenging for families. This is where we all come together, to do the best we can, to protect all of our families and our staff from spreading Covid-19.

Lastly, please get your annual flu shot! We will be giving free routine and flu vaccines this Wednesday the 30th at the ASD Ed Center in Anchorage. The Girdwood Health Clinic will have free drive through flu shot clinics in October and offers routine required immunizations by appointment.

We are here to support you and your family. We are here to be a resource to you. Please reach out if we can be of help.

Nurse Raquel is available Monday by phone: 742-5301 and email: marrs_raquel@asdk12.org.

| Nurse Summer is available Tuesday through Friday by phone: 742-5301 and email: stone_olivia@asdk12.org.





Lunch with the Librarian

Books and lunch, what could be better than that?!



Monday 12:00-12:30!

September 21st -October 12th

Bring your lunch and a love of books. We will talk about new books, old books, good books, audio books, digital books, authors of books, places for books, and all things books.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/91335645159?pwd=SWJhUWVhUy3hHaEM4ZzVlV5EYzUzRpdz09>

Meeting ID: 913 3564 5159

Passcode: books



Considerations for Children Wearing Masks in School

Anchorage School District
Health Services Department

As of 9/14/20

Who should NOT wear masks?

- Children **younger than 2** years of age
- People with baseline **trouble breathing**
- Anyone who **cannot** remove the mask in case of medical emergency
- Those **intolerant** due to developmental disabilities, mental health issues, or sensory sensitivities
- **Severe asthma**, requiring frequent emergency care/hospitalization

MYTHS about Mask Wearing...FALSE!

- Masks decrease oxygenation.
- Masks increase carbon dioxide.
- Masks are not effective.
- Masking means you don't need to physically distance or avoid crowds.

TIPS for Success in Mask Wearing

- **Educate** about oxygen & CO2 normality with a mask
- Have children **practice** proper mask wearing – at home and at school
- Consider fun mask designs
- **Role model** mask wearing, avoiding touching the face, hand washing & physical distancing
- Keep asthma under control
- Consider clear face shields for hearing impaired communication

CDC and WHO Recommendations

The CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) both recommend wearing masks or fabric face coverings in public spaces where you can't keep a proper distance from other people. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that "Elementary students should wear face coverings if the risk of touching their mouth or nose is not greater than the benefit of reducing the spread of COVID-19. When possible, spacing desks 3 to 6 feet apart and using cohort classes and outdoor space, is recommended. The Anchorage School District is requiring a face mask for anyone entering their facilities including students, teachers, staff and parents.



Considerations for Children Wearing Masks in School

Anchorage School District
Health Services Department

As of 9/14/20

Masks and Health Issues

A limited number of people with asthma and respiratory issues may experience discomfort or have trouble breathing while wearing a face covering.

“For people with very mild asthma or well-controlled asthma, it’s probably not going to be an issue,” said Dr. David Stukus, member of the Medical Scientific Council for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA). “For people who have very severe disease and have frequent exacerbations, ER visits, hospitalizations, require lots of medications and frequent symptoms, it might cause more issues for those folks.”

It’s important to keep a child’s asthma under control to prevent exacerbations. Remind parents and patients to use medications as prescribed. If they are having breathing issues more than two times per week, they may need a control medication, a dosage change or a medication change. Remind parents to keep children home if they start having significant asthma symptoms.

Children with disabilities may also experience issues with mask wearing. According to the CDC:

- People who are deaf or hard of hearing—or those who care for or interact with a person who is hearing impaired—may be unable to wear cloth face coverings if they rely on lipreading to communicate. In this situation, consider using a clear face covering. If a clear face covering isn’t available, consider whether you can use written communication, use closed captioning, or decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a cloth face covering that blocks your lips.
- Some people, such as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions or other sensory sensitivities, may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. They should consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing cloth face coverings.

Working Together

Students and families need to work together to keep their school community safe. If a child or teen is having trouble wearing a mask, recommend trying a different fabric or fit. You may have to do some “myth busting” and remind parents that according to the WHO, medical masks when worn the right way do not cause individuals to breathe in more carbon dioxide or reduce oxygen levels. While a face mask or covering may just be uncomfortable, this can be distressing



Considerations for Children Wearing Masks in School

Anchorage School District
Health Services Department

As of 9/14/20

to parents and children. Recommend coverings made from fabrics like 100% cotton T-shirt material. They may have to try a selection of mask types to find the right type for their child.

When appropriate and possible, we urge Pediatricians to try to work with parents to find solutions to mask issues rather than issue letters of exemption in an effort to keep Covid-19 out of our schools.

Resources

<https://community.aafa.org/blog/what-people-with-asthma-need-to-know-about-face-masks-and-coverings-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-on-covid-19-and-masks>

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/06/26/schoolreopening062620>



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

FAQs

Does the rest of my household need to quarantine or get tested?

- ☐ No. Only the person who was a close contact with the positive case needs to quarantine.

Can the student's sibling go to school?

- ☐ Yes.

Who was the person? What was the exposure?

- ☐ For privacy reasons, we cannot share any details other than that your child and all others who were in contact with the positive case need to be quarantined for 14 days.

The student needs to do sports/activity outside the home. Can they do that?

- ☐ The student may not leave your home for any reason for the next 14 days, except to seek medical care for COVID-19 or to go outside for exercise if they can remain 10 feet away from others.

What if the student gets sick/sicker?

- ☐ Call the student's doctor for advice. Do not go to the doctor's office before calling. They need to know that the student is under quarantine so they can prepare. If the student has emergency symptoms like difficulty breathing, turning blue, seeming confused or passing out, call 911.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

RE: COVID19 Close Contact Notification

Dear parent/guardian of _____

The child listed above was in close contact with another person in the school who was recently diagnosed with COVID-19. **DO NOT** send your child to school tomorrow.

Keep your child home to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- Self-quarantine means:
 - Staying home for 14 days after the last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
 - Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
 - If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.
 - Wear a mask when the need to be around people is unavoidable (doctor visits, in-home interactions).

Call your health provider if your child develops any symptoms and get a COVID-19 test. **Call 911** if severe symptoms develop, including trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

People with COVID-19 can still spread the virus even if they don't have any symptoms. Staying home and away from others helps in the fight against COVID-19 and helps protect you, your family, your school, and your community.

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us!

Sincerely,

Principal/School Nurse

Phone Number

Date



Monday, November 16

Lifetouch

A New Photography Experience

Lifetouch is leading the photography industry in providing comprehensive photography session safety protocols. These protocols follow the guidelines and recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards related to COVID-19.

Our new photography safety protocols include



ENHANCED CLEANING

Photographers are provided sanitizing wipes and spray to clean camera stations and equipment



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Employees will follow new posing and social distancing requirements to ensure a safe and comfortable photography session



PRE-SESSION HEALTH CHECK

Photographers are provided a thermometer for their daily self-health assessment before reporting to a photography event



SAFETY TRAINING

Lifetouch employees are required to complete comprehensive safety and cleaning protocol training



MASKS

Photographers are required to wear masks during the entire photography session. We recommend the use of masks or other face coverings for both students and other individuals participating in the Picture Day process



CUSTOMIZED PLAN

Most importantly, we'll work with you to establish a plan that fits your needs

While photography sessions may look different this year, as a trusted partner, our goal remains the same; to ensure you receive this essential photography service and families can continue to capture life's memories.

Contact your Lifetouch Representative for more details.

Lifetouch.com

Girdwood K-8 PTA

Support Enrichment through PTA



Become a Girdwood PTA Member Today!

Your annual membership of \$10 will help fund enrichment throughout the school year. Did you know that each year, Girdwood PTA funds approximately \$12,000 worth of activities?

Here's a quick overview of how our PTA makes an impact:

teacher grants, school-wide technology upgrades, fall intensives, Battle of the Books, Math Derby, semi-annual science fair, the school play, 8th grade Celebration, spelling bee, Kindy Round-up, field trip fees and buses, school assemblies, speakers, the student directory, honors teachers/staff/volunteers, and is the host of the Halloween Carnival, the Christmas Bazaar, school dances, and movie nights!

Get involved and join our monthly meetings! You will receive an email of our meeting dates. We understand if you can't make all of them but we would love more people to join in on the fun and to give a voice to more families in the events we sponsor!

Membership applications are on the opposite side and can be turned into your child's teacher or into the front office at any time.



If you are unable to make our monthly meetings, no problem, we still appreciate your \$10 donation to help support future PTA events.

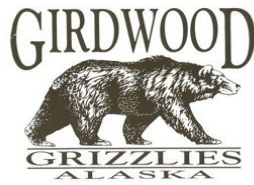
*The Girdwood PTA is working towards creating a Girdwood PTA website. This website will allow parents, students, teachers, and fellow community members to access school information, merchandise, calendar events and more!

*We started a PTA membership drive virtually. It's a quick, innovative way to collect funds for our school. Here is the link: **GirdwoodPTA.givesmart.com**

*Last year, the PTA had great success with the Kadadi Brothers coffee fundraiser, so we will be working with Kaladi Brothers again this year. They will be offering four flavors of coffee in both ground and whole bean. The flavors are: Trieste Cafe, Red Goat Blend, French Roast and French Roast Decaf at \$15 per 1 pound bag. See the flyer below.

*Due to the unfortunate circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the Girdwood PTA will not be hosting the annual Halloween Carnival this year.

GIRDWOOD SCHOOL PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2020-2021



Name: 1st Member _____ Ph# _____

Name: 2nd Member _____ Ph# _____

*Okay to Text When Looking for Volunteers (check one)

Yes _____ No _____ Text # _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

PTA Dues are \$10 per member. A portion of these dues is forwarded to the National PTA.

The remainder is used to provide programs, materials, prizes, recognition and special events for the Girdwood PK-8 School.

Child(ren)'s Name(s):

1st Child's Name: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

2nd Child's Name: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

3rd Child's Name: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

4th Child's Name: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Are you willing to: (Circle yes or no)

Volunteer for the PTA Board? YES NO

Volunteer for a special event? YES NO

Work on at-home projects? YES NO

Help on an as-needed basis? YES NO

OR:

I can't give my time but want to be a member of PTA! Here's my donation of \$10. _____

Membership forms may be brought to the school or mailed along with your check to:

Girdwood PTA P.O. Box 189 Girdwood, AK 99587

Any questions, email pta.girdwood@gmail.com

For Office use only: Paid by Cash (Yes or No) _____ Amount Received _____

Paid by Check # _____ Date Received _____ Amount Received _____

Paid by Square (Yes or No) _____ Amount Received _____

FUN RISER

GIRDWOOD SCHOOL PTA FUNDRAISER

Purchase Kaladi Brothers Coffee and support your community school and your love for coffee!

TRIESTE ESPRESSO BLEND

RED GOAT BLEND

FRENCH ROAST

FRENCH ROAST DECAF

\$15 for a 1 LB BAG

Check the box below for:

WHOLE BEAN

or GROUND

All paper orders and payments must be turned in to the Girdwood School before October 15th 2020. Checks payable to Girdwood PTA. You may order through the GPTA GiveSmart website and use a credit card @ <http://www.girdwoodpta.givesmart.com/>

Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Phone Number _____ GRADE: _____

Paid with: Cash _____ Check _____

COFFEE TYPE	WHOLE BEAN	GROUND	TOTAL # BAGS
TRIESTE ESPRESSO BLEND			
RED GOAT BLEND			
FRENCH ROAST			
FRENCH ROAST DECAF			

Please write desired quantities and add \$ total.

\$ TOTAL: _____

Made with PosterMyWall.com

 KALADI BROTHERS COFFEE



YOU CAN HELP Girdwood PTA **EARN DONATIONS**
JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!

Fred Meyer donates over \$2 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Girdwood PTA at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number GP641.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Girdwood PTA earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Anchorage School District Compliance/Equal
Employment Opportunity Office

REVISED: 8/2007; 8/2012; 5/2013; 7/2014

ASD Statement of Non-discrimination for ASD
Publications

The Board is committed to an environment of non-discrimination 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. The District notes the concurrent applicability of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the relevant disability provisions of Alaska law.

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the District's Compliance/Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Director, who also serves as the Title IX and ADA/ADAAA 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, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Director of the Office for Civil Rights-U.S. Department of Education or Office of Civil Rights-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Zoom Live Video Guidance

"Students must use their full first and last names while logged into the Zoom classroom. Lessons may be recorded for later access by students enrolled in the course. Students may be asked to display their live image through the video function until the teacher has taken attendance or proctoring a test. Cameras capture not only the student but also background content within the camera's frame."



During & After School COVID-19 Playground Rules

When Girdwood PK-8 School resumes classes in the building, the playground will be off limits during school days so that our classes can utilize it when needed and to follow safety protocols. It will be open to the public after 4 pm.



iReady Diagnostic Assessment

Students in grades K-12 who are enrolled in the ASD in School Blended Learning model have taken a reading and mathematics diagnostic assessment as part of their first few weeks of school. The diagnostic assessments are designed to provide teachers and parents with information about where a student is ready to learn, including areas of strength and concern. The diagnostic assessments are designed to enable personalized, online instruction with lessons based on individualized learning needs to support your student's learning. Therefore, students must complete the diagnostic assessments independently. Please visit the iReady Help Portal for Educators and Parents to learn more: <https://www.curriculumassociates.com/review/anchorage>