

# GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

**Note from the Principal**

Dear Girdwood PK-8 School Families,

I hope you are enjoying our Alaskan spring and the longer, sunnier days! Spring break is just around the corner and will be taking place March 10th through March 19th. Friday, March 10th, is an in-service day for school staff. 4th quarter begins on March 20th and our school day will return to 8:30 am until 3:00 pm. We will no longer have extended days until 3:30 pm after spring break.

Our students are gearing up for testing, and our teachers are working hard to ensure they are ready for the spring assessments. We are excited about the progress our students are making in the classrooms and are certain that we will achieve all our goals during testing. As you are making plans for the spring semester, please remember that our 3rd-8th grade students are scheduled to take our state-wide AK STAR assessment in reading and math, and 5th and 8th grade in science from 3/27 to 4/6. As we all 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.

Families, we need your help! If you haven't already done so I encourage families to participate in taking the 2023 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 Girdwood School families. You are an important partner as we work to continually improve our school's environment. We are asking that one parent/guardian per family complete one survey from now until March 24th. 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. Here is the link for accessing the family survey: [surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily) Select Girdwood K-8 School and complete the survey. 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. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Hmong, and Samoan. Families can toggle to their target language in the upper left-hand corner.

If your family is traveling, or if you are staying close to home for spring break, I hope everyone enjoys the time off. We'll look forward to seeing everyone back in the building on the first day after Spring Break which is March 20th.

Wishing you all the best,

Kari Anderson, Principal

# well hello, march

## Upcoming Events

3/7 Primary Musical @ 6:30 in the MPR

3/8 Junior High Movie Night, 6-8 pm

3/9 Last Day for Staff and Students to Complete the School Climate and Connectedness Survey

3/10 State Released Grading Day. No School for Students. End of the 3rd Quarter

3/11-3/19 Spring Break

3/17 Saint Patrick's Day

3/20 School Resumes from Spring Break

3/20 Girl Scouts Here at Lunch

3/20 PTA Meeting @ GBC 6-8 pm

3/21 School Store During Lunch

3/21 Girl Scout Discovery Night for Grades K-6 from 7-8 pm in the HeArt Room

3/30 Service High School Orchestra from 9:30-10:00 am

4/3 Middle School Track Meet @ the Dome 5:30 pm

4/4 Librarian Appreciation Day

4/4 School Store During Lunch



## Anchorage School Board

**Margo Bellamy**, president

**Carl Jacobs**, vice president

**Kelly Lessens**, treasurer

**Dora Wilson**, clerk

**Dave Donley**

**Andy Holleman**

**Pat Higgins**

**ASD Superintendent**

**Dr. Jharrett Bryantt**

## PTA Board Members

**Andrea Anderson**, president

**Emily Marengo**, vice president

**Melissa Randich**, secretary

**Anna Russell**, treasurer

**Julie Pierre Leclerc**, member at large

**Nico Honegger**, member representative

**Jennifer Derks, Shannon**

**Dierks**, teacher representatives



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.

## ***Bus Note Expectations***

Per the 22-23 ASD Student Handbook, students must ride their assigned bus and get off at their assigned stop unless presenting a note to the driver from their parent/guardian that has been initialed by the principal or front office.



## **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>.



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.

## 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, or email Bethanie and Robyn, **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.



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.



Girdwood, Alaska [theicecreamshop.com](http://theicecreamshop.com)

### 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>

# Girdwood School Library

March 2023



It is time again for our annual Iditarod-Read reading challenge. Students read the equivalent of 998 miles (odd year route) to reach Nome. Each time students read equivalent minutes, they advance across the trail to a new checkpoint. Participating students have their name and picture placed on a dog sled that moves across the trail on our hallway bulletin board. Students who reach the

finish by March 31st will be entered to win cool Iditarod prizes and invited to our Iditarod party in late March.



For updated information, links to our catalog, SORA e-books, resources, or current reading challenges please visit our library website. [Girdwood School Library](https://www.girdwoodlibrary.org/)

## Missing Library Books?



Many of our library books are missing or overdue! Please keep an eye out for overdue notices that will be coming home with your child. If you can find a book, return it at any time. **We don't have any late fees in our library. We just hope to get all of our books back!** If you have a book that you know is lost or damaged, please email me and we will come up with a reasonable replacement plan.

Thank you and keep reading! Remember children should be reading 20-30 minutes each day.

*Meghan Nedwick*

[nedwick\\_meghan@asdk12.org](mailto:nedwick_meghan@asdk12.org)



## **The Girdwood Boys Middle School Basketball Team goes Undefeated!**

The Girdwood Grizzlies boy's basketball team completed their 2023 season undefeated with a final record of 6-0. After the departure of many talented 8th graders from the successful 2022 season the team was tasked with building a new version of itself for this season. A combination of 3 - 6th graders, 6 - 7th graders, and 2 - 8th graders came together to develop a team during the initial three weeks of practice before their first game. Following their first win at home, the team identified defense as their strength because of their aggressiveness, speed, and man-to-man defensive style. They capitalized on their dominant defense by creating turnovers that lead to fast breaks and many quick baskets that allowed them to get out to solid leads. In two games, the Grizzlies fell behind to start the game but once they found their footing and rhythm with the defense portion they easily got the lead back and keep control for both victories. The team's determination to play aggressive defense, constantly hustle, and together grow as a team supporting one another is the reason for their success this year. Special mention to the 8th grader players Alden Swift and Ben Hand for their three years of dedication to Grizzly basketball, learning the game and being great and supportive teammates. Thank you for your great play and the team wishes you the best as you move on to High School.

Most importantly, the team represented Girdwood exceptionally well by displaying excellent sportsmanship and respect toward the other teams and game/school officials. Congrats to the Girdwood Grizzlies on a terrific basket season. Thank you to the great fans who cheered them on.

Coach Kyle and Coach Chris

## Girdwood PK-8 Preschoolers visit the Girdwood Post Office

A thank you to the Girdwood Post Office for hosting our preschool students as they are exploring a unit on boxes!



Here at Girdwood PK-8 School, we would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Dena'ina people, past and present, who have lived on these lands since long before Anchorage and Girdwood were here. May we all be good stewards of these lands. Chin'an. (/CHIN-nan/ {Meaning - Thank you})

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT UPDATE



**Student Government will be hosting Junior High Only Movie Night.**  
**It will be held at the school from 6:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday, March 8th.**  
We will show the 2015 film *Moose*, rated PG. Student choice! Student Government Funds will provide pizza and salad. There will also be junky snacks available for purchase. Students may bring a mat, sleeping bag, cozy blanket, pillow, etc, for their comfort. Students should arrive on time, stay for the length of the event, and leave or be picked up at 8:00.



## **Dress Like a Teacher Spirit Day** **on Thursday, February 16 was pretty funny!**

Students dressed like teachers and teachers dressed like students! 😊

7th grade students won the spirit day and are enjoying **Gary Grizzly** yet again!

## **And the Valentine Candy Guess Winner is....** **Hollis Ranke from 7th Grade!**

Thanks to those who joined the fun and tried to guess how many chocolates were in the jar! Congrats to Hollis for taking home the prize of over 300 Valentine chocolates!



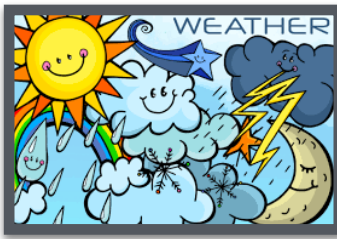
# Battle of the Books

Congratulations to our 3/4 Battle of the Books team made up of Paul Munter, Ruby Gelinas, Brynn VanderHoek, Aurora Burns, Aria Rice, Sylvie Wuthrich, Trudy Stair, and Skogen Swygman who took home the 3/4 Battle of the Books Sportmanship Award! Thanks to Coach Letha Straley and the parents of all the students for all your hard work in helping these students bring home such a prestigious award!

Congratulations to our 5/6 Battle of the Books team made up of Arthur Fell, Ariana Barber, Annie Bailey, Conrad Sieling, and Andrew Gates who took home the 5/6 Battle of the Books Sportmanship Award! Thanks to Coach Joel Ribbens and the parents of all the students for all your hard work in helping these students bring home such a prestigious award!

Congratulations to our 7/8 Battle of the Books team made up of Tre Peterson, Logan Wedeking, Brielle Rice, and Harper Landry who took home 10th place! Thanks to Coach Meghan Nedwick and the parents of





### A Gentle Reminder...

March is here which means our weather is constantly changing—no Groundhog predictions for us. Freezing temperatures are still the norm while some days will be wetter and warmer than others. This is just another reminder to please make sure your child(ren) comes to school with the right gear every day: heavy, waterproof coat, snow/rain boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing they would need to keep them warm and dry during recess. Please send them to school with the same gear that you would send them outside to play in. Students need to be prepared for every kind of weather. Please write your child's name in ALL clothing and accessories. For your convenience, we have Sharpies in the office. Thank you!



### Dogs on the Playground

Just a reminder to keep your dogs leashed while on the playground here at school for the safety of our students and to ensure our playground remains free of dog poop.



### YOUR STUFF MISSES YOU!!!

The Lost and Found is full and it's time to clean it out. We will have the cart out tonight for the Primary Musical, at 6:30, and will leave it out for a few days so you can come in and look for lost belongings. Please tell your children to look through it also. We will be donating the leftovers. Thanks!

### After School Playground Use

Please make sure your child is being supervised by an adult if they are playing on the playground. We enjoy having them here, but cannot provide outdoor supervision after 3:15 p.m. School dismisses at 3 p.m and, for safety reasons, students are expected to head for home, FVCS classes, or after school care on buses, bikes, feet or in a parent vehicles by 3:15.

Students are more than welcome to stay on the playground if they are with a supervising adult. This is true for all students, including middle school. The only exception is when students remain to participate in school or FVCS supervised activities. Thank you for your help in keeping all the children in our valley safe and supervised.

## **2023 AK STAR and Alaska Science State Assessment**

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. The State of Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align and connect the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall and winter. This balanced assessment system targets instruction to better support meeting students' individual learning needs. In addition, students will take only one assessment per content area (ELA and math) and be provided two scores as follows:

Summative assessment result at grade-level

MAP Growth interim benchmark result , including growth from fall to spring

AK STAR, the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, is comprised of English language arts and mathematics and is administered to students in grades 3-9. The Alaska Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents and schools with an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at grade level. Parents can locate resources for AK STAR test and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Student Readiness (Practice Tests and Tutorials), student testing times and general assessment information on the ASD website at <https://www.asdk12.org/akstar>. Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days.

Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing dates: 3/27: 8th Grade Science, 3/28: 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade ELA, 3/29: 3rd Grade ELA, 3/30: 4th Grade ELA, 5th Grade Science, 4/4: 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Math, 4/5: 3rd Grade Math, 4/6: 4th Grade Math

# Big fun. New friends.

Discover new worlds.  
Tap into a hidden  
talent. Get up close and  
personal with nature.  
Design a gadget that  
makes the world  
greener. Become a Girl  
Scout and open your  
world to a lifetime of  
friendship and fun.



You and your grown-up are invited to make new friends at

## Girl Scouts Discovery Night

New Member Information and Sign-up Event

On Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm

at Girdwood School in the art room

Use code **JOINGS** to get 20% off membership! (expires 3/31)

Visit us online at [GirlScoutsAlaska.org/join](https://GirlScoutsAlaska.org/join) or call us at (907) 248-2250

At this event girls will engage in a hands-on activity, learn about Girl Scouts, and make new friends while adults receive information about how to get involved in Girl Scouts.

Get a free  
activity  
guide made  
just for you!



# Be a Girl Scout.



# Four Valleys Community School

**FVCS is based out of the Girdwood K-8 School, and this is our 41st year providing community education. Our mission is to provide fun and interesting classes and programs for all ages, focusing on recreation offerings and educational enrichment, and ranging from pickleball to art classes to yoga.**



**Visit our website to view and enroll into our classes: [www.fourvalleys.org](http://www.fourvalleys.org)**



**Sign up for our email newsletter on our website**



**Bring us your class ideas, and/or volunteer to teach a class for your community. We have paid positions too!**



**Join our Board of Directors!  
We meet 9 times a year, and have 3 positions open. Email [cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org](mailto:cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org)**

**We offer scholarships, financial aid and payment plans for all our classes, please come talk to us to set something up that works for you.**



**EVERY  
WEEK!**

MONDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL - ADULTS  
\$5 DROP IN  
WEEKLY, 6:30-8 PM

TUESDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL - ADULTS  
\$5 DROP IN  
WEEKLY, 5:00-7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL - ADULTS  
\$5 DROP IN  
WEEKLY, 6:30-8 PM

ROMP & ROAR - AGES 0-5  
\$3 DROP IN  
WEEKLY (FRIDAY), 10:30 AM - 12 PM

WAKE UP WITH MEL & RILEY - EVERY TUESDAY/THURSDAY  
SEE REGISTRATION FOR DATES & PRICING

AM YOGA WITH NICO & JENN  
WEDNESDAY/FRIDAY  
SEE REGISTRATION FOR DATES & PRICING

FREE RUNNING/WALKING TRACK  
\*ANYTIME\* THE GYM IS IN USE BY FVCS,  
UNTIL 8 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY

register @ fourvalleys.org

# DIY BATH BOMBS

TUESDAY MARCH 14TH

6-8PM

21+

AT SPOONLINE BISTRO

\$35

REGISTER AT [FOURVALLEYS.ORG](https://fourvalleys.org)



**JOIN US IN GIRDWOOD!**

**MARCH 26TH @ 11 AM**

EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS MARCH 10TH!

Adults - \$30

Youth - 13-17 - \$15

Youth Under 13 - FREE!

**ATTENTION NORDIC SKIERS!**

Join us for some family-friendly fun in the snow at the 5K Nordic Loop in Girdwood!

Race options include a 2K Course with an optional snowball biathlon,  
a 5K Timed Course & a 2x2x2 Relay.

Co-hosted by the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area and the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club, this event is a celebration of the joy of Nordic skiing and the region's rich history. Come play in the snow and crush some corduroy with us!



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO...



# Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

## March & April Programs

Beluga Activities - March 2  
Eco Art - March 9  
Pollinators! - March 23  
Bear & Moose Safety - March 30 (full)  
Rufous Hummingbird Activities - April 6  
Spring Birding Walk - April 13



Ages 4 to 14, \$15 per participant

Register today @ [fourvalleys.org](http://fourvalleys.org)  
All AWCC partner activities sponsored in part by KMTA!

GIRDWOOD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PRESENTS

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

RELATED TO RACE  
FACILITATED BY:  
ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM

WEDNESDAYS MARCH 22, 29 & APRIL 12  
6-8 PM  
GIRDWOOD COMMUNITY ROOM

ALASKA  
HUMANITIES  
FORUM

# Join Girdwood PTA



**Why join PTA? Our focus is supporting programs that help students be successful in their learning. Last year PTA funded over \$20,000 in programs and supplies for our students and school, including:**

School Garden, Classroom Safety Kits, Halloween Carnival, Classroom Grants, Holiday Bazaar, Running Club, Drama and Music Programs, Field Trip Transportation, Field Trip Scholarships, Teacher Appreciation Week, Battle of the Books, Field Day, and Fall Intensives. For 2022-2023... new Classroom Display Technology and so much more!

Questions? Email us at [pta.girdwood@gmail.com](mailto:pta.girdwood@gmail.com)

## Supporting Member



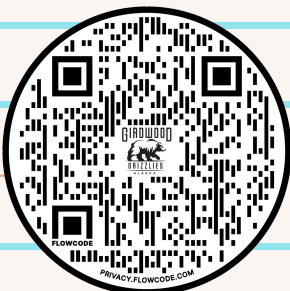
Who should be a supporting member? Parents, family members, friends, and community members who want to support our school and students



All \$10 goes to support Girdwood School PTA programs



Scan to become a supporting member



## Voting Member



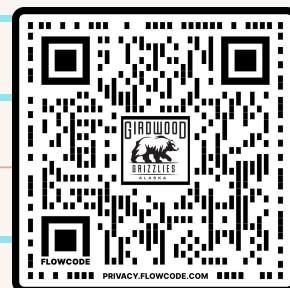
Who should be a voting member? Parents, teachers, and PTA board members who want to regularly attend PTA meetings and vote on our budget and bylaws.



\$6.25 goes to National & State PTA and \$3.75 goes to Girdwood School PTA



Scan to become a voting member





**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](http://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](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).

# 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.