

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907) 742-5300

Dear Girdwood K-8 Families,

We welcome all returning and new students, as well as staff, and families to a new school year! The first month and a half of school has been exciting and it was great to see so many smiling faces at our Open House!

There are several new staff members joining the Girdwood K-8 team and staff we will miss as they transition into new adventures. We welcome back Sarah Rink, Sped TA. She comes back to us after spending a year at Kincaid Elementary in Anchorage. We welcome Jennifer Derks who is joining our team from Bayshore Elementary in Anchorage. Jennifer will be our second grade teacher. We welcome Joel Ribbens who is joining us from Wood River Elementary in Fairbanks. Joel will be our fifth grade teacher. We welcome Tammy Elyea who will be our new Sped pre-school and resource teacher. We welcome Alexander Antonio as our new school psychologist. Dawn Murphy will now be at a .7 FTE as she continues to be our health teacher and is now our behavior specialist. Our counselor position has changed to a .5 FTE behavior specialist position. Betsy Connell is one of our school's retired Sped teachers and is helping out as a Sped TA. Amy Stone is now our kindergarten TA, as well as our ELL tutor. Erin Henszey is one of our new kindy TAs as well. Leaving us are Erik Viste (promotion to elementary education director), Molly Hickox (promotion to assistant principal at Lake Hood), Laura Tufi-Gho (transfer to Mountain View), Alison Darosa (resignation), Selita Rios (resignation) and Ronda Barnes (resignation).

The 60 Minute Recess/Lunch Pilot Program has been positive and students are enjoying their extra time outside. We have noticed students have had more time to eat lunch and that students are bringing back home less in their lunchbox. I hope your child is excited about the extra recess and lunch too!

Just a few reminders about arrival in the morning and departure after school. School starts at 8:20 am and ends at 3:00 pm each day. Our school staff are not scheduled to arrive to school until 8:00 am. In the past we had arranged Open Gym for the students on the first bus when we were reduced to one morning bus. However, more and more students started coming to school earlier to participate in the fun with up to 50 students in the gym with one adult who couldn't safely supervise that many students. This is why we had to cancel open gym this year. We now have a teacher on the playground every morning with the duty of supervising students from the first bus. In case of inclement weather (pouring rain, wind and extreme low temperatures below -10 degrees F), we will let students inside the school. All students should come to school prepared for the weather. Unless your child is on the first bus or previous arrangements have been made with your child's teacher, please do not send or drop off your child before 8:20 am. Prior to 8:20 am, teachers are preparing for the school day and frequently attend meetings. Please prearrange before school visits with teachers, ensuring availability. Instruction starts promptly after the 8:30 am announcements. Students are dismissed at 3:00 pm and need to go directly to the bus, be picked up by a parent, or walk/ride their bike home. There is no supervision of students on the playground after school. Students are not permitted to remain on school grounds before or after the regular school day unless those students are directly involved in a supervised sanctioned school activity. This is practice at all ASD schools and can be found on page 11 in the ASD Student Handbook, found at <https://apps.asdk12.org/forms/uploads/EShandbook.pdf>.

Monthly newsletters will be emailed to families and archived on the school website: <https://www.asdk12.org/girdwood>. Check out our Facebook page for updates and photos as well!

I am so grateful to be part of the Girdwood K-8 community. I am excited for all that this school year will bring. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 742-5300 or anderson_kari@asdk12.org.

Kari Anderson

Acting Principal, Girdwood K-8 School

Upcoming Events

10/1 Egg Take Field Trip—1st/6th Grades

10/1 Family Movie Night—GREASE 6:30 pm

10/2 Middle School Cross Country @ Kincaid Park 5:30 pm

10/3-10/4 Fall Intensives

10/7 Behavioral Expectations Assembly 2pm

10/9 School Store

10/10 Middle School Cross Country Meet @ Kincaid—All Schools Championships

10/22 School Store

10/23 Parent/Teacher Conferences
1/2 Day for Students

10/24 Parent/Teacher Conferences
1/2 Day for Students

10/25 No School for Students
Inservice

10/23-10/24 Book Fair in the Library



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!



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.



Anchorage School Board

Starr Marsett, President

Alisha Hilde, Vice President

Elisa Vakalis, Treasurer

Margo Bellamy, Clerk

Deena Mitchell

Andy Holleman

Dave Donley

Superintendent

Dr. Deena Bishop



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>

MAP Growth Newsletter Information

2019-2020

MAP Growth is the ASD benchmark assessment for students in grades 3-9 in reading and mathematics. Grades 10-12 also take MAP Growth as part of Tier II and Tier III reading and mathematics courses.

MAP Growth is an online assessment tool used for instructional purposes. MAP Growth is an adaptive assessment that provides each student with a personalized testing experience with data that speaks to their individual progress and growth in mathematics and reading. Practice tests and accommodations are available. MAP Growth will be administered three times per year during the ASD Benchmark windows: fall, winter and spring. The benchmark windows for 2019-2020 are:

- Fall—September 3 - September 20
- Winter—December 2 - December 19
- Spring—April 20 - May 8

MAP Growth practice tests are available to allow students the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions and tools available on the actual MAP Growth assessments such as the highlighter and calculator. Practice tests are provided at practice.mapnwea.org and require login information (USERNAME: grow PASSWORD: grow) to access.



Outdoor Gear...Be Prepared!

With the ever changing weather, please make sure your child has a raincoat or winter gear, boots, and other outdoor clothing to keep them warm and dry during recess. We do go out if it's raining moderately and in winter we go out to 10 below with the wind chill.

ASD 60 Minute Lunch/Recess Wellness Initiative Pilot

Girdwood K-8, along with many other schools in the district, are part of a pilot program to increase activity in the schools. Students have 30 minutes outside at recess every day. Along with increasing the movement of students, we are providing more time for students to sit and eat with their peers. Students have 25 minutes to get their lunches and sit and eat with their friends. This is exciting and allows students time to eat and not feel rushed. By being a part of the pilot we will be collecting data during lunch, as well as recess, to see if it is beneficial to student learning.



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 or contact Sam Marshall, Operations Manager, at 907-382-9908.

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.



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.



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>

Volunteers

If you are a volunteer at our school, you will need to complete the attached Volunteer Waiver and Release form.

Please drop this form off in the office or complete one next time you volunteer at school.



VOLUNTEER WAIVER & RELEASE

In consideration of being permitted to serve and participate as a volunteer for the Anchorage School District to assist with _____ (the "Activity") at _____ (facility), on _____, 20____, I _____ (volunteer's name) state and unconditionally agree as follows:

1. References to the Anchorage School District (the "District") include the District, its past, present, and/or future board members, administrators, officers, employees, volunteers, parents, student, agents, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, representatives, designees, and assigns.
2. I understand that participation in the Activity involves certain inherent risks and dangers. These inherent risks may include (without limitation) uneven surfaces, lifting, slippery surfaces, dangerous tools and instruments; working in a small confined space; my own negligence; and the negligence of others. These inherent risks may result in trips/falls; fatigue; injury; significant injury/disability; and even death. I have made my own investigation of the risks of participation in the Activity, and I understand these risks and assume them willingly on behalf of myself and each and every one of my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns. I acknowledge that I AM ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE for my own safety during the Activity.
3. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, I UNEQUIVOCALLY AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS RELATED TO PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RISKS IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 2, ABOVE, THAT MAY ARISE OUT OF OR PERTAIN TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY.
4. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, I AGREE TO FOREVER RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD THE DISTRICT HARMLESS FROM ANY CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTIONS (WHETHER SOUNDING IN TORT [NEGLIGENCE, NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION, WRONGFUL DEATH, OR OTHERWISE], DEMANDS, OR EXPENSES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS) OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER THAT IN ANY WAY ARISE OUT OF, RESULT FROM, OR PERTAIN TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY.
5. Should the District, or anyone acting on its behalf, incur attorney's fees and/or costs to enforce the terms of this Agreement, or to defend any claims brought contrary to this Agreement, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold the District harmless for (in other words, I agree to pay for) any and all such attorney's fees and/or costs.

Warning: This agreement is a binding contract that prevents you and your collective heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns from bringing any lawsuit against the District arising out of or pertaining to my participation in the Activity, including but not limited to any negligence claims. This document affects your substantial legal rights and remedies. Please read it carefully before proceeding.

FULLY UNDERSTANDING ALL OF THE ABOVE, AND WITH REASONABLE TIME TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT AND TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN DOING SO, I UNEQUIVOCALLY AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____



Help Your Child Succeed in School: **Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early** School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org

P.E. NEWS

Learn to Move-Move to Learn

When

Every Day During Recess
(Weather Permitting)

- There is a designated running area on the field/grass. 6 laps are equal to 1 mile.
- Students earn toy tokens/ rewards for every 5 mile marker they make.
- When students reach 25 miles, they earn the "Mileage Club T-shirt"!
- Runners scan their QR code using the EZ scan app which keeps track of each students laps/miles.
- Students who reach 100 miles will be invited to a physically active field trip in May!!

Mileage Club!

**With the help of Mel Stiassny and Mrs. Donnelly,
we are ready to RUN!**

The Mileage Club is about to begin! This is a weekly program where students are given the opportunity to run/walk laps around the field during recess to stay active and healthy. Students can set goals and track their progress every day in order to earn rewards! When kids are active during recess they go back to class ready to learn and with an increased ability to focus!

We look forward to getting outside with the club starting on:

Monday, September 16, 2019

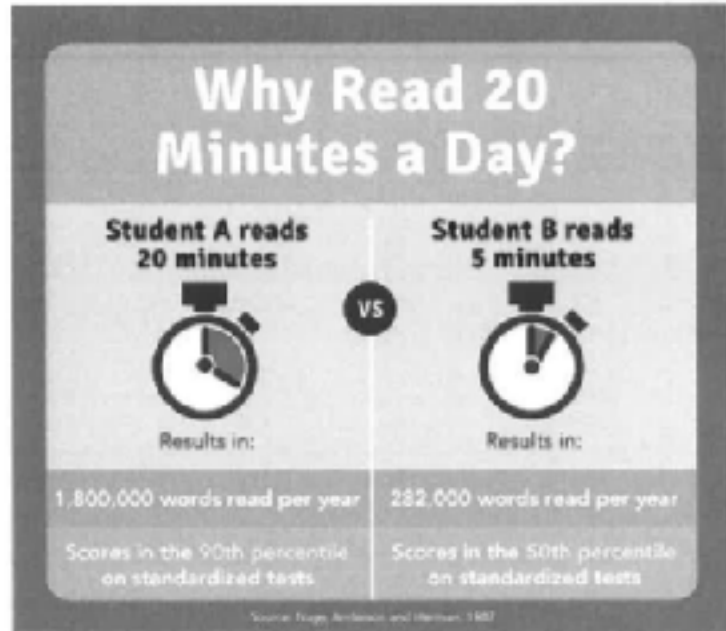
**QR codes are to be kept in
student's school cubby or locker.**



Dear Parents and Families:

Did you know? Reading just 20 minutes a day exposes your child to about **1.8 million words** per year. Reading helps students develop a stronger vocabulary, and in addition, students who read for pleasure average higher grades in English, mathematics, science, and history!

Encourage your child to read books for fun by attending our upcoming **Scholastic Book Fair**. Allow your child to choose the books they want to read! It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level.



Mark your calendar!

Book Fair dates: **October 23 & 24, 2019**

Shopping hours: **Wednesday 12–3 pm and 5–7 pm, Thursday 12–4 pm**

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our Online Fair at scholastic.com/fair. Our Online Fair is available from **October 21–October 25**.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school. Thank you for supporting our readers!

Sincerely,

Meghan Nedwick
Librarian

Kari Anderson
Principal

Girdwood School K-8

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, 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 or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.



SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 SKI & SPORTS SWAP SCHEDULE

@ Alyeska Daylodge

GEAR INTAKE: 9-11A

SWAP TIME: NOON-4P

P/U GEAR & PAYMENTS: 4-5P

Note >>> ALL GEAR LEFT AFTER
5P BECOMES
PROPERTY OF FVCS.
PICK UP YOUR GEAR!



*Have Gear To Sell?
Get It Ready Ahead*

**SWAP CONTROL
SHEETS & TAGS
AVAILABLE @
GIRDWOOD POST
OFFICE**



25% of sales price benefits
Four Valleys Community School's
programs, events & classes

Other Grizzly News

Parent Teacher Conference - Online Scheduling

The upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 23rd and October 24th. Conferences offer families the opportunity to find out how their child is getting along with classmates, how they're progressing in school, and what can be done at home to build upon strengths and overcome challenges.

Families should schedule conference times online. The Conference Scheduler will be available in early October for you to access. Scheduling early offers you the best opportunity to secure conference times that work best for your family, especially if you have multiple children. A notice will be sent out with the link when the Conference Scheduler opens. If you are unable to use the Conference Scheduler, please contact your child's classroom teacher to set up a conference. We are excited about this upcoming opportunity for teachers and families to discuss important information that will help students succeed.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuation) Drill

We are entering our fourth year of using ALICE procedures in the Anchorage School District. This year teachers will be teaching ALICE to their students by going over the acronym, covering why we do each part, answering simple questions, alleviating anxiety if necessary, and remembering the ALICE book is available in the library if additional materials are needed. We completed our first ALICE evacuation drill with students on 9/14 to our rally point and will complete three additional drills over the school year.

APD Hand Held Cell Phone in School Zones

As of June 20, 2019 handheld cell phone use is illegal in active school zones and/or upon school grounds. If you are caught violating this new ordinance, the fine is a big one: 6 points on your license and a \$500 fine. Here are the pertinent points to know regarding AMC 9.28.055(E)(1):

This law is in effect 6AM – 9PM seven days a week, 365 days a year.

This law applies to all signed school zones where the speed limit is 25 mph.

This law applies to all school zones where there are temporary speed reductions to 20 mph or less (the school zones with the yellow flashing lights).

This law does NOT apply to vehicles that are stopped (ex: parked in a school parking lot) or if the mobile device is being used hands-free.

If you are in violation of this ordinance, and you cause a collision that results in injury or death, the penalty for this ordinance becomes a misdemeanor.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would like to shout out a giant THANK YOU to Brian Burnett, aka Burntski, and the Girdwood Trails Committee for the AIH gift card to be used to purchase supplies for our students to help in the maintenance of the Athabaskan Trail during our School Intensives/Day of Service.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
NO WALK-INS & NO RE-ENTRY.

GYM GAMES!

Jr. High Grades 6-8: 5-7pm

High School Grades 9-12: 7-9pm

Games held @ Girdwood School Gym

Gym Games will meet (4) dates this
session:

Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4

Registration \$30

Drop In \$8/CLASS &

YOU MUST be registered online
AHEAD OF CLASS. NO WALK-INS.

register @

www.fourvalleys.org

Middle School Volleyball Clinics

Held in the Girdwood K-8 School Gym during
Parent/Teacher Conference week and in-service.



Setting & Passing

October 23 12:15-2:15p



Serving

October 24 12:15-2:15p



Defense

October 25 12:15-2:15p



Cost: \$20/clinic
www.fourvalleys.org

COACH NICOLE:

Niccle Geils is a long-time Girdwoodian that started playing volleyball in 10th grade at Service High School under one of Alaska's top coaches, Virgil Hoge. Nicole went on to lead her team to a State Championship in 1998, and was awarded a full-ride, 4-year, Division-1 volleyball scholarship to Portland State University. Nicole's positive attitude is infectious and will ensure players will have a super-fun time while improving skills and learning game strategy.