

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,

I'd like to start off by thanking all our families for the tremendous efforts and resiliency you showed in being flexible at any moment's notice last school year! I am excited to be welcoming you back to school and to the 21-22 school year! Last year was one for the record books. We learned a great deal about our ability to innovate and work through situations we thought weren't possible. We also learned how much we rely on our families and how much you rely on us. We learned how to do things that will change the face of education moving forward that are more innovative and save valuable time. Most of all we learned how to lean on each other, even when our school community may have seemed so far away.

I hope that your summer has been relaxing and filled with many Alaskan adventures. The opportunity to refuel over the summer is a necessary component for all of us, especially after a year we will never forget. I am excited to work with all of you as we return to our school building and hopefully a more "normal" school year. I look forward to time for us to reconnect, be together, and appreciate all the things our school community offers. We have a great deal of important work ahead of us this year, including moving our focus back to setting goals for new improved academic learning across our school.

Lastly, we are excited to welcome some new faces to our staff and the Girdwood School community!

Dawn Poetter is our new pre-school and primary sped resource teacher.

Shannon Dierks is our intermediate and junior high sped resource teacher.

Courtney Spann is our new speech/language pathologist.

Suzanne Jacobson is our new school psychologist.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give us a call. We appreciate our families immensely and we are so excited to welcome our students back! I am honored and privileged to work with and for each of you!

Go Grizzlies!

Kari Anderson

Principal, Girdwood PK-8

Upcoming Events

- 9/6 Labor Day—No School
- 9/9 Middle School Cross Country Running Meet @ Service High School
- 9/11 Middle School Cross Country Running Meet @ Russian Springs
- 9/14 Middle School Cross Country Running Meet @ Kincaid Park
- 9/20 PTA Meeting @ 6 pm
- 9/27 Lifetouch Picture Day
- 10/1 School Custodial Appreciation Day
- 10/20-10/21 Parent Teacher Conferences—Half Day for Students
- 10/22 State Released Professional Development Day—No School for Students

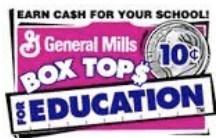
Anchorage School Board

Margo Bellamy, president
Dora Wilson, vice president
Kelly Lessens, treasurer
Carol Jacobs, clerk
Dave Donley
Andy Holleman
Pat Higgins

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.



Box Tops for Education

We are continuing to collect **General Mills Box Tops For Education**. Please turn them in to your teacher or to Mrs. Bethanie, in the office. 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!

Bus Note Expectations

Per the 19-20 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 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 partner, please let us know.



Outdoor Gear...Be Prepared!

Fall is upon us and our weather changes daily. Please make sure your child comes to school with the right gear: jacket, raincoat/pants, rain boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing they would need to keep them warm and dry during recess. All students have outdoor recess everyday except in cases of extreme inclement weather, so they need to be prepared. Older kids should be dressed for the weather, also. Please send your child to school with appropriate gear, regardless of what is happening outside when they leave in the morning. Thank 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, 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.

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>

NURSE NOTES

Welcome back to Girdwood school! We are so excited to see all your children back at school. We want to be a resource to all families for any health related concerns, please call (742-5301) or email nurse Raquel (Marrs_Raquel@asdk12.org) on Mondays and nurse Summer (Stone_Olivia@asdk12.org) on Tuesday through Friday.

We want to highlight the basics of what families need to know about Covid related communication, case tracking, and mitigation policies including symptoms to keep students home for, where to obtain testing and what to do with the results.

There has been a policy change due to confusion about letters being sent home regarding Covid cases at schools. We will now only send home letters to families that have had a case of Covid-19 in their classroom. We will inform you if your student is considered a close contact and needs to quarantine or if they are not considered a close contact and do not need to quarantine.

If you would like to keep informed about how many active cases of Covid there are in Girdwood school you can check the [ASD Covid-19 tracking page](#) that shows active cases at each school and information about any school closures.

ASD is Symptom Free. Please screen your child daily and keep them home if they have:

- Fever 100.4 F or higher, chills, or presumed fever (your child feels very warm)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New Cough
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Skin lesions/rash
- Exposure to someone with known COVID-19

If you need to keep your child home from school due to any of these symptoms they will need a molecular Covid-19 test prior to returning to school or will need to stay home for a 10 day quarantine period. Testing is available at the [Girdwood Clinic](#) and they are often able to get patients tested the same day with rapid results. Testing is also available at [First Care Medical Centers](#) on Huffman and they are also typically able to get patients tested the same day with rapid results. Other options include [Anchorage Muni testing sites](#) and [ASD contracted Beacon testing at several school locations](#). These last two options typically take 2 to 3 days for results to become available.

If you have kept your student home due to a symptom they may return to school with a negative test result and symptoms resolving. If they have had an exposure to someone with Covid they can choose to quarantine for 10 days or test 6 to 7 days after exposure to return to school after an 8 day quarantine. We encourage everyone to test in order to best keep our community safe and school open! Thank you and we are here to support you!

-Nurse Raquel and Nurse Summer



Healthy Futures Challenge

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting challenge! Once again, we are offering the opportunity to participate in the Healthy Futures program through an Activity Log Challenge. During the challenge, students and schools are rewarded for being active. **This school year, our goal is to increase the number of students participating, as well as increase the average number of logs per student. The fall challenge is September, October, and November.**

The spring challenge is February, March, and April.

What is Healthy Futures? Founded by concerned parents, Healthy Futures is a statewide, grassroots movement to help youth build positive, lifelong physical fitness habits through two core programs: The Healthy Futures Activity Log Challenge and the promotion of youth attendance at local recreational events.

Why Healthy Futures? Kids are not as active as they should be. They need daily vigorous physical activity to build strength, endurance, healthy muscles and bones or they may face tough problems like obesity, diabetes, and lower self-esteem. At Girdwood [School](#) we are committed to helping students develop the skills, knowledge and desire they need in order to be physically active now and for the rest of their lives. Parents and the community also play a critical role in the solution for healthier, active children by providing motivation, encouragement and daily opportunities for recreation beyond the classroom.

How does your child participate in Healthy Futures? With your assistance, your child records physical activity on the Healthy Futures Activity Log.

Effective this school year, qualifying logs must show **at least 60 minutes** of physical activity during a day, for at least **15 days** of the month. Students can now count their active time during PE class and recess.

While it is healthiest for physical activity to be distributed throughout the month, the 15 days can occur in any pattern during the month and count toward a qualifying log.

The good news is that your child can spread out their 60 minutes of activity during the day. They can even break it up into smaller chunks of time during the day – as small as 10 minutes at a time of moderate to vigorous effort. For example, it could be 30 minutes of active time during PE class, 30 minutes during recess, and 20 minutes of playing tag with their friends after school. On a weekend, it could be a 60-minute hike with the family.

This helps children get closer to the national recommendation of 60 minutes of physical activity every day for the best health. Students turn in completed logs to me with a parent signature in exchange for exciting prizes!

THE PRIZES

Each month students who complete a log will receive an incentive.

September: Play Every Day buff/neck gaiter; October: Puzzle ball; November: Airplane Glider OR Football Rocket



At the end of the school year, I'll conduct a drawing for a grand prize. Students who complete more logs have a better chance of winning the grand prize! 3. The winner will choose from a menu of items:

Healthy Futures Champion hoodie, disc golf set, cornhole set, Spikeball set, and ladder ball.

Yours in Fitness and Health,

Mrs. Quinn

2021-2022

Girdwood PK-8 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 over \$10,000 worth of activities? Here's a quick overview of how our PTA makes an impact:

Teacher Grants, School-Wide Technology Upgrades, Intensives, Battle of the Books, Math Derby, Science Fair/Science Night, School Plays, 8th Grade Celebration, Spelling Bee, Kindy-Round-up, Field Trip Fees and Buses, Teacher Appreciation Week, Speakers, Student Directory, Halloween Carnival, Christmas Bazaar, School Dances, Movie Nights

Sign up on our website @ www.girdwoodpta.org

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 now online!

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





PEAKS 2021 Student-Level Results

The Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) is Alaska's summative assessment for students in grades 3-9 in English Language art and mathematics was administered in spring 2021. In addition, grades 5, 8 and 10 took science as a field-tested assessment. The science scores will not be reported at the student level or to the public. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide information to parents, educators, policy makers, communities and businesses about how Alaska's schools and districts are performing, along with an overall picture of an individual student's progress in meeting State of Alaska standards at his/her grade level.

At this time, districts and schools are beginning the score reporting process with the preliminary work of interpreting and understanding PEAKS results. The Anchorage School District is currently preparing our online student information system for parents to receive electronic PEAKS results on September 24th.

For both math and English language arts, each student will receive an overall score that is aligned to one of four achievement levels: Proficient, Advanced, Below-Proficient and Far-Below Proficient. Students performing at a scale score of 500 or more are Proficient. In addition, information on groups of standards, called reporting categories, will also be provided as part of the score reporting process.

English language arts (ELA) for grades 4-9 includes a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) score as one of the ELA Reporting Categories. The TDA is an item based on a passage or set of passages that a student reads during the ELA assessment. The TDA addresses both literary and informational texts. Students must draw on basic writing skills while inferring and synthesizing information from the passage in order to develop a comprehensive, holistic essay response. The TDA is hand-scored by the testing vendor using a rubric with a score range of 0-4, with a score of four being the highest. The rubric is available in the *ASD PEAKS Parent Guide*.

For detailed information on PEAKS score reporting, please reference the *ASD PEAKS Parent Guide* available on the ASD PEAKS website, <http://www.asdk12.org/peaksresults>, along with the State of Alaska's *Parent's Guides to Student Reports Spring 2021 PEAKS Assessment English Language Arts and Mathematics*, available on the Department of Education's website, <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>.

The Alaska Commissioner of Education, Dr. Michael Johnson shared the following as part of a letter to educators regarding interpretation of PEAKS 2021 scores ([Dr. Johnson DEED Commissioner PEAKS Letter to Educators](#)):

It is important to keep in mind that for many students, instruction and assessment looked very different during the COVID-19 pandemic. As local school boards managed the impacts of COVID, assessment participation rates among students taking the assessment were so low that the department cautions against drawing sweeping conclusions about student performance statewide. However, we can still glean helpful information by looking at performance at the school and individual student levels. Parents and educators can use individual student data from PEAKS and other local assessments to make effective instructional decisions during the 2021-2022 school year.

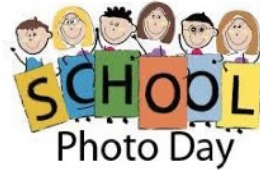
Please remember, PEAKS is not a pass/fail test. PEAKS is aligned to the Alaska State Standards and the scores provide information to guide decision-making and support students on their path to success. Alaska's standards and assessments ensure our students are academically ready to succeed in the community, jobs, career training, the military and college. The Anchorage School District maintains high learning expectations for all students and is committed to preparing students for success in life.



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.



Monday, September 27

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

What's going on in Sixth Grade

By: Tre' Peterson



Elections

In sixth grade, one of the most popular projects is the mini society. In the mini society there are different jobs including the three presidents, Class, Union, and Bank. Each president must have a 1-3 minute speech and have a majority vote to be elected.

Above- Class President Ray (Left), Bank President Hardy (Middle), and Union President Brielle (Right).

Quick interview with each president

The class president is in charge of, I lead lines and help during emergencies, I help during steam projects.

When asked what his wishes and goals for the class are, Class president Ray responds "Some of my goals are for there to be no fighting and also less messy during drills.

The union president jobs include, organizing events special occasions, bringing the class treats and setting goals for the class and working to meet them.

When asked what her plans for the class are, Union president Brielle responds " My goal is for the class to work well as a team.

The bank president has to handle the money and make the money.

When asked how he plans to manage the bank, Bank president Hardy responds "I plan to manage the bank fairly and honestly."

Shampooer Dissection

When Ms.Rutherford's Shampooer Breaks, what shall the class do? Why, dissect it of course. They will break inside and see what makes it tick. Why did it break, Where is the engine, and Does it have a magnet, are all questions that will be asked.

Below- Each student works on a different part of the machine



The students are all very excited to dissect the shampooer, and, after waiting all day, they finally get a chance to do just that.

And that's what's going on in sixth grade!



Middle School Debate Team

Would you rather lead or follow? Command or obey? Join the award-winning Girdwood Middle School Debate Team and let your voice be heard. Debate is being offered as a Zero Hour this year. All 6th-8th Grade Girdwood students are welcome to join us in Coach Rutherford's Room 203 Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 7:30 to 8:15 am. Debate is a year-long activity sponsored by UAA. Our first of four online statewide tournaments will be Saturday, October 16 where we'll Zoom from Girdwood School's Upper Commons on the topics: "Should extinct creatures be revived?" and "Should college tuition be paid for all students with public funding?" Come join the debate and master the art of persuasion.



Middle School Girls Who Code Club

Are you a 6th-8th grade student interested in Computer Science, technology, or just want to have fun coding with friends? Come join Girdwood's first 6-8 Girls Who Code Club. All genders are welcome to join our lunch-time club--Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:00-12:30 in the Science Room. See Coach Rutherford for more information on how to participate in this empowering club. No coding experience is necessary.

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.

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.