

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 hope this message finds you and yours healthy and well. We have had some crazy fall weather and a colder than normal summer which I am hoping will equate to a snowy wonderland for all of us this winter.

Just a few reminders:

- Please send a couple of masks with your child every day so they have an extra one if it were to get dirty or wet.
- Keep up with your child's grades and assignments through accessing Q Parent Connect at any time. Do you know how to login to Q? If not, give our front office a call at 742-5300 to get your login and password.
- Winter is here, or at least it feels like it. Please send your student to school with appropriate gear and clothing. We go outside everyday rain or shine unless the temperatures are below negative 10 degrees.

Our PTA has been working hard to provide your child with enrichment and are planning some fun family events this year! The Girdwood School PTA Halloween Carnival will be taking place on Friday, October 29th, from 6-8 pm and will be in a different format to ensure everyone stays healthy and safe. This year the Girdwood School PTA has decided to take the annual Halloween Carnival outside to create a "Trunk or Treat" style event which will take place outside in our school bus loop. The junior high students have also opted to re-vamp their traditional haunted school room into a spooky trail walk behind the school. We are looking for help in making this a fun, safe, and successful event, and we'd like to invite your family to host a trunk. You might be asking, "What would this involve?" Basically, you'd dress in your Halloween best, park a vehicle in the school parking lot/bus loop, decorate the trunk/parking space, and hand out candy or goodies to kids as they trick or treat from car to car. As an alternative to handing out candy, you could have the kids play a game or do a craft. There will also be awesome prizes for the 3 best trunks! Please RSVP by October 10 if you would like to host a trunk by emailing pta.girdwood@gmail.com or call Andrea at 619-787-3727.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are taking place this month on 10/20 and 10/21. These days are half days for students with dismissal at noon. Conferences will take place on those afternoons and the evening of 10/21. The online conference scheduler is currently open for parents to sign up for conferences. You can sign up through the ASD website at www.asdk12.org and search for Conference Scheduler or through the ASD Mobile App. Be sure to let your child's teacher know if you would prefer a Zoom conference over an in-person conference. They will be happy to accommodate either one. For in person conferences, remember that masks need to be worn while you are meeting with the teacher and are in our school building. We want to keep everyone safe. Also, just a heads up that Friday, October 15th, is an in-service day and Friday, October 22nd is a professional development day. There is no school for students on either of these dates.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to welcome a new face to our school community. Hart Schwarz has joined our teaching staff and he is one of our wonderful and hardworking sped resource teacher assistants. Give him a warm welcome when you see him around.

If you have celebrations, questions, or concerns, please call or email anytime. I feel very lucky to be Girdwood School's principal and appreciate our community. Lastly, thank you for all you do for your children!

Take care,
Kari Anderson, Principal

Upcoming Events

10/8 Loungewear Day

10/14 End of 1st Quarter

10/15 State Released Professional Development Day—No School for Students

10/16 Middle School Debate Tournament

10/20-10/21 Parent Teacher Conferences, 12-4 pm—Half Day for Students

10/22 State Released Professional Development Day—No School for Students

10/26 School Store

10/29 PTA Halloween Carnival Trunk or Treat 6-8 pm on the Girdwood School Bus Loop

11/11 State Released Professional Development Day—No School for Students

11/22 Lifetouch Picture Retake Day

11/25-11/26 Thanksgiving Break

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

PTA Board Members

Elizabeth Ellis, president

Emily Marengo, vice president

Andrea Anderson, secretary

Kelly Schwarz, treasurer

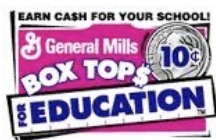
Julie Pierre Leclerc, member at large

Anna Russell, member representative

Jennifer Derks, teacher representative



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.



Girdwood, Alaska theicecreamshop.com

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!

Another reminder that fall is upon us and our weather changes daily. Please make sure your child comes to school with the right gear: jacket, raincoat/pants/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. Remember to label **ALL GEAR** that they may become separated from. 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>

Greetings from Girdwood School Library,

We are looking forward to once again being able to host the **Scholastic Bookfair** at Girdwood School. Last year students were unable to attend so many of our favorite celebrations and we are happy to announce that the book fair is returning!

Our event will take place the week of parent teacher conferences **October 18th - October 22nd, 2021**.



Students will be able to view the books, make wishlists, and parents can shop during parent teacher conferences as we have in the past.

Our book fair will look a little different than it has in the past largely due to a change in COVID protocols, availability of books, changes to shipping, and how we host in person events.

Our book fair will be much smaller this year. Scholastic will provide only **one** copy of each book in the book catalog for viewing at the fair. Families are encouraged to stop into the library to view the available books and then order the books they would like from the link provided at the end of this newsletter. Books can be ordered via the link anytime from now until October 22. I will also be able to sell one copy of each book and plan to do that at the end of the book fair. We will be keeping numbers to a minimum in the library with only 10 people shopping at one time and of course masking is required.

Feel free to explore the flyer and shop our school fair starting any time using the link below.

Thank you for supporting Girdwood School Library and don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Mrs. Nedwick
nedwick_meghan@asdk12.org

- [SHOP THE BOOK FAIR](#) (direct link)
- Or go to: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/home.html> and search for Girdwood School under Find a Fair

MAP Growth Benchmark Newsletter Information

2021-2022

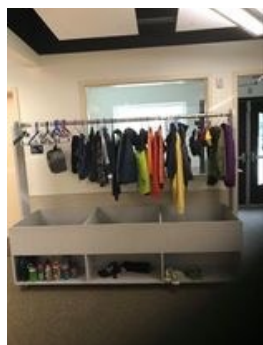
MAP Growth is the ASD benchmark assessment for students in grades 3-9 in reading and mathematics. Grades 10-12 also take MAP Growth as part of Tier II and Tier III reading and mathematics courses.

MAP Growth is an online benchmark 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. The MAP Growth Benchmark will be administered in person during the benchmark windows for 2021-2022:

- Fall Benchmark 1—September 21 - October 8
- Winter Benchmark 2—November 29 - December 10
- Spring Benchmark 3—April 18 - April 29

MAP Growth Benchmark 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.

LOST & FOUND



YOUR STUFF IS MISSING YOU!! Our Lost and Found cart, located in the elementary mini commons, is filling up! Please take time to label your label your child(ren)'s belongings. Please label anything that may be separated from your child. We have black and silver Sharpies on the cart and if the office, if needed.

Sleep Matters

Sleep, School, and Social Skills

Approximately 60 percent of children have sleep problems. Poor or inadequate sleep often leads to mood swings, behavioral problems such as hyperactivity or oppositional behavior, and cognitive problems that impact the ability to learn in school.

Sleep Needs

- Toddlers (1-3 years) = 12-14 hours of sleep
- Preschoolers (3-5 years) = 11-13 hours of sleep
- School-age (5-12 years) = 10-11 hours of sleep
- Teenagers = 8.5-9.5 hours of sleep
- Adults = most need AT LEAST 8 hours, varies through life



Sleep Robbers

Stress & Anxiety
Wrong Schedule
Caffeine
Environment



Sleep Strategies

Predictable routine, reduce exposure to “adult” conversations and topics
Learn the body’s natural rhythm, set a regular routine for bedtime
Avoid caffeinated drinks and foods (hot cocoa, chocolate, sodas, etc.)
Keep screens out of the bedroom, turn screens off at least 30 minutes before bedtime, keep the room dark, cool, and quiet

What time should your child be going to bed?

	Wake-up time						
	6:00 a.m.	6:15 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	7:00 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
Age	Bed time						
5	6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:15 p.m.
6	7:00 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
7	7:15 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
8	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9:00 p.m.
9	7:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
10	8:00 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
11	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.
12	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.

Further reading: “Sleepless in America” by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka and “Healthy Sleep Habits, Happy Child” by Marc Weissbluth



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

www.asdk12.org

ELE-340 (03-19)

226 miles have been run during the Recess Mileage Club!!!!

Some of Girdwood students have been choosing to run laps during their recess time. **Isaac Gates is leading the pack! He has jogged 20 miles already!** The top 10 runners are:

1. Isaac Gates. With 20 miles
2. Reagan Martyn with 16 miles
3. Conrad Seiling with 14.83 miles
4. Solveigh Mordal with 12 miles
5. Wrangell Martyn with 10.67 miles.
6. Elsa Hunt with 8 miles
7. Nonie Mucha with 7.83 miles
8. Danny Cardenas with 7.5 miles
9. Trudy Stair with 7.83 miles
10. Solstice Martyn with 6 miles



Student Government Happenings

STUDENT GOVERNMENT 2021-2022 BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Mia Stiassny

Vice President: Alden Swift

Secretary: Anna Green

Treasurer: Harlan Loso

Commissioner of Spirit: Eli Zellmer

8th Grade Class Representative: Levi Williamson

7th Grade Class Representative: Finn Gross

Student Advisory Board Representatives: Teagan Kuber & Mia Stiassny

Elementary Class Representatives: TBD

Staff Advisors: Anna Fleming & Dawn Murphy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spirit Day (Loungewear/PJs): Friday, October 8. Show your school spirit by wearing school-appropriate pajamas or loungewear!

Halloween Carnival: Friday, October 29, 6:00-8:00. Student Government is partnering with the PTA to put on an outdoor, covid-safer event this year, and it will be better than ever! Haunted Forest! Trunk or Treat! Food! Games! Contests! Prizes!

Middle School Debate

Girdwood MS Debate team will have their first online tournament of the year Saturday, October 17th. Please join Coach Rutherford in wishing our 6th - 8th grade team members best of luck in debating the topics of (1) whether "extinct creatures should be revived" and (2) if "college tuition should be paid for with public funds." There is still time to join this year-round middle school sport. Meetings Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 7:30-8:20 am before school in Coach Rutherford's Room 203.

Coding Club

Girdwood GW Coding Club for 6-8th Graders is busy refining their Scratch games and creating MakeyMakey controllers for our upcoming lunchtime arcade happening at the end of October. Come join the fun Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at lunch in Coach Rutherford's Room 203.

6th Grade Market Day

by, “Tre” Philip Peterson

Part of Ms. Rutherford’s 6th grade curriculum is our Mini Society, in which students have a variety of jobs to earn income. An interesting aspect of this curriculum is Market Day. On Market Day each student has their own business, and they can spend the money they have earned on other people's businesses. The students must buy a business license in order to have a business. Each business fits into a category like arts and crafts, food, games, and drinks.



During the Market Day, everyone was milling about, talking, buying, and selling. Everyone was enjoying the Market Day. Some of the businesses were games, bake sales, and trinket shops. Everyone is eager for the next Market Day on October 1st.

Overall, the Market Days are an exciting way to teach students about finance.

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.

PTA PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

FRIDAY
6-8 PM

OCT
29TH
2021



DRESS TO IMPRESS
BRING YOUR HALLOWEEN FLARE,
FOLLOW THE TRAIL IF YOU DARE,
DONT FORGET YOUR SCARE

KID
COSTUME
CONTEST

PRIZES
FOR TOP 3
VEHICLES



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.

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.