

November 3, 2021

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

# 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,

Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving! We have much to be grateful for here at Girdwood School. We have a wonderful, caring staff, from our custodians to our paraprofessionals, to our office staff, and all our teachers. I am grateful every day for the opportunity to work with our staff and I know your children are in good hands with them. We have supportive parents and community, with a giving and engaged PTA at the forefront, to which we all say thank you for all that you do to make Girdwood School the amazing school it is today. And finally, we have incredible students, who challenge themselves every day to learn and be engaged as well as challenge us to become better people. They are why we are here every day!

I would like to take a moment to honor our first quarter Citizenship Award honorees. The following students have been nominated by their classroom teacher(s) or a specialist for exhibiting the characteristics below: Emily Hilgers (Kindergarten), Quillian Peterson (1st Grade), Jaxson Geller (2nd grade), Trudy Stair (3rd grade), Arthur Fell (4th grade), Sophie Williamson (5th grade), Sylus Englert (6th grade), Brielle Rice (6th grade), Alden Swift (7th grade), Cooper Kelley (7th grade), Joe Flores (7th grade), Odin Hurst (8th grade), Emma Hornberger (8th grade), and Anna Green (8th grade).

The student follows the school's motto: Girdwood Grizzlies are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to do our Best!

The student takes initiative and has a commitment to the school and/or community. The student is often seen going above and beyond.

The student is often seen building up other students and strengthening other students' self-esteem with a positive attitude.

The student possesses strength of character and the courage to do what is right.

Congratulations to these students for their hard work in making our school community a better place each day!

Please encourage your child to bring their warm clothes and rain gear each day. As hardy Alaskans we go out for recess in just about any weather so our students can get some exercise and let out some energy. When stopping by the school, please check out our lost and found located in the mini commons for gear that your child might be missing. Also, the sun is coming up later and without the reflective properties of snow on the ground, it's very dark on our sidewalks, in our crosswalks, and around our parking lot when students are coming to school. Please encourage your child to wear reflective clothing and remind oneself to slow down when driving during times when students are walking to school. We want to ensure all of Girdwood kiddos and community members are safe!

Our Girdwood School PTA has been hard at work planning for all the wonderful events they fund and organize. Thanks to the PTA we are able to have annual events that are cherished within the community, such as the Halloween Carnival (this year the Trunk or Treat) and Holiday Bazaar which will be taking place on 12/4 here at the Girdwood School. Become a Girdwood School PTA Member Today! Your annual membership of \$10 will help fund enrichment throughout the school year. Did you know that each year, Girdwood PTA funds approximately \$12,000 worth of activities? Here's a quick overview of how our PTA makes an impact: teacher grants, school-wide technology upgrades, intensives, Battle of the Books, Math Derby, science fair or STEM night, the school play, 8th grade Celebration, spelling bee, Kindy Round-up, field trip fees and buses, school assemblies, speakers, honors teachers/staff/volunteers, and is the host of the Halloween Carnival, the Christmas Bazaar, school dances, and movie nights! The Girdwood PTA has gone paperless with membership this year. Please take a moment to hop on and check out the new Girdwood School PTA website at <https://girdwoodpta.org/>. Here you can find a link for PTA memberships and donations. We encourage you to join our PTA and submit your payment for memberships through the website. There is also the option to donate to the PTA on the website, if you are not interested in being a member at this time. Please email [pta.girdwood@gmail.com](mailto:pta.girdwood@gmail.com) with any questions.

It is my pleasure to work with the community of Girdwood's students, teaching staff, and families! If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the office. We are here to help!

Take care,

Kari Anderson, Principal

Girdwood PK-8 School

## Upcoming Events

11/7 Daylight Savings Time—Set Clocks Back 1 Hour

11/9 School Store—Open During Lunch

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

11/15 PTA Meeting

11/17 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Romig Middle School 5pm

11/20 Middle School Debate Tournament

11/22 Lifetouch Picture Retake Day

11/23 School Store—Open During Lunch

11/25-11/26 Thanksgiving Break

12/1 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Mears Middle School 5pm

12/4 PTA Holiday Bazaar 12-5pm

12/8 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Hanshaw Middle School 5pm

12/11 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Jamboree @ Clark Middle School

12/16 End of the 2nd Quarter

12/17 State Released Grade Reporting Day—No School for Students

12/18-1/3 Winter 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 Marenco**, vice president

**Andrea Anderson**, secretary

**Kelly Schwarz**, treasurer

**Julie Pierre Leclerc**, member at large

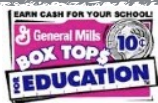
**Anna Russell**, member representative

**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](http://www.glaciervalleytransit.com) or contact Sam Marshall, Operations



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/winter coat, rain pants/snow 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



## 6th Grade Guest Speakers News:



6th Graders attended their first Flipgrid Live presentation this October. We joined 11,000 other classrooms from 128 countries around the world to meet the author Rick Riordan of the Percy Jackson series. Riordan's next book, *Daughter of the Deep*, will be coming out this October.



Sixth-grader six-word-summaries of this event captured this experience. They include such insights as: "His new book is about teamwork," "That your new book is underwater," "I learned ideas for a novel," "His rejection note story was funny," "I learned that his house burned," "Writing is a great calming outlet," and "He makes great novels for kids."

Our next Flipgrid Live event will be November 4th when we meet National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman who is famous for her poem "The Hill We Climb" which shared at President Biden's Inauguration.

We will also be Zooming with ESPN sports writer and published author Seth Wickersham (Brielle's Uncle & Anchorage Service HS graduate) to get tips on how to write and publish a novel as part of our National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) Challenge.



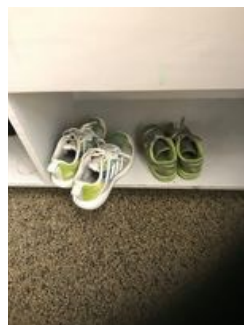
Here at Girdwood PK-8 School, we would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Dena'ina people, past and present, who have lived on these lands since long before Anchorage and Girdwood were here. May we all be good stewards of these lands. Chin'an. (/CHIN-nan/ {Meaning - Thank you})



## 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.

## 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 in the office, if needed.



PTA PRESENTS

# GIRDWOOD HOLIDAY BAZAAR

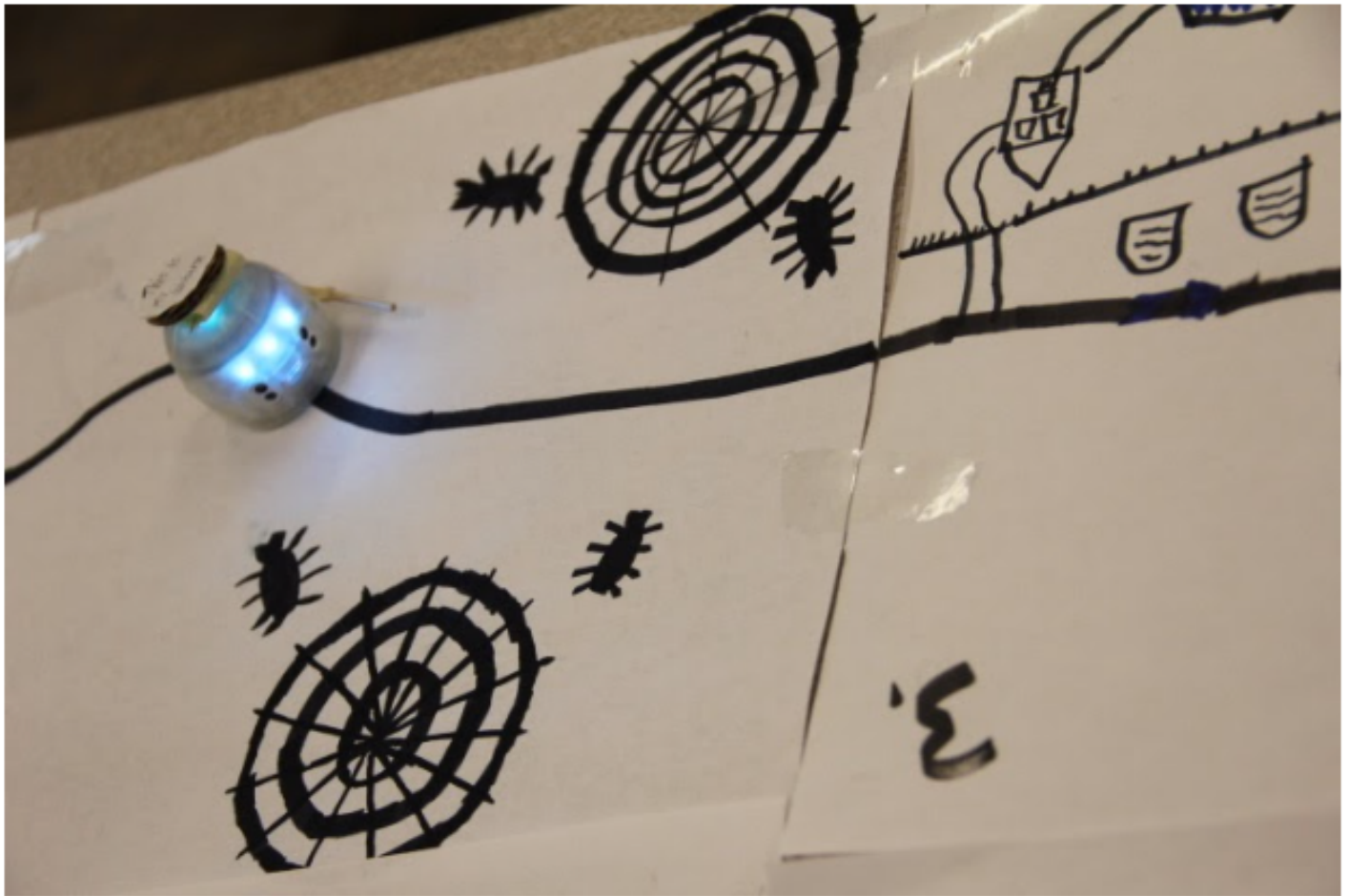
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

**SATURDAY  
DEC. 4TH 2021  
GIRDWOOD SCHOOL**

Interested in reserving a booth space?  
RSVP Elizabeth Ellis at  
[ak.elizabethellis@gmail.com](mailto:ak.elizabethellis@gmail.com)



## What's happening in 6th grade?



Above we have a picture of a team working on an Ozobot Halloween trail. Ozobots are the world's smallest robots and the 6th graders get to use and learn about them.

We had new elections! Our new presidents are Passage for Class President, Harper for Bank President, and Cooper for Union President.

Now we're going to interview Harper for some of her campaign promises for mini-society. What are your promises for the Bank President? "Some of my promises were to promote the school store and to give raises if the students deserve it". What would you do if people stole from the mini-society bank? "First I would talk to the student and understand why they stole the money. Then I would have them pay back the money and an extra 5 dollars," Harper explained.

Now we are going to interview our Union President. Here are some of his campaign promises. What were some of your campaign promises that you made? "One was a Halloween day with games and wearing your costume. But we are not able to do some of the things that I planned due to school rules. I also promised we would do at least one fun thing a week," said Cooper.



## **Middle School Debate Success**

Saturday, October 16, was our Girdwood Grizzlies Middle School Debater's first statewide virtual tournament of the year. Our JV team of 6th graders Harper Landry, Hardy Wade, and Sam Stiassny had great success in their first debate on the topics "should extinct creatures be revived" and "should college tuition be paid by public funds."

Our varsity debate team of 7th grader Finn Gross, and 8th graders Teagan Kuber and Eli Zellmer debated their way to Second place overall in finals. Finn, Teagan, and Eli also tied for 5th place speaker tournaments.

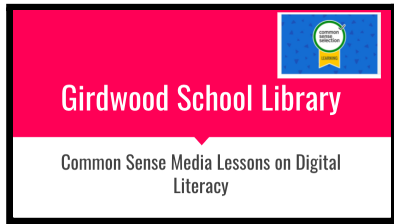
Girdwood middle school debaters are off to a great start and looking forward to our next tournament on December 11th. If you're interested in joining our mighty team, see Coach Rutherford. We meet Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday before school.



## **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](https://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](mailto:cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org) or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.





# Girdwood Library

November 2021

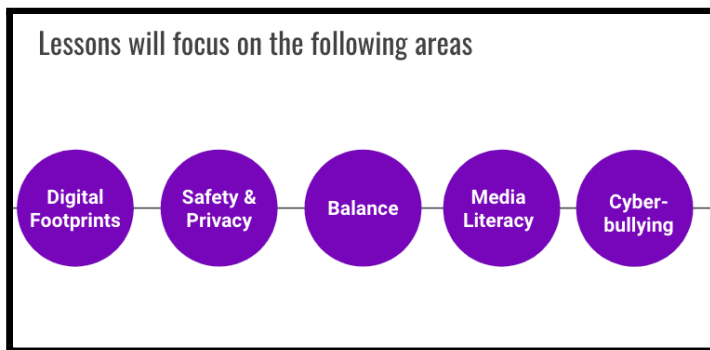
Greetings Girdwood Families,

November begins our Library Unit on [Digital Citizenship with Common Sense Media](#). Students in grades K-8 will participate in lessons, solve problems, and bring home resources that can help families find a balance with time and content in online environments.

*Why Digital Literacy?* As our reliance on technology increases it is crucial that our young people have the skills to protect themselves, show respect to others, and find a balance with other life activities. This curriculum equips students and families with the tools they need to manage online activities according to their own values.

Please ask your students what they are learning in the library this quarter. Also, take a moment to follow the links to access additional resources or learn more about Common Sense Media's Education program. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the lessons and content.

## COMMON SENSE MEDIA



digital footprint  
media balance  
cyberbullying  
online privacy communication  
news & media literacy

Questions or Concerns?

Please contact me via email

Meghan Nedwick

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

Common Sense Media  
Please visit the website to learn more about  
research and programs

[www.commonsense.org/education/](http://www.commonsense.org/education/)

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](http://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.



**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.