

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from Principal Kari Anderson

Dear Girdwood PK-8 Families,

What a great time of year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of all of our students during the holiday season! Our upcoming K-3 primary holiday concert offers the opportunity to slow down and enjoy a little holiday cheer on Wednesday, December 15th, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. We hope to all see you on Zoom!

During this holiday season, I would like to say thank you to:

- Parents and guardians who diligently check their child's schoolwork; who are seated beside them as they complete their assignments; and spend quality time with their children.
- All the volunteers, including our PTA Board, who give countless hours to make Girdwood PK-8 a better place for students and staff.
- Community members and parents who organize fundraisers, help with PTA, and put on our annual Holiday Bazaar.
- All the people in Anchorage School District who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. For example: custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, school nurses, student aides, secretaries, teachers, and members of the school board.
- All of you who are doing your very best to send your child ready to learn every day.

I am proud of how much our community gives during this time of year. We have many programs that reflect Girdwood's caring community culture. Our students have started to gather canned food for our annual canned food drive that helps support local families. We will also continue our Angel Tree and hope you will reach out to brighten the holiday season for local families.

Our K-3 students will be taking the FastBridge assessment in reading and math on Friday, December 3rd. FastBridge utilizes a combination of one-one-one teacher administered measures and computer-based measures in reading and mathematics. Student results on this assessment will be available in Parent Connect during winter break.

Our third through eighth grade students have started their winter benchmark MAP assessments in reading and math this week. 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.

Our Girdwood School PTA just wrapped up a Kaladi Brothers coffee fundraiser and is now busy ensuring our Holiday Bazaar is a success! The Holiday Bazaar will be taking place at Girdwood PK-8 School on Saturday, December 4th, from 12-4 pm and we hope to see you there just make sure to wear a mask! You can apply to be a PTA member online at girdwoodpta.org and a membership only costs \$10. The \$10 goes towards supporting all the enrichment activities that our students have come to love.

I would like to take a moment to provide you with a friendly reminder about drop off and pick up of our students. If you need to exit your vehicle for any reason, please park in the parking lot and wait for your student by the entrance of the building. Please do not park and exit your vehicle leaving it in the drop off/pick up lane. This causes traffic to become backed up and not flow smoothly. Also, our handicap parking spots should be reserved for those who may need it. We have plenty of other parking spots for you to use if you'd like to park and exit your vehicle. Thanks for your help with this!

On behalf of the staff and Girdwood PK-8 School, we hope you have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Upcoming Events

12/4 PTA Holiday Bazaar 12-4 pm
 12/6 FastBridge Testing K-3 All Day
 12/6 7/8th Grade MAP Testing 8:30 am
 12/6 7/8th Grade MAP Testing 10:20 am
 12/7 School Store During Lunch
 12/7 Student Advisory Board 11:15-1:15 pm
 12/8 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Hanshaw Middle School 5pm
 12/11 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Jamboree @ Clark Middle School
 12/11 Middle School Debate Tournament
 12/13 Library Book Sale
 12/14 Family Movie Night—The Polar Express 5 pm in the Commons
 12/16 Spirit Day—Holiday Attire
 12/16 End of the 2nd Quarter
 12/17 State Released Grade Reporting Day—No School for Students
 12/18-12/31 Winter Break
 1/3 School Resumes for Students

Anchorage School Board

Margo Bellamy, president

Dora Wilson, vice president

Kelly Lessens, treasurer

Carol Jacobs, clerk

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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.



We would like to shout out a big THANK YOU to Subway and the Ice Cream Shop, Girdwood K-8's school business partners! If you know of anyone else who would like to be our partner, please let us know.



Girdwood, Alaska theicecreamshop.com

Winter is here!

Although the calendar says it's still fall, winter has charged us like a bull here in the Girdwood valley and this past November was the snowiest any of us can remember. This is another reminder to please make sure your child comes to school with the right gear every day: winter coat, 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.

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



Please Help Those Who May Need Some Help
This Holiday Season

The Girdwood Lions Club are Collecting Canned Food
& Non-Perishable Food Items

Mon, Nov 29th - Mon, Dec 13th.

Please Bring Your Donation to The Girdwood School
and Place on The Food Cart Out Front

Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*** **

*If you know of a Family That could use some
Help from our Community Angel Tree, OR
if you would like to support an Angel ...*

Please Call Bethanie @ 351-7087 By Friday, Dec 3th.

Canned Food Drive: NOW through December 13

The annual canned food drive started this past Monday and will run until Monday, December 13. Canned food and other non-perishable items will be collected by class into bins in the lunchroom commons. The class that collects the most items will be rewarded with a pizza party. All of the food collected will be distributed to families in the local Four Valleys area to help brighten their holidays. Please see the list below for the most desirable food items.



Food Drive Most Useful Items

Most sought after items:

Peanut Butter
Jams & Jellies
Breakfast Cereals
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Meats

Canned Fruit
Canned Soups
Easy Open canned meals
Top Ramen or Noodle Bowls
Coffee

Other great items:

Meats & Protein

- Canned meat, fish & poultry
- Beef or other Jerky
- Canned Beans
- Refried Beans
- Dry Beans

Dinners

- Pasta & Sauces
- Rice
- Meal Helpers
- Boxed Side Dishes

Fruits & Vegetables

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Tomatoes
- Raisins & Dried Fruit
- Applesauce

Items Food Bank of Alaska is not able to distribute:

- Home-canned or jarred products.
- Home-processed fish or game.
- Open products or products exposed to the air.

Breads & Cereal

- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Cornmeal
- Baking Mixes
- Flour/Sugar/Salt
- Breadcrumbs

Drinks & Snacks

- Crackers
- Nuts
- Fruit Snacks
- Juice Boxes

Condiments – all kinds

Nurse Update:

Dear Families,

Thank you for all you do to keep our students and staff healthy! While things are still constantly changing, one thing remains the same: we still require students to be tested for any symptom that could possibly be COVID-19 related prior to return to school or isolate for 10 days. Testing for students is available at school, we are currently sending student samples to Beechtree in Anchorage with results returning that same night. Please call nurse Raquel on Mondays or nurse Summer Tuesday to Friday for any questions or concerns at 742-5301 or email marrs_raquel@asdk12.org and stone_olivia@asdk12.org



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.



HOLIDAY SHOW

Join us Wednesday, December 15 for the Zoom performance of our annual Primary Holiday Show, "This Magic Season". You can actually sit with your kids and watch their performance! Grades included in the show are Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, with performances by our Girdwood School orchestra. We will see you all there, 6:30 pm on the 15th! Zoom link to follow.

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.

Girdwood PTA Holiday Bazaar

**DEC.4TH
12-4PM**



**GIRDWOOD SCHOOL
680 HIGHTOWER RD**

MASKS REQUIRED

Sixth Grade November News

by Kaiden Kuber, Class Public Relations Officer

We've been working on some pretty big projects and things in November such as writing a novel through the NaNoWriMo challenge, Socratic Seminars on the book *Psychology of Money*, a fun Thanksgiving party, and meeting Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman over Flipgrid Live.

Another special treat we had in November was Seth Wickersham Zoom interview as part of our NaNoWriMo writing month kick-off to help give us tips on writing a book! Below are some photos of things we did in November!



Student Government News

In addition to helping with the Lions Club Food Drive and PTA Bazaar, the Student Government is organizing some festive activities as we approach the holiday break! Family Movie Night: Tuesday, December 14 at 5 pm in the Commons. We are planning to show *The Polar Express*. Admission is \$1 and there will be snacks available for purchase as well. Stay tuned for details!

Holiday Attire Spirit Day: Thursday, December 16. Pull out the ugly sweaters, elf hats, and gaudy jewelry! Let's sparkle and shine on the last day of school before the break!

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.

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.



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.

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.