

January 13, 2022

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# GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Dear Girdwood PK-8 School Families,

Happy New Year 2022! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and took some time to relax with family and friends. Hopefully, you got out to explore the wonderful winter wonderland of Alaska or had time to travel to see family you haven't seen in a while. January brings us to the second semester of this 21-22 school year, and we are excited to see our middle school boys' basketball team and boys and girls cross-country ski teams underway.

The latest Covid data from the State of Alaska shows an uptick in cases for Anchorage School District, the State of Alaska, and our Girdwood community. Our mask requirement remains, along with testing and other mitigation procedures that were in place prior to winter break. Our priority is keeping Girdwood School open and safe with in-person learning as we all know our students belong in the classroom. This year we have brought back many of the activities and events that make Girdwood School special. Ski days, the school play, and the science fair are all events we are hoping to hold this year but we are in a holding pattern as we see how the Covid cases play out in our community. Crossing our fingers we can make these things happen this winter into spring. That being said, I am grateful we have been able to keep our students in person this year and that's what matters most to me.

There has been a slight change to our morning drop off procedure as the cold weather and darkness has set in. We are allowing students to head straight into the building and to their classrooms in the morning from 8:20-8:30 am. Students no longer need to meet their teacher on the playground in the morning. If students arrive prior to 8:20 am, they will wait with the staff on morning duty outside under the main entrance awning until 8:20 am.

I would like to take a moment to honor our second quarter Citizenship Award honorees! The following students have been nominated by their classroom teacher(s) or a specialist for exhibiting the characteristics below: Sadie Romo (Kindergarten), Sam Munter (1st Grade), Wyatt Hutchins (2nd grade), Brynn Vanderhoek (2nd grade), Lauryn Peterson (3rd grade), Reagan Martyn (3rd grade), Annie Bailey (4th grade), Madeline Romerdahl (5th grade), Harper Landry (6th grade), Harlan Loso (7th grade), Divine Schwarz (7th grade), Chloe Romerdahl (7th grade), Hayden Cabarrubias (7th grade), and Teagan Kuber (8th grade).

These students follow the school's motto: Girdwood Grizzlies are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to do our Best! They take initiative and have a commitment to the school and/or community. These students are often seen going above and beyond. They are often seen building up other students and strengthening other students' self-esteem with a positive attitude. They possess 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!

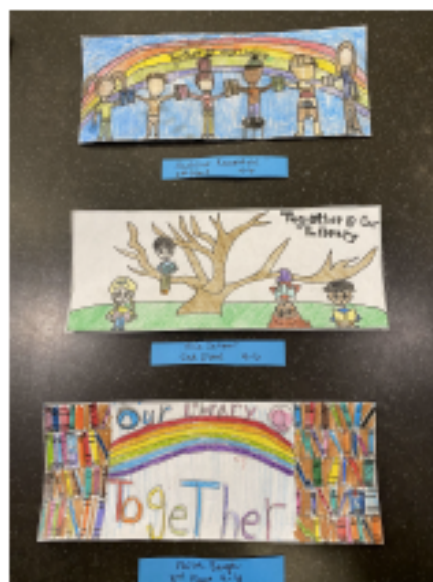
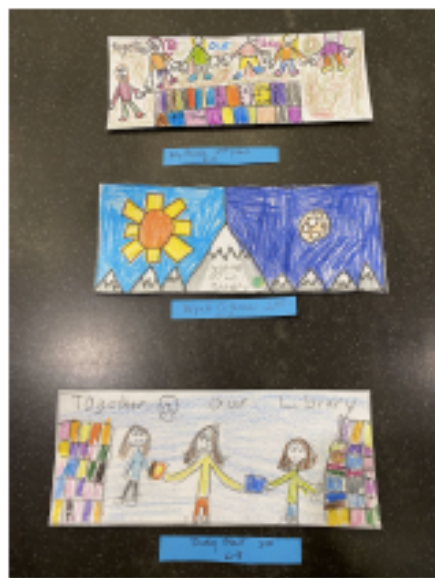
Please encourage your child to bring their warm clothes and/or rain gear each day. As hardy Alaskans we go out for recess in just about any weather so our students can get some exercise and let out some energy. When stopping by the school, please check out our lost and found located in the mini commons 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!

In gratitude for you all,

Kari Anderson, Principal

## 2021-2022 Girdwood Library Bookmark Contest Winners

Congratulations to our artistically talented Girdwood students! First place winners from the K-3, 4-6 winners will go on to compete in the district wide competition, and both the first and second place middle school winners will compete in the district wide competition.



### **Elementary K-3**

1st Place: Lily Black, 2nd grade

2nd Place: Wyatt Cothren, 1st grade

3rd Place: Trudy Stair, 3rd grade

### **Intermediate 4-6**

1st Place: Madeline Romerdahl, 5th grade

2nd Place: Allie Zellmer, 5th grade

3rd Place: Shiloh Baugh, 4th grade

### **Middle School**

1st Place: Ariela Gelinas, 7th grade

2nd Place: Chloe Rhomerdahl, 7th grade

3rd Place: Emma Hornberger, 8th grade

## Upcoming Events

1/17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No School

1/18 School Store During Lunch

1/21 Spirit Day—Through the Decades

1/21 Winter iReady Math Diagnostic Window Ends

1/25 5/6 Battle of the Books Competition

1/26 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Eagle River, 5:30 pm—Classic

1/27 3/4 Battle of the Books Competition

2/1 School Store During Lunch

2/2 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Bartlett HS, 5:30 pm—Classic

2/9 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Kincaid, 5:30 pm—Mixed Relays

2/14 State Battle of the Books Grades 3/4

2/15 State Battle of the Books Grades 5/6

2/15 School Store During Lunch

### **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

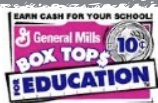
**Anna Russell**, member representative

**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 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](http://theicecreamshop.com)

## A Gentle Reminder...

Wow—the weather outside has been CRAZY! From record snowfalls to record low temperature and now the freezing rain, Mother Nature is trying to keep us on our toes! Because we care, we just want to remind you to please make sure your child(ren) 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. Most students have outdoor recess everyday except in cases of extreme inclement weather, so they need to be prepared. Students without proper outside gear will be spending their recess in the office. Please remember to label all clothing and accessories. 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>

# The Great Kindness Challenge

Written by: Brielle Rice

This month the 6th grade class is participating in the nation-wide Great Kindness Challenge of January 2022! As classes resume, the 6th grade class is making an effort to make our entire school a kinder, happier and more positive place. Several 6th grade student groups are starting a school-wide movement to prevent name calling and bullying. One of these creative and influential project leaders is Logan Wedeking. In a recent interview with Logan Wedeking, they said that their goal with this project is for them to be kind to everybody. "I just want to be as kind as I can to everybody." Wedeking states simply. They are known to their friends as a smart and helpful person. Role models like Logan help us spread kindness and love throughout the school. Logan Wedeking is planning to present to classes across the school and hope to spread awareness on this issue. Everyone can help make Girdwood a powerfully kind school.



*From left to right: Tre Peterson, Logan Wedeking(Project Leader), Brielle Rice(Author), Layla Gross(6th grade Bank President) The Great Kindness Challenge projects include making a game or app, a choose your own adventure or a school wide campaign to end name calling.*

## More 6th Grade News...

Congratulations, Girdwood 6th Graders for winning the December Power Pledge Challenge. Each month, the Renewable Alaska Energy Project (REAP) sets a statewide sustainable energy challenge. Mrs. Rutherford's Girdwood 6th Graders won December's challenge with their creative energy efficient LED lights and recycled paper snowflakes. Way to go Grizzlies!

Other contests Girdwood 6th Graders are entering include the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) Haiku Poetry Contest, Anchorage Daily News (ADN) Creative Writing Contest, Next Generation Personal Finance (NGPF) Guess the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the SIFMA Stockmarket Game. These are just some of the ways our students are connecting with the wider world and sharing their voices to affect positive change.



## Spirit Day

Our next School-Wide Spirit Day is coming up!! Friday, January 21st is Decades Day!! Pick the decade of your choice and have a great time remembering the unique fashions of the era.



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





Dear Families,

This notice is to let you know that students in Grade K-6 will be receiving age-appropriate lessons on child sexual abuse and assault prevention education as required under the state's [Alaska Safe Children's Act](#).

These lessons meet the full requirements for student training under the Alaska Safe Children's Act, Erin's Law, and are designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse. These lessons will be presented during health classes in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well being of our children. It is my pleasure to teach and support all of our students at Girdwood School.

Warmly,  
Dawn Murphy  
Health/SEL/Behavior Specialist  
[murphy\\_dawn@asdk12.org](mailto:murphy_dawn@asdk12.org)



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/

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 5 days. Testing for students is available at school, we are currently sending student samples to Beechtree in Anchorage with results returning that same night, hopefully, or by the next day. 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](mailto:marrs_raquel@asdk12.org) and [stone\\_olivia@asdk12.org](mailto: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.



### **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 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.



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.