

# 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,

Our days are getting longer, and the snow has been amazing this winter! I hope you have been out enjoying this awesome winter season we have been having! Our kids are gearing up for testing, and our teachers are working hard to ensure they are ready for the spring assessments. We are excited about the progress our students are making in the classrooms and are certain that we will achieve all our goals during testing. As you are making plans for the spring semester, please remember that our 3rd-8th grade students are scheduled to take our state-wide AK STAR assessment in reading and math, and 5th and 8th grade in science March 28th through April 8th. As we know, student attendance is always important. Absences during this time will impact the student as well as the school schedule. Please try to schedule appointments and any absences outside of this time frame.

We are so excited for Girdwood School Ski Days to return this year! A big shout out to Alyeska Resort for their help in making this possible! We held ski days on 2/25 and 3/3 and will have future ski days on 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, and 4/8 weather permitting. The rest of the ski days are on Friday afternoons. Thanks to all the parent volunteers and chaperones who make our ski day program successful! We couldn't do it without you!

The Anchorage School District is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the School Climate and Connectedness Survey ©, a statewide survey for students, staff, and families. This survey measures perceptions of each school's climate, including the engagement of students, staff, and families. We value and need input from our Girdwood School families. You are an important partner as we work to continually improve our school's environment. We are asking that one parent/guardian complete one survey from now until March 25th. If you have more than one child attending our school, you only need to fill out one survey. The survey should take less than 5 minutes. Here is the link for accessing the family survey: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily> Select Girdwood K-8 School and complete the survey. All of the surveys are voluntary, anonymous, confidential, and do not ask questions about students' families. Results from this survey will be used to identify student, staff and family perceptions of school climate issues within our school(s). School staff use the results to inform their efforts to ensure schools are safe, supportive, and caring places for all students. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Hmong, and Samoan. Families can toggle to their target language in the upper left-hand corner. Thank you for your cooperation in this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey©.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a teacher or me directly. We are here to work together to provide the best possible education for your student! Hope you have a fun and relaxing spring break and that we continue to work together so our students demonstrate being respectful, responsible and ready to do their best!

Go Grizzlies!

Kari Anderson

Principal, Girdwood PK-8

## Upcoming Events

3/5-3/13 Spring Break...No School

3/14 STAMP Testing Continues

3/17 Happy Saint Patrick's Day—Don't Forget to Wear Your Green!!!

3/18 AK STAR State Assessment Practice Test Day in the AM

3/18 School Ski/Board Day

3/18 STAMP Testing Ends

3/22 School Store During Lunch

3/22 Student Advisory Board from 8:15-10:15 am

3/23 Primary Music at 6:30 pm in the Commons

3/25 School Ski/Board Day

3/28 State STAR Assessment Begins for 3rd-8th Grade

3/28 Spring SAEBRS Window for K-8th Grade

4/1 School Ski/Board Day

4/4 State STAR Assessment Continues for 3rd-8th Grade

4/5 School Store During Lunch

## Anchorage School Board

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**Dora Wilson**, vice president

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**Carol Jacobs**, clerk

**Dave Donley**

**Andy Holleman**

**Pat Higgins**

**ASD Superintendent**

**Dr. Deena Bishop**

## PTA Board Members

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**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.

## 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.



## 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!



## 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 Library Newsletter

March 2022

Almost 30 Girdwood School Students are currently reading their way to Nome for our annual Iditaroad Contest. In this challenge, students read the equivalent of 975 miles (even year route) to reach Nome. Each time students read equivalent minutes, they advance across the trail to a new checkpoint. Participating students have their name and picture placed on a dog sled that moves across the trail on our hallway bulletin board. Students who reach the finish by March 14th will be entered to win cool Iditaroad prizes and invited to our Iditaroad party in late March.



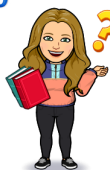
**For updated information, links to our catalog, SORA e-books, resources, or current reading challenges please visit our library website.**

## [Girdwood School Library](#)

### Library Book Care

- ☐ Avoid food or drinks when reading library books.
- ☐ Keep library books in a clean and dry location.
- ☐ Always transport library books in a bag or backpack.
- ☐ Use a bookmark or piece of paper. Large objects break the book spine.
- ☐ Place library books in backpacks when finished reading so they make their way back to school on time.
- ☐ Return library books to the classroom book drop boxes on or before your scheduled library.
- ☐ Encourage reading and re-reading of library books.
- ☐ Read with your child. We encourage children to check out any book that brings them joy. Sometimes it is a book a student can read by themselves and sometimes students select books above their reading level and that is ok! It is a chance for you to enjoy them together.
- ☐ Also be sure to contact me if you have water damage, pet damage, or lost books. Hundreds of dollars are lost each year due to improper book care and accidents. Please contact me if there is a problem and we can come up with a plan for replacement that works for us all.

*Any Questions?*



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

## **Notes from our School Nurse...**

Dear Girdwood School Families,

I hope you all have a wonderful spring break, full of what you do to replenish and rejoice. I'm planning for lots of adventures in the snow and hoping for sun! When we return to school, Covid-19 mitigation is planned to continue with masking being optional at school and when riding the bus. Masking is still required after a positive Covid-19 diagnosis if returning to school after a 5-day isolation, on days 6 through 10.

We have a spectrum of feelings within our community about mask mandates being lifted within school. I am hopeful that our mitigation efforts of keeping sick students and staff home as well as an excellent ventilation system will prevent widespread Covid-19 and other illnesses from sweeping through our school.

This means that if your student has any of the following, even one of these symptoms, they must stay home and receive a negative molecular Covid-19 test and have resolving symptoms before returning to school:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F, chills, or feel warm from a presumed fever
- New Cough
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Skin lesions / rash

Testing is available through school, Capstone at the Community Center on Tuesdays and Saturdays, as well as at the Girdwood Health Clinic.

If you plan to have your student be mask free, in certain situations please consider having your student wear a mask. For example, if your student returns to school following an illness with resolving symptoms but still has a little congestion or occasional cough. If your student is a known close contact. Please have your student wear a mask in these situations and others, as you feel appropriate.

If we are all willing to don a mask for these short amounts of time it may prevent others from having to miss school and suffer through an illness. If we all view this targeted mask wearing as a thoughtful, conscientious thing to do for our community we can all transition into this next phase of pandemic management more easily and with less illness.

Thank you and wishing you all good health,

Nurse Summer





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.glaciertvalleytransit.com](http://www.glaciertvalleytransit.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.



## A Gentle Reminder...

Wow—what a year so far!! From record snowfalls to record low temperature, freezing rain, and who only knows what will be coming out way over Spring Break! This is a continued reminder 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>



# Anchorage School District

## Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

January 24, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the spring semester we will once again be administering the STAMP assessment to our world language and immersion students in grades 2-12. STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency), a product of Avant Assessment, provides district-wide data on how well our students are progressing in their study of a second language. This year the STAMP testing window will be February 22 - March 18, 2022, with make-ups through March 25.

STAMP is a web-based adaptive assessment that is used to determine levels of Novice to Advanced at any point along the learning path, based upon the national ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) proficiency levels. STAMP is unique in that it is a nationally-normed assessment that measures the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking that uses real-world questions, scenarios, or prompts that engage students to actively determine their individual proficiency levels in each of the skills. STAMP assesses how well students understand and are able to use the language.

STAMP is a tool used to determine proficiency, not just another standardized test. Students could potentially use their results to help with their placement and/or credit at the college or university level. Results could also be shared with potential employers as proficiency levels are based on national standards. Furthermore, students who are seniors and who meet the criteria will qualify for the Anchorage School District's Seal of Biliteracy. For more information about this, please visit: <http://www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages/sealofbiliteracy/>

You can also learn more about the STAMP 4Se assessment and even take a practice test on their website at: <https://avantassessment.com>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Director, World Languages and Dual Language Immersion Programs  
[Locke\\_Brandon@asdk12.org](mailto:Locke_Brandon@asdk12.org)

### *Educating All Students for Success in Life*

**Anchorage School Board** Margo Bellamy, President  
Andy Holleman, Vice President  
Carl Jacobs, Clerk  
Kelly Lessens, Treasurer  
Dave Donley

Pat Higgins  
Dora Wilson

**Superintendent** Dr. Deena Bishop

## Middle School News

### Middle School Debate

By: Harper L. and Brielle R.

In late February the Girdwood debate team went to the third debate tournament of the year. It was very eventful. The two topics were should felons be allowed to vote after they have completed their felony sentences and should nations refrain from offering COVID19 booster shots until all nations reach an adequate level of vaccination. The Girdwood team had two teams. The first team was Hardy Wade (6th grade) as second speaker, Harper Landry (6th grade) as first and third speaker, and Brielle Rice (6th grade) as first and third speaker. Teagan Kuber (8th grade) was a rogue which means any team that has two people can “adopt him” to join their team. Teagan joined a team, Mirror Lake turned into Mirror Wood, and they ended up getting 3rd place overall! Hardy, Harper, and Brielle worked super well together and got a 2 and 2 record. During awards, Brielle Rice got first place in the speaker awards out of everyone! Everyone had lots of fun and worked really hard! Go Girdwood Debate Team!

Below is Brielle, Hardy, and Harper showing off their awards and hard work.



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



## **Girls Who Code ASTE Conference**

By Brielle Rice and Harper Landry

Mrs. Rutherford's Girls Who Code Club made an amazing achievement, presenting at the state wide ASTE conference at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. Teachers from all over the state came to go to workshops and lectures but students from the Girls Who Code Club were the only students presenting at the conference. They presented a data collector called PocketLab. The Girl Who Code club includes Tré Peterson, who talked about magnetism, Layla Gross, who talked about acceleration, Sylus Englert, who spoke about barometric pressure, Sam Stiassny, who presented on temperature, and Brielle Rice, who presented on angular velocity.



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})



## Ok, let's talk Basketball....

Through lots of hard work and while maintaining a positive winning attitude, the boys developed into one of the top teams in the school district. They ran a very effective offense, played great pressure defense, and displayed amazing teamwork. We ended the season on a high note by defeating a really good Romig team, 28-22.

Our last team function is a parents vs students game this Wednesday @ 4pm followed by the team pizza party.

Sadly, this will be my last year coaching the Girdwood Team. I think we started this program 7-8 years ago, and it's just been an amazing experience. I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to work with all of the boys that have passed through the basketball program. I will definitely miss this great program we've developed, but feel great knowing that coach Kelly has plans to keep it going for years to come!

Coach Kelly and myself would both like to thank the amazing community of Girdwood for all of the support and encouragement over the season!

Lastly, we'd like to send some encouraging words of a bright future to our graduating 8th graders. Odin, Brodie, Levi, and Teagan all had tremendous seasons this year, and developed into real team leaders. We wish them the best as they transition into the high school years and continue to grow as student-athletes.

Go Grizzlies!!!!



## Primary Musical

Grades k-3 will be presenting the musical "Forward" on the Girdwood school stage March 23rd at 6:30pm. It is a celebration of reaching for your dreams and moving forward...no matter what life throws at you! Hope to see you there!!



### 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.



# $\pi$ Day: 3.14

Our first day back at school (March 14) is  $\pi$  Day!

Mrs. Fleming's math students will celebrate this fun day with a variety of class activities:

**$\pi$  recitation contest!**

**songs and videos!**



## Congrats to the 2022 Girdwood Middle School Cross Country Ski Team!!

We were few, but we were mighty! The six middle schoolers who participated in cross country skiing this year had an amazing season. Harper Landry and Logan Wedeking represented the 6th graders and moved their way from C team (where they were in the top 10 every race), to B team where they had their fastest times of the season! Duna Snedgen and Harlan Loso were the 7th graders on the team. They both started in B and moved up to A by the end of the season. Both Harlan and Duna had strong races at championships and will be forces to be reckoned with next year! Eli Zellmer and Mia Stissney were the 8th graders on the team. Eli pushed himself in each race and finished with the pack of fast skiers at the top every time. Mia consistently came in in the top 3 at every race. She is an amazing athlete who also displays excellent sportsmanship with her teammates and competitors.

It was so fun working with these awesome athletes and watching them improve! Way to go Grizzlies!



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.

## **2022 AK STAR and Alaska Science State Assessment Schedule**

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success. This year, the State of Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align the English language arts and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall, winter and spring. This balanced assessment system will target instruction and better support meeting students' individual learning needs. AK STAR (Alaska System of Academic Readiness) and the Alaska Science Assessment are administered to students in Grades 3-9 (English language arts and mathematics) and grades 5, 8 and 10 (science) each spring. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents and schools an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at his/her grade level. The assessment is taken on the computer and is not timed, but each content area takes approximately 150-180 minutes. Additionally, an English Learner student who has recently arrived to the country in grades 3-9, will not be taking the ELA portion of AK STAR. Parents can locate resources for the new AK STAR test and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Practice tests and Tutorials on the ASD website at <https://www.asdk12.org/akstar>. Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days. The ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing dates are March 28th through April 8th.