

December 5, 2022

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 4

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 Holidays! It is hard to believe we are in the final month of 2022, and we are almost done with the second quarter of the school year! We hope you all join us for our PTA Holiday Bazaar this Saturday, December 10th, from 12-4 pm, and our Primary Holiday Concert on December 20th at 6:30 pm. Both events are sure to bring you some holiday cheer!

Great news! All busses are back up and running full-time beginning this week, Monday, 12/5, and we now have a morning and afternoon bus. There will be no more cohort model. You should have received a message from ASD transportation explaining the changes. Please login to Parent Connect and confirm your bus and times if you have any questions.

Our community is amazing and gives so much 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.

During the month of December, we are completing our winter MAP Benchmark Assessment in math and English language arts for grades 3-6 this week and Fast Bridge testing for students in grades K-3 this Friday, December 9th. These are assessments that help us determine if students are making adequate progress. These tests are given three times a year to see how students are progressing. A large part of students making adequate growth is through good attendance in school. Please make sure that your children are in school unless they are ill. The goal for each student is to be in school 90% of the school year. That means students can only miss approximately 17 days of the entire year to reach this goal. A high attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academic and social skills when they attend school consistently. It is difficult for their teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent.

The temperatures have dropped, and it is really cold outside. Please be sure to send your child to school with all their winter gear. We go outside for recess every day unless it is -10 degrees or lower. Students begin winter break on December 22nd and return to school on January 9th. I hope you all have an excellent holiday season and winter break!

As always, please reach out with celebrations, concerns, or questions. It is a true honor to serve the Girdwood community!

All The Best,

Kari Anderson, Principal



Upcoming Events

12/5 Middle School Girls Volleyball Game
@ Goldenvue 5:30 pm

12/6 4th Grade ELA MAP Assessment

12/7 3rd Grade ELA MAP Assessment

12/7 5th-6th Grade Math MAP
Assessment

12/7 7th-8th Grade ELA MAP Assessment

12/8 4th, 7th-8th Math MAP Assessment

12/9 K-3 FastBridge Testing All Day

12/9 3rd Grade Math MAP Assessment

12/9 5th-6th Grade ELA MAP Assessment

12/10 Middle School Girls Volleyball
Jamboree @ Begich 9-3 pm

12/10 PTA Holiday Bazaar 12-4 pm

12/13 School Store 11:30-12:45 pm

12/19 Middle School Basketball
Informational Meeting @ Noon

12/19 PTA Meeting @ GBC 6-8 pm

12/20 Primary Holiday Show 6:30 pm

12/21 Classes End
Grizzly Buck Extravaganza

12/22 State Released Grading Day
End of 2nd Quarter No School for
Students

12/23-1/6 Winter Break

1/9 Classes Resume
Beginning of 3rd Quarter

Anchorage School Board

Margo Bellamy, president

Carl Jacobs, vice president

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Andy Holleman

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ASD Superintendent

Dr. Jharrett Bryantt

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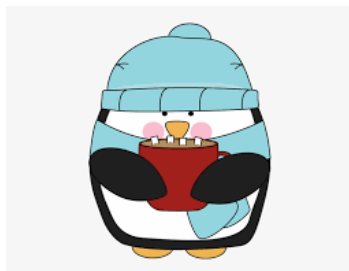
Anna Russell, treasurer

Julie Pierre Leclerc,
member at large

Nico Honegger, member
representative

Jennifer Derks, Shannon

Dierks, teacher
representatives



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 22-23 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.

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.



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

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>

STUDENT GOVERNMENT UPDATE



Thank you for attending our Community Pie Social. It was wonderful to see and feel the holiday buzz in the air with so many family and friends in our building. We hope you enjoyed the homemade apple pies made with love from our 7th & 8th graders and sweet ice cream generously donated from the Ice Cream Shop!





Please Help Those Who May Need Some Help
This Holiday Season

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

Wed., Nov 30th - Wed., Dec. 14th

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 or text Bethanie @ 351-7087



Girdwood Library News



Upcoming Events

Reading Challenge - Dec. 1st

Hour of Code - Dec. 5th

Bookmark Contest- Dec. 9th

Library Links



[Library Website](#)

[Library Catalog](#)

[APL Library](#)



Library Winter Reading Challenge

Your child received a winter reading challenge sheet. Help your child keep their literacy skills strong through joyful reading during these dark days. Reading leads to success in all subjects in school, improves brain development, helps teach children empathy, promotes relaxation, and is an important life skill. Read in a fun way by completing this year's unique challenges. The challenge can also be found on our [library website](#) if you misplaced your copy.



Reminders

Please remember to return your library books. If you have a book accident, please send me an email so that we can work to replace or repair damaged books. Thank you for your support!



Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest

For over three decades, Lions Club organizations around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups...the Peace Poster Contest. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. We had a record amount of 6th-8th grade students participate and submit artwork this year! **Congratulations** to our Girdwood School Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest Winners! First place went to Katie Rowekamp! Second place went to Nava Stephenson! Third place went to Brielle Rice!

Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest Winners Theme: Lead with Compassion

First Place: Katie Rowekamp



Second Place: Nava Stephenson



Third Place: Brielle Rice



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})



GIRDWOOD K-8 PTA PRESENTS

GIRDWOOD HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Shop more than 50 local vendors!

*Saturday, December 10, 12:00-4:00 pm
Girdwood School @ 680 Hightower Road*

Questions??? Email pta.girdwood@gmail.com



THANK YOU!

We would like to give a big shout out to Glacier City Snowmobile Tours for providing us with all of our items on our safety wish list. This is so generous and we appreciate you so much! Thanks for ensuring our safety at Girdwood PK-8.



Four Valleys Community School

FVCS is based out of the Girdwood K-8 School, and this is our 41st year providing community education. Our mission is to provide fun and interesting classes and programs for all ages, focusing on recreation offerings and educational enrichment, and ranging from pickleball to art classes to yoga.



Visit our website to view and enroll into our classes: www.fourvalleys.org



Sign up for our email newsletter on our website



**Bring us your class ideas, and/or volunteer to teach a class for your community.
We have paid positions too!**



**Join our Board of Directors!
We meet 9 times a year, and have 3 positions open. Email cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org**

We offer scholarships, financial aid and payment plans for all our classes, please come talk to us to set something up that works for you.

A Gentle Reminder...



Well, helloooo winter!! December is here and winter has arrived with a bang—BRRR!! This is just another reminder to please make sure your child(ren) comes to school with the right gear every day: heavy, waterproof coat, snow/rain boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing they would need to keep them warm and dry during recess. Please send them to school with the same gear that you would send them outside to play in. Most students have outdoor recess everyday except in cases of extreme inclement weather, so they need to be prepared. Please write your child's name in **ALL** clothing and accessories. For your convenience, we have Sharpies in the office.



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.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

November 30-December 14

The annual canned food drive began last Wednesday and will run through Wednesday, December 14. Canned food and other non-perishable items will be collected in the commons. Each classroom will be collecting food and will be competing against each other to see which class can bring in the most donations. The winning class will receive a pizza party. All of the food collected will be distributed by the Lions Club to families in the local Four Valleys area to help brighten their holidays.

After School Playground Use

Please make sure your child is being supervised by an adult if they are playing on the playground. We enjoy having them here, but cannot provide outdoor supervision after 3:15 p.m. School dismisses at 3 p.m and, for safety reasons, students are expected to head for home, FVCS classes, or after school care on buses, bikes, feet or in a parent vehicles by 3:15.

Students are more than welcome to stay on the playground if they are with a supervising adult. This is true for all students, including middle school. The only exception is when students remain to participate in school or FVCS supervised activities. Thank you for your help in keeping all the children in our valley safe and supervised.

Join Girdwood PTA



Why join PTA? Our focus is supporting programs that help students be successful in their learning. Last year PTA funded over \$20,000 in programs and supplies for our students and school, including:

School Garden, Classroom Safety Kits, Halloween Carnival, Classroom Grants, Holiday Bazaar, Running Club, Drama and Music Programs, Field Trip Transportation, Field Trip Scholarships, Teacher Appreciation Week, Battle of the Books, Field Day, and Fall Intensives. For 2022-2023... new Classroom Display Technology and so much more!

Questions? Email us at pta.girdwood@gmail.com

Supporting Member



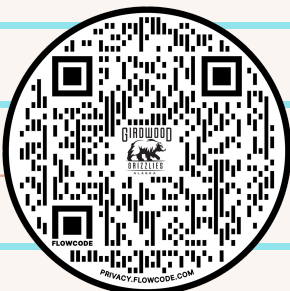
Who should be a supporting member? Parents, family members, friends, and community members who want to support our school and students



All \$10 goes to support Girdwood School PTA programs



Scan to become a supporting member



Voting Member



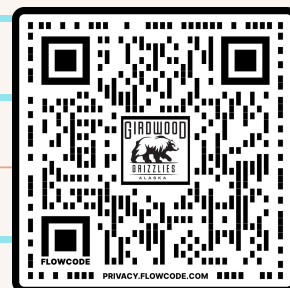
Who should be a voting member? Parents, teachers, and PTA board members who want to regularly attend PTA meetings and vote on our budget and bylaws.



\$6.25 goes to National & State PTA and \$3.75 goes to Girdwood School PTA



Scan to become a voting member





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.