

May 5, 2023

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

# GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

## ***Note from the Principal***

Dear Girdwood PK-8 School Families,

It's hard to believe we are in the final month of the 22-23 school year! We have many exciting things planned for the last three weeks of school! Field Day is taking place on 5/19, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation on 5/22, and Kindergarten Celebration in the morning and the Grizzly Buck Bonanza on the afternoon of 5/23. We are also excited for our last day of school BBQ during our lunch time sponsored by the Girdwood Lion's Club. In between those activities, we have many individual classroom field trips and activities taking place as well.

A big thank you to our Girdwood School PTA for sponsoring the Family Tech Talk this week and for sponsoring the adult Prom Night Party at Challenge Alaska on 5/20 to raise money for additional transportation costs for our ski day buses this year. We would also like to thank the Girdwood PTA Board (Andrea Anderson, Emily Marenco, Anna Russell, Melissa Randich, Julie Stiasny, and Nico Honegger) and all the families who brought in food (rice bowls, taco bar, and chocolate desserts) for Staff (Teacher) Appreciation Week. Also, a big shout out to Melissa Randich and Hightower Pub for supplying us with our favorite coffees on Monday this week. We definitely have felt the love!

We were also excited to team up with the Girdwood Health Clinic in holding our first Early Childhood Activity Fair. A special thanks to the following organizations for providing our community's families with young children information and resources available to them: Girdwood Health Clinic, Girdwood Lion's Club, Girdwood Fire Department, Girdwood Library Boosters, Best Beginnings, Programs for Infants and Children, SNAP, WIC, Little Bears Playhouse, Four Valley Community School, and Help Me Grow. A big thanks to Subway of Girdwood, our school/business partner, for donating subs and cookies for our young families to enjoy during the activity fair.

I would also like to extend a big congratulations to Christi Davidson, our first-grade teacher, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after working in education for 21 years! Thank you for all the work you have done with our students over the years at Girdwood School and in our community! Also, a big congratulations to Dave Musgrave, our building plant operator, who will be retiring after over 20 years with ASD as well. Thank you for keeping our school safe and our building looking so clean for all these years! We are also saying farewell to Hart Schwarz, one of our sped paraprofessionals, who will be moving from the Girdwood area. We will miss you greatly and appreciate all you have done for our school community!

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for another great year at Girdwood School. I really think Girdwood School is one of the best school communities in our district. We have amazing students, staff, and community! I am grateful to be a part of your child's educational journey and work alongside all of you. I am looking forward to the summer break to rejuvenate and get ready for the 23-24 school year. I hope you are looking forward to summer as well and take the opportunity to enjoy the time with your family and friends. Please be safe and take care of yourself and each other.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kari Anderson, Principal

## Upcoming Events

- 5/6 School Lunch Hero Day
- 5/8 iReady Math Diagnostic Begins
- 5/8 Track Finals at Rooming 3:30pm
- 5/10 School Nurse Day
- 5/11 6th Grade Field Trip to Campbell Creek Science Center 9am-2pm
- 5/11 School Talent Show. 6:30pm
- 5/12 iReady Math Diagnostic Ends
- 5/15 PTA Meeting at GBC 6-8pm
- 5/16 4th/5th Grades Biking Field Trip
- 5/16 School Store During Lunch
- 5/16 6th/7th/8th Grades Neon Bowling WOW Field Trip
- 5/17 1st/6th Grades Public Library Field Trip
- 5/18 6th Grade Hike to the Ice Cream Shop 10am-2:30pm
- 5/18 4th/5th Grades Crow Creek Mine Field Trip
- 5/18 4th Quarter Citizenship Awards at 2:30pm
- 5/19 Field Day
- 5/22 8th Grade Graduation
- 5/23 3rd/4th and 5th/6th Grades Picnic in the Park/Kickball Field Trip
- 5/23 Last Day of School for Students
- 5/23 Kindergarten Celebration 11am
- 5/23 Lions Club BBQ 11:30am-12:30pm
- 5/23 Grizzly Buck Bonanza After Lunch



## Anchorage School Board

**Margo Bellamy**, president  
**Carl Jacobs**, vice president  
**Kelly Lessens**, treasurer  
**Dora Wilson**, clerk  
**Dave Donley**  
**Andy Holleman**  
**Pat Higgins**

**ASD Superintendent**  
**Dr. Jharrett Bryantt**

## PTA Board Members

**Andrea Anderson**, president  
**Emily Marengo**, vice president  
**Melissa Randich**, secretary  
**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>.





Anna Russell, Julie Pierre-Leclerc, Aaron Stiasny, Melissa Randich, Kelly & Hart Schwarz, Nico Honegger, Jennifer & Todd Derks, Shannon Dierks, Maggie & Chris Donnelly, Scott Hickox, Dawn Murphy, Dawn & Aaron Poetter, Leola & Barron Rutherford, Joslyn & Chris Stinson, Summer Stone, Nerissa Thorson, Erin Wells, Tim & Barbara Lydon, Meghan & Lars Nedwick, Melanee & Ari Stiasny, Karen & Drew Harlos, Hilary Fell, Lauryn & Cody Rice, Tiffany & Phillip Peterson, Geoff Gross, Kyle Kelley, Emily & Rory Marengo, Duffy Daniels, Francis & Liam Connor, Bre & Ryan Donovan, Mark Wells, Catherine & Kevin McDermott, Sam Straley, Jen McCombs, Stu Greene, Malia & Daniel Skriloff, Dayna Laird, Selita Rios, Serena VanderHoek, Christi, Hartman, Liz Ellis, Jessica Fitzwater, Clay Bridges, Emma Hornberger, Julie & Matt Martyn, Becky Germaine, Robyn Wallace, Sioux Blackledge, Emily Hickox, Brigid Kuber, Bruce Ranke, Amber Truex, Kelly Rinck, Andrea Peterson, Daga Daibes, Sarah Glassett, Amberrose & Ivor Morrell, Justina & Blake Phillips, Marina Trocin, Vicky Rasmussen, Lee Stark, Kathy Trautner, Terry Sherwood, Kate Sandberg, Barbara Hunt, Rorie Hammel, Colleen Fisk, Tyler Katzmar, Chantelle Lewis-Boutte, Boe Jackson, Shelly Morgan, Karen & Mike Loso, Bob Mucha, Joelle Nadell, Deanna & Jon Nafzger, Adam Leggett, Dr. Herland Hampton, Lucy Swygman, Jack Bonney, Germaine Salmine, Nancy Wilson, Reed Davidson, Shawn Kennedy, Crista Hahn, Amy Smith, Becca Parisen, Katra Wedeking, Diane Lake, Carmen Romerdahl, Gennie Woods, Guy Wade, Debra Poetter, John Gallup, Erin Shumaker, Rebecca Reichlin, Jacky Graham, Sharon & Larry Vandergrift, Sally & Aaron Gates, George Stewart, Ashley Conley, Jewel Falter, Scott Swift, Ryan Redington, Tyler Schmitt, Barrett Salisbury, Elena Suleimari, Mariyam Medovaya, Jessica & Christian Sieling, Nancy Wilson, Tommy O'Malley, Julia O'Malley and Jimmy Riordan

## **23-24 Fall Registration Information**

Anchorage School District Fall Registration Schedule

**Online Registration dates for returning ASD students:** April 24th –August 18th

**Although Online Registration will be open through August 18th, registering your student before August 11th is appreciated.**

Have you moved? Will your children be attending a different school? You may register online, but please notify your new school as you will need to provide Proof of Municipality of Anchorage Residency to your new school. Girdwood School will reopen the week of July 24th.

**ASD is offering an Online Pre-Enrollment option for those new-to-District families and former ASD students, who would prefer to enroll their students from the comfort of their home, work, or anywhere! Pre-Enrollment opens July 15th. Go to <https://www.asdk12.org/enrollonline>, to pre-enroll your child.**

In-person Registration will be held at all ASD elementary schools for New-to-District students and all Kindergarteners.

- Tuesday, August 1 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 2 - 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM & 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 3 - 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**If you are out of town on the dates listed above, please visit your school as soon as you return.**

New-To-District Students (including all Kindergarteners) are required to submit the following documents at Registration:

- Proof of Municipality of Anchorage Residency (utility bill, lease, or real estate contract, etc.) will be verified for the following situations: new to school/new-to-district student (including kindergarten) throughout the school year
- Birth Certificate (copy acceptable)
- Current immunization records
- Names and phone numbers of emergency contacts and individuals who may pick up the child from school
- Name and address of previous school attended
- Copies of current legal papers if there is a custody agreement

### **The first day of school:**

- August 17, 2023, for Grades 1 – 6
- August 24, 2023, for Kindergarten





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)

## 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>



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})

## A Gentle Reminder...



Well, although Mother Nature can't seem to make up her mind—she still thinks it's winter!! 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.



## 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 3:45 p.m. School dismisses at 3:30 pm 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 vehicle by 3:45.

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.



# NURSE NOTES

## Summer Scheduling, Dress for Recess, Fentanyl Awareness



### Plan for the Summer!

Before we know it school will be over for the year and we all know how quickly these long days fly by. This is a great time to sign up for summer camps if you have not already done so! FVCS has their schedule out.

It's also a great time to start scheduling doctor appointments to update Care Plans if your child has one at school for asthma or allergies.

You will see an envelope in your students backpack if you have any other paperwork that needs to be updated annually or vaccines that need to be completed over the summer or early fall.

### Dress for Recess

It's easy to forget your boots, snow pants, or gloves when the weather is reminding you to grab your sunglasses as you head out the door. The nurses office has a stash of used gloves, hats, snow pants, and coats for borrowing when students forget their own gear at home. Every day there are as few as 5 or as many as 20 students borrowing gear. Coming to the nurses office takes time away from actual outside recess time.

Students in grades pK-4 are required to wear gloves, snow pants and boots to play on the snow; without these it's play time on the blacktop. Please help your child by making sure they are prepared every day with items needed for playing in the snow (while it lasts!) on the playground.

### Fentanyl Awareness

Drugs containing fentanyl have been increasingly found in Alaska and are causing overdose related deaths. Most counterfeit pills contain fentanyl. Every pill is different, even if one pill taken did not cause an overdose, another pill from the same batch could contain a deadly amount of fentanyl. Do not take any pill that is not directly received from a pharmacist or healthcare provider.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids and is available in a prefilled nasal spray device. It helps to restore breathing that has slowed or stopped. If fentanyl is involved in an overdose, more than one dose of naloxone may be required. Please look at these links for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone/index.html#print>

<https://www.dea.gov/engage/operation-engage-anchorage>





## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## NOW HIRING SOCCER COACHES

**THE FVCS SOCCER PROGRAM IS A COMMUNITY FAVORITE, BUT WE CAN'T RUN IT WITHOUT COACHES!**

We are looking for two coaches to help run our 10 day soccer program! This is not a pro experience, so no pressure to be an expert coach. Just be willing to help us provide a safe, fun experience learning to play soccer for our community kids!

**Program Info:**

This is a paid position @ \$18 per hour

Groups are Cubs (Ages 4-5), Black Bears (Ages 6-7), Brown Bears (Ages 8-9), and Kodiak Bears (10-15)

Hours committed are 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning on June 6th,  
ending with Parents vs Kids game on July 21st  
\*no soccer on July 4th, 11th, or 13th

Email Beks @  
[brumley@fourvalleys.org](mailto:brumley@fourvalleys.org)  
for more information



# Landscape Art Class

## with Tim Ball

Learn to create your own simple, Girdwood-inspired landscape in this 2-hour, hands-on instruction class.



*Monday, May 8th @ Girdwood Brewing Co*  
*6 - 8 PM, Ages 21+*

\$40 per participant, register @ [fourvalleys.org](http://fourvalleys.org)



## ADVENTURE WITH US!

SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS AND GIRDWOOD FINE ARTS CAMPS  
ARE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION! CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE  
ALL THE FUN WE HAVE IN STORE.

PLEASE CONTACT SHANNON AT [SBEACH@FOURVALLEYS.ORG](mailto:sbeach@fourvalleys.org) IF  
YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN COACHING OUR SOCCER PROGRAMS OR  
FACILITATING SUMMER PLAYGROUND



register at [fourvalleys.org](http://fourvalleys.org)





JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN & LIVE MUSIC WITH **ZEN TREMBLES & OTHERS @ HIGHTOWER PUB!**  
FUNDS RAISED WILL BENEFIT SUMMER PROGRAM TRANSPORTATION

**DOORS @ 6:30**  
**LIVE MUSIC 7-9**  
**SILENT AUCTION 7-8:30**



**\$15 PER ADULT**  
**KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE**



HOSTED BY THE GIRDWOOD PTA

# PROM NIGHT

*Party*

TICKETS HERE:



21+ EVENT

@CHALLENGE ALASKA

SATURDAY MAY 20 7PM

# 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](mailto:pta.girdwood@gmail.com)

## Supporting Member



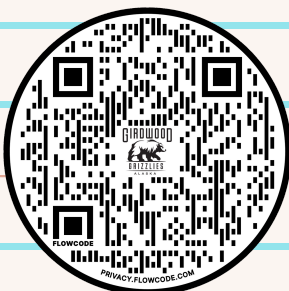
Who should be a supporting member? Parents, family members, friends, and community members who want to support our school and students



All \$10 goes to support Girdwood School PTA programs



Scan to become a supporting member



## Voting Member



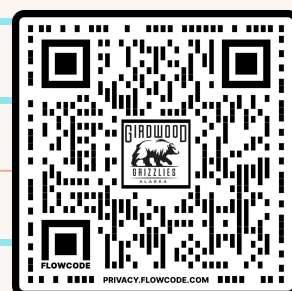
Who should be a voting member? Parents, teachers, and PTA board members who want to regularly attend PTA meetings and vote on our budget and bylaws.



\$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](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.