

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,

Happy New Year 2024! 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 23-24 school year, and we are excited to see our middle school boys and girls cross-country ski team underway and we are looking forward to our upcoming winter intensive day and school-wide ski days. Please look for paperwork to complete in regard to ski days coming home soon.

I would like to take a moment to honor our Girdwood PK-8 School second quarter Citizenship Award honorees. The following students have been nominated by their classroom teacher(s) or a specialist for exhibiting the characteristics below: Mazey Stair (Kindergarten), Cora Zumstein and Hadley Connor (1st Grade), June Finnigan and Axel Parisen (2nd grade), Arya Bautista and Isabel Love (3rd grade), Miles Donovan (4th grade), Flynn Russell (5th grade), Shiloh Baugh (6th grade), Maddie Romerdahl (7th grade), Christian Laird and Ray McDermott (8th grade).

- The student follows the school's motto: Girdwood Grizzlies are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to do our Best!
- The student takes initiative and has a commitment to the school and/or community. The student is often seen going above and beyond.
- The student is often seen building up other students and strengthening other students' self-esteem with a positive attitude.
- The student possesses strength of character and the courage to do what is right.

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. We go outside everyday rain or shine unless the temperatures are below negative 10 degrees. 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. 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!

Our staff just finished the process on gaining knowledge on the Professional Learning Community (PLC) structure and the benefits of our collaboration to our students' learning. Our three collaborative teams (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) will begin work related to addressing our school-wide goals we have created in math, language arts, peer climate, and writing. Thank you for being flexible with our one hour late start on Mondays, which allows our teaching staff to meet each week to work to meet the needs of all of our students.

Our start time for the 24-25 school year has been confirmed. We will start school at 9:00 am on Mondays, so our staff can continue to hold our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and dismiss at 2:30 pm. Tuesday-Friday, we will start school at 8:00 am and dismiss at 2:30 pm. This schedule is for our K-8 students. Pre-school will be held from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Monday through Friday for the 24-25 school year.

Also, a reminder to keep up with your child's grades and assignments through accessing Q Parent Connect at any time. Do you know how to login to Q? If not, give our front office a call at 742-5300 to get your login and password.

In gratitude for you all,

Kari Anderson, Principal
Girdwood PK-8 School

Upcoming Events

1/15 No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/16 PTA Meeting. 6:30-8pm @ GBC

1/16 Intensives

1/22 Late Start Monday—School Begins @ 9:30am

1/25 Sports Day Spirit Day

1/26 Ski Day #1

1/29 Late Start Monday—School Begins @ 9:30am

1/30 5/6 Battle of the Books in the Afternoon

1/30 Middle School Cross Country Ski Race @ Eagle River High School 5:30pm

2/1 K-5 Author Presentation

2/2 Ski Day #2

2/5 Late Start Monday—School Begins @ 9:30am

2/7 Middle School Cross Country Ski Race @ Chugiak 5:30pm

2/9 Ski Day #3

Student Government News

January 25th is Sports day! Come to school wearing your favorite team's hat, or your ski team jacket, a jersey, etc. Class with the most participation will hold Grizzly Gary until the next spirit day!



BE KidSafe

Moose Safety

Parents—teach kids to Be KidSafe around moose:

- Remember that moose are wild animals
- Don't scream and run
- Never get between a mother moose and its calf

Stay away from moose:

- Keep at least 100 feet away (2 houses) from any moose and twice as far from one with a calf
- Get behind something big if a moose comes toward you
- Avoid moose: go back home, to school, to the nearest Safe Home or find a different, safe walking route
- Don't try to pet or feed moose
- Don't throw snowballs or objects at moose

Signs of a moose ready to attack:

- It dashes around, its ears go down, it will lick its lips, and the hair goes up on the back of its neck. You are too close if you can see all this!



Anchorage School District
Respecting All Students for Success in Life



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Educating All Students for Success in Life

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Nico Honnegger, member representative
Jennifer Derks, Shannon Dierks, teacher representatives

Girdwood Library Bookmark Contest Winners 2023/2024

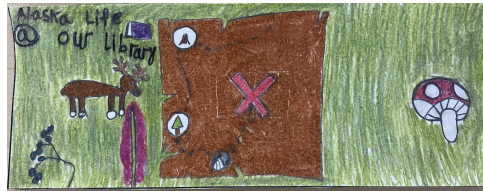
Congratulations to our artistically talented Girdwood students! The first place winners from the K-3 and the 4-6 and first and second place from middle school will go on to compete in the district wide competition in January. District winners are printed and sent to all ASD libraries.

Elementary K-3

1st Place: Avery Elliott, 2nd Grade

2nd Place: Stella Lydon, 3rd Grade

3rd Place: Charlee Barkel, 2nd Grade



Intermediate 4-6

1st Place: Aria Rice, 5th Grade

2nd Place: Ruby Gelinas, 5th Grade

3rd Place: Paxson Derks, 6th Grade



Middle School

1st Place: Olive Pilon, 7th grade

2nd Place: Ruby Loso, 7th grade

3rd Place: Passage Stinson, 8th grade





Dear Parents,

It's that time of year again, students and staff are getting excited for School Ski Days! The Ski Program is part of our P.E. Program, promoting a fun, healthy winter sport! **Ski packets went home earlier this week and are due back to school by Tuesday January, 16th.** Our first school ski day is approaching fast! Our first 5 school ski days are on Fridays, with our last school ski day happening on Thursday, March 7th, which is the last school day before spring break.

We need parents to chaperone groups on the slopes, help in the lodges, help put ski gear on little ones, and help students get to and from lessons in a timely manner. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

We will have a mandatory chaperones meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30pm.

School Ski Days are:

January 26 (Friday)

February 2 (Friday)

February 9 (Friday)

February 16 (Friday)

March 1 (Friday)

March 7 (Thursday)

If you have any questions, please feel free to send me an email or call me on my cell phone.

Cassie Quinn

Girdwood P.E. Teacher

quinn_cassie@asdk12.org

907.240.3449



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.



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))

Winter is here!

Winter has charged us like a bull here in the Girdwood valley and this past November and December were the snowiest on record. Every day students are coming in to borrow gloves, snowpants, and boots from the nurse because they forgot theirs at home. She only has so much to loan out. This is another reminder to please make sure your child comes to school with the right clothing every day: winter coat, snow pants, boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing they would need to keep them warm and dry during recess. All students have outdoor recess everyday except in cases of extreme inclement weather, so they need to be prepared. Older kids should be dressed for the weather, also. Please send your child to school with appropriate gear, regardless of what is happening outside when they leave in the morning. Remember to label **ALL GEAR** that they may become separated from. We have Sharpies available in the office. Thank you!



Girdwood School PreK-8

Mission: Educating all students for success in life.

Vision: Girdwood PK-8 is a school of engaged learners committed to academic excellence, who act with integrity, and are inspired by nature while rooted in community. |

mClass Winter Benchmark ELA Assessment Family Information

As part of The Alaska Reads Act, the State of Alaska requires that districts administer an early literacy screening tool three times a year to students in grades K-3 to identify potential reading difficulties in order to improve reading outcomes for students.

Families can read more about this comprehensive K-3 reading policy at The Alaska Reads Act

website: education.alaska.gov/akreads.

mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition

Assessments is the State of Alaska

Department of Education's and ASD's Early Literacy benchmark screening and progress monitoring tool for students in grades K-3 in reading. mClass utilizes curriculum-based measures and is used by schools as part of the ASD Comprehensive Assessment System to support informed instructional decisions.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development explains the decision to adopt mClass as the statewide literacy screener at the following website: <https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>. mClass screening assessments were administered in-person at Girdwood School to our K-3 students back in December.

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during the benchmark window are currently available in Parent

Connect. [ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide](#) can be found at parentconnect.asdk12.org.



Girdwood School Parents:

Glacier Valley Transit provides 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 the Operations Manager, at 907-382-9908.



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>.



Big Brothers Big Sisters Drop-Off Bin

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska has provided Girdwood School with a donation drop-off box. This bin is located across from the school parking lot. Please donate gently used clothes, shoes, and cloth items only. To

donate household items, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (907)563-1997 to set up a time for pick up. This service is provided for free by Big Brothers Big Sisters. These donated items are used to stock local Value Village locations and the proceeds of the items are given to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska in order to help them reach their yearly goal of serving 2,000 children across Alaska.

After School Playground Use

After school, students enjoy playing with friends and classmates on the school 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. School doors will be locked promptly at 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.



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.



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.



Dear Caregivers,

Boost Reading provides your child with the opportunity to learn and practice literacy skills within an engaging story world that adapts to each student as they move through the program. This means that you do not need to assist students with their learning. Once your child can log in, they're ready to start using the program.

Your child can learn with Boost Reading during school hours and independently at home.

- Log in to clever.asdk12.org
- Log in with the credentials from your teacher

Tips and Tricks

- Practice logging in with your child consistently until they can log in independently.
- Keep your child's login information in a single place so they know where to go if they forget it.
- Provide your child with headphones or a quiet place to play.
- *Website:*

BoostReading



Nature Painting Class with Jenn McCombs

Learn to create your own tropical-inspired scene in this hands-on arts instruction class.

Tuesday, Jan 30th @ Girdwood Brewing Co
6-8 PM, Ages 21+



\$50 per participant, register @ fourvalleys.org

FCVS Retail Swag

NEW & AVAILABLE NOW!



LIMITED EDITION
CANVAS BAG
\$15



LIMITED EDITION
CAMP MUG
\$20

PURCHASE IN PERSON, OR EMAIL
BRUMLEY@FOURVALLEYS.ORG TO PLACE AN ORDER

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
FOUR VALLEYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL!



Kung Fu with Situ Shayla*



Your kids will learn: Martial Art Forms, Self-Defense, Self-Esteem, Respect, Tumbling, & Discipline

Options for time commitment & price this semester:

★ Full Session of 12 Wednesdays January 10 - March 6 & April 24 - May 15, \$120

★ Short Session of the first 8 Wednesdays, \$80



Details & Register @ www.fourvalleys.org

Wake Up with Mel in January



Training focused on strength, mobility, & balance to get you prepared for all the winter activities that you love!

Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 9th - 30th
6 am - 7 am

Girdwood School Gym

Register for the full session online to help motivate, or drop-in for \$10

www.fourvalleys.org for more info & to register



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are hiring a Program Coordinator!

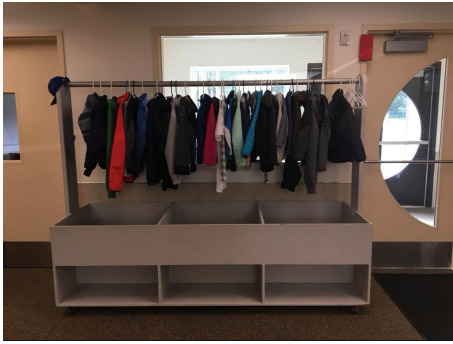
This position will be creating community focused educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities for after school and summer programming.



907-742-5317 ☎

brumley@fourvalleys.org 📧

FOURVALLEYS.ORG/ABOUT-FVCS/JOBS/



Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found Cart is filling up. Belongings are left at school and on the playground everyday and most of these items don't have names in them. We put them in the Lost & Found but they are more likely to make it back faster to your child if they have their names in them. Sharpies work best and silver Sharpies work better on dark clothing. Please label all coats, shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, and any other item that your child may walk away from. If your kiddo is looking for lost items, the school Lost & Found cart is located in the mini-commons, between the primary and secondary classrooms. We will donate the all items left behind at the end of every semester.

Sign up for FVCS Classes!

Four Valleys Community Schools has classes going on now and will be rolling out lots of new ones in the next few weeks for community members of all ages. If you feel unable to take any of our classes due to class costs, please contact FVCS at www.fourvalleys.org or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.

Anchorage School District Compliance/
Equal Employment Opportunity Office
REVISED: 8/2007; 8/2012; 5/2013;
7/2014

ASD Statement of Non-discrimination
for ASD Publications

The Board is committed to an environment of non-discrimination 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. The District notes the concurrent applicability of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the relevant disability provisions of Alaska law.

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the District's Compliance/Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Director, who also serves as the Title IX and ADA/ADAAA 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, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Director of the Office for Civil Rights-U.S. Department of Education or Office of Civil Rights-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**ANTLER-COOKIE
PAINTING**

THURSDAY JAN. 18

**With
AWCC**

\$16 **3:15 - 4:15 PM**

REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG






**STRENGTH TRAINING
WITH LAUREN**

Build strength, agility & mobility

Options for high & lower weight/intensity

Thursdays January 11, 18, & 25
5:30 - 6:30 pm
Girdwood School Gym

Details & Register @ fourvalleys.org




winter ROMP-N-ROAR



Mondays 8:15 - 9:15am
@ Girdwood K-8 School Gym
\$3 Drop in per family
or register for full session!

WWW.FOURVALLEYS.ORG



WEEKLY ADULT SPORTS

@ THE GIRDWOOD SCHOOL GYM

**MONDAY
INDOOR SOCCER
6-8 PM**



**TUESDAY
PICKLEBALL
5:30-7:30 PM**



**WEDNESDAY
BASKETBALL
5:30-7:30 PM**



**BASEBALL
WARMUPS**



Baseball spring training with coach Joe Bell! Work on skills such as hitting, throwing, and fielding. All sessions held indoors at Girdwood school gym.

Ages 9-11	Ages 12-14
Mondays & Thursdays	Mondays
Feb 26th - May 2nd	Feb 26th - April 29th
5-6 PM	6-7 PM
\$270	\$135

Register @ fourvalleys.org





YOU CAN HELP THE GIRDMOOD K-8 SCHOOL 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 the Girdwood K-8 School 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 the Girdwood K-8 School 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.

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





GRIZZLY GEAR



order online

Support Girdwood School PTA!
We are trying something new
this year, please check out our
online fundraising platform!

