

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,

I hope you are enjoying our longer days of light! Spring break is just around the corner and will be taking place March 8th through March 17th. Friday, March 8th, is a grade reporting day for school staff and there is no school for students. 4th quarter begins on March 18th with our late start Monday.

Our students 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 from March 25th through April 5th. As we all 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.

Families, we need your help! If you haven't already done so I encourage families to participate in taking the 2024 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 per family complete one survey from now until March 15th. 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: 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.

If your family is traveling, or if you are staying close to home for spring break, I hope everyone enjoys the time off. We'll look forward to seeing everyone back in the building on the first day after Spring Break, which is March 18th.

Wishing you all the best,

Kari Anderson, Principal

Upcoming Events

3/5 East High Dance Company
Performance, 9:30-10:30am

3/6 Primary Musical @ 6:30pm in the
MPR

3/7 School Ski Day

3/8 End of 3rd Quarter

3/8 No School for Students—
Grading Day for Teachers

3/11-3/15 Spring Break

3/17 Saint Patrick's Day

3/18 PLC Late Start Monday

3/18 3rd Quarter Citizenship Awards
2:30 pm in the MPR

3/19 PTA Meeting 6:30-8 pm @ GBC

3/20 K-2 Alaska Junior Theater Field
Trip

3/21 5th/6th Grade Field Trip to
AWCC 9:45-1pm

3/22 Last School Ski Day

3/25 PLC Late Start Monday

4/1 PLC Late Start Monday

4/2 Track & Field Meet @ the Dome

4/5 6th Grade "Kids to College" Field
Trip 10-1:45 pm

4/8 PLC Late Start Monday

4/8 Track & Field Meet @ the Dome

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
Educating All Students for Success in Life

Girdwood PK-8 School Start Times for the 24-25 School Year

Pre-School Monday through Friday from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

K-8 Monday 9:00 am until 2:30 pm and Tuesday through
Friday 8:00-2:30 pm

*Girdwood School start and end times will differ from other
Anchorage School District elementary and middle schools due
to shared transportation with South High School.

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 Bryan

PTA Board Members

Andrea Anderson,
president

Emily Marenco,
vice president

Melissa Randich,
secretary

Anna Russell, treasurer

Julie Pierre Leclerc,
member at large

Nico Honnegger,
member representative
Jennifer Derks, Shannon

Dierks,
teacher representatives



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life



Girdwood School Library

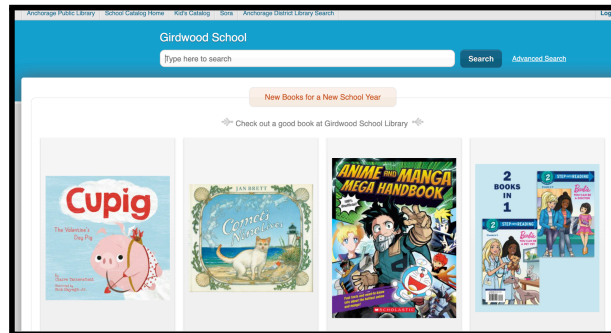


It is time again for our annual Idita-Read reading challenge. Students read the equivalent of 975 miles (even year route) to reach Nome. Each time students read equivalent minutes, they advance across the trail to a new checkpoint.

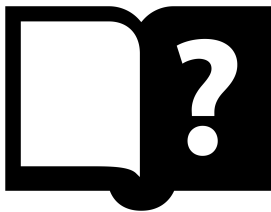
Participating students have their name and picture placed on a dog sled that moves across the trail on

our hallway bulletin board. Students who reach the finish by March 31st will be entered to win cool Iditarod prizes and invited to our Iditaread party.

For updated information, links to our catalog, SORA e-books, resources, or current reading challenges please visit our library website. [Girdwood School Library](#)



Missing Library Books?



Many of our library books are missing or overdue! Please keep an eye out for overdue notices that will be coming home with your child. If you can find a book, return it at any time. **We don't have any late fees in our library. We just hope to get all of our books back!**

If you have a book that you know is lost or damaged, please email me and we will come up with a reasonable replacement plan.

THANK YOU

Girdwood Goldstitchers

Students learned to sew pillow cases with the Girdwood Goldstitchers. Pillow cases will be donated to our local shelters in Anchorage.

Thank you to all who donate time and fabric to this valuable project.





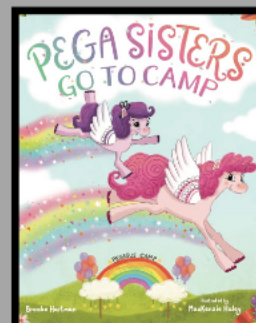
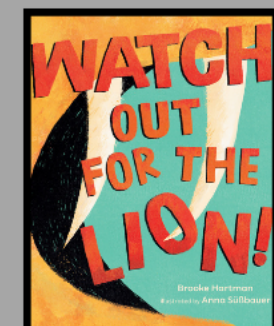
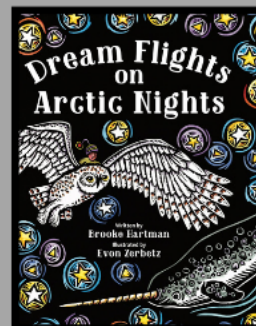
THANK YOU

BROOKE HARTMAN AND THE PHILLIPS FAMILY

For sponsoring this wonderful author
visit to Girdwood School!

If you missed your chance to order
books you can visit her website and
order through her order form.

<https://brookeahartman.com/>





The Girdwood PK-8 preschoolers, Mrs. Poetter, and Mrs. Robyn would like to thank Challenge Alaska and Four Valleys Community School for contributing to our students "Learning to Ski" 2-day experience! It was so wonderful for our littles to have the opportunity to get out on the mountain and learn the basics of skiing.





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 Gear, Lost and Found, and Reflective Gear Reminder

Please encourage your child to bring their warm clothes and/or rain gear each day. As hardy Alaskans we go out for recess in just about any weather so our students can get some exercise and let out some energy. When stopping by the school, please check out our lost and found located in the mini-commons for gear that your child might be missing. Also, it is still dark in the morning when our students are coming to school and they are walking across crosswalks, in our parking lot, or waiting for the school bus. Please encourage your child to wear reflective clothing and remind oneself to slow down when driving during these times when students are going to school. We want to ensure all of Girdwood kiddos and community members are safe.



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>.

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>.

2024 AK STAR and Alaska Science State Assessment

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. The State of Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align and connect the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall and winter.

This balanced assessment system targets instruction to better support meeting students' individual learning needs. In addition, students will take only one assessment per content area (ELA and math) and be provided two scores as follows:

1. Summative assessment result at grade-level
2. MAP Growth interim benchmark result, including growth from fall to spring

AK STAR, the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, is comprised of English language arts and mathematics and is administered to students in grades 3-9. The Alaska Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. 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 grade level.

Parents can locate resources for AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Student Readiness (Practice Tests and Tutorials), student testing times and general assessment information on the ASD website at <https://www.asdk12.org/akstar>.



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.

Attention Families of 8th Grade Students

As spring approaches, your student will engage in high school transition activities to prepare for their Freshman year. ASD has some exciting news to share! Starting with the graduating class of 2028 (current 8th graders), Anchorage School District is introducing a comprehensive wall-to-wall career academy model, known as the Academies of Anchorage.

The Academies of Anchorage is dedicated to providing every student with career opportunities and essential workplace skills. In 9th grade, students will kick off their high school journey in a Freshman Academy, which includes a Career Exploration course designed to promote a smooth transition from middle school to high school, support academic success, and help students explore career pathways. Stay tuned for more details about Freshman Academy and the Career Academy model during upcoming transition activities with your high school.

We greatly appreciate your input and invite you to share your thoughts on what you would like to see at your local high school. A family survey will be sent soon! This valuable feedback will play a crucial role in shaping and enhancing the academy structure.

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.

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.



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.

Coming in March

AWCC Thursday Class Schedule

ECO ARTS! **WITH AWCC**

Thurs, March 11
3:15-4:15 PM
\$16 Per Participant

BEAR & MOOSE SAFETY WITH ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

THURS, MARCH 21ST @ 3:15 PM
\$16 PER PARTICIPANT

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT



THURS, MARCH 28TH
3:15-4:15 PM
\$16 PER PARTICIPANT



WORKOUT CLASSES FOR BOTH TYPES OF PEOPLE EARLY RISERS & EVENING CHILLERS

Wake Up w/ Mel

Tuesday & Thursday
Mornings
6-7 AM



Strength w/ Lauren

Monday Evenings
5:30-6:30 PM



ALL WORKOUT CLASSES HELD IN THE
GIRDWOOD K8 SCHOOL GYM
REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG



Whale Watching *in Seward, Ages 8+*

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

With Major Marine Tours, Transportation Included!

Saturday, April 13th

\$140 Per Participant



REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG

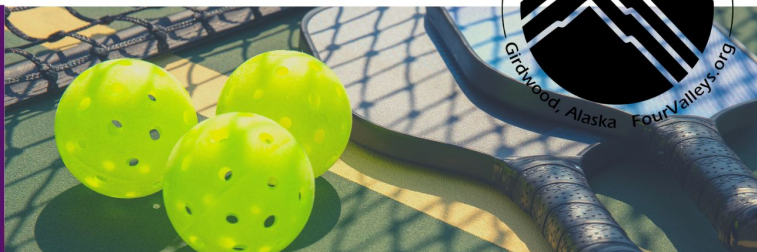


WEEKLY ADULT SPORTS

@ THE GIRDWOOD SCHOOL GYM



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



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



**THURSDAY
INDOOR SOCCER
6-8 PM**



Summer Adventure Camp Staff Needed

STARTING AT \$21
MUST HAVE VALID
DRIVERS LICENSE

LATE MAY
THROUGH
AUGUST



We are hiring Summer Program Staff!

Interested in spending a summer exploring Southcentral Alaska with kids, and have a passion for Alaska's resources? Come work with us! Programs run from early June through mid August, and include day trips, multi day camps, and overnight experiences in both Homer and Seward.



**FOR MORE INFO, SEE
FOURVALLEYS.ORG/ABOUT-FVCS/JOBS/
AND/OR CONTACT
BEKS @ BRUMLEY@FOURVALLEYS.ORG**





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.



YOU CAN HELP THE GIRDWOOD 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!

