

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from the Principal

Girdwood PK-8 School Families,

Happy Spring! It is amazing how quickly the final quarter of school goes, and I can't believe we are in the last months of school for the 2023-24 school year. We are finishing up AKSTAR and Alaska Science state assessments for grades 3-8 and we will begin testing in mClass for our K-3 students soon. Students are doing awesome, and I am always so impressed with their hard work throughout these days.

We have many exciting things happening at the end of this school year for students and families. Kindergarten Round up is taking place on April 24th starting at 6:30 pm in the Kindergarten Classroom here at Girdwood School. This is an opportunity for next year's kindergarten families to receive information about our school and kindergarten. Please let Girdwood families who might be new to the Girdwood School community, or this is their first child within our school, about the date and time of this event.

Our Girdwood School PTA will be sponsoring the Run for HeArt on May 3rd during the school day. The Run for HeArt will be raising money to replace school sports uniforms, purchase school garden supplies, and much more. Be on the lookout for Run for HeArt information and pledge sheets in the near future.

Thank you for all of your support. It is important we work together each year to ensure the best possible outcome for all students. I appreciate each of you immensely! Please let me know if you need anything at all. I am here to support.

Kari Anderson, Principal

Upcoming Events

4/11 Student Gov't School Spirit Day
—Dress Like a Teacher/Student Day

4/12 MS Gardening Field Trip to
Forget-Me-Not Nursery 12-2:50pm

4/13 Middle School State Debate
Tournament @ UAA

4/15 Late Start PLC Monday

4/15 Iditaread Party 1:30pm

4/17 Middle School Track Meet @
Mears 5:30pm

4/19 No School

4/22 Late Start PLC Monday

4/23 Jr. High Field Trip to Skateland

4/24 Kindergarten Round-up 6:30pm

4/29 Late Start PLC Monday

4/29 Middle School Track Meet @
Goldenview 5:30pm

5/1 Track and Field Preliminaries @
Begich 1:30P

5/2 Track and Field Events @ Mears
1:30PM

5/3 Run for HEART

5/7 Track and Field Championships
@ Romig 2pm

5/8 Bike to School Day

5/8 Talent Show @ 7pm



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

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Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

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**Jennifer Derks, Shannon
Dierks**,
teacher representatives

Pi Day!

Mrs. Fleming's math classes celebrated Pi Day (March 14) on our first school day after Spring Break. Activities included a pi memorization contest and, of course, pie!

The first and second place winners of this year's pi memorization contest broke the school record!

1st: Madeline Romerdahl (80 digits)
2nd: Conrad Sieling (38 digits)
3rd: Maria Nafzger (21 digits)

Congratulations to our winners!



Student Government News



We would like to thank everyone who participated in our first ever Spirit Week. We would like to congratulate Kindergarten for being the most spirited class all week. They earned possession of Grizzly Gary and have some serious bragging rights!

Dress like a teacher day!

Dress like a teacher day will be Thursday, April 11th. Students can dress up like a teacher in our school. And teachers are encouraged to dress like students. The class with the best participation will earn Grizzly Gary until next time!



Dogs on the Playground

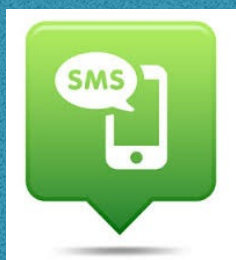
Just a reminder to keep your dogs leashed while on the playground here at school for the safety of our students and to ensure our playground remains free of dog poop.



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>.



Happy Spring!

The sun is feeling warm and the snow is melting! More may be falling but it too will melt. Eventually. Thawing and melting brings out the blacktop during recess and every year, kids fall and get hurt on the gravel covered blacktop. I understand soaking up the sun feels great, running around during recess gets kids overheated and so some kids choose to wear shorts and t-shirts on the sunny days. I encourage you to discuss clothing choices with your child, especially if they like to play football, dodgeball or other sports during recess. Long sleeves can go a long way in protecting skin from damaging falls. Some scrapes will still happen but hopefully not be as deep or painful. The playground will be cleared of gravel but until then, long sleeves are highly encouraged!

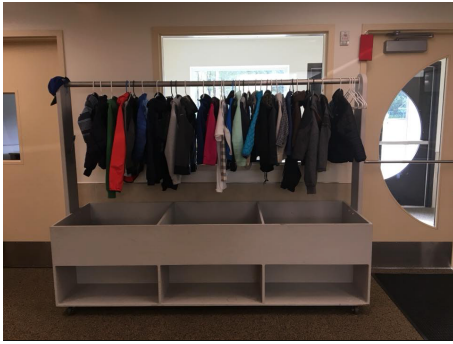
Many summer activities are open for enrollment! If you have a child with asthma or other health concern and are interested in finding a related camp, let me know and I will help you find a good fit! Whether you participate in an outdoor, theater, or farm camp, or just get out and enjoy all of the amazing opportunities for adventure Alaska offers with family and friends, I hope that you are making exciting summer plans.

If you have a child on social media, including Tik Tok, please be aware of circulating “challenges” such as the Benadryl challenge. These challenges are ever changing and can be extremely dangerous. Are you looking for more information about how to help your student safely navigate social media and challenges?

<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults/Social-Media-and-Your-Family>

<https://www.thetalkinstitute.com/blog/dangerous-tiktok-trends-parents-should-be-aware-of>

I hope you have a great April!
Nurse Summer



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.

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.

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.

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.

MAY 3, 2024

Run for HeArt!

A fundraising event for Girdwood School sponsored by Girdwood PTA



What is Run for HeArt?

Run for ____ is our biggest fundraiser and is held every other year. Each run raises money for specific programs and needs to benefit our school and our children's educational experience. In the past we've Run for the Books and Run for the Arts. In 2022, we had the Run for Display Technology and raised over \$20,000 to purchase new Promethean Boards for our classrooms. This year we hope to surpass this amount! We'll be hosting the Run for HeArt, and raising money for our school's sports, health, art, and well-being programs.

1

COLLECT PLEDGES

A pledge sheet will come home on 4/12. Ask family, friends, and neighbors to sponsor you. They can sponsor you per lap ran or just make a flat sponsorship for the day.

2

RUN, RUN, RUN!!!

The run takes place during school hours in four heats. Parents and friends cheer while kids run/walk/dance as many laps around the bus loop as they can in 45 minutes. 16 laps = 1 mile.

3

EARN PRIZES

There are many prize opportunities: We have BIG prizes for our top 3 fundraisers, prizes for the top boy and girl lap runners in each grade, and goody bags for every student who gets out and runs!

IMPORTANT DATES

April 12: Start soliciting pledges

May 3: Run for HeArt event at school (rain or shine!)

May 10: All pledge sheets and payments due to office by 3:00 pm

May 13: Top three fundraising winners announced, top lap runners in each grade announced, winners choose prizes, and an all-school popsicle celebration



Be sure to check you student's folders!
Pledge sheets should be coming home soon.

2024 Run for HeArt Pledge Form



Student Name	
Teacher Name	
# of Laps Run	
Fundraising Total	\$

INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Be safe while fundraising. Focus on people you know.

Earn pledges flat donation or by donation per lap run (16 laps = 1 mile)

Pledge sheet and all payments are due to office by May 10.

Sponsors can make checks payable to Girdwood PTA or use QR code to pay online.

April 12: Start soliciting pledges

May 3: Run for HeArt event at school (rain or shine!)

May 10: All pledge sheets and payments due to office by 3:00 pm.

May 13: Top 3 fundraisers and top lap runners announced, winners chose prizes, and all-school popsicle celebration



Sponsor Name	Phone #	Per Lap Amount	Flat Pledge Amount	Total Pledge	Collected (Cash, check, or QR code)

Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024

Mrs. Rutherford's 6th Grade Class celebrated the Solar Eclipse on Monday 4/8/24 with special eclipse glasses from the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum. Students watched the solar eclipse on a live NASA feed and then went outside to view what could be seen from Girdwood as a comparison.



Spring Birding

with AWCC



Thurs, April 11

3:15-4:15 PM @ Girdwood School

\$16 Per Person



**AWCC classes made possible thanks
to our grant with KMTA!**

Register @FourValleys.org

Four Valleys Community School & Girdwood Lions Club

Scholarship Opportunity

All graduating seniors who are full time residents of
Girdwood, Bird, Portage & Indian are eligible!

We are offering (2) \$1000 scholarships for
post-high school education

Applications due Thurs, April 18, 2024
Visit www.fourvalleys.org for details



Whale Watching *in Seward, Ages 8+*

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

With Major Marine Tours, Transportation Included!

Saturday, April 13th

\$140 Per Participant



REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG



Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

AFTER SCHOOL WALKING TOUR

Thurs, April 18th
Transportation INCLUDED
\$32 Per Participant

**AWCC Naturalist
Staff will be taking
us on a one hour
special tour of the
sanctuary!**



Register @ FourValleys.org

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

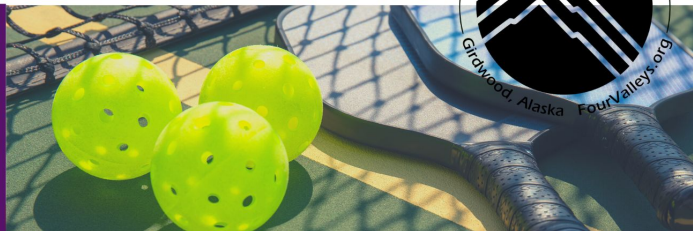


WEEKLY ADULT SPORTS

@ 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





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



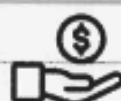
Scan to become a supporting member



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!

