

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 23-24 school year! We have many exciting things planned for the last three weeks of school! Field Day is taking place on 5/17 and 8th Grade Graduation on 5/21. The last day of school brings two events: the Kindergarten Celebration in the morning and the Grizzly Buck Bonanza on the afternoon of 5/22. 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 the Girdwood PTA Board (Andrea Anderson, Emily Marengo, Anna Russell, Melissa Randich, Julie Stiassny, and Nico Honegger) and all the families who brought in food (taco bar and sweet treats) for Staff (Teacher) Appreciation Week. Also, a big shout out to Melissa Randich and Hightower Pub for supplying us with our favorite coffees this past Monday. We definitely have felt the love!

I would also like to extend a big congratulations to Maggie Donnelly, our kindergarten teacher, Dave Robinson, our 7th/8th grade science/ELA teacher, and Leola Rutherford, our 6th grade teacher, who will all be retiring at the end of this school year. Thank you for all the work you have done with our students over the years at Girdwood School and in our community! We welcome Brian Pautzke and Soren Wuerth from Goldenview Middle School who both have a wealth of teaching experience. Mr. Pautzke will be teaching middle school science and Mr. Wuerth will be teaching middle school English Language Arts at Girdwood School next year. We also welcome Hailey Rose who will be our new kindergarten teacher. Ms. Rose is finishing up her education degree at the University of Hawaii this May and we are excited to have her energy and latest and greatest educational research and knowledge expertise join our team next school year.

When visiting classrooms, observing learning, and reviewing student data, I am proud of the growth our students are making! Our students are making tremendous progress, and it is evident that learning is important to them. We are asking parents to help us continue to finish the year on a positive note by talking with your child about continuing to make good choices, staying focused and finishing the year strong with intentional effort. Your continued involvement directly impacts the success of our students. The Girdwood School staff appreciates your support and thanks you for all you do to encourage learning at home and hope you can emphasize the importance of academics and being kind to each other during these last few weeks.

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 24-25 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 Late start PLC Monday
- 5/7 Middle School Track and Field Championship @Mears. 2:00pm
- 5/8 Bike to School Day
- 5/10 K-2 Field trip to AWCC
- 5/10 Run for HeArt Pledges Due
- 5/10 FVCS Fundraiser 6-9pm
- 5/13 Late Start PLC Monday
- 5/13 Run for HeArt Popsicle Celebration and Prizes
- 5/14 Talent Show 6:30pm
- 5/16 South High Celebration 2pm
- 5/17 Field Day
- 5/17 High School Senior Parade and Party @ Challenge Alaska
- 5/20 4th Quarter Citizenship Award Ceremony 2:30pm
- 5/20 6-8 Grade Neon Bowling Field Trip 9:30-2pm
- 5/21 8th Grade Graduation 11am
- 5/22 Last Day of School for Students
- 5/22 Kindergarten Celebration 11am
- 5/22 Lions Club End of the Year School BBQ 11:30-12:30pm
- 5/22 Grizzly Buck Bonanza



Moose Safety

BE KidSafe

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

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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

Rain
or
Shine!



BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH, 2024

Last year, 118 students rode their bikes to school on Bike to School Day. We hope to surpass that number this year!

**JOIN US ON MAY 8TH FOR A FUN
RIDE TO SCHOOL!**



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you for making our school a better place
by volunteering your time.

Ed and Anna Russell, Julie and Aaron Stiasny, Lauren and Cody Rice, Todd Derks, Christi Davidson, Andrea Anderson, Melissa Randich, Emily and Rory Marengo, Aaron Poetter, Jewel Falter, Carmen and Andrew Romerdahl, Crista Hahn, Vesna Young, Sally and Aaron Gates, Barron Rutherford, Liz and Nate Ellis, Melanee and Ari Stiasny, Selita Rios, Christi Elliott, Barbara and Tim Lydon, Krystal and Adam Hoke, Catherine and Kevin McDermott, Stacy and Kyle Kelley, Julie and Pete Johnson, Drew Harlos, Linda Harlos, Rebecca Love, Melissa and Joe Bell, Bob Mucha, Wendi Deschamps, Cathy Charleton, Jessica Fitzwater, Kyle Gronley, Riley Bennett and Max Vockner, Sam Straley, Ryan Davis, Daniel Skriloff, Hilary Fell, Marguerite Leeds and Eric Steinfort, Anjanette and Shawn Vainio, Clay Bridges, Janeen Hutchins, Bre and Ryan Donovan, Rachel Klein, Lars Nedwick, Royce Zometsky, Emily Pearson, Kristian Sieling, Bre and Ryan Donovan, and Kelly Rinck, George Stewart, Kathy Trautner, Vicky Musgrave, Duffy Daniels, Nico Honnegger, Katra Wedking, Blake Phillips, Tim Glassett, Serena VanderHoek, Mariyam Medovaya, Sharon Lynch, Rosie Hammer, Ally Goens, Heather Durtschi, Lin Hinderman, Kate Sandberg, Kate Chandler, Tyisha Brown, Raquel Marrs Alayna DuPont, Liz Dow, Donna Welch, Ana Kaiser, Harmoni Blaine

*If we forgot anyone, we apologize. We appreciate you all!

Thank You!



Girdwood staff wants to send a THANK YOU to our parent volunteers and Alyeska Resort! School Ski Days could not exist without the help of our parent volunteers. We appreciate you all so much. It takes a village!



Selita Rios
Serena VanderHoek
Christi Elliot
Liz Ellis
Emily Marengo
Tim Lydon
Barbara Lydon
Adam Hoke
Rory Marengo
Jessica Fitzwater
Crista Hahn
Julie Stiassny
Ari Stiassny
Mel Stiassny
Kevin McDermott

Super
Volunteers

Kyle Kelley
Pete Johnson
Drew Harlos
Rebecca Love
Andrew Romerdahl
Andrea Peterson
Joe Bell
Melissa Bell
Bob Mucha
Wendi Deschamps
Cathy Charleton
Kyle Gronley
Max Vockner
Riley Bennett
Nate Ellis
Aaron Poetter
Sam Straley

Ryan Davis
Daniel Skriloff
Hilary Fell
Todd Derks
Eric Steinfort
Clay Bridges
Aaron Gates
Lauren Rice
Cody Rice
Janeen Hutchins
Ryan Donovan
Rachel Klein
Lars Nedwick
Vesna Young
Anjanette Vainio
Shawn Vainio
Royce Zometsky
Emily Pearson
Kristian Sieling



ALL SCHOOL BBQ

The Turnagain Arm Lions Club will be hosting a BBQ luncheon for students, staff, and families at lunchtime on **Wednesday, May 22**. Let's hope for a sunny day so we can enjoy our lunch outside. Lunch will be served during your student's regular lunchtime.

Thank you to the Lions Club for providing all the food, cooking the meal and serving our students, staff and visitors.

This is a fun and festive way to end the school year. We welcome our community members and school volunteers.

Kindergarten
Celebration

Mrs. Donnelly and Mrs. Amy will have their Kindergarten celebration ceremony at 11:00 am on May 22. Let's all hope for good weather so we can have the ceremony outside on the playground! If the weather doesn't cooperate, it will be in the Multi Purpose Room.

23-24 Fall Registration Information

Anchorage School District Fall Registration Schedule

Online Registration dates for returning ASD students: April 25th –August 14th

Although Online Registration will be open through August 14th, registering your student before August 9th 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 29th.

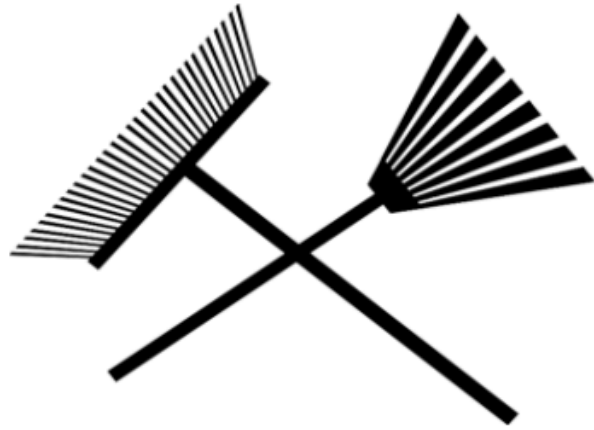
ASD is offering an Online Pre-Enrollment option for those new-to-District families and former ASD students, who would prefer to enroll their students from the comfort of their home, work, or anywhere! Pre-Enrollment is open, and you can search "New-to-District Families" to access the link for registration.

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

- *Proof of Municipality of Anchorage Residency, specific to Girdwood, (utility bill, lease, or real estate contract, etc.) will be verified for the following situations: new to school/new-to-district (including kindergarten) throughout the school year.
- *Birth Certificate (copy acceptable)
- *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:

- *Thursday, August 15, for Grades 1-8 (**Please note Girdwood School 8th grade students will be returning to school on Thursday, August 15, not Friday, August 16th, like other ASD 8th grade students.**)
- *Thursday, August 22nd, for Preschool and Kindergarten



GIRDWOOD SPRING CLEAN UP

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 10-12

Please help Girdwood get ready for spring. A donated dumpster will be located on Egloff Dr., across from the fire station. Trash bags will be handed out to the students at school. Powder Hound will also have trash bags available 5/7-5/12.

Tag Girdwood K-8 on Facebook, with a picture of your child picking up trash, and we will enter her/him into a drawing to win a \$50 Fred Meyer gift card.



PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS!

**All Books Due by Friday,
May 17th!**

We are missing around 100 books from our school library. At an average of \$15.00 per book that is \$1,500 dollars worth of books not available to students. If you think you have a lost or damaged book, you can pay for it or you can donate another copy! And no judgment, lost books happen! Please reach out if you have questions.

Thank you!

nedwick_meghan@asdk12.org





Dogs on the Playground

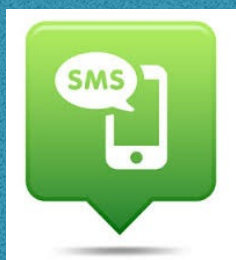
Just a reminder to keep your dogs leashed while on the playground here at school for the safety of our students and to ensure our playground remains free of dog poop.



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))

Rain 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. It is getting to be the end of the year when students tend to forget about bringing their extra gear. Remember, we do live in a rain forest! 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. 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>.




**FIELD DAY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

RAIN OR SHINE

**Friday May 17th,
2024**

The end of the school year is approaching fast, and with that comes the fun and excitement of Field Day! Friday, May 17, 2024, is our Field Day Celebration. The (4-6) grades will attend Field Day from 9:30 am-11:00 am and the (K-3) students will attend from 1:00 pm-2:45 pm. I am looking for parent volunteers to travel with the groups of kids to the different activities. You can sign up to help in the morning, the afternoon, or both. Please email Mrs. Quinn at quinn_cassie@asdk12.org to let her know you would like to volunteer for Field Day.



**STAY
STRONG
THE
SCHOOL YEAR
IS
ALMOST
OVER**



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.glaciervalleystransit.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.

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.



YOGA WITH LAUREN

GRADES 5-8

THURSDAYS, MAY 2, 19, 16, AND 23RD
@ 3:15 PM, \$40 PER PERSON



REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG



Romp-N-Roar

For preschoolers and their parents



Girdwood School

8:15 - 9:15 am

Mondays

April 29 - May 20

\$3 drop-in



www.fourvalleys.org

Girdwood Community

Center

10:30 - 11:30 am

Fridays

May 3 & 10

Thursdays

June 13 & 20

July 18 & 25

Aug 15 & 22

\$5 drop-in

**Bring Toys to play
with and share!**

SOURDOUGH WITH CECE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH

6-8 PM @ GIRDWOOD SCHOOL ART ROOM

\$18 PER PERSON

(INCLUDES SOURDOUGH STARTER TO BRING HOME!)

TASTY TREATS & RECIPES PROVIDED



Register @ FourValleys.Org



Teeny Tiny Worlds

Make a Terrarium with Kerry Quade



Wednesday, May 15th @ 6 PM

Ages 10+, Adults Welcome!

\$40 per person

Each participant will create and take home an incredible work of living art!

Register @ FourValleys.Org

Build a Fairy Garden

with Kerry Quade



Tuesday, June 4th @ 6 PM

Ages 10+, Adults Welcome!

\$40 per person

Create your own fairy garden with organic materials, sparkle, and creative efforts!

Register @ FourValleys.Org



Summer Adventure Camp Staff Needed

STARTING AT \$21
MUST HAVE VALID
DRIVERS LICENSE

LATE MAY
THROUGH
AUGUST



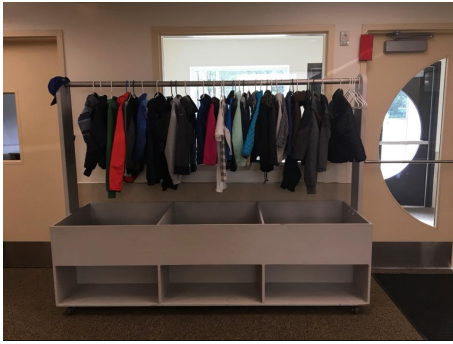
We are hiring Summer Program Staff!

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/](https://fourvalleys.org/about-fvcs/jobs/)
AND/OR CONTACT
[BEKS @ BRUMLEY@FOURVALLEYS.ORG](mailto:BEKS@BRUMLEY@FOURVALLEYS.ORG)





Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found Cart is FULL!! Belongings are left at school and on the playground everyday and most of these items don't have names on 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 on 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 are constantly rolling out lots of new ones 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 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



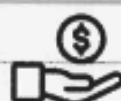
Scan to become a supporting member



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!

