

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from the Principal

Dear Girdwood PK-8 Families,

Happy November! We have much to be grateful for here at Girdwood School. One of the best parts about our school community is that we simply never give up on any child. Our teachers are working daily to adjust for the individual needs of our students. Teachers meet throughout the week and analyze student learning data with their colleagues, so that we can make the best decisions for what our students need. During staff development days, our teachers are continuing these conversations and collaboration around student learning. Additionally, we also regularly talk about our students' social/emotional needs as we believe in educating the whole child, and work hard to have an environment in which all kids are successful. We pride ourselves each day in knowing what our students need, and then delivering the instruction that best fits those needs. At Girdwood School, we will continue to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential. We believe in your children and cannot wait to see them develop into positive citizens within our community!

I would like to take a moment to honor our Girdwood PK-8 School first quarter Citizenship Award honorees. The following students have been nominated by their classroom teacher(s) or a specialist for exhibiting the characteristics below: Kennedy Barkel (Kindergarten), Nyia Stettler, Alice Johnson (1st Grade), Gerry Zeek, Liam Kaiser (2nd grade), Rosie Fitzwater (3rd grade), Arya Bautista, Irie Young (4th grade), Jakson Fitzwater (5th grade), Lily Hensley, Trudy Stair (6th grade), Vincent Gimeno, Anja Vainio (7th grade), Nonie Mucha and Svea Nedwick (8th grade).

- The student follows the school's motto: Girdwood Grizzlies are Respectful, Responsible, Reliable and Ready!
- 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.

Congratulations to these students for their hard work in making our school community a better place each day!

Please encourage your child to bring their warm clothes and 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, the sun comes up later and 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!

Thank you again for your continued support of our school. As we approach Thanksgiving, I am thankful for such a caring community, and specifically for you giving us your children to be part of our school. If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the office. We are here to help!

Take care,

Kari Anderson, Principal
Girdwood PK-8 School

Upcoming Events

11/12 PTA Meeting 6:30-8 @ GBC

11/19 Picture Retakes

11/19 Middle School Girls Volleyball Game @ Clark, 6pm

11/21 5th Grade Field Trip UAA Volleyball Game

11/21-11/22 School Play, "Alice in Wonderland" 7pm

11/27 Thanksgiving Pie Social During Lunch, from 11am-12:30pm

11/28-11/29 Thanksgiving Break No School

12/2 Middle School Girls Volleyball Game @ Romig, 6pm

12/7 Holiday Bazaar 12-4pm



Anchorage School Board

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Carl Jacobs, vice president

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TBD, vice president

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Andrea Anderson, treasurer

Julie Pierre Leclerc, member at large

Nico Honegger, member at large

Jennifer Derks, Shannon Dierks, teacher representatives

After School Playground

Use

For the safety of our students and a more smooth after school dismissal, the Girdwood School playground will be closed from 2:30-3:00 pm Monday through Friday. School dismisses at 2:30 pm and, for safety reasons, students are expected to head for home, or after school care on buses, bikes, feet or in parent's cars. The only exception is when students remain to participate in school or FVCS supervised activities. Playground closures immediately following school to ensure a smooth and safe transition are a standard policy with elementary schools across our school district. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe and for your understanding.

Student Government Update

Socktober

Many thanks to everyone who donated hats, gloves, and (of course) socks to our second annual Socktober drive! We received 574 items in all! These will be distributed to members of our Girdwood community, other schools in ASD, and homeless shelters in Anchorage. We would like to give a special shout-out to our top three classes:

1st place: Fifth grade with 178 items
2nd place: Third grade with 152 items
3rd place: First grade with 100 items

The fifth grade class will celebrate with an ice cream party, courtesy of our Student Government!

Pie Social

The Thanksgiving Pie Social is a beloved annual tradition that our Girdwood Middle School students have hosted for the community for many years. Our students spend a morning making apple pies, then serve them to the school and community members the following day. We also donate some pies to local organizations. Students get creative with their crust designs and the school will vote for their favorites before they are served. You won't want to miss this!

The Pie Social will take place in the cafeteria during all three lunches on Wednesday, November 27th.

Grades 3-5 lunch: 11:05-11:30
Grades K-2 lunch: 11:40-12:05
Grades 6-8 lunch is 12:10-12:35.

All members of the Girdwood community are invited to join us for a slice of apple pie and a scoop of ice cream generously donated by the Ice Cream Shop! The winners of the pie design competition will also be on display. The winning pies and any extras will be for sale afterward.

Coming Up... Holiday Food Drive!

We will be collecting non-perishable food items December 2-18. The Lions Club will use the donations to create gift boxes of food for families in need.

Souper Chili Cook Off



**\$10
DONATION
FIVE 4OZ
CUPS**

**YOU BE THE
JUDGE**

**GIRDWOOD MIDDLE
SCHOOL
DC/NY FUNDRAISER**



Chili for all



Soup for all

NOVEMBER 18

6PM - 8PM

**GIRDWOOD BREWING CO.
2700 ALYESKA HWY**



FAT&SASSY'S



**JACK SPRAT
restaurant**

School Play, "Alice in Wonderland"

Auditions have been held and the roles have been cast. Mrs. Wells is working hard with our students to put on an exciting show. Please join us on Thursday, November 21 and Friday, November for Girdwood K-8's production of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland", a fantasy about a young girl who falls down a rabbit hole and finds a magical world. Showtime is at 7pm, with a short intermission. Snacks and beverages will be sold by our students going to Washington, DC/New York City in the spring and our Student Government. We hope to see you here!





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})



Just a reminder to keep your dogs leashed when visiting the Girdwood School or the school playground. This is for the safety of our students and to ensure that our playground remains free of dog poop. Thank you for your cooperation!

Parent Volunteers

One of the best things about Girdwood School is how active our families are within our classrooms and school. We greatly appreciate all your help and hope to continue this partnership. We strongly suggest ALL parents complete the ASD online volunteer application asap, as well as complete the parent driver paperwork in the front office. If you plan to do any of the following, you will need to complete the online volunteer application: assist teachers in prepping for a project, being a chaperone, classroom volunteer, field trip volunteer, PTA volunteer, reading tutor, science fair judge, special events or project volunteer, and library helper. Basically, if you plan on helping out at any function or volunteering in any format, you will need to complete the ASD online application at least 7 days prior to volunteering in the school or for a school event. Please go to the following link to complete the ASD volunteer online application process: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/13771>. In regard to parent drivers, we will no longer be able to accept paper applications a few days prior to or the day of a field trip. The parent driver paperwork will need to be completed at school in the front office. All parent driver paperwork will need to be completed at least 10 days in advance of all field trips. The front office staff will need a copy of your driver's license, proof of auto insurance, and registration. We look forward to working with you and appreciate your kindness and help this school year!



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.

Middle School Mileage Club

Our 2024 XC running season was full of Miles & Smiles!
Collectively, we logged over 1,500 miles of running!! Students worked towards membership into the 50, 100, 150, and for the first time ever 200 Mile clubs. We celebrated with a Subway lunch and t-shirts for their hard work both in and out of practice!!



Girdwood School Parents:

Glacier Valley Transit will be providing an after school activities service at The Girdwood School, but only if your son/daughter calls them. Your child can call them at the end of the day, if they need a ride after school or after their sports practice. They are only running one bus right now and they will not come to the school unless they get a prior phone call. This is a free service. They don't mind stopping at the Girdwood School, so please don't feel that this is an imposition to them. Please have your put the GVT number in their phone, 907-382.9909.

For more information about Glacier Valley Transit and for current bus stops and schedules please visit www.glaciervalleytransit.com or call 907-382-9909.



Sign up to receive text message alerts from our school

Parents and community members can sign up to receive SMS text messages from ASD or our school. ASD will use this service to communicate school closure information and general district news. Our school uses this service to share news and updates with families. Additionally, ASD's Transportation Department will send a text message when school buses are more than 20 minutes late.

Text messages will only be sent to people who opt-in to receive texts. Users can opt-out at any time. This service is not intended to replace existing communications, but rather help enhance them.

Visit ASD's website to learn more about receiving text messages, how to opt-in and to read frequently asked questions. Learn more at www.asdk12.org/textupdates.

ASD's vendor, School Messenger, does not charge for the text messages users will receive, However, wireless providers may charge for individual text messages depending on the plan associated with a person's phone. Users should familiarize themselves with their wireless package before opting-in to receive text messages.

Health Class update with Mrs. Murphy

We continue to appreciate our Bodies, Minds, and Each other. Kindergarten students tested their sense of smell to learn how our senses & brain work together to help keep us safe and explore the world around us. A first grade student shared that his favorite sense was "hearing the sound of his classmates' laughter".



3rd Graders enjoyed some optical illusion challenges while learning about their eyes.



8th Grade Health update

Students in 8th Grade have created and shared 2nd Quarter SMART goals. We are checking in with one another to support our individual goals and hold each other accountable.

Additionally, we had a guest speaker on Cold Water Survival and took a walk to The Grind to celebrate a successful 1st quarter. We also visited a local memorial in honor of a former Girdwood Grizzly to appreciate our Mental Health.



Student Government Update

Spirit Week was full of fun and creative attire and the Middle School Dance stayed true to the timeless notion of the guys and girls circle groups. Limbo was the highlight of the night and we have some very limber dancers out there!



6-8 graders transformed the HeArt room into a space for eating and dancing and a lot of laughter. It was fun to see them let loose together and have some good old-fashioned middle school fun.





THANK YOU!

The Girdwood Middle School
would like to thank all of our
community supporters and donors .

We appreciate your generous
contributions to our trip to
Washington DC and New York!

Thank you for making this learning
experience possible



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
 Supporting and Strengthening Our Students and Staff

Rain Gear, Lost and Found, and Reflective Gear Reminder

Please encourage your child to bring their 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!

Our Lost and Found is filling up more and more every day. Please tell your child to look in there for lost items. Our Lost and Found cart is located in the mini-commons beside the middle doors. Please label all belongings. We have black and silver Sharpies in the office for anyone to borrow, if needed.

Although we still have plenty of light outside now, we are losing 5-6 minutes of daylight every day and it's dark when the kiddos are heading to school. 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.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of America**

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. Please do not drop household items or leave items next to the bin. 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.

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.



Girdwood PTA

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Gifts - Goodies - Crafts

Saturday, December 7, 12-4pm
Girdwood School

mClass Newsletter Information

2024 - 2025

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 here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>

mClass screening assessments will only be administered in-person during the benchmark window listed below:

- December 2 - 13, 2024

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect by January 10, 2025: [ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide: parentconnect.asdk12.org](https://parentconnect.asdk12.org)

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.

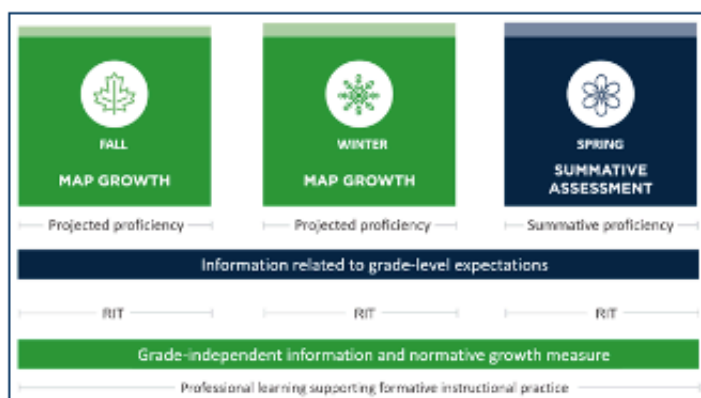
Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the District's Compliance/Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Director, who also serves as the Title IX and ADA/ADAAA Coordinator, ASD Education Center, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99504-3135 (907) 742-4132, or to any of the following external 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.

[Schools may utilize and edit the newsletter information to best meets their needs, such as copying and pasting into school newsletters or webpages; the newsletter document is INTERNAL and not shareable with the link]

MAP Growth Newsletter Information 2024-2025

MAP Growth is the ASD and State of Alaska required benchmark/interim reading and mathematics assessment for students in grades 3-9. Grades 10-12 students identified as needing Tier II and Tier III reading and mathematics support also take MAP Growth as part of the Anchorage School District's MTSS framework.

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has partnered with NWEA to implement a creative approach to a balanced statewide assessment that connects fall and winter MAP Growth benchmark/interim assessments and the Alaska spring AK STAR summative assessment. AK STAR eliminates the spring benchmark/interim assessment window for grades 3-9 by combining the summative and benchmark assessment into one test that produces a spring benchmark score, which includes a growth measure. More information is available at the State of Alaska AK STAR website, education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar.



MAP Growth is an online, adaptive assessment that provides each student a personalized testing experience with data that speaks to their individual progress and growth in mathematics and reading.

The MAP Growth reading and mathematics benchmark will be administered in person during the 2024-2025 fall and winter benchmark windows. The spring benchmark will be embedded in the AK STAR summative assessment as outlined above.

- Fall Benchmark 1: September 3 - September 13 (make-ups through September 20)
- Winter Benchmark 2: December 2 - December 13 (make-ups through December 19)
- Spring Benchmark 3: embedded in AK STAR administered during the summative assessment window: March 24 - April 4 (make-ups through April 25)
 - MAP Growth assessment only: Grades 10-12 identified as needing Tier II and III support

MAP Growth practice tests and tutorials allow students and families the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions and tools available on the actual MAP Growth assessments such as the highlighter and calculator. An overview of these resources with links to the practice tests are compiled on the [MAP Growth Practice Tests Quick Sheet](#).

WEEKLY ADULT SPORTS NOVEMBER 2024

@ THE GIRDWOOD SCHOOL GYM



**TUESDAY
PICKLEBALL
6-8 PM**



**WEDNESDAY
BASKETBALL
6-8 PM**

\$5 DROP IN, REGISTER IN PERSON



ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER *Animal Activities in November*

JOIN AWCC NATURALISTS FOR FUN AFTERSCHOOL ANIMAL
THEMED ACTIVITIES!

THURSDAYS NOV 7TH, 14TH, AND/OR 21ST

\$15 PER PERSON, PER EVENT



Register @ FourValleys.Org





Elemental Breathwork with Dr. Amy Conklin

Join Dr. Conklin for a (2) hour session of
guided breathwork and meditation.

Friday, Nov 15th @ 6:30 PM
\$50 per person
Register @ fourvalleys.org



THE ARTERY IN GIRDWOOD PRESENTS AFTERSCHOOL ART

NEW DATES FOR NOVEMBER!
YOU LOVED IT FOR OCTOBER, SO WE EXTENDED IT!

PROJECTS WILL ROTATE WEEKLY

TUES NOV 5, 12, & 19
OR
WED NOV 6, 13, & 20

2:45-4 PM

GRADES 2+
\$40 PER PARTICIPANT



REGISTER NOW @ [FOURVALLEYS.ORG](https://fourvalleys.org)



Baseball

TRAINING WITH COACH JOE KAISER

MONDAY NIGHTS
NOV 11TH - DEC 16TH

AGES 8-12
\$75 PER PARTICIPANT



REGISTER @ [FOURVALLEYS.ORG](https://fourvalleys.org)

Grade K-3 Yoga with Briana

Mondays
November 25 - December 16
2:40 - 3:40 pm
@ Girdwood School
\$45

IMPROVE
Flexibility & **FOCUS**

LEARN
Balance & **POSTURE**



Details & Register @ fourvalleys.org



PIES IN TIME FOR TURKEY DAY



PIE BAKING WORKSHOP WITH
THE ONE & ONLY PIE
MASTER: TOMMY O'MALLEY!

TUESDAY, NOV 26TH
6-8 PM
\$45 PER PERSON

THIS CLASS FILLS FAST - REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG

Basket Weaving Workshops



Dec 3rd @ 6-8pm - Weed Basket (Small), \$45
Dec 5th @ 6-10pm - Egg/Melon Basket (Medium), \$52
Dec 10th @ 6-10pm - Market Basket (Large), \$60

Registration Closes Nov 9th - DONT MISS OUT
Register @ FourValleys.org

GLACIER VALLEY QUILTERS

"Quilting + Sewing + Knitting =
Camaraderie + Laughter + Creative Products!"

Wednesdays
September 18 - December 11
(no class 11/6/24)
10 am to 4 pm

Details & register
[@fourvalleys.org](https://fourvalleys.org)



THE ARTERY IN GIRDWOOD PRESENTS AFTERSCHOOL ART

OPEN NOW!!!

JOIN GIRDWOOD'S NEWEST CREATIVES THE
ARTERY ARTISTS FOR A ONE HOUR AFTER
SCHOOL OF FUN CRAFTS!

PROJECTS WILL ROTATE WEEKLY

TUES OCT 1, 8, 15, & 22
OR
WED OCT 2, 9, 16, & 23

2:45-4 PM

GRADES 2+
\$50 PER PARTICIPANT



REGISTER NOW [A] [FOURVALLEYS.ORG](https://fourvalleys.org)





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. 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.

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



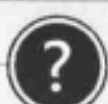
All \$10 goes to support Girdwood School PTA programs



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!

