

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,

What a great time of year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of all of our students during the holiday season! Our upcoming K-3 primary holiday concert offers the opportunity to slow down and enjoy a little holiday cheer on Wednesday, December 18th, starting at 6:30 pm. Please come; everyone is welcome! During this holiday season, I would like to say thank you to:

- Parents and guardians who diligently check their child's schoolwork; who are seated beside them as they complete their assignments; and spend quality time with their children.
- All the volunteers who give countless hours to make Girdwood PK-8 a better place for students and staff.
- Community members and parents who organize fundraisers, help with PTA, and put on our annual Holiday Bazaar.
- All the people in Anchorage School District who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. For example: custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, school nurses, student aides, secretaries, teachers, and members of the school board.
- All of you who are doing your very best to send your child ready to learn every day.

I am proud of how much our community gives during this time of year. We have many programs that reflect Girdwood's caring community culture. Our students have started to gather canned food for our annual canned food drive that helps support local families. We will also continue our Angel Tree and hope you will reach out to brighten the holiday season for local families.

Our K-2 students will be taking the FastBridge assessment in reading and math this week and again on Thursday, December 12th. FastBridge utilizes a combination of one-one-one teacher administered measures and computer-based measures in reading and mathematics. Student results on this assessment will be available in Parent Connect during winter break.

Our third through eighth grade students will be starting up their winter benchmark MAP assessments in reading and math this week. MAP Growth is an online assessment tool used for instructional purposes. MAP Growth is an adaptive assessment that provides each student with a personalized testing experience with data that speaks to their individual progress and growth in mathematics and reading. Speaking of MAP testing, I am super proud to announce that our school is one of the top 10 ASD schools with the highest achievement and most growth from fall to spring on the third through eighth grade MAP benchmark assessment from the 18-19 school year! We are so fortunate to have such hardworking staff and students! Way to go!

Our Girdwood School PTA just wrapped up a successful Kaladi Brothers coffee fundraiser and is now busy ensuring our Holiday Bazaar is a success! The Holiday Bazaar will be taking place at Girdwood PK-8 School on Saturday, December 6th, from 12-6 pm and we hope to see you there. I also encourage you to join us at our next PTA meeting. Look for more information on the date and location on our Girdwood School Facebook page. We have a great group of parents and teachers but could use more hands on deck to make it easier for all. PTA membership forms can be found in our school office and a membership only costs \$10. The \$10 goes towards supporting all the enrichment activities that our students have come to love.

I would like to take a moment to provide you with a friendly reminder about drop off and pick up of our students. If you need to exit your vehicle for any reason, please park in the parking lot and wait for your student by the entrance of the building. Please do not park and exit your vehicle leaving it in the drop off/pick up lane. This causes traffic to become backed up and not flow smoothly. Also, our handicap parking spots should be reserved for those who may need it. We have plenty of other parking spots for you to use if you'd like to park and exit your vehicle.

Just a reminder that attendance is vital to academic success. Missing school equals missed opportunities to learn. ASD strives for 90% attendance for the year. That is less than 17 absences in a year or the equivalent of two absences a month. Research shows that when students are at school 90% of the school year there is a strong correlation to student achievement and growth. Please help us ensure our students are continuing to make the most growth possible. Thanks for helping our school community make the 90% attendance mark!

On behalf of the staff and Girdwood PK-8 School have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year! Think snow!

Take care,

Kari Anderson

Acting Principal, Girdwood PK-8

Upcoming Events

12/4 Annual Canned Food Drive runs through December 18

12/4 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Hanshew 5pm

12/5 MAP Testing for Grades 6-8 in ELA

12/7 PTA Holiday Bazaar 12-6 pm in the Gym

12/9 MAP Testing for 5th Grade in Math

12/9-12/13 Computer Science Week

12/10 MAP Testing for 3rd Grade in ELA

12/10 FVCS Ski/Rider Snow Safety Movie 7-8:15 pm

12/11 MAP Testing for Grades 3/4 in Math

12/11 Grizzly Bucks during Lunch

12/11 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Mears 5 pm

12/12 MAP Testing for 4th Grade in ELA

12/12 Fastbridge Testing for Grades K-2

12/14 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Jamboree 9am

12/17 PTA Meeting @ Melissa Ahern's House 4:30 pm

12/17 FVCS Ski/Rider Snow Safety Movie 7-8:15 pm

12/18 End of Canned Food Drive

12/18 School Store

12/18 Primary Holiday Show 6:30 pm

12/20 No School for Students End of 2nd Quarter State Released Grade Reporting Day

12/23-1/3 Winter Break

1/6 Classes Resume

1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday No School

Anchorage School Board

Starr Marsett, president

Alisha Hilde, vice president

Elisa Vakalis, treasurer

Margo Bellamy, clerk

Dave Donley

Andy Holleman

Deena Mitchell

ASD Superintendent

Dr. Deena Bishop



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.



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:



Box Tops for Education

We are continuing to collect **General Mills Box Tops For Education**. Mrs. Bethanie, in the office, will be collecting the Box Tops and keeping track of which class collects the most. The class that brings in the most Box Tops by the end of April will win a root beer float party. For each Box Top a student brings in, Girdwood K-8 School receives ten cents. We use the money for Grizzly Buck supplies, and other miscellaneous items, so please continue to cut out those Box Tops and send them in. There is also a new APP out that you can download onto your smartphone. You can scan your grocery store receipt from your phone and the number of Box Tops will be automatically calculated for you!



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Below are the basic guidelines for reporting a student's absence: If your child will not be at school, please call the school office at 742-5300, or email Bethanie and Robyn, **before** 10:30 am, to excuse their absence. Please make sure you call the office, even if you have told their teacher.

If you know in advance of a scheduled absence, please call the office and send a note to the classroom teacher ASAP.

This will help the teacher to gather schoolwork, if needed. If your child will be gone for more than a couple of days, please fill out the extended absence form. You can get one in the office. Tardy students must stop in the office, sign in, and get a late pass, before going to class.

If parents want their child to ride a different bus home or get off at a different bus stop, they must send a note for the bus driver and have it signed by the office.

Parents picking up students before the end of the school day must come to the office to sign them out. We will call them down from their classroom when the parent gets here.

Please refer to the ASD Student Handbook for complete District policy.

Outdoor Gear...Be Prepared!

Old man Winter finally made it to Girdwood! Please make sure your child has winter gear: boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing to keep them warm and dry during recess. Students in grades K-3 are required to have gloves, a hat, snow pants, a snow coat, and snow boots. Older kids should be dressed for the weather, also. We do go out in temperatures down to 10 below with the wind chill and also if it's raining. Please send your child to school with appropriate gear, regardless of what is happening outside when they leave in the morning.



Primary Holiday Show—Spread Holiday Cheer!!

Please come and join us on Wednesday, December 18 for our Annual Primary Holiday Show. These kiddos in grades K-3 will surely put a smile on your faces and get you in the mood to spread some holiday cheer!



Girdwood School Parents:

Glacier Valley Transit is providing 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 Sam Marshall, Operations Manager, at 907-382-9908.



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



Big Brothers Big Sisters Drop-Off Bin

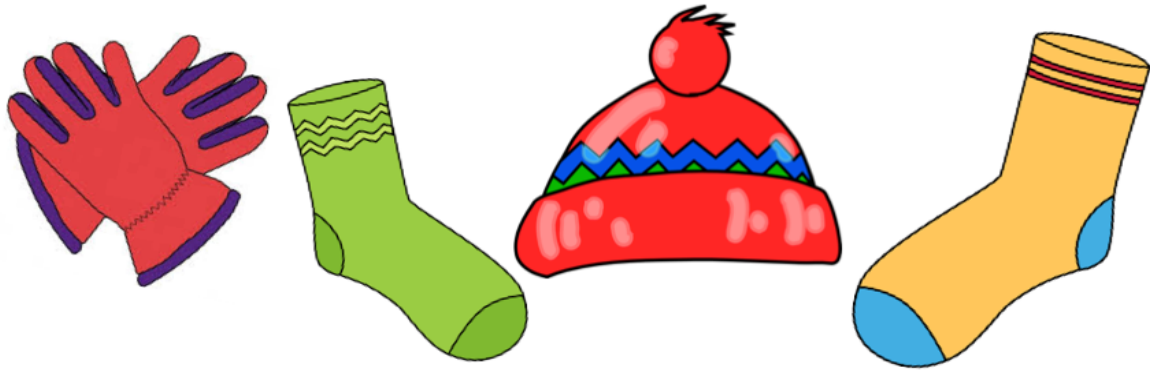
For those of you who don't know, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska has provided Girdwood with an additional donation drop-off box. This bin is located in the over-flow parking lot on the right hand side of Hightower Road, before you get to the school. Please donate gently used clothes, shoes, and cloth items only. To donate household items, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 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.

Bus Note Expectations

Per the 19-20 ASD Student Handbook page 14, students must ride their assigned bus unless presenting a note to the driver from their parent/guardian that has been initialed by the principal or front office.

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>



Girdwood's second grade class is working to help support homeless women and children by collecting new hats, gloves, and socks for Clare House, Anchorage's emergency shelter for women and children.

Please send in any of the items listed below to Girdwood School by December 16th.

Hats

Gloves

Socks

All items must be new and can range in sizes from children to adults.

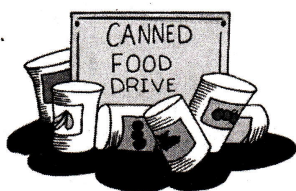
Thanks for supporting the community!

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

DECEMBER 4-DECEMBER 18



Girdwood PreK-8's Annual Canned Food Drive, run by our Student Government, began today and will go through Wednesday, December 18. Canned and dried food, and other non-perishable items will be collected by each classroom. All food collected will be distributed to families in the local Four Valleys area to help brighten their holidays.



Food Drive Most Useful Items

Most sought after items:

Peanut Butter
Jams & Jellies
Breakfast Cereals
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Meats

Canned Fruit
Canned Soups
Easy Open canned meals
Top Ramen or Noodle Bowls
Coffee

Other great items:

Meats & Protein

- Canned meat, fish & poultry
- Beef or other Jerky
- Canned Beans
- Refried Beans
- Dry Beans

Dinners

- Pasta & Sauces
- Rice
- Meal Helpers
- Boxed Side Dishes

Fruits & Vegetables

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Tomatoes
- Raisins & Dried Fruit
- Applesauce

Breads & Cereal

- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Cornmeal
- Baking Mixes
- Flour/Sugar/Salt
- Breadcrumbs

Drinks & Snacks

- Crackers
- Nuts
- Fruit Snacks
- Juice Boxes

Condiments – all kinds

Items Food Bank of Alaska is not able to distribute:

- Home-canned or jarred products.
- Home-processed fish or game.
- Open products or products exposed to the air.

SNOW VIBES



AND



high fives

**Movies & Speakers Prompting Skier and Rider Safety
for Girdwood K-8 School Students**

TUESDAY

DEC 3

7-8:15P

MOVIE :

**FIVE CRITICAL
MISTAKES:
THE LENS OF
HINDSIGHT IS
20/20**

SPONSOR:



TUESDAY

DEC 10

7-8:15P

MOVIE :

**HELMETS ARE
COOL
FEATURING
TOBY MILLER**

SPONSOR:



TUESDAY

DEC 17

7-8:15P

MOVIE:

**AVALANCHE
AWARENESS &
BE AWARE IN
CRAZY
SITUATIONS**

SPONSOR:



**NIGHTLY DOOR PRIZES DRAWING FOR STUDENTS
ENTER TO WIN GRAND PRIZES FROM SPONSORS
STICKERS FOR ALL! BRING YOUR FAMILY!**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY **FOUR VALLEYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL** &
THE HIGH FIVES FOUNDATION, AND SPONSORED BY
CHUGACH POWDER GUIDES, ALYESKA RESORT, & POWDER HOUND

Girdwood K-8 School student government will have snacks for sale!

P.E. Footnotes from Mrs. Quinn 2019

Recess Mileage Running Club
has kicked off with a bang!

381 miles have been jogged since October!! This is absolutely **OUTSTANDING!!!!**
Students have the opportunity to jog laps during their recess time on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's. Students earn incentives for every 5-mile marker they jog. Students are awarded the "Mileage Club T-shirt" once they reach 25 miles!



What's happening in P.E. ?

School Ski Days are approaching fast!

The ski program is part of our P.E. program, promoting a fun, healthy winter sport.

School Ski Days are:

January 24

January 31

February 7

February 21

February 28

March 5

Make up ski day:

March 20

Ski packets will be sent when we return from the Holiday break.

Hello Girdwood Parents,

Wow, the school year has been flying by! Make no doubt about it, we have been having a ball in P.E. So far this school year, we have worked on:

Establishing Routines & learning Environments

Spatial Awareness & Traveling

Playground games

Chasing & Fleeing

Dribbling (feet)-Soccer Skills

Balance, Rolling, Weight Transfer

Jumping & Landing

Throwing & Catching

Ultimate Football (Kicking & Punting)

Tchoukball (Throwing & Catching)

Fitness Concepts (Flexibility, Cardiovascular endurance)

Volleyball skills (Forearm pass, Set Pass, and serving)

During the week of Thanksgiving, students played "Turkey Fitness" and a lot of fun turkey tag games.

In October, FVCS hosted "Mag" from WECARESPOrts! Mag performed an all school assembly in the morning and worked with all my P.E. classes. His theme was "3 STRIKES, You're Awesome!" It was a blast!



Yours in fitness & Health,
Mrs. Quinn
Quinn_cassie@asdk12.org

Photos from Girdwood School PTA's post
in Timeline Photos

GIRDWOOD PTA ANNUAL

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

JOIN US FOR

Art - Food- Holiday Cheer

December 7th
Noon - 6 pm

Girdwood School
680 Hightower Rd, Girdwood



Like



Comment



Share

Options

Send in Messenger

NURSE NOTES

Pet Waste: Please Help Keep Our Children Healthy & Safe



Many Girdwood families include a furry loved one. We hope that you get out and enjoy our beautiful valley with your pets. Many families come to the school playground over winter break to recreate. In past years when students return to school after winter break there has been a large amount of dog poop on the playground and in the fields.

Dog poop can contain many hazardous bacteria and parasites including E. Coli, campylobacter, giardia, hookworm, roundworm, tapeworm, and salmonella. People exposed to feces containing these bacteria or parasites can become very ill. Unfortunately, our students have stepped and fallen in dog poop. The poop also gets tracked into school, becomes a distraction from learning and creates more work for our custodians with the subsequent intensive cleaning.

Please be aware of the risks dog poop brings to our playground and if you bring your dog with you to the school, please scoop their poop.

Have a Wonderful Winter Break: Full of Laughter

We hope you have a wonderful winter break creating memories with your families and friends. Hopefully your days will include some laughter! Did you know how healthy laughter is? Generally it is believed that laughter reduces stress, reduces pain and improves healing. We know that while you are laughing your heart rate, respiratory rate and depth, and oxygen consumption increases. After laughing your heart rate, respiratory rate, and blood pressure decrease. Exactly how laughter effects stress hormones like cortisol, or immune function is not known but we know that when laughter is incorporated health outcomes are improved. Just like you should eat your fruits and veggies, get enough sleep and exercise, be sure that you laugh every day too!

Warm Wishes,

Nurse Raquel and Nurse Summer

Greetings Girdwood Families,

As the winter break season and the Holidays approach, there is no better time to curl up with a good book and read! We have a library full of wonderful things for all our students and families to enjoy together. You are welcome to visit our library anytime during school hours and please encourage your student to utilize our school and public libraries as much as possible.

Although digital books will never replace real books, going to the library isn't always practical. As your family spends time traveling or if you wish to access books at times when the libraries are closed, utilizing our E-library catalog can be a huge benefit. Our e-book and audiobook collections contain read-a-louds, popular e-books, battle books, and so much more. Checking out these FREE eBooks and audiobooks has never been easier.

Students of the Anchorage School District can now access books via the **SORA** app at no cost using their school ID on any device. The instructions for accessing the **SORA** reading app are made available for you here. Your student will know how to access these books as their login is the same one they use for their Google Apps at school. We have also practiced this in library class.

I would like to see Girdwood increase our use of this excellent resource! Please take some time to login and explore SORA with your family today.

Thank you!

Meghan Nedwick

Getting started with **Sora**



With SORA, you can get free ebooks and audiobooks from your school.

- 1 Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and select Anchorage School District and set as MY SCHOOL or go to <https://soraapp.com/library/anchorageak> in your browser. You can also add Alaska Digital Library and access those resources if you have an authorized shared library card number
- 2 Log in using your ASD Google Log On.
STUDENTS: [Last.first@asdk12.org](mailto>Last.first@asdk12.org)
Password is the same as the Google Log On
- 3 Browse the EXPLORE Tab to find an ebook or audiobook to check out. You can close the book and go to the SHELF Tab to see all the books you have checked out.
- 4 Tap on an ebook or audiobook to start reading....
Tap Options to renew or return the book, get to your notes and highlights, and more



Girdwood Community Angel Tree

The Girdwood Community Angel Tree will be up on Saturday during the PTA Holiday Bazaar and will remain up until all the Angels have been chosen. The Angel Tree is a way for people to give an anonymous gift and help bring joy to a child this holiday season. Just stop in and select a numbered tag from the tree, buy a gift for the child described and bring it, wrapped and tagged, to the Girdwood PreK-8 office, before 4:00, December 17. If you, or if you know of a family in need of a little extra help this holiday season, please contact Robyn Kenny at 742-5300.



Sign up for FVCS Classes!

Four Valleys Community Schools has classes going on now for community members of all ages and they are constantly rolling out new ones. Go to our website, fourvalleys.org, to see what's available. If you feel unable to take any of our classes due to class costs, please contact Catherine at cmcdermott@fourvalleys.org or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.

ASD Statement of Nondiscrimination

Board policy 114 Nondiscrimination & Harassment

The Board is committed to an environment of nondiscrimination 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.

All students and employees of the Anchorage School District have a right to pursue their education or occupation in compliance with applicable law and policy with dignity in a safe environment. Neither discrimination nor harassment of employees, students or volunteers is permitted in the District. This policy applies with regard to District facilities, premises, vehicles, computers, servers, and electronics located both on and off school property; and conduct on non-school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-related activity or is otherwise subject to the authority of the District.

Board policy 114.1 Inappropriate Behavior

The Anchorage School District supports respectful learning and working environments and believes strongly this environment must be structured to reflect diverse cultural traditions and contributions. The District values diversity among students and staff and believes that all students and staff have the right to participate in school activities free from harassment. Behavior by Board members, administrators, employees, parents, volunteers, students, vendors, or others doing business with the District, that ridicules, harasses, intimidates, or threatens students, staff or community members, or otherwise undermines a respectful safe, and effective school environment, is prohibited. Individuals or groups are in violation of this policy if they engage in any of the above behaviors in a way that is disruptive to the work or education environment, such as:

- Making demeaning remarks directly or indirectly such as name-calling, racial slurs or “jokes”; or
- Physically threatening or harming an individual; or
- Displaying demeaning visual or written materials; or
- Defacing, damaging, or destroying property or materials; or
- Performing any other act that is clearly harassing in nature.

Any student, staff, or community member who believes that he or she has been the subject of harassment and/or discriminatory behavior should report the incident immediately to the principal or department supervisor. Complaints regarding harassment/discriminatory behavior will be investigated immediately.

Any student, staff, or community member who violates this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Inquiries or complaints regarding any rights protected by law or policy may be addressed to the School District Equal Employment Opportunity Director, who serves as the Title IX 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, Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services.