

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from the Principal

Dear Girdwood PK-8 School Families,

I hope 2024 is treating you well and you have been enjoying the large amount of snow we have this year!

The AK Reads Act has brought new discussions and planning for teachers. We have been working with students that need extra support to get where they need to be based on their grade level in reading. Teachers are working on specific skills based on benchmark assessments each day with students that are below proficiency. If your child is struggling with reading, there is a free tutoring service that is offered for K-2 students through the Alyeska Reading Institute (ARI). ARI provides intervention materials & tutoring services at no cost. You can contact Melinda Krise at melinda.krise@alaska.gov or call 907-269-0124.

The Alaska Reads Act requires teachers to speak to K-3 parents at parent/teacher conferences regarding progression and non-progression (repeating a grade or being held back) if your child is well-below in reading. Please don't be alarmed by this as we work as a school community team and look forward to continuing supports for your child so they can continue to make growth.

The Anchorage School District is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the School Climate and Connectedness Survey ©, a statewide survey for students, staff, and families. This survey measures perceptions of each school's climate, including the engagement of students, staff, and families. We value and need input from our Girdwood School families. You are an important partner as we work to continually improve our school's environment. We are asking that one parent/guardian complete one survey from now until March 15th. If you have more than one child attending our school, you only need to fill out one survey. The survey should take less than 5 minutes. Here is the link for accessing the family survey: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily> Select Girdwood K-8 School and complete the survey. All of the surveys are voluntary, anonymous, confidential, and do not ask questions about students' families. Results from this survey will be used to identify student, staff and family perceptions of school climate issues within our school(s). School staff use the results to inform their efforts to ensure schools are safe, supportive, and caring places for all students. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Hmong, and Samoan. Families can toggle to their target language in the upper left-hand corner. Thank you for your cooperation in this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey©.

Just a few other reminders, second quarter report cards are now available to view on the Parent Portal. Also, we are excited to see our boys and girls cross-country ski team underway! We hope you take a moment to attend one of their meets to cheer them on at some point this winter!

We are looking forward to a wonderful second half of the year and hope you can continue to help us continue to demonstrate our school motto of being respectful, responsible, and ready to do our best! Please let us know if there is anything you need to ensure your child has a successful second semester.

Wishing you all the best,

Kari Anderson, Principal

Upcoming Events

2/13 NAEP Testing for 4th Graders

2/16 Ski Day #3

2/19 President's Day—No School

2/20 PTA Meeting at GBC, 6:30-8pm

2/21 Parent/Teacher Conferences
12-4pm

2/21 Middle School Cross Country
Ski Race at Service HS, 5:30pm

2/22 Parent/Teacher Conferences
12-8pm

2/23 No School for Students—
Professional Development Day

2/26 Professional Learning
Community—School Starts at 9:30am

2/27 7/8th Grade WOW Trip Ice
Skating at Dimond Center

2/27 Middle School Cross Country
Ski Race @ Bartlett HS, 5:30pm

2/29 K-5 Author Visit, Brook Hartman,
1-3pm

2/29 Middle School Cross Country
Ski Race @ Kincaid, 5:30pm

3/1 Ski Day #4

3/4 Professional Learning
Community—School Starts @ 9:30am

3/4 8th Grade Students Visit South
High School, 11:15-12:45pm

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

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



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

Ski 4 Kids Event at Kincaid Park

The annual Ski 4 Kids event will be held February 17, at Kincaid Park from 12pm-3:30pm. This event exposes children to fun outdoor activities, including a 3km ski race, obstacle course, lemon drop biathlon station, ski orienteering, and more. For more information about Ski 4 Kids please visit the event page at <http://www.anchoragenordicski.com/events/ski-4-kids/>

Anchorage School Board

Margo Bellamy, president

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Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

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Julie Pierre Leclerc,
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Dierks,
teacher representatives

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2024

CONGRATS

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!



Girdwood Middle School's Battle of the Books team included Passage Stinson, Brielle Rice, and Harper Landry and was coached by Mrs. Nedwick. They received 10th place in this year's battle. Middle School competition is tough and these students managed to place in the top 10 while simultaneously keeping up grades and participating in many sports and extra curricular activities. Great job Middle School.



This year's 5th and 6th grades Battle of the Books team included Sylvie Wuthrich, Arthur Fell, Ruby Gelinas, Trudy Stair and Aria Rice (not pictured) and was coached by Summer Stone. Our team received the Sportsmanship Award at Battle of the Books! These students gave up countless lunches and recesses to study and read many books in preparation for the competition. They worked hard, were supportive of each other and the other teams participating in Battle of the Books. We're so proud of their excellent work ethic and good sportsmanship.



The 3rd and 4th grade Battle of the Books did an amazing job at the district wide battle. The team coached by Jennifer Derks was Gavin Anderson, Paul Munter, Gavin Anderson, Wyatt Hutchins, Rylan Ellis, Solstice Martyn, Zofia Moklofsky, and Brynn Vanderhoek. In just 4 months they read 12 books! Throughout the practices and competition our Girdwood team demonstrated their great sense of humor and excellent sportsmanship.



Welcome, Nurse Alannah!

Many of you already know our new school nurse, Alannah Turner! We are thrilled to have her join the Girdwood school staff! Your students will see her in the nurses office on Mondays.

Cold weather skin concerns: this cold weather spell has been causing lots of dry, cracked skin. If your student has special lotions or lip balms they need, please be in touch with the nurse so we can help make sure they get the moisturization they need. We have lotion and Vaseline on hand that we give out often, as well.

Recess preparedness: thank you for helping your student be sure they're ready, every day, with all the gear they need to have fun and stay warm outside at recess. There are a number of students frequently seeking gloves, hats, snow pants and coats. Finding gear to borrow takes precious recess time away from your student and we'd love them to be able to enjoy the whole recess with their own gear. If you need help supplying your student with any gear, please reach out and let us know. We're happy to help!

Wishing you all warmth on these cold, beautiful days!
Nurse Summer

Olivia Summer Stone, BSN, RN
School Nurse
Girdwood K-8
742-5300 (5301 direct)

Girdwood School Families,

Please take a moment to complete this survey as we are a Healthy Futures School! Thank you!

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SURVEY

IRB STUDY: 2147492-1 DATE OF APPROVAL: 2/7/2024

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Children in Grades 4-6

School Participates in
Alaska's Healthy
Futures Challenge

Children who did and
did not complete logs
are eligible for the
survey.

SURVEY LINK

Deadline: FEB 23, 2024



https://cuchicago.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_86Tnbq7pH05x7fg



PARENTS

- Click on the link or scan the QR code
- Assist your child in taking the survey
- Takes about 20 minutes



CHILDREN

- Answer questions about your physical activity
- Answer questions about your feelings toward physical activity.



BENEFITS

- Learn about participation in the Healthy Futures Program in relation to motivation for physical activity and physical activity levels.



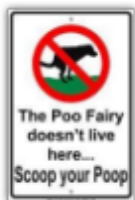
QUESTIONS

- Robyn Myrum
- crf_myrumm@cuchicago.edu

Girl's Middle School Volleyball



Girdwood Middle School Volleyball was a smashing success this year! The girls traveled to two tournaments in Anchorage followed by an end of season Jamboree! It was another season for the record books; the grizzlies remain undefeated in C League. The girls placed first in their regional silver bracket at the end of season jamboree (Eagle River, Anchorage and Girdwood)! We came a very long way from the first practice to the end of the season with daily practice and lots of positive team energy. Our roster includes one graduating 8th grader, **Harper Landry** who will be going on to South next year. The 7th grade has a strong showing on the team with **Kiyana Palacios, Madeline Romerdahl, Maria Nafzger, Nava Stephenson, Nonie Mucha, Olive Pilon, Ruby Loso, Serenity Silva** and **Svea Nedwick**. The 6th grade players are **Annie Bailey** and **Shiloh Baugh**. Current 5th grade girls- We need your help next year!! Come join Volleyball, learn awesome skills, have a ton of fun and make Girdwood proud!! Our coaches are Carmen Romerdahl and Heidi Armstrong.



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.



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>.

Winter Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades K-8th grade will take place on Wednesday, October 25th, and Thursday, October 26th, with evening conferences taking place on Thursday. Students will be dismissed at noon on both of these days in order for teachers to hold conferences. The Conference Scheduler is open and available to parents at this time and will be open through Tuesday, October 24th.

To sign up for a conference:

- Please log into the ASD Conference Scheduler at <https://apps.asdk12.org/ConferenceScheduling/StudentScheduleStartExt.aspx>
- Choose Girdwood K-8 from the dropdown menu.
- Choose the grade level number for K-6th grade and "MIX" for our 7th and 8th grade teachers.
- Choose the teacher's name.
- Sign up for a date and time that suits your schedule.



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.



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>.

Attention Families of 8th Grade Students

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

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

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

After School Playground Use

After school, students enjoy playing with friends and classmates on the school playground. We enjoy having them here, but cannot provide outdoor supervision after 3:15 p.m. School dismisses at 3 p.m and, for safety reasons, students are expected to head for home, FVCS classes, or after school care on buses, bikes, feet or in a parent vehicles by 3:15. School doors will be locked promptly at 3:15.

Students are more than welcome to stay on the playground if they are with a supervising adult. This is true for all students, including middle school. The only exception is when students remain to participate in school or FVCS supervised activities. Thank you for your help in keeping all the children in our valley safe and supervised.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Drop-Off Bin

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska has provided Girdwood School with a donation drop-off box. This bin is located across from the school parking lot. Please donate gently used clothes, shoes, and cloth items only. To

donate household items, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (907)563-1997 to set up a time for pick up. This service is provided for free by Big Brothers Big Sisters. These donated items are used to stock local Value Village locations and the proceeds of the items are given to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska in order to help them reach their yearly goal of serving 2,000 children across Alaska.



Girdwood K-8 and the Girdwood PTA are on

Facebook. Please check our pages out and **"LIKE"** us! We will be posting frequently and our pages will have the latest school information.



We would like to shout out a big **THANK YOU** to Subway and the Ice Cream Shop, Girdwood K-8's school business partners! If you know of anyone else who would like to be our partner, please let us know.

Please join us for a

*Live Music by Kate
Hamre!*

Silent Auction Fundraiser

Friday, February 16th from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

at Alpenglow Coffee House

Help support the Girdwood
4th and 5th Graders in raising
money to go on an overnight
field trip to the Sealife Center.

Items to bid on include:

Driveway paving from AK Pave Co.

Brisket from Glacier City BBQ

Surprise from Alyeska Ski Patrol

Plus more from Chair 5, Spoonline, The Tourist Trap, The Ice Cream Shop, Namaste in AK, Julie Martyn Photography, Lucy Swygman, Alaska Born Images, and many more amazing local artists and businesses.



Adobe Express



Afternoon Art Series: Valentines Day

Join Beks for an hour of art afterschool, and
create something fun to bring home!

Feb 14th, 3:15 PM, \$15 per person



Register @ FourValleys.org

February Workout Options

Wake Up w/ Mel



Tuesdays & Thursdays



6 to 7 am



@ Girdwood School Gym



Register for Full Session
or \$10 Drop In

Strength w/ Lauren



Select Mondays:
February 5th & 12th



5:30 to 6:30 pm



@ Girdwood School Gym



Register for \$10 Drop In
online



Register @ www.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





Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found Cart is filling up. Belongings are left at school and on the playground everyday and most of these items don't have names in them. We put them in the Lost & Found but they are more likely to make it back faster to your child if they have their names in them. Sharpies work best and silver Sharpies work better on dark clothing. Please label all coats, shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, and any other item that your child may walk away from. If your kiddo is looking for lost items, the school Lost & Found cart is located in the mini-commons, between the primary and secondary classrooms. We will donate the all items left behind at the end of every semester.

Sign up for FVCS Classes!

Four Valleys Community Schools has classes going on now and will be rolling out lots of new ones in the next few weeks for community members of all ages. If you feel unable to take any of our classes due to class costs, please contact FVCS at www.fourvalleys.org or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.

Anchorage School District Compliance/
Equal Employment Opportunity Office
REVISED: 8/2007; 8/2012; 5/2013;
7/2014

ASD Statement of Non-discrimination
for ASD Publications

The Board is committed to an environment of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, economic status, union affiliation, disability and other human differences. No person shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, any academic or extracurricular program or educational opportunity or service offered by the District. The District will comply with the applicable statutes, regulations, and executive orders adopted by Federal, State and Municipal agencies. The District notes the concurrent applicability of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the relevant disability provisions of Alaska law.

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the District's Compliance/Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Director, who also serves as the Title IX and ADA/ADAAA Coordinator, ASD Education Center, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99504-3135 (907) 742-4132, or to any of the following external agencies: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Director of the Office for Civil Rights-U.S. Department of Education or Office of Civil Rights-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



YOU CAN HELP THE GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL EARN DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!

Fred Meyer donates over \$2 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Girdwood K-8 School at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number **GP641**.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Girdwood K-8 School earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Join Girdwood PTA



Why join PTA? Our focus is supporting programs that help students be successful in their learning. Last year PTA funded over \$20,000 in programs and supplies for our students and school, including:

School Garden, Classroom Safety Kits, Halloween Carnival, Classroom Grants, Holiday Bazaar, Running Club, Drama and Music Programs, Field Trip Transportation, Field Trip Scholarships, Teacher Appreciation Week, Battle of the Books, Field Day, and Fall Intensives. For 2022-2023, new Classroom Display Technology and so much more!

Questions? Email us at pta.girdwood@gmail.com

Supporting Member



Who should be a supporting member?
Parents, family members, friends, and community members who want to support our school and students



All \$10 goes to support Girdwood School PTA programs



Scan to become a supporting member



Voting Member



Who should be a voting member? Parents, teachers, and PTA board members who want to regularly attend PTA meetings and vote on our budget and bylaws.



\$6.25 goes to National & State PTA and \$3.75 goes to Girdwood School PTA



Scan to become a voting member





GRIZZLY GEAR



order online

Support Girdwood School PTA!
We are trying something new
this year, please check out our
online fundraising platform!

