

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Dear Girdwood School Families,

We are well into our third quarter at Girdwood, with mid quarter progress reports coming home in a couple of weeks. Due to the November earthquake, the Anchorage School District School Board approved the February school calendar change. This year days associated with the February Parent-Teacher Conferences will be utilized as student instructional days. Half days originally scheduled for February 20, 21, and 22 will become regular, full-day instructional time for students. The originally planned early release days for students, late evenings for teachers, and in-service on February 22 will not occur to allow full-day student instructional time.

In reading your child's individual classroom newsletters and communications, you will find that the curriculum becomes more challenging this semester as students and teachers are working extremely hard to obtain our goal of at least a year's worth of growth for each Girdwood student. In order to provide more opportunities for students, Girdwood School will offer Tuesday and Wednesday after-school tutoring/homework help from 3:10-4:15 pm starting the week of January 28, 2019. Students wishing to attend after school tutoring must have turned in a parent permission form prior to attending after school tutoring. Parents will need to make arrangements to pick up their students after the homework help at 4:15 pm.

February is a short and busy month at the school. We are hosting the Girdwood School Alaska Cultural Night on February 5. The Spelling Bee is schedule for February 12. Ski Days will re-start on Friday, February 1, and continue through March 7, 2019. Middle School sports will be participating in several cross-country ski meets and basketball games while our school will host a home basketball game on February 12. We will host school tours on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am as part of Visit Our Schools Month. With the busyness of the February schedule and importance of student instructional time, I'd like to ask for an emphasis on our school start time. One of our goals is for students to be at school and in their seat when the second bell rings at 8:30 am. Beginning the school day relaxed, rather than rushed and behind, sets a positive tone for learning throughout the day.

Sincerely,

Erik Viste

Principal, Girdwood School

Upcoming Events

2/1 School Ski Day

2/5 Boys Basketball Game vs. Wendler
3:30 pm AT Central Middle School

2/6 Cross Country Ski Meet @ Kincaid
3:30 pm

2/7 Boys Basketball Game vs. Romig 3:30
pm AT Romig Middle School

2/8 School Ski Day

2/12 Spelling Bee

2/12 Boys Basketball Game—HOME 3:30pm

2/13 Cross Country Ski Meet @ Service
3:30pm

2/18 President's Day—No School

2/19 Cross Country Meet @ Chugiak
3:30pm

2/20 PTA Meeting 3:15pm

2/22 School Ski Day

2/26 School Store

2/27 Cross Country Ski Meet @ Kincaid
Freestyle Championships



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. They can be found on boxes of cereal, Ziplock baggies, Progresso soup cans, and many other items in your pantry. Currently, the 3rd Grade is in the lead for the root beer float party!!



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.

Anchorage School Board

Starr Marsett, president

Deena Mitchell, vice president

Elisa Snelling, treasurer

Alisha Hilde, clerk

Dave Donley

Andy Holleman

Mark Foster

Superintendent

Dr. Deena Bishop



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>.



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.glaciertvalleytransit.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 partner, please let us know.



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.



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. 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.

NAEP 2019 PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION LETTER
Grades 4 and 8 – Mathematics and reading assessments

Girdwood Elementary/Junior High

P.O. Box 189

Girdwood, AK 99587

907-742-5300

907-742-5320 fax

Erik Viste, Principal

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Girdwood School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on March 4, 2019. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

Students in grades 4 and 8 will take an assessment in mathematics or reading. In addition to subject-area questions, NAEP survey questionnaires are voluntarily completed by students. The questionnaires provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom.

The assessment takes about 120 minutes for most students, including transition time and directions.

The information collected is used for statistical purposes only.

- Your child's grades will not be affected.
- Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question.
- While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by February 25, 2019.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do his or her best. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>. Contact **Molly Hickox** at **907-742-5300** or at hickox_molly@asdk12.org if you have any questions.

We are excited that our school is participating in NAEP. We know that **(school name)**'s students will show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

Erik Viste
Principal, Girdwood School

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Sincerely,

Erik Viste
Principal, Girdwood School

Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) 2019 School Climate and Connectedness Survey

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Anchorage School District is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the School Climate and Connectedness Survey, a statewide survey that measures how students and staff view their school climate, and how connected students feel to adults and peers. These are all factors directly linked to improved academic achievement and reduced risk behaviors.

The survey measures student perceptions of: school safety, expectations for learning, student involvement, caring adults, respectful climate, how peers treat each other, connections between school and the community, and observations of other students' risk behaviors at school and school events.

The survey is voluntary, anonymous, confidential, and does not ask questions about students' families. The survey and information describing its purpose and benefits to the district are available at the school office, at the Assessment & Evaluation Department (Education Center) and on our website if you wish to review them. If you do not want your child to take the survey, please notify the school office in writing.

Results of this survey will help students, parents, staff, and the community to better understand the interactions and relationships among students, teachers, and staff that constitute each school's social and academic climate, and to identify ways we can improve our schools to be more supportive, caring, and productive places for all students.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Erik Viste
Principal, Girdwood School

2019 Visit Our Schools Month

Come Visit Our School This February!

Community members, parents, and prospective parents are invited to visit any ASD school during the month of February to learn more about our community's public schools. While schools welcome members of the public year-round, this coordinated effort provides parents and community members an opportunity to learn more about the many educational opportunities available.

The safety of our students will always remain our top priority. All people on tours will be checked in through normal procedures that visitors follow. Principals or their designee will lead the tours and tour groups will never be left unsupervised. Students will continue classroom activities and the tours will not interfere with student learning.

Learn more about Visit Our Schools Month at www.asdk12.org/visit.



Every school | Every Tuesday

Feb. 5
9:30 a.m.

Feb. 12
9:30 a.m.

Feb. 19
9:30 a.m.

Feb. 26
9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Girdwood School Alaska Culture Night



Join in drumming and dancing with the Sleeping Lady Dancers and Singers in the music room. Practice your athletic skills with Native Youth Olympic athlete Stuart Towarak, world record holder in the 1 foot high kick, in the gym. Engage in discussion with politician, author and professor William Hensley in the library and learn about his life and publications. Create a beautiful button bracelet in the art room with Angela Łot'oydaatIno Gonzalez. Beautiful artwork created by Girdwood School students will also be on display for your viewing pleasure.

**Tuesday, Feb 5th, 6-7:45pm
at the Girdwood School**



A very special thank you to Four Valleys Community School for sponsoring this event

P.E. Footnotes from Mrs. Quinn 2019

Spring Healthy Future Challenge starts February 1st
Challenge dates are:
February 1-28
March 1-31
April 1-30
Complete all 3 logs to be entered to win an awesome Health Futures Sports bag!



What's happening in P.E. ?

The students and staff are getting excited for School Ski Days!

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

School Ski Days are:

February 1

February 8

February 15

February 22

March 1

March 7 (makeup)

Ski day #1 Mountain Learning Goal is: Be Safe on the lifts, put the bar down. Be organized, make a group of 4 prior to loading the chair lift.

The SEL Goal for Ski day # 1 is: Demonstrate personal responsibility.

Plan for your ski day.

Have gear, clothing and pass.

Pack a snack.

Sign in and sign out.

Keep belongings neatly stored in the daylodge

Know the CODE! You are responsible for what you do on the mountain.

Hello Girdwood Parents,

The students are LOVING NYO in P.E.! We have kicked off the 3rd quarter with learning and participating in Native Games that involve strength, endurance, agility, integrity, discipline, perseverance, and respect for others.

First and second grades are focusing on the Kneel Jump, Eskimo Stick Pull, and the Seal Hop. Third and fourth grades are focusing on the Wrist Carry, The Two Foot High Kick, and the Arm Pull. Fifth and sixth grades are focusing on the One Foot High Kick, the Alaskan High Kick, and the Eskimo Stick Pull and the Scissor Broad Jump.

The first NYO Games was held in Anchorage in 1971 with 12 schools participating. Today, 800-1000 kids from all over the state of Alaska come together to celebrate and compete in Jr. NYO. Since 1971, Jr. Native Youth Olympics has grown substantially and is held annually along with the Arctic Winter Games and the World Indian-Eskimo Olympics.

Students in grades first through sixth have the option to try out for a spot on the Girdwood Jr. NYO team. Try-outs are happening now in PE and during recess. The event this year will take place at the Wells Fargo Sports Complex @ UAA on February 22-24. This will be Girdwood School's 12th year participating in Jr. NYO!

The WEIO (World Eskimo-Indian Olympics) has taken place every year in Fairbanks since 1961. Alaska natives from six major tribes in Alaska (Aleut, Athabascan, Yupi'k, Inupiaq, Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian) come together to participate in some of the most unique challenges.

By participating in and playing native games, we are helping keep their culture alive. It is said that Native Games are the only sporting events in the world where athletes from different teams help each other be successful in the games. The Blanket Toss, which is performed in the Senior Native Games, is one of my favorite events to watch.

Yours in fitness & Health,

Mrs. Quinn

Quinn_cassie@asd.k12.ak.us



The PTA Sponsored Spelling Bee contestants are buzzing around these days...GOOD LUCK KIDDOS! Thank you, Mrs. Davidson, for taking on this project again this year!



PTA has sponsored a few Field Trips already this year!

Grade 1- AWCC Puppet Show and animal meet and greet.

Grade 3 – Seeds of Change Hydroponics Garden.

Grade 6 – Anchorage Symphony Orchestra “Bach to the Future”

Do you have any ideas of a neat place for kids to extend their learning out of the classroom? Let us know!

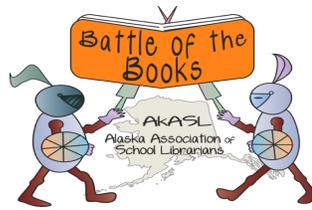


UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
ANCHORAGE

PTA has sponsored a children’s theatre production titled *New Kid* which toured local schools this past fall, tackling tough topics like bullying, immigration and racism. Our kiddos had the chance to see this fun, unexpected and engaging play.



PTA sponsored the Christmas Bazaar and again It was a huge success! Things were a little shaky after the November 30th earthquake, however, Committee Chair Brigid Kuber pulled it off like a champ. Accompanied by the relentless efforts of Maxine Potter and Cary Lukes, the luncheon was a fun filled and delicious afternoon for all. BIG THANKS to Mr. Viste and all the staff for getting into the school quickly and assessing damage in such a timely manner. You made all the difference.



**PTA is proud to have been given the opportunity to re-up the books so our kids can BATTLE!
Let's Do This!**



PTA would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mrs. DaRosa and Mrs. Rutherford for "Salmon in the Classroom Program". This innovative, science-based program allows kiddos to raise salmon from the egg to the fry stage in classroom incubators. We cannot wait for the big release!



PTA sponsored event M.A.G. the Magician was coordinated gracefully by Cassie Quinn again this year and the kiddos loved the show along with the family night of juggling and balancing and just plain PLAY TIME! Thank you, Cassie!



PTA provides teachers with a \$75 grant for their classroom. It is just a simple gesture to say that we care. Just a little thank you to the teachers for all that you do for our kids in these formative years. We are so grateful.



PTA is sponsoring our very own amazing Librarian Mrs. Meghan Nedwick at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education seminar! This is so exciting because she is going to bring back so much knowledge from this conference. Our very own heavy hitters, Mrs. Molly Hickox and Mrs. Leola Rutherford will be presenting at the seminar as well! Please, check out the ASTE website and see what's up in tech in AK!



PTA still has Grizzly Gear for sale.

Contact pta.girdwood@gmail.com to set up a purchase.

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO SET UP A BOOTH AT THE NEXT BASKETBALL GAME, XC MEET OR FVCS EVENT! JUST SAYIN...

Although a little late to the Newsletter, PTA has also sponsored a few other successful events this year so far:

- Halloween Carnival
- Fall Student Intensives
- The Eagle Release
- PTA & FVCS purchased the script for the school play & some props and costumes.
- Contribution to XC Track Tee Shirt/Incentive Program & 10 x 10 Tent to keep kiddos out of the weather at these events.



Winter Illnesses

Winter illnesses are circulating and we know that the flu has hit Southcentral Alaska. If your family has flu like symptoms you may want to contact your healthcare provider. Prompt antiviral treatment may be considered in all individuals whether they are vaccinated against influenza or not.

Is it a cold or flu?



Signs and Symptoms	Influenza	Cold
Symptom onset	Abrupt	Gradual
Fever	Usual	Rare
Aches	Usual	Slight
Chills	Fairly common	Uncommon
Fatigue, weakness	Usual	Sometimes
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common
Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common
Chest discomfort, cough	Common	Mild to moderate
Headache	Common	Rare

We are also seeing cases of adenovirus (common cold), and RSV (cold like illness with barky cough). As these viruses can spread before and after symptoms are noticeable, it is best to have everyone avoid touching their face with their hands, wash hands frequently, and trap all coughs and sneezes in sleeves. If your child has a lingering cough consider sending them to school with a thermos of tea with honey as this can be more effective than other cough treatments. If your child prefers cough drops please bring them into the nurses office rather than in their possession.

Please keep your child at home if they have a persistent phlegmy cough, stomachache accompanied by fever, vomiting, diarrhea or pain, a sore throat with fever, headache, stomachache or swollen glands, or if they have a fever above 101 F.

Earlier we sent out a message informing families of Pertussis being reported within our community. The CDC is a great source for more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

We have also seen some cases of head lice. Please encourage your child to not share personal items such as hats, if they have long hair to tie it back or braid it, and if you participate in a sleepover (the #1 place for lice to be spread) bring your own pillow.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please call nurse Raquel or nurse Summer at 742-5301.