

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from the Principal

Dear Girdwood K-8 Families,

Happy November to all of our families and those in our school community! It is the month to be thankful and there are a wealth of reasons that I am thankful to be a part of the Girdwood K-8 community. We have incredibly dedicated staff who put their best work into creating a positive learning environment for students each and every day. Our family community is nothing short of top notch and I appreciate the work that all of you do to support our students and school. Our student community works hard and puts forth great effort to be the best they can be. Most of all we are truly fortunate to live in such a wonderful community that supports and looks after each other!

It is hard to believe that we have already begun second quarter of the school year! The fall colors have been amazing this year and our brisk days of late fall and winter are here. 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 is coming up later and without the reflective properties of snow on the ground, 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!

Our Girdwood School PTA has been hard at work planning for all the wonderful events they fund and organize. Thanks to the PTA we are able to have annual events that are cherished within the community, such as the Halloween Carnival and Holiday Bazaar. I encourage you to join us at our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 19th, in the Conference Room, starting at 3:15 pm. 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.

Our students have been working hard to be respectful, responsible, and ready do their best in all of our commons areas. Our whole school reviewed playground rules and game expectations at a behavior assembly awhile back and our playground expectations have been posted outside on the school wall for all to see as a reminder. We have been practicing our socializing skills at lunch and students have shown they can be model citizens while enjoying their friends conversation. Overall I am impressed with the positive behavior from all students!

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!

It is my pleasure to work with the community of Girdwood's students, teaching staff, and families! 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

Acting Principal, Girdwood K-8

Upcoming Events

- 11/1 Picture Retake Day
- 11/4 Salmon Dissection in Science Lab for Grades 1 & 6
1:30-2:30pm
- 11/6 School Store
- 11/11 No School for Students, State Released
Professional Development Day
- 11/13 Grizzly Bucks
- 11/14-11/15 School Play, "A Pirate's Life for Me" 7 pm
- 11/19 PTA Meeting 3:15pm
- 11/20 School Store
- 11/20 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Mears
5pm
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Pie Social
- 11/28 Happy Thanksgiving! No School
- 11/29 No School Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/4 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Hanshew
5pm
- 12/7 PTA Holiday Bazaar 12-6 pm in the Gym
- 12/11 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Game @ Mears
5pm
- 12/14 Middle School Girl's Volleyball Jamboree 9am

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



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!



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:

<http://www.asdk12.org/textupdates>.



Thanksgiving Pie Social

To the Girdwood School Community: We will be holding the annual Thanksgiving Pie Social on November 27, 2011 during your child's lunch period. Friends and family are welcome! The 7th and 8th graders will host the social to give thanks to you for all your gracious donations and support of our school. Without your support, we would not be able to pay for our extracurricular activities or succeed in the way we do. So come and enjoy homemade pies baked by the 7th and 8th graders at our Thanksgiving Pie Social.

Sincerely,
The Girdwood Student Government

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!

With the ever changing Girdwood weather, please make sure your child has a raincoat or winter gear, boots, gloves, any and other outdoor clothing to keep them warm and dry during recess. We do go out if it's raining moderately and in winter we go out to 10 below with the wind chill.

Picture Retakes



Picture retakes are scheduled for the morning of Monday, November 4. This is for those students who were absent, or who would like to have their pictures retaken. For those getting retakes, please make to return the original picture packet.



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 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.



Join us November 14 & 15 at 7:00pm for Girdwood School's production of *A Pirate's Life for Me*. This show is a fun-filled romp of adventure and treasure! So, get in touch with your "inner pirate" and join us for a night of hi-jinx on the high seas!!

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>

Volunteers

If you are a volunteer at our school, you will need to complete the attached Volunteer Waiver and Release form.

Please drop this form off in the office or complete one next time you volunteer at school.



VOLUNTEER WAIVER & RELEASE

In consideration of being permitted to serve and participate as a volunteer for the Anchorage School District to assist with _____ (the "Activity") at _____ (facility), on _____, 20____. I _____ (volunteer's name) state and unconditionally agree as follows:

1. References to the Anchorage School District (the "District") include the District, its past, present, and/or future board members, administrators, officers, employees, volunteers, parents, student, agents, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, representatives, designees, and assigns.
2. I understand that participation in the Activity involves certain inherent risks and dangers. These inherent risks may include (without limitation) uneven surfaces, lifting, slippery surfaces, dangerous tools and instruments: working in a small confined space; my own negligence; and the negligence of others. These inherent risks may result in trips/falls; fatigue; injury; significant injury/disability; and even death. I have made my own investigation of the risks of participation in the Activity, and I understand these risks and assume them willingly on behalf of myself and each and every one of my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns. I acknowledge that I AM ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE for my own safety during the Activity.
3. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, I UNEQUIVOCALLY AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS RELATED TO PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RISKS IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 2, ABOVE, THAT MAY ARISE OUT OF OR PERTAIN TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY.
4. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, I AGREE TO FOREVER RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD THE DISTRICT HARMLESS FROM ANY CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTIONS (WHETHER SOUNDING IN TORT [NEGLIGENCE, NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION, WRONGFUL DEATH, OR OTHERWISE], DEMANDS, OR EXPENSES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS) OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER THAT IN ANY WAY ARISE OUT OF, RESULT FROM, OR PERTAIN TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY.
5. Should the District, or anyone acting on its behalf, incur attorney's fees and/or costs to enforce the terms of this Agreement, or to defend any claims brought contrary to this Agreement, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold the District harmless for (in other words, I agree to pay for) any and all such attorney's fees and/or costs.

Warning: *This agreement is a binding contract that prevents you and your collective heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns from bringing any lawsuit against the District arising out of or pertaining to my participation in the Activity, including but not limited to any negligence claims. This document affects your substantial legal rights and remedies. Please read it carefully before proceeding.*

FULLY UNDERSTANDING ALL OF THE ABOVE, AND WITH REASONABLE TIME TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT AND TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN DOING SO, I UNEQUIVOCALLY AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Thank you for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair!

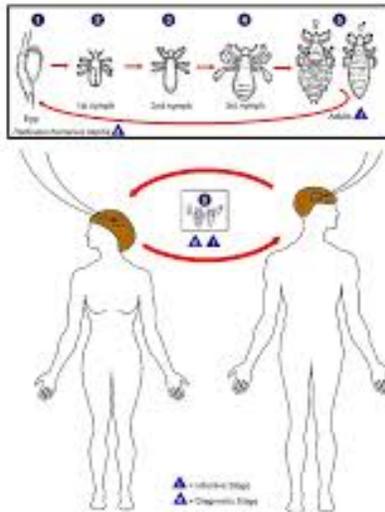


Your continued support helps us keep our school library engaging, interesting, dynamic, and relevant to student's interests and needs.

Thank you for taking time to visit the library and support book purchases for our kids this year!

Head Lice

(Phthirus humanus capitis)



Lice

Lice is an ever present nuisance. Please help us eradicate it by discouraging head to head contact, not sharing hats or hair care items such as brushes, and at sleep overs having your children bring their own pillows. Inform nurse Raquel or Summer if you find head lice on your child so that we can check close contacts and promptly address the problem.

Flu Season & Other Contagious Illnesses

It's that time of year...

Please keep your child home if they are sick (see the Should My Child Stay Home? Guidelines for Deciding handout).

Teach your child to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough/sneeze into your sleeve.

Wash hands! Warm, soapy water is best and hand sanitizer is best if water is not available.

Discourage your child from touching their eyes, mouth or nose.

Thank you & Happy Winter!
Nurse Summer

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover your Cough



Put your used tissue in the waste basket.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.



Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing



Wash hands with soap and warm water



or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.

SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME? GUIDELINES FOR DECIDING

FEVER A fever is a warning that the body is fighting an infection that could easily spread to others. A child with a temperature of 101 F should not be sent to school; s/he should stay home until fever free without the use of fever reducing medications like Tylenol.

COLDS Are more difficult to assess. A slightly runny nose and occasional dry cough is not enough to keep your child home. However, if your child's nose runs constantly and/or the

cough is frequent and wet, or your child is experiencing nausea or is too tired and uncomfortable to function at school it would be best to keep the child home for a day or two.

COUGH If your child has a severe cough, rapid and/or difficult breathing, wheezing, or bluish tint to the skin or the cough is accompanied by a sore throat or not feeling well, the child should stay home from school.

DIARRHEA This is defined as an unusual amount of very liquid stools compared to the child's normal pattern. Child should stay home until able to participate normally at school.

EARS If the child has pain, swelling, drainage or difficulty hearing; please see your healthcare provider. Untreated ear infections can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss.

EYES Red, itchy eyes with a clear, yellow or green drainage from the eye may be contagious and a sign of bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye). A child with pink eye can attend

school as long as they are able to keep from touching their eyes and show that they can properly wash hands after contact with the infected eye.

MEDICATIONS The school district has very specific rules for all medications in school including cough drops. Please see the School Nurse if your child requires any medications while at school.

RASH A rash might be the first sign of an illness. If your child has a rash with a fever and behavioral changes, or a rash that is oozing/ open wound, or is tender with the rash worsening, s/he should be evaluated by a healthcare provider.

SORE THROAT If your child has a sore throat, have the child gargle with warm salt water. If his/her behavior is normal and the child ate breakfast, it's probably safe to send him/her to

school. If the child has difficulty swallowing, or you notice saliva building up in the child's mouth because s/he can't swallow, please keep the child home. If you notice white spots seen in the back of the throat please contact your doctor, this could be a sign of an infection.

VOMITING / NAUSEA Please keep your child home if he or she has vomited more than 2 times in 24 hours or also has a fever or if s/he looks or acts ill.



2019 Girdwood PTA Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 7, 2019 12-6pm

The holidays are just around the corner and it is time to start thinking about one of the biggest shopping events in the Four Valleys area...yup that's right, the Girdwood PTA Holiday Bazaar! The bazaar will be held at the Girdwood School Gym.

Interested vendors may email Elizabeth Ellis, ak.elizabethellis@gmail.com or Facebook [@GirdwoodPTA](https://www.facebook.com/GirdwoodPTA) for applications and booth information.

**** Please type in the email subject line, Girdwood Holiday Bazaar 2019**

- Booth Spaces are \$60 each. Space size is 10' x 10', must provide your own table. We will provide a booth number via email. Capacity is limited. Payment in full is required to reserve your spot. There are no refunds.
- Vendors applying to sell merchandise must submit at least 3 photographs that best represents their current work.
- Student Booths are available for students in grades K-8 for \$10. These booths are intended for students to sell their own hand-crafted items and limited to a 5' x 5' space, students must provide own table.
- No more than two exhibitors may share a space. (If Sharing a booth space, both vendors must submit their own application and specify if sharing a space)
- Electrical access is limited. Vendors will need to bring their own extension cords.
- Deadline for entry is Saturday, November 24th.
- Vendors set up 9-11am Saturday morning. All vehicles must be out of the unloading zone by 11:00am. Break down is no earlier than 6pm.

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.