

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 this newsletter finds you and your household healthy as Covid continues to go through our community. Despite the policies and protocols that have been changing, one thing that remains the same is our love for our Girdwood School students and our desire to keep everyone healthy and maintain in-person learning! A huge thank you to Nurse Summer and Nurse Raquel for leading our healthcare front to keep students healthy and in school through testing and maintaining a symptom-free Girdwood School. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. January has been another month of uncertainty and we made it through!

I want to publicly acknowledge what our Girdwood School staff have gone through this past month. I have asked specialists to cover classrooms. I have asked support staff to cover classrooms. I have asked all staff to support in coverage so we can have safe lunch and recess times. I have called on every single person to be flexible and roll with the changes every day. I want to let the community know that every single staff member at Girdwood School has stepped up and pitched in where needed at all times. This is the only way we could have gotten through the past month. So, if there has been a time that one of us has not returned a phone call or returned an email in a timely manner, we apologize and ask that you give us grace in this trying time. Hopefully moving into February things will begin to get back to some normal routines and we will not have so many staff members out and have the coverage that we need. If you have time to thank anyone on staff – take the time to do that! They are wonderful and continue to be committed to your children and in-person learning.

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 25th. 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©.

Have a great Valentine's Day, Parent/Teacher conference, and President's Day weekend and we hope you can help us to continue to demonstrate our school motto of being respectful, responsible, and ready to do our best!

Kari Anderson, Principal

Upcoming Events

- 2/7 ACCESS Testing Grades 1/2 & 4/5
- 2/8 Middle School Boys Basketball Game @ Romig 6pm
- 2/9 ACCESS Testing Grade 7 & Make-ups
- 2/9 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Kincaid, 5:30 pm—Mixed Relays
- 2/10 ACCESS Testing Make-ups
- 2/10 Boys Basketball Game @ Clark 6pm
- 2/11 ACCESS Testing Make-ups
- 2/15 State Battle of the Books Grades 5/6
- 2/15 School Store During Lunch
- 2/15 Boys Basketball Game @ Goldenview 6pm
- 2/16 Middle School Cross Country Ski Meet @ Service 5:30pm
- 2/16 Parent/Teacher Conferences Student Dismissal @ 12:00pm
- 2/17 Parent/Teacher Conferences Student Dismissal @ 12pm
- 2/18 Professional Development Day No School for Students
- 2/21 Presidents Day No School for Students
- 2/22 Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- 2/22 STAMP Testing Begins
- 2/25 First School Ski Day

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Jennifer Derks, teacher representative



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.

Bus Note Expectations

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

Box Tops for Education



We are continuing to collect **General Mills Box Tops For Education**. Please turn them in to your teacher or to Mrs. Bethanie, in the office. 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!



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.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.



Girdwood, Alaska theicecreamshop.com

A Gentle Reminder...

Wow—let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!! From record snowfalls to record low temperature, freezing rain, and now the forecast is for more snow again. Mother Nature just can't make up her mind! This is just another reminder to please make sure your child(ren) comes to school with the right gear every day: winter coat, snow pants, boots, gloves, and any other outdoor clothing they would need to keep them warm and dry during recess. Most students have outdoor recess everyday except in cases of extreme inclement weather, so they need to be prepared. Students without proper outside gear will be spending their recess in the office. Please remember to label all clothing and accessories. Thank 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.

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>

Notes from our School Nurse

Dear Girdwood School Families,

There have been changes in protocols and requirements with Covid-19 related communications and management within ASD and we wanted to be sure you were aware of these.

Previously we had been sending letters home to inform you of Covid-19 positive exposures in your child's classroom and we will no longer do this. If you wish to know how many active cases of Covid-19 there are please check the <https://apps.asdk12.org/PTAC/> school tracker. You can click on Girdwood School's link to see how many cases there are in each classroom.

In the fall ASD changed quarantine requirements and at that time close contacts were no longer required to quarantine. It continues to be recommended that close contacts quarantine, especially if someone in their home has recently tested positive.

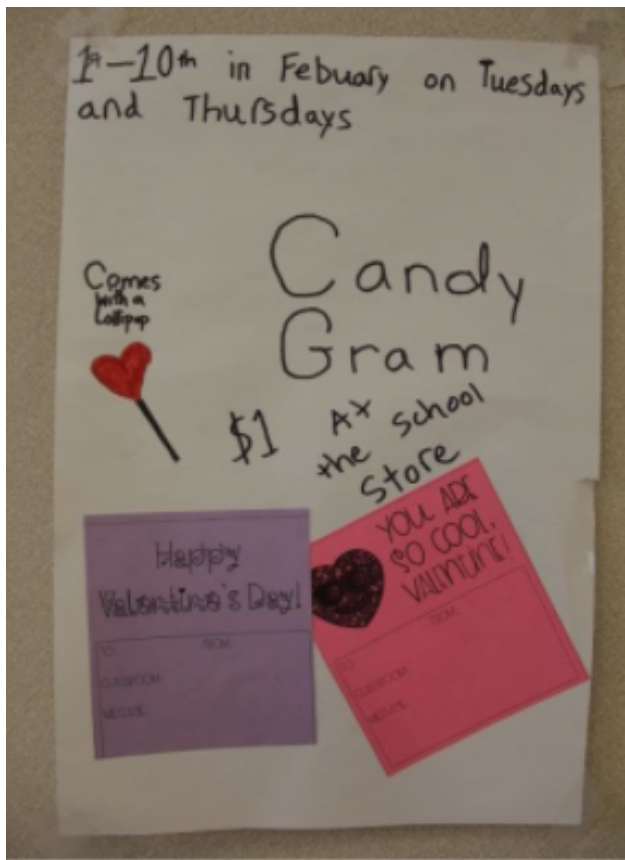
The time that people who have a possible Covid-19 symptom or positive test result are required to isolate has also changed and decreased to 5 days. After 5 days it is considered safe to return to school as long as symptoms are resolving including being fever free for 24 hours.

These changes in policy allow for students to have increased attendance, which is of huge value! The trade off is that I see school based transmission is now likely occurring. Some people are still contagious after a 5-day isolation. People are contagious prior to developing symptoms and we have many close contacts attending school. The variant circulating is extremely contagious. Please be aware of all of these variables when making your decisions and I am always happy to discuss your unique situation with you to help.

If you are in need of a Covid-19 test we do have testing available at Girdwood School. Capstone Clinic is also back in Girdwood Tuesday from 4-8pm and Saturday from 12-4pm at the community center for drive up testing. The Girdwood Health Clinic also may have availability.

We are all incredibly tired of dealing with Covid (maybe I should only speak for myself!) and I really appreciate you taking the time to read through this letter. Wishing everyone good health,

Nurse Summer
742-5301
stone_olivia@asdk12.org



Valentine's day candy grams are here!

By: Brielle Rice

This month is Valentine's Day! Are you ready for Candy Grams? The 6th grade hopes so! This year, all of the profits off the Candy Gram sales will go to support the 6th graders! In an interview with the Bank President of 6th grade, Layla Gross. She explained how the Candy Grams will work this year. "The Grams can be anonymous if you want them to be!" She says, "They come in all designs, so you can pick the perfect one for the person. The dates are February 1, February 3, February 8, and February 10 from 11:15 to 12:15. They are only \$1 per gram! I hope you like the Candy Grams!" She adds, smiling. So, remember the days and buy some Candy Grams!

Student Government News

Tutu Tuesday!

Celebrate February 22, 2022 (2/22/22) by dressing up in a tutu (or two)!



Snack Shack

Items range from \$0.50 to \$2 and include Cup o' Noodle, string cheese, trail mix, and Izzy drinks, among lots of others!

Open in the Junior High Commons 8:00-8:30, 10:15-10:20, 3:00-3:30

Coming Soon...

Family Movie Night (all grades and their families)

Junior High Dance (7th-8th grade students only)

Details for these events are forthcoming.

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 awade@fourvalleys.org or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.

Girdwood School Ski Days are returning this year! A big shout out to Alyeska Resort for their help in making this possible! We will be holding ski days on 2/25, 3/3, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, and 4/8 weather permitting. These are all Friday afternoons with the exception of 3/3 which is the Thursday before spring break. Ski day packets and paperwork should have come home today and will need to be turned in as soon as possible. Payments can be made online through ASD Parent Connect or by check to Girdwood School. We are looking for parent volunteers to chaperone ski groups and look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces on the mountain! Please read, complete, and return the following forms:

2022 Ski/Board Permission Form
After Program Student Arrangement Form
Liability Release Form
Ski or Snowboard Ability Survey
Medical Background, Release, and Information Form
Ski/Snowboard Packages and Transportation Form
ASD Activity Participation Form

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Girdwood PK-8 School Families,

Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades PK-8th grade will take place on Wednesday, February 16th, and Thursday, February 17th, with evening conferences taking place on Thursday. The Conference Scheduler is open and available to parents at this time and will be open through Tuesday, February 15th. Most conferences will take place face-to-face at Girdwood School but there is also the option of a Zoom conference if that is more comfortable with you. Please reach out to your child's teacher via email if Zoom is your preference otherwise we will assume we will see you in person.

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 PK-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.

We look forward to meeting with you all!

Kari Anderson, Principal

Girdwood PK-8 School



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})

Spring Healthy Futures Challenge Starts Today!

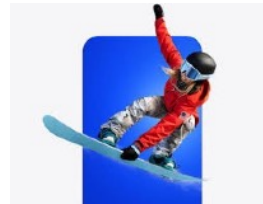
Girdwood School came in 3rd place for the Fall Healthy Futures Challenge! Girdwood School is in Tier 3, which is schools with 200 students or less. So great job to our students who completed a log or all 3 for the fall challenge! It's time to start recording what you are doing to stay physically fit!

The Spring Healthy Futures Challenge Dates are:

February 1-28

March 1-31

April 1-30



P.E. Footnotes from Mrs. Quinn February 1, 2022

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! Ski Packets will be sent home this week. Please get them turned in ASAP!

School Days are :

February 25.

March 3

March 18

March 25

April 1

April 8



We will be looking for parent volunteers to help chaperone ski groups. Please plan on attending the parent chaperone meeting on Tuesday, February 22 @ 6:30pm

Nurse Update:

Dear Families,

Thank you for all you do to keep our students and staff healthy! While things are still constantly changing, one thing remains the same: we still require students to be tested for any symptom that could possibly be COVID-19 related prior to return to school or isolate for 5 days. Testing for students is available at school, we are currently sending student samples to Beechtree in Anchorage with results returning that same night, hopefully, or by the next day. Please call nurse Raquel on Mondays or nurse Summer Tuesday to Friday for any questions or concerns at 742-5301 or email marrs_raquel@asdk12.org and stone_olivia@asdk12.org



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.



LOST & FOUND



Our Lost and Found Cart is FULL!! We have snow pants, ski jackets, fleece pullovers, hoodies, shoes, boots, water bottles, lunchboxes, and other miscellaneous items. We have moved it and put it across from the library. Please send your kids to come in and look for their belongings or come in and look yourself. We put all of the gloves in the nurses office, as she has run out of loaners. Pictured are just the matching gloves, we also have a ton of spares. NONE of these items have names in them. We have silver and black sharpies attached to the cart for your convenience. Please label your items if you find any of your kiddos belongings. Thank you!

Honor Roll

We would like to take a moment to congratulate the following 7th and 8th grade students on First Semester 2021 Honor Roll:

A Honor Roll

Brodie Wedeking, Carson Hawes, Teagan Kuber, Mia Stiassny, Chloe Romerdahl, Austin Murphy, and Harlan Loso

B Honor Roll

Dmitrii Lee, Eli Zellmer, Levi Williamson, Odin Hurst, Anna Green, Henry Lantz, Noah Kauffman, Ariella Gelinas, Leland Zaccaro, and Lodovico Averani

We appreciate your hard work and congratulate these students on their well-deserved success!

*** The Girdwood PTA will be sending out pre-order forms for school hoodies next week. Be on the look out!**

ACCESS Testing

Beginning February 1st our school will be conducting a state required assessment for English Language Learners. This assessment is called ACCESS and provides important feedback about the progress of our English Language Learners in Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing. Students will take the test using our school's computers. Only students who are currently identified as members of the English Language Learners (ELL) Program will be assessed. Most of the assessments will be completed during the first few weeks of February but some may continue into March. More information about the ACCESS assessment can be found on the Alaska Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's ACCESS page, <http://education.alaska.gov/assessments/elp>. If you have any questions about this test, you are encouraged to contact us here at school at 742-5300. You may also contact the District's ELL Department at 742-4452. Information about the English Language Learners Program in the Anchorage School District can be found on ASD's website. As always, with testing, we ask that families plan so that their students are in school and are well-rested for testing. Your patience and support for this process is very much appreciated as this assessment does provide useful information that helps our district and school improve programs for English Language Learners.

2021-2022

Girdwood PK-8 PTA



Become a Girdwood PTA Member Today!
Your annual membership of \$10 will help fund enrichment throughout the school year. Did you know that each year, Girdwood PTA funds over \$10,000 worth of activities? Here's a quick overview of how our PTA makes an impact:

Teacher Grants, School-Wide Technology Upgrades, Intensives, Battle of the Books, Math Derby, Science Fair/Science Night, School Plays, 8th Grade Celebration, Spelling Bee, Kindy-Round-up, Field Trip Fees and Buses, Teacher Appreciation Week, Speakers, Student Directory, Halloween Carnival, Christmas Bazaar, School Dances, Movie Nights

Sign up on our website @ www.girdwoodpta.org

Get involved and join our monthly meetings! You will receive an email of our meeting dates. We understand if you can't make all of them but we would love more people to join in on the fun and to give a voice to more families in the events we sponsor.

Membership applications are now online!



If you are unable to make our monthly meetings, no problem, we still appreciate your \$10 donation to help support future PTA events.



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 Airdwood 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 Airdwood 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.

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.