

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,

We would like to take a moment to honor our third quarter Citizenship Award honorees! The following students have been nominated by their classroom teacher(s) or a specialist for exhibiting the characteristics below: Avery Elliott (Kindergarten), Josette Stiassny (1st Grade), Solstice Martyn (2nd grade), Viggo Daniels (3rd grade), Trudy Stair (3rd grade), Ezra Ranke (4th grade), Conrad Sieling (4th grade), Nonie Mucha (5th grade), Karter Marshall (5th grade), Sylus Englert (6th grade), Ariella Gelinas (7th grade), Ewan Whitcomb-Stark (7th grade), Noah Kauffman (7th grade), and Mia Stiassny (8th grade). These students follow the school's motto: Girdwood Grizzlies are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to do our Best! They take initiative and have a commitment to the school and/or community. They are often seen going above and beyond. They are often seen building up other students and strengthening other students' self-esteem with a positive attitude. These students possess strength of character and the courage to do what is right. Congratulations to them for their hard work in making our school community a better place each day!

Congratulations to the following Girdwood School students for having perfect attendance for 3rd quarter: Amari Ellis (K), Brooks Poetter (K), Muriel McGorry (K), Kye Swygman (K), Sage Derks (1), Riddick Russell (1), Lorelei Ayars (2), Miles Donovan (2), Riggs McGorry (2), Wes Kelley (3), Skogen Swygman (3), Lane Stinson (3), Flynn Russell (3), Joselin Cardenas (4), Max Caldwell (4), Layla Gross (6), Kaiden Kuber (6), Passage Stinson (6), and Hayden Cabarrubias (7). Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated! Thank you for being at school each and every day!

We have our final ski day this Friday, April 8th! A big shout out to Mrs. Quinn for all her hard work and planning, to the Alyeska Resort for their support with lessons and rentals, our teaching staff who have been chaperones and led ski groups and/or monitored students, and to our parents who have helped chaperone, get students dressed and ready, brought gear to school, and/or helped students check in or out! It's a big feat to put our ski program on and I appreciate everyone's help in ensuring our students have fun, learn mountain safety, and stay safe on the mountain.

Here's looking forward to sunny, warm days ahead and a very smooth and successful close to the school year. Please have conversations with your child about appropriate behavior at school. We are seeing a spike in behaviors that are typical in spring; however, we know that with good guidance and consistency our kids can make it enjoyable for all. Thank you, parents, for helping us out on the home front! Go Grizzlies!

Kari Anderson

Upcoming Events

4/7 Middle School Track Meet @ the Dome
5pm

4/8 Last School Ski/Board Day

4/11 Movie Night—"Sing 2" 6-8pm

4/12 Student Advisory Board 11:15-1:15pm

4/13 Middle School Track Meet @ the Dome
5:30pm

4/13 Librarian Appreciation Day

4/14 Family Science Night 6-7:30pm

4/19 Student Store During Lunch

4/20-4/21 5th Grade Outdoor Days

4/21 Middle School Track Meet @ Wendler
Middle School 5:30pm

4/22 Earth Day

4/22 School Spirit Day "Earth Day" Theme

4/22 Alaska Zoo Field Trip for Grades 1-3

4/23 State Debate Tournament @ UAA for
Grades 6-8

4/27 Middle School Track Meet @ Mears
Middle School 5:30pm

4/27 Administrative Assistant Appreciation
Day

Anchorage School Board

Margo Bellamy, president

Dora Wilson, vice
president

Kelly Lessens, treasurer

Carol Jacobs, clerk

Dave Donley

Andy Holleman

Pat Higgins

ASD Superintendent

Dr. Deena Bishop

PTA Board Members

Elizabeth Ellis, president

Emily Marenco, vice
president

Andrea Anderson,
secretary

Kelly Schwarz, treasurer

Julie Pierre Leclerc,
member at large

Anna Russell, member
representative

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



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...

Well, it's spring somewhere, but it's still winter in Girdwood. Although we're having some springlike weather, we still have a lot of snow on the ground which requires our students to wear snowgear at recess. This is a continued reminder to please make sure your child(ren) comes to school with the right clothing every day: winter coat or raincoat, 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>

**GIRDWOOD STUDENT GOVERNMENT
UPCOMING EVENTS**

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Monday Night at the Movies!



Monday, April 11, 6:00-8:00 pm

Girdwood School Commons

FREE ADMISSION

Snacks available for purchase

Children 10 and under should have an adult with them.

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Spirit Day:

EARTH DAY

Friday, April 22, 2022

- Wear green, blue, and/or rainbow colors
- Dress like a plant (tree, flower, etc.)
- Clothing that celebrate the Earth (landmarks, features, national parks, etc.)

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Junior High Dance



Friday, May 6, 7:30-9:00



SAK Science

Girdwood School Science Night

Thursday, 14th April 2022

6:00-7:30 pm

@ Girdwood
School

Join us for fun
hands-on Alaska
science.

All Students and
Families
Welcome!



6th Grade News



Next Generation Personal Finance

By: Harper Landry

Have you noticed the changes in prices? So have the 6th graders. We guessed the Consumer Price Index (CPI). What is the CPI? The CPI is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

The 6th graders were one of 11 classrooms in the nation to correctly guess 7.9% for the February CPI! Where did this challenge come from? The challenge comes from Next Generation Personal Finance (NGPF). The 6th graders really enjoy NGPF because they provide fun games, lessons, and interactive activities.

The opportunity and winning a \$100 gift card prize makes learning personal finance fun!



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.

More 6th Grade News...



KidWind Challenge

Congratulations to our Girdwood 6th Graders who competed in the statewide Clean Energy Olympics (CEO) Competition this past Saturday at Romig! This competition challenged teamwork, design, and energy output.

The 6th Grade Grizzlies team of Sylus Englert and Tre Peterson recorded a personal best in their wind tunnel energy output test and had the most cost-effective tower design. And the Girdwood team of Layla Gross, Brielle Rice, and Logan Wedeking placed First in the Wind Turbine Design Competition and 4th Place Overall!

I interviewed Brielle Rice, who was one of the students that competed, what her favorite part of the competition was? "My favorite part was being able to see what I have been working on for a long time in action and winning the design award." Brielle said. What would you change in your design for your wind turbine? "I would add more blades to harness more of the wind's energy," Brielle explained. What did you learn most from that experience? "I learned how powerful kids' voices can be if we work together. I believe we won because we worked hard and were not afraid to take a risk." Brielle stated.

The rest of the 6th graders will get an opportunity just like the coding club on April 13th so all our 6th Graders can test their KidWind turbine designs in an official wind tunnel. Come see their designs and hear their stories at our Girdwood Family Science Night on Thursday, April 14th.



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})



Fantastic Fourth Grade Fundraiser

Fourth grade is raising money to go to the Challenger Learning Center in Kenai. We will be holding a fundraiser at the Girdwood Brewery on April 16th from 12-4pm. We will be selling baked goods, lollipop candies, dog treats, and crafts. Come out and see us!



Stained Glass by Jim Kaiser to be raffled by 4th Graders!

What: 11" x 14" framed iris with eye hooks for hanging

Donated by: Jim Kaiser

Ticket Price: \$5 each (200 tickets)

When: Winner announced April 16th @ 3:45

Where: @ our 4th grade fundraiser at the Girdwood Brewery, April 16th from 12-4pm

How: See any 4th grader to purchase your chance to win!



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.

New FVCS Classes

FVCS Family Days @ AWCC

Fri April 22nd - Sun May 1st



Thanks to our partnerships with Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center and Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm Heritage Area, Four Valleys is pleased to host family days at AWCC this spring!

Register through www.fourvalleys.org for over half off admission (\$6 per person) and visit AWCC any single day between April 22nd-May 1st

Vouchers for admission can be picked up from the FVCS office inside Girdwood K-8 school Mon-Thurs, 2:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Please note that registration is PER PERSON for all attendees over the age of 4, anyone without a voucher will be responsible for the full day pass cost

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ALASKA BOTANICAL GARDEN PRESENTS **WILD IN GIRDWOOD**

Thanks to our grant from KMTA, we are excited to host the Alaska Botanical Garden team again!

In this two-hour class, we will get our hands dirty learning about what makes Girdwood wild, how to compost, and a bit of basic forest ecology.

APRIL 25TH, 3:15-5:15 PM
\$15 PER PARTICIPANT

REGISTER @ FOURVALLEYS.ORG



Do you enjoy sipping wine, painting, and easy to care for house plants?

Paint a Pot



All supplies included,
(planter, paint supplies, succulent & soil)
No green thumb required!
\$20 Per Participant

Tuesday, April 19th @ 6 PM at Spoonline Bistro
Wine and Beer available for purchase, Ages 21+



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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.