



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

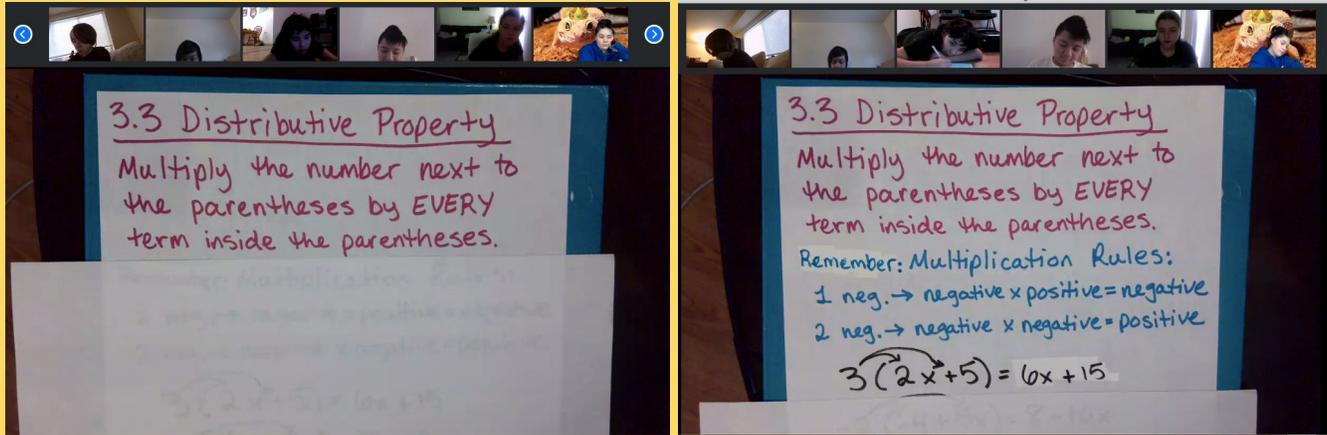
Friday, January 8, 2021

Students Reflect Thoughtfully on Future



On day one of the new quarter, Mr. Thomas Pease facilitated a quick-write activity focused on students' hopes for the future. Students wrote thoughtfully about what they looked forward to being able to do once the threat of Covid-19 has passed and it is safe again to go out into the world and interact directly with others. It is clear that students are thinking mostly about their friends and families, as they look forward to family vacations and reengaging with their friend groups. Mr. Pease, along with the other teachers on Mears staff, is doing a tremendous job of weaving important questions relevant to students' lives into daily curriculum. Self-reflection and empathy for others are critical components of teens' personal and social development.

Math Mindset: Engage & Persist



This week, Mears math teachers welcomed back their students from 1st quarter and they picked up right where they left off. In Ms. DeMoss' Math 7 class, students reviewed the Distributive Property and jumped right into practicing problems. Like other teachers in the Math Department, Ms. DeMoss emphasizes the importance of effort, engagement, and persistence. Such characteristics are a key element of the “math mindset,” which encourages students to take academic risks and to view mistakes as an essential part of learning.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

- Monday/Jan. 11 --** Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am
I-Ready - Math
Planning and CT before and after school
- Tuesday/Jan. 12 --** i-Ready - Math
Planning and CT before and after school
- Wednesday/Jan. 13 --** Collaborative Teams, 8:00-9:00am
Canvas Open Hours Support Session, 9:00-10:00am
CT Leaders, 10:30am-12:00pm
Departments, 12:45-1:45pm
- Thursday/Jan. 14 --** i-Ready - Reading
Planning and CT before and after school
- Friday/Jan. 15 --** i-Ready - Reading
Planning and CT before and after school

i-Ready Diagnostic #2

Welcome!
The *i-Ready* Family Center is the place to learn how you can support and encourage your student's success with *i-Ready*.
Want a printable document that summarizes all of this information? Download the Family Guide, available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. Click [here](#) for additional family resources translated into multiple languages.



Guidance and Tips for Students Taking the *i-Ready Diagnostic* at Home

Beginning next week, all students will be taking the i-Ready diagnostic for the second time this year. This assessment is especially designed to show academic growth and progress for our students since the beginning of the year.

Mon-Tues, Jan. 11-12 -- Math
Thurs-Fri, Jan. 14-15 -- Reading

[I-Ready Family Resources](#)

Going into next week, there are some important things to keep in mind:

1. The purpose of this second i-Ready diagnostic is to show how much growth each student has made since the first quarter. Therefore, it is important that all students give their very best effort.
2. The results of the assessment will assist teachers in targeting areas of academic growth for each student. We want to be sure all of our students are high school ready.
3. Students should be sure to do all their own work on the assessment. We need to be sure, for the reasons mentioned above, that the results are a true representation of each student's true academic skills.

Panthers are Writers

January Writing Contest

FLASH FICTION or The Super Short Story



- Tell a story in 200 words or less.
- **Categories:**
 - > "No, not my cell phone."
 - > "Tik Tok gone viral."
 - > "COVID--blocked and unfriended."
- Deadline: Friday, January 29th.

For all contest details go to:

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mears-creative-writing-contest/home>



Panther Readers Meet Author Jewell Parker Rhodes



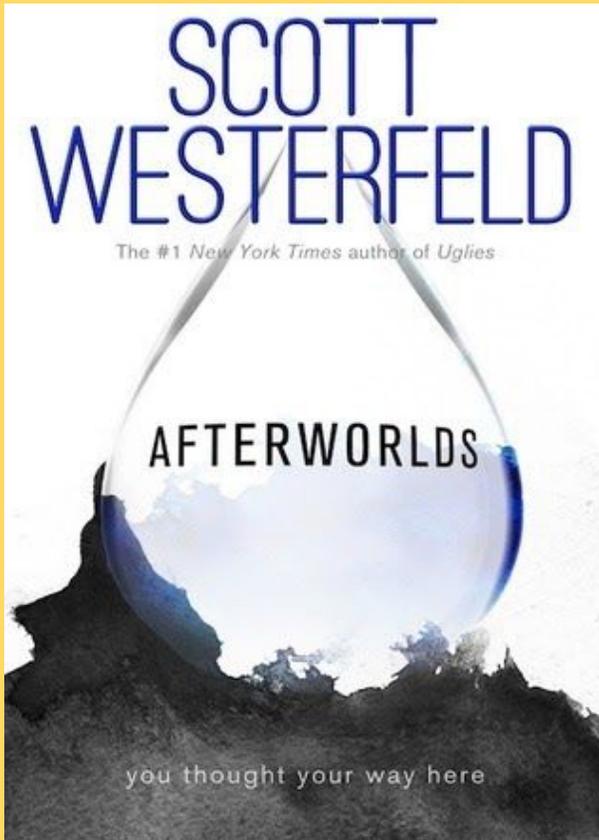
The Mears Reads book club and the Battle of the Books students teamed up for a virtual field trip to meet author Jewell Parker Rhodes on December 16th. Rhodes discussed how she gets her ideas, she gave participants tips on becoming better writers, and answered questions. Rhodes is the author of *Sugar* (Battle of Book title last year for sixth grade), *Ghost Boys*, *Ninth Ward*, and many others.

Battle of the Books



The Mears Battle of the Books team consisting of Katie Lynn Antrim, Arianna Dance, Makenzie Gregory, and Paige Hays, will be competing at the district competition on Wednesday, February 17th via Zoom. More details will follow.

Mears Reads Book Club



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

January's book club meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12th, at 2:15PM. We will be discussing *Afterworlds* by Scott Westerfeld. (He wrote the *Uglies* and *Midnighters* series)

Each month, we have daring discussions and artful activities around the book, followed by the nomination of books and a vote on what title we will read for the next month.

Contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through a student's Inbox in Canvas, to get the Zoom link.

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any assistance in preparing for the 3rd quarter, please let our counselors know by filling out a HELP Ticket:

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Welcome to Mears Counseling!



Counselors: Caitlin Burr, Brent Haugen, & Crysta Svendsen

Mears Counseling is a place where students can contact their counselor, find resources, and have a safe place to connect.

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen,
907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr,
907-742-6424

Crysta
Svendsen,
907-742-6426

After School Online Tutoring Support Available Beginning Jan. 19th

Tues. & Thurs. 3-4pm

The teachers and staff at Mears are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that students have the opportunities and support they need to be successful.

Mears Families, if you and your student are interested in opportunities to get additional academic support this quarter, please complete this survey. Currently, Mears has space available in its new after school tutoring program.

[Q3 Online Tutoring Support Interest Survey](#)

Does Your Family Need Some Extra Support?

CARES Act Voucher (Gift Card) Program Application

Introduction

The Voucher Program is made possible through CARES Act funding from the Municipality of Anchorage. This program will provide vouchers to individuals and/or families living within the municipality to help them with certain daily expenses such as groceries, diapers, medication, gasoline, etc. The vouchers will be made up of non-transferable gift cards from local participating stores that can be redeemed for those daily expenses. You will receive one voucher per address with the exception of those living in a residential program that requires sharing a physical address. Households including minor children are eligible for an increased benefit.

[CARES ACT Voucher Application](#)

Recently Updated: ASD's Health and Safety Covid Matrix

ASD's planning and decision-making process for determining the District's risk level for conducting school takes multiple community factors into consideration. The District conducts this process in close conversation with the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

In recent months, organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization have expanded their guidance and resources regarding safely providing public education. This new information includes a range of metrics and other criteria that allows districts, in close coordination with state and local health officials, to revise and adapt school opening guidelines based on the unique context of their community.

Here is a link: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



Congratulations to Mears' New President Curt Ehrhart and Sheila Hill as our new Treasurer.

Mears PTSA still has open leadership positions, including Vice President and Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to support this great organization and our wonderful school community.

Thank you for the continued support of the Mears PTSA. Our school store sells PE approved clothing, beanies, baseball caps, hoodies, and more is online www.MearsPTSA.com.

Join Mears PTSA Membership and become part of an organization that is the leading Child advocacy group in the Nation. You not only become a member of Mears, but Alaska PTA and National PTA membership benefits include Office Depot/Office Max, Hertz, and more. Learn more at www.MearsPTSA.com



Ways you can help us raise funds doing your day to day shopping and holiday shopping.

Amazon Smile

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999 to generate donations for Mears PTSA.

Shutterfly

<http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com>

Fred Meyer Community Rewards



YOU CAN HELP Mears Middle School PTSA **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 Mears Middle School PTSA at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number FT042.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Mears Middle School PTSA 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.

Congratulations to Mears' Denali Award Recipient: Ms. Heather Fleming



Congratulations to Ms. Heather Fleming, Mears' incredible librarian and teacher leader, who was recently selected as an ASD Denali Outstanding Educator. Ms. Fleming clearly embodies the very best qualities that Mears and Anchorage School District have to offer--outstanding achievement, service, and dedication. She serves the Mears community with grace, good humor, and quiet resolve, promoting literacy, strong and engaging communication, technological know-how, creativity, and fun. Mears' library is always a hub of positive energy and innovative ideas. Ms. Fleming is the glue that helps bind our school community together, especially during these days of separation and remote instruction.

Mears Middle School Mission

Through teamwork and cooperation, all students become partners in their own educational progress, fostering self-respect, responsibility and integrity.

[Mears Middle School Website](#)