



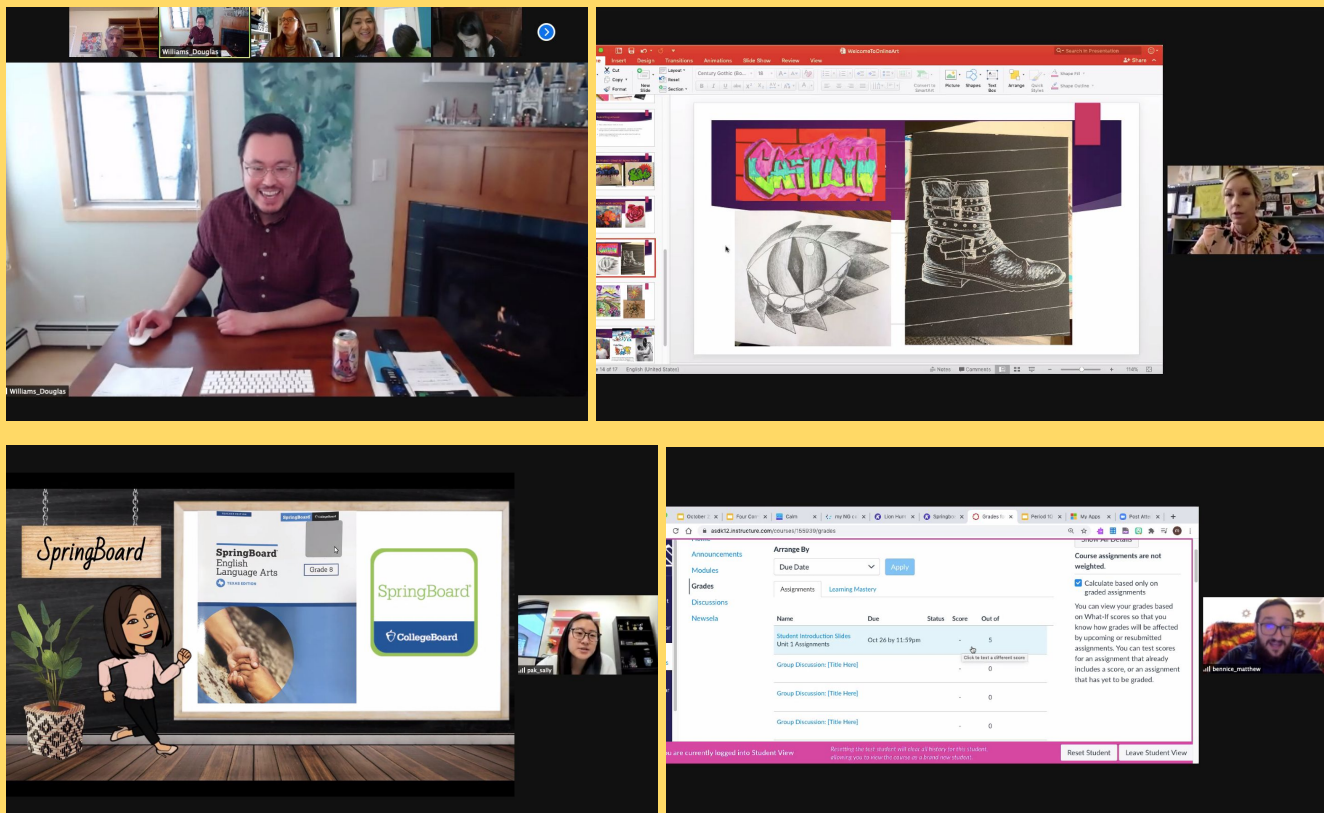
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 23, 2020

Building Student-Teacher-Family Connections



Congratulations to all Mears teachers and the many students and families who participated in yesterday's Welcome to Quarter 2 Teacher Presentations. Approximately 250 families participated in the event, which gave teachers the opportunity to share important information about their classes and learning objectives, and also to continue to build important connections with families. Families who attended say it was very positive and informative. For those who were unable to attend the event, video recordings of each teacher's presentation will be sent out to all of our families next week.

Mears Yearbook Picture of the Week: Favorite Mask Selfie!



We are looking for photos of students and staff in their favorite masks! If your child would like to snap a selfie, or if you would like to take their picture, please send them at the highest resolution to: barclay_holly@asdk12.org

Ms. Liza Tran shows us her best mask selfie.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Oct. 26 --	Staff Meeting Check-in, 8:00-8:30am
Tuesday/Oct. 27 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Wednesday/Oct. 28 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am Mears Leadership Team Meeting, 9:15-10:15am CT Leads/Levers 4 Learning, 10:30-12:00 Departments 12:45-1:45pm
Thursday/Oct. 29 --	Back to School for Quarter 2: Teacher Welcome Presentations
Friday/Oct. 30 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Nov. 3 & 11 --	State Release Professional Development Days

Parents and Families

Planning Ahead: Tues., Nov. 3 & Wednesday, Nov. 11 -- State Release Professional Development Days

Get Involved & Stay Connected:

Access to Your Student's Canvas Account



ASD Families can access their student's Canvas account by referring the directions provided here:

[Canvas Parent Observer Guide](#)

We Want Your Feedback: Mears Athletics and Activities Survey

Although at present, we do not have a date for a return to the building, we hope to offer students sports and activities options when we do return. To that end, Mears seeks your input as to what types of sports and activities families and students would like to see offered when students are able to return to the building.



Relevantly, all public-health protocols and ASD COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be employed. Additionally, all sports offered will be intramural, occurring only at Mears with other Mears students. Finally, student and staff health will, as always, be the highest priority.

Please take a few moments with your student to share your preferences .

Survey Link: [Mears Activities Preferences Survey 2020-21](#)

Bookmark Contest Is Underway

Go Virtual@your library™

2020 – 2021 Bookmark Design Contest

sponsored by the ASD Librarians

This contest is open to all ASD students in grades K-12. There are four levels: Primary (K-3), Intermediate (4-6), Middle School, and High School.

Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Go Virtual@your library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: 7" x 2 ¾" either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade

No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.

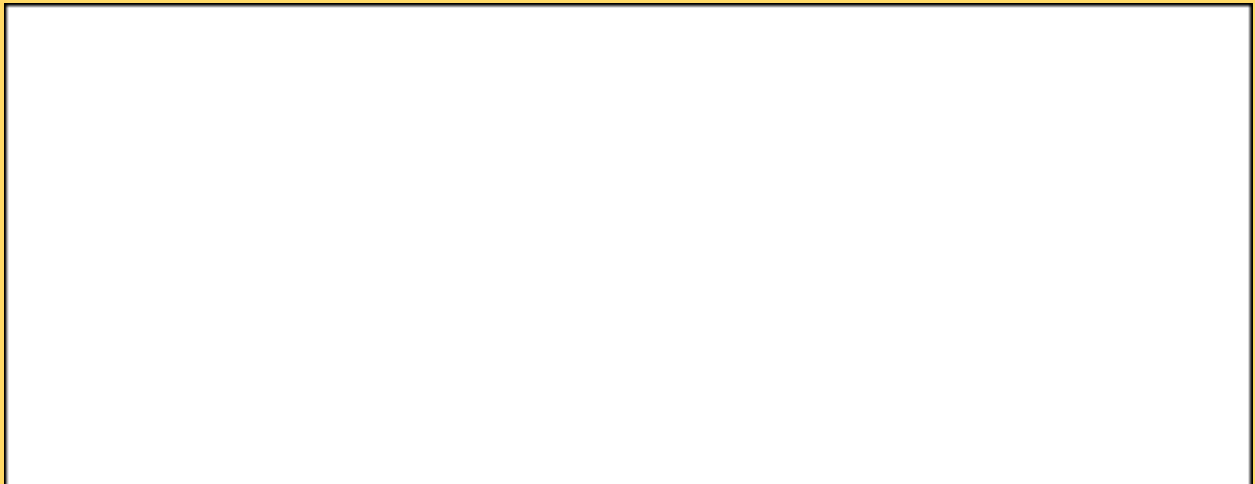
Use your imagination and any ideas relating to reading, literacy and the love of the library!

Submit your entry to your school librarian through Google Drive, email, USPS, or drop it off at the school during curbside pickup hours. Entries are due November 30, 2020. The winning school entries will go to district judging. **Entries become the property of the Anchorage School District and may be used in other advertisements.**

The winning designs will be reproduced and distributed to ASD schools!

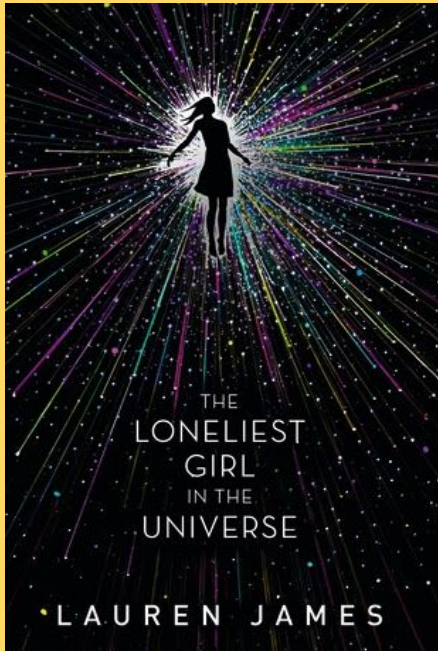
There may be more information available on your school's library website.

Sample size of bookmark is below (7" x 2 ¾") which may be used vertically or horizontally.



Panthers are READERS!

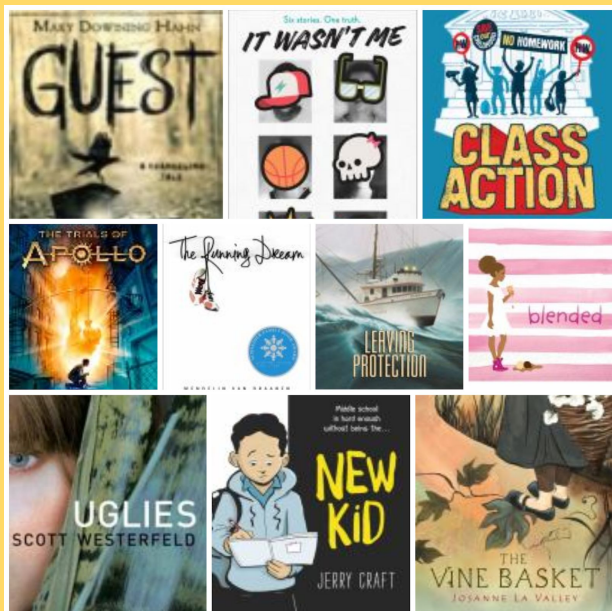
Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month and we keep in contact through Canvas.

Each month, students nominate, and vote for a novel to read for the next month. We are currently reading *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe*, by Lauren James. Our next meeting will be on October 14th at 12PM. Come with a title to nominate for November.

Mears Battle of the Books has Begun



Battle meetings will be on Wednesdays, at 1PM through Zoom. Access Zoom links, discussions, activities, participate in the leaderboard, earn badges and more by joining the Mears Middle School Battle of the Books Canvas course.

There won't be assignments or lessons, I promise. Use the link below to join:


<https://asdk12.instructure.com/enroll/NXKT7C>

Contact Mrs. Heather Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!


Panthers are Mathematicians!

MATHCOUNTS Competition Series


Calling all students who want to be challenged in mathematics in a fun and competitive environment! All students are welcome to join Mears' MATHCOUNTS club! We will meet weekly on Tuesday's (beginning October 20th) from 3pm-3:45pm (on Zoom for now). The goal is to grow together with our math skills while building confidence—and compete!




SPRINT



TARGET




TEAM



COUNTDOWN

Are you in? Questions? Contact this year's sponsor:
Mrs. Marah Lambert (Mears Math Teacher):
Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org

MATHCOUNTS®




MATHCOUNTS provides engaging math programs to US middle school students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving.

our mission

Panthers are Writers!

Mears Creative Writing Contest

Write a personal narrative in which you describe a challenging situation you experienced recently. Include your reactions and responses to the situation as you write about it. Finally, at the end of the personal narrative, make it clear to the reader what discovery or lesson you learned from this experience. Remember, even unfortunate situations can yield positive



Your personal narrative should be no more than 1,000 words. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, October 30th**.

Welcome to the launch of the 2020-21 Mears creative writing contest. At the start of each month between now and May, Mears students will be presented with a new writing prompt. Students will have all month to brainstorm, craft and polish their writing before submitting it to the contest. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore your creative side by checking out the October writing

prompt below. More information, examples, writing tips and submission instructions can be found by clicking in the links and slides on the Mears landing pad.

Be sure to visit the [Mears Creative Writing Contest Landing Page](#)

All of us have stories to tell. All are welcome and encouraged to join in! Feel free to direct any questions to Mr. Pease at pease_thomas@asdk12.org

Important Updates:

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 to the new ASD Covid Community Health Matrix: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)

Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Expanded



Renew applications for free and reduced meals!

Student nutrition is essential to learning and growth. Be sure to submit your application for ASD's Free and Reduced Priced Meal Program today. The process is very simple and incredibly important to the health of our students.

Application:
<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/13246>

Mears Counselors Are Here to Help



[Mears Counseling](#)

[Counselor Help
Ticket Link](#)



Come join the Mears PTSA Board. Don't worry you won't be thrown into the position without knowing what to do.

This is a great experience. Even with COVID there is still plenty a PTSA can do to support our students, families and teachers. Elections will be taking place in November.

[Nomination Form](#)



**SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE**

We could still use some feedback from our families.

This survey plays an important role in improving Mears Middle School.

The National PTA School of Excellence recognition program opens the lines of communication and critical thinking within school communities to make data-driven decisions that yield positive, long-term results. Help Mears become a School of Excellence 4 Years in a row. Completion of this survey helps us know where we as a School and PTSA can improve.

<https://forms.gle/YNXRtuRvaruBA6tP7>

CALL FOR ENTRIES



What is Reflections? Watch this youtube video on what it is.

<https://youtu.be/IX-rzWHnY5Q>

Do you enjoy art, music, and dance or have an interest in writing, producing films, and taking photos? Then join us and have fun unleashing your inner artist with PTA Reflections! This year's theme, "I Matter Because..." calls for your own unique interpretation through the arts.

Pick up submission guidelines and an entry form today from www.MearsPTSA.com and return by **December 1, 2020**. **Submit digital copies of all entries to MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com. Save original work for us to collect at a later time**

Divisions: Film Production, Visual Arts, Dance Choreographer, Music Composition, Special Artist, Photography, Group Dance, Cultural Heritage, and STEAM.

Student Entry Forms are found at www.MearsPTSA.com

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at PTA.org/Reflections/Awards.

Were on Facebook



School Store is open online and Wednesdays 10-2. Park by the front doors and call the number listed on the easel. Let us know what item/s you are interested in and the sizes. We will bring the items to you or Orders clothes online or stop by the office to pick them up. www.MearsPTSA.com

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 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 about the benefits at www.MearsPTSA.com

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](#)