



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, November 13, 2020

Mears Celebrates Veterans



On Tuesday, November 10, Mears Middle School hosted a virtual Veteran's Day assembly to honor all those who have served in the US Armed Forces. The online assembly was viewed by the entire student body during second block and featured musical performances by the US Army Field Band, as well as Mears Concert Band. Mears was pleased to welcome special guest speaker, Lt. Col. Brian Ross, who is the brother of Mr. Greg Ross, Mears social studies teacher. Most importantly, the assembly gave Mears staff and families the opportunity to pay tribute to those in our lives who have served or are currently serving. Special recognition goes out to Mears staff members who are veterans: Nurse Dan Booher, Ms. Allyson Lindsey, Mr. Shawn Campbell, and Mr. Chris Buchanan. On behalf of the entire Mears community, thanks to you and all the other veterans for your service! Be sure to check out the entire video tribute:

[Mears Veteran's Day Video Tribute](#) Download from Google [HERE](#)

Mears Pumpkin Carving Masters

Indy Billingslea



Gracie Embley



Logan Ehrhart



Congratulations to our winners and to all those who submitted photos to the contest! Watch the video to see all the pumpkin entries. [Video](#)

Featured Mears Artists



Mears is extremely proud of Sophie Kendall (shoe drawing) and Taylor Hartman (magazine fish collage) whose pieces are currently featured in the Fall/Winter Anchorage Museum's Online Art Show. Be sure to check out the entire show here: [ASD K-12 Art Exhibit, Anchorage Museum 2020](#)

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Nov. 16 --	No Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am Planning and CT before and after school
Tuesday/Nov. 17 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Wednesday/Nov. 18 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am Departments, 12:45-1:45pm Student Advisory Board, 2:00-3:00pm
Thursday/Nov. 19 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Friday/Nov. 20 --	Planning and CT before and after school

Parents and Families

Planning Ahead

Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 & 27, 2020

Get Involved & Stay Connected:



Cards for the Troops

This activity is optional. If you would like to show support for our troops, you may write a letter and design a card that will be sent to troops overseas. Make it creative, colorful, informative (about Alaska, Anchorage, or Mears) and friendly.

Directions

Please email your completed card to Mr. Greg Ross at ross_gregory@asdk12.org or drop it off at the school by Monday, 11/16 by 3:00 pm. There will be a box outside the main entrance for these. Please do not enter the building.

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](#)

Bookmark Contest Is Underway

Go Virtual@your library™

2020 – 2021 Bookmark Design Contest

sponsored by the ASD Librarians

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

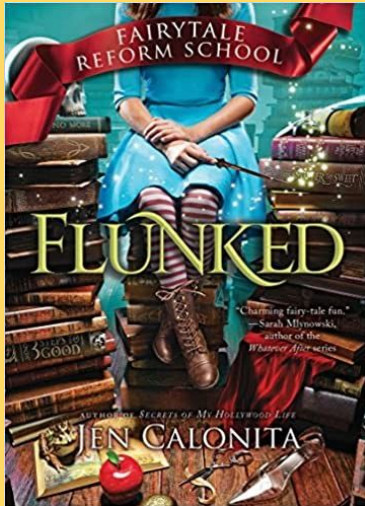
No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.

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

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

Panthers are READERS!

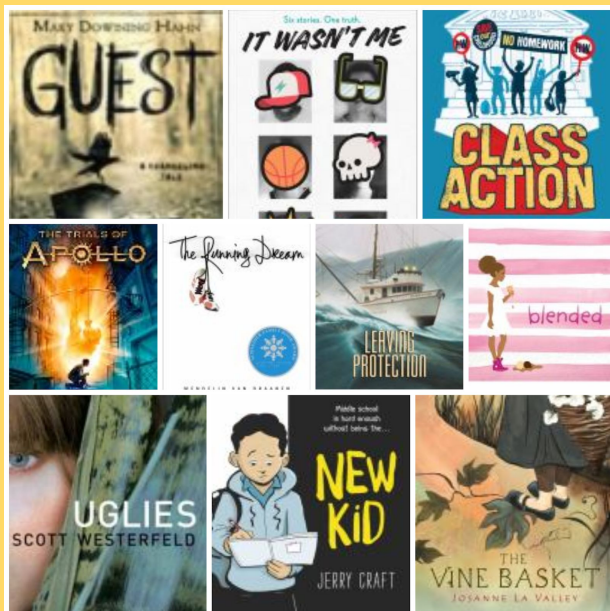
Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month, on Zoom, and we keep in contact through Canvas. Contact Mrs. Fleming for the Canvas join link. fleming_heather@asdk12.org or call 742-6432.

Each month, we have lively discussions around the book and then students nominate, and vote for the novel to read for the next month. We are currently reading *Flunked*, by Lauren James. It is book one in the Fairytale Reform School series. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15th at 2:15 PM.** Come with a title to nominate for January.

Mears Battle of the Books



Battle meetings are on Wednesdays, at a new time: 12 PM (noon). 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.


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

Panthers are Mathematicians!


MathCounts

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!

November Writing Contest



I matter because...

Write a poem, short story, essay or a dramatic interpretation, either fiction or nonfiction, that addresses the theme, "I matter because..."

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

Follow the Reflections guidelines for literature described on the PTSA website by clicking [here](#).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B-URgyK-1gWbGchXpyOt1TvPRDBCaw7M/view>

Mears Writing Contest Deadline: **Monday, November 30th**. Write and Submit to the Mears Writing Contest.

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

PTSA Reflections Entry Form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wO6Mr68qfl0xFZunP2jA6UJAUozr3451/view>



October Creative Writing Contest Results

Everett Scott has been awarded first place in the October writing contest. His personal narrative, Arctic Winter Game Champions, capture the peaks and valleys of competition along with travel complications and an unexpected twist. His story addressed challenges head-on and revealed the personal growth that resulted.

Runner up goes to Ella Wheelles for her personal narrative, The Hottest Week of Summer. It too addressed the challenge of competition, along with personal insights into friendships made along the way.

Congratulations to both of our October winners and thank you to all Mears students who participated.

We look forward to reading many more submissions for the November challenge!

Mears Counseling Corner

Hello Mears Families,

We are officially halfway through quarter 2! As a student body we are seeing an increase in participation and student achievement. There are a few students who could benefit from investing a little more time in their academics and getting those assignments turned in. Remember, self-advocacy is a lifelong skill -- if you need help, please ask your teachers or counselors.

Parents and families, your student's grades are continually updated in Q, which is viewable in QParentConnection. If you do not know your pin or password, please call the front office at 907-742-6400 or call your counselor to get that important information.

Parent/Family Tools:

- Q Parent Connection for checking grades: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1697>
- Canvas Parent Observer (see attachment) Link for detailed class info and student progress in Canvas: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5039>
- Mears Landing Pad (see attachment for Clever access) for Applications being used this year and helpful tech tips: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4940>
- There is tutoring and homework help available, contact your counselor for more information.

Sincerely,

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen, 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr, 907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 907-742-6426



Mears Outreach Counseling Page HELP Ticket <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

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 to ASD's Covid Community Health Matrix: [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.

Love art? Drawing? Photography? Writing? Dance? Create a project representing why You matter and submit to us for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest.

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

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.A large orange square graphic with the text "JOIN FOR YOUR CHILD" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this text is the National PTA logo, which includes the words "National PTA" and the tagline "everychild.onevoice." in a smaller font.

**JOIN
FOR
YOUR
CHILD**

**National
PTA**
everychild.onevoice.®

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

It's National School Psychologists Week and Mears is Proud to Honor Ms. Kendall Wessler



Please join me in extending our congratulations and thanks to Ms. Kendall Wessler, Mears' amazing school psychologist. At Mears, we are deeply fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated school psychologist who works tirelessly with our team of teachers, case managers, teachers assistants and staff to support our students and their families. Ms. Wessler is an extremely talented school psychologist who offers students exceptional care and support that helps them reach their fullest potential. Thank you, Ms. Wessler!

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](#)