



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 25, 2020

## Teacher Leaders Shine at Open House



Yesterday evening, Mears hosted a Virtual Family Open House, which featured presentations by school administrators and office staff, the PTSA President, and, most notably, Mears' incredible department chairs teacher leaders. If you missed the event, don't worry. Thanks to ASD's IT staff, we have a video recording for you to watch. Enjoy!

Topic: Mears Family Open House

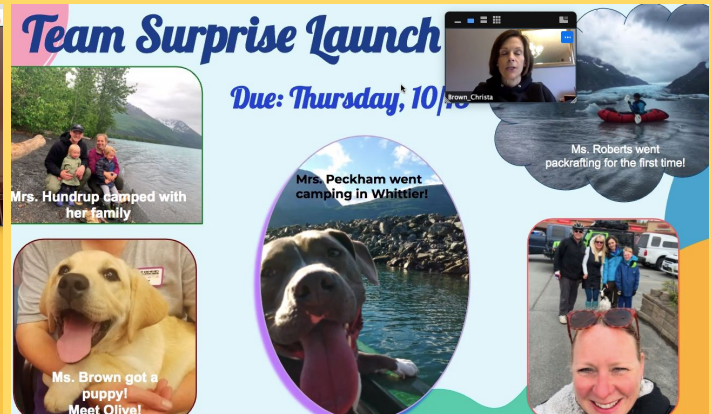
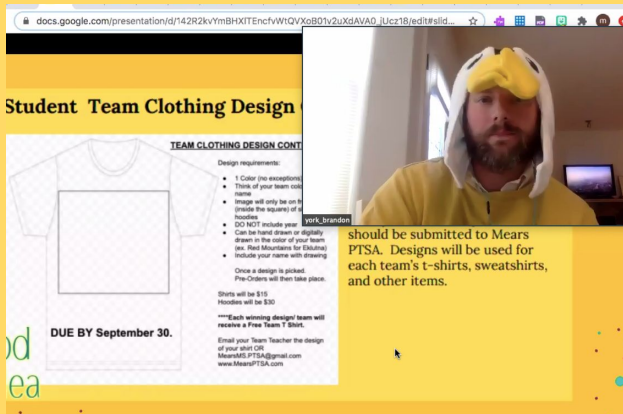
Thursday, Sept. 24, 6:30-7:30pm

Meeting Recording Link:

[https://asdk12.zoom.us/rec/share/q0l\\_4RlojW2YGRDQkNpaa20m36GtyY16-RKIITOkIBFA3G2-bHnMI\\_pGXtd49A.v1KWOjzy4m12kwNP](https://asdk12.zoom.us/rec/share/q0l_4RlojW2YGRDQkNpaa20m36GtyY16-RKIITOkIBFA3G2-bHnMI_pGXtd49A.v1KWOjzy4m12kwNP)

Access Passcode: eF0vdL.? (Note: There is a "." after the "L")

# Teams Host Schoolwide Gatherings



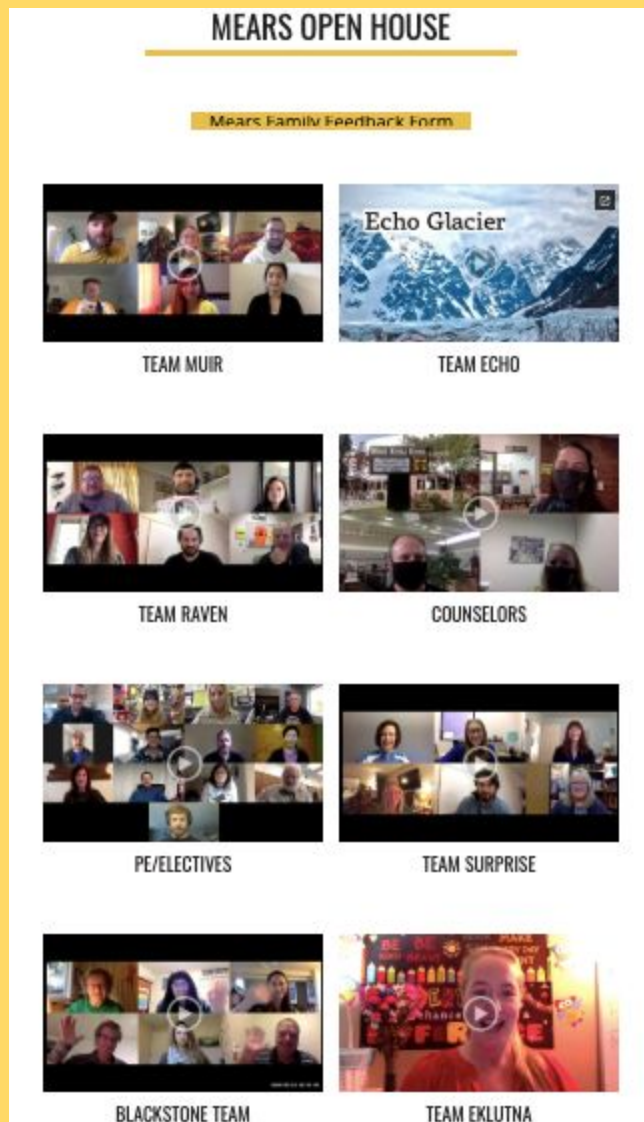
Congratulations to all six of Mears Collaborative Teams--Blackstone, Eklutna, Surprise, Echo, Muir, and Raven--who hosted highly successful team gatherings this last Wednesday. Approximately half the student body attended these fun, interactive virtual events. Considering that Wednesdays are currently non-instructional days, this shows an extremely high level of student engagement. Special thanks goes out to all the teachers and staff who organized

## Wall of Gratitude



During Team Eklutna's Team Gathering this week, teachers introduced The Wall of Gratitude, which gave students the opportunity to share things that they are thankful for. You can see from their input that despite the challenges we face currently there is much to be grateful for...puppies, friends, family, community, even chickens!

# Check Out Mears Team Videos!



This last week, Mears teachers and staff had a great time producing this collection of Team Videos. In lieu of meeting in-person with your teachers in classrooms during a traditional Open House, Mears staff decided to introduce themselves digitally. Special thanks to Mears Librarian, Ms. Heather Fleming, who created this webpage to showcase this video collection.

## [Mears Open House Team Videos 2020](#)

### *Stay Informed and Get Involved*

#### Teachers and Staff

Monday/Sept. 21 -- No Staff Meeting

Tuesday/Sept. 22 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Wednesday/Sept. 23 -- Staff Meeting 8:00-9:00am, CT Leaders  
10:30am-12:00pm

Thursday/Planning and CT before and after school

Friday/Planning and CT before and after school

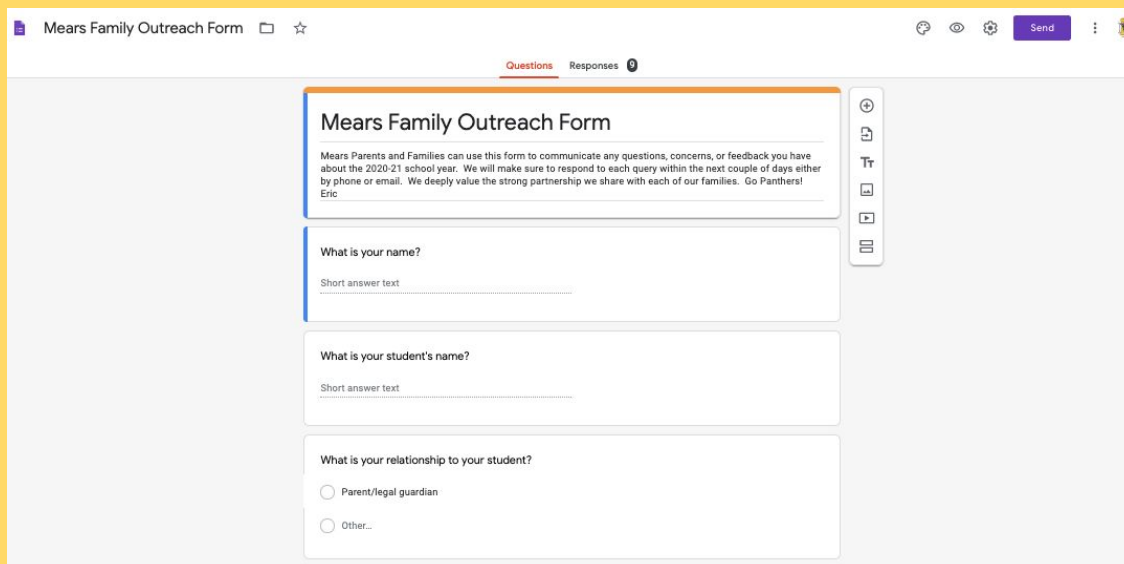


## Parents and Families

Saturday/Sept. 26 -- Flu Shots at ASD Ed Center, 8:00am-8:00pm  
Wednesday/Sept. 30 -- Flu Shots at ASD Ed Center, 8:00am-8:00pm  
Friday/Oct. 16 -- End of First Quarter  
Monday/Oct. 19 -- Second Quarter Begins

## Important Updates:

## Mears Family Outreach Form

A screenshot of a web-based form titled "Mears Family Outreach Form". The form is displayed in a browser window with a purple header bar. The form itself has a white background with a light blue border. It contains a title, a paragraph of text, and three questions. The first question is "What is your name?" with a "Short answer text" input field. The second question is "What is your student's name?" with a "Short answer text" input field. The third question is "What is your relationship to your student?" with two radio button options: "Parent/legal guardian" and "Other...". The form is set against a light blue background with a sidebar on the right containing icons for various functions.

Mears Parents and Families can use this form to communicate any questions, concerns, or feedback you have about the 2020-21 school year. We will make sure to respond to each query within the next couple of days either by phone or email. We deeply value the strong partnership we share with each of our families. Go Panthers! --Eric

[Mears Family Outreach Form](#)

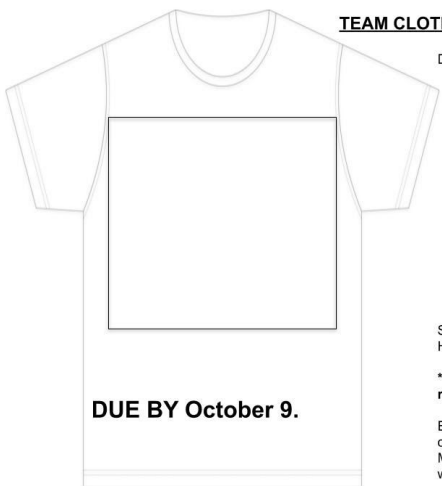
## Calling Student Leaders!

Are you interested in developing your leadership skills? Are you interested in working with others to help make Mears the best school it can be? Mears is now accepting applications for Student Advisory Board, 2020-21.

Use this link to submit your application now:

[Mears Student Advisory Board Application, 2020-21](#)

# Deadline Extended to Oct. 9: Student Team Clothing Design Contest



**TEAM CLOTHING DESIGN CONTEST**

Design requirements:

- 1 Color (no exceptions)
- Think of your team color/s and name
- Image will only be on front (inside the square) of shirt and hoodies
- DO NOT include year
- Can be hand drawn or digitally drawn in the color of your team (ex. Red Mountains for Eklutna)
- Include your name with drawing

Once a design is picked, Pre-Orders will then take place.

Shirts will be \$15  
Hoodies will be \$30


**\*\*\*\*Each winning design/ team will receive a Free Team T Shirt.**

Email your Team Teacher the design of your shirt OR  
MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com  
www.MearsPTSA.com

**DUE BY October 9.**

Students are strongly encouraged to enter the design contest for Mears Teams clothing and swag! Artwork is due by the end of September and should be submitted to Mears PTSA. Designs will be used for each team's t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other items.

## Free Flu Immunizations for All ASD Students



### Drive-Through Immunization Clinics

**FREE to all ASD Students**

**State Required Immunizations**  
DTaP, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, MMR, Varicella, and combo vaccines

**ASD Education Center**  
5530 E Northern Lights Blvd  
Anchorage AK 99504

**September 26, 2020 (Saturday)**  
**September 30, 2020 (Wednesday)**  
8AM - 8PM

**Flu Shots FREE for the Community!**

Brought to you by the ASD Healthcare Services Department in conjunction with the Anchorage Public Health Department

## Join Mears READS Book Club



The first meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 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 Ms. Heather Fleming at [fleming\\_heather@asdk12.org](mailto:fleming_heather@asdk12.org) if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

## Need Assistance at Mears?



**Mears  
Counseling**

**Counselor  
Help Ticket  
Link**



# Mears Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

## Help Mears Become A School of Excellence for Four Years in a Row!



### School Community Letter

September 14, 2020



Dear Families, Administrators and Teachers:

The Mears PTSA knows that a strong partnership among our families, school leaders and community members is important to the success of our students and school. That's why we are participating in the National PTA School of Excellence program, which grows partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being of all students.

At a National PTA School of Excellence, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement. We feel Mears Middle School and Mears PTSA can achieve that together—and the result will be national, state and community-wide visibility for the positive impact we are making together at Mears Middle School.

**We need your help!** As part of the process, National PTA requests feedback from families, administrators and teachers at two points in the school year—the beginning and the end. Your feedback will help us improve our family-school partnership and achieve excellence.

Please take 5-10 minutes to reflect on your experience at this school and complete the attached survey. Mark an "X" in the box that most accurately expresses how you feel about your experience. This survey is completely anonymous. Please return this survey to the office by October 5, 2020 or complete online. Form can be found at [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com).

Does this sound like a PTA program you'd really like to help with? Join us! Contact April Eide at [mearsms.ptsa@gmail.com](mailto:mearsms.ptsa@gmail.com) to learn more!

Sincerely,

April Eide  
Interim PTSA President

Eric Backman  
Mears Principal

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we work toward becoming a National PTA School of Excellence!

Please fill out the survey so Mears and PTSA can continue to work together to make Mears the best school anywhere! <https://forms.gle/YNXRtuRvaruBA6tP7>

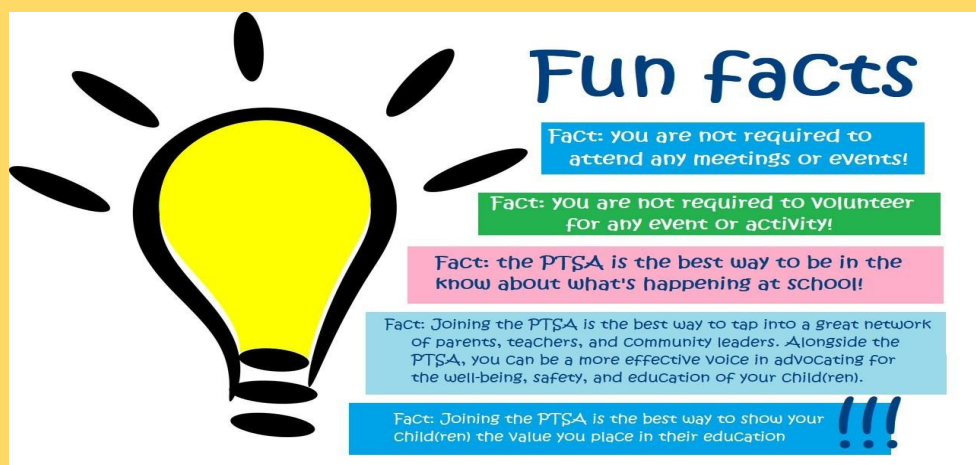


## Be Sure to Join Mears PTSA



Mears PTSA is one of only two schools in the state of Alaska recognized as a PTA School of Excellence. The PTSA received this award due to its active and involved membership and close working relationship with school staff. Please, if you have not done so already, sign up and become a member of this vital organization. Mears students and staff benefit tremendously from the work done by the PTSA.

[www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)



## PTSA Leadership Wanted

We are still on the hunt for 2020/2021 Board members. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

[www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

Follow us on Facebook





- **Membership drive now through September 30th. Win a Gift card or Mears Gear**

Everyone that becomes a **Parent, Teacher, Student, Association Supporting Member** by Sept 30 will be entered into a drawing. Membership is \$10.

**Prize:**

Parents/Guardians 1- \$50 Gift Card

Students \$50 Mears Gear of their choice

Teachers/Staff 1- \$50 Gift Card

Sign up at [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

## I Matter Because...

2020-2021



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com) and return by **November 10, 2020. Submit digital copies of all entries to [MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com](mailto: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, Cultural Dance, and STEAM.

Student Entry Forms are found at [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at [PTA.org/Reflections/Awards](http://PTA.org/Reflections/Awards).

We're on Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

# Visit the School Store on Wednesdays

Mears PTSA will be open outdoors on the east side of Mears every Wednesday 10-2.

Weather permitting. Call the office if you're unsure if we're set up. School Store is open.

Orders clothes online or stop by [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)



Mears PTSA has had to slim down its budget due to school buildings being closed. The PTSA supports many events and grant programs at Mears and will continue to support them this year, even if they are held virtually. We ask that you continue to support the PTSA. To help, you can donate or purchase spirit wear.

Orders purchased by Wednesday will be ready for pick up on Friday between 8:45 and 2 pm.



**Masks are available online.**

**School Supply Kits are still available.  
\$30-\$65.**

Zoom Meeting

Recording

## Good Things (Mrs. Bivins)

Do you have a Good Thing to share?

- Be mindful of others-- Keep it short
- Raise your hand to speak or type it in the chat
- Unmute yourself when called on

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

Chat

From Alyssa breitenstein to Everyone:  
I found my kittens collar yesterday

From Elyse Wilkson to Everyone:  
its almost my birthday

From claire saltzman to Everyone:  
I am at my cabin

From Kaden Kelth to Everyone:  
i got a new mouse

From kate stacey to Everyone:  
it almost my brother birthday

From Kyesha Kelly to Everyone:  
i might see my friend

From Aidyn Ashton to Everyone:  
I spent the the night at my friends house last night

From 🌸 Maisareen Azzam 🌸 to Everyone:  
I swam in a waterfall

From Maxwell Marlow to Everyone:  
I go to gymnastics and learn new skills

From Ezekiel Camp to Everyone:  
i learned back flips flat

From 🌸❤️ Leilani.Subics ❤️🌸 to Everyone:  
I got to go to my cousins Braydun And Cecelia birthday party at the extreme fun center.

*Teachers on Team Blackstone lead a discussion of “Good Things” during Wednesday’s Team Gathering.*

## 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](#)