



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 18, 2019

Tomo No Kai = Circle of Friends



Congratulations to all who attended this year's Tomo No Kai Fall Dinner. The event was a wonderful celebration of the highly successful Japanese Immersion Program at Sand Lake Elementary, Mears Middle School and Dimond High School. Attendees at the fundraising event, enjoyed incredible student-led taiko drumming, singing, food and other displays of Japanese culture and language. Special thanks goes out to Ms. Stephanie Tasker, TNK's Board President, other members of the Board, and community volunteers, for organizing such a successful event and supporting language acquisition in ASD.

Panthers Clean Up the Neighborhood



Congratulations to Mr. Greg Ross and Mears Service Learning students who organized the first annual Fall Neighborhood Community Clean Up. The successful event was well attended with 45 students, 25 AK Youth Military Cadets, and many parent volunteers. Special thanks goes out to Ms. Paula Perry-Edwards from the ASD Education Center, who helped coordinate the volunteer effort. Mears also extends thanks to our community partners at Kaladi Coffee, The Alaska Pizza Company, and Alaska Waste for their generous support of our community.

Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Elders and Youth Conference



Special thanks go out to Ms. Benita Holt for her work to organize the AFN Elders and Youth Mini Conference Event with South and Dimond High School. Activities included a nature walk, tower building, Oreo Challenge and mini drum making. Events such as this make our community strong.

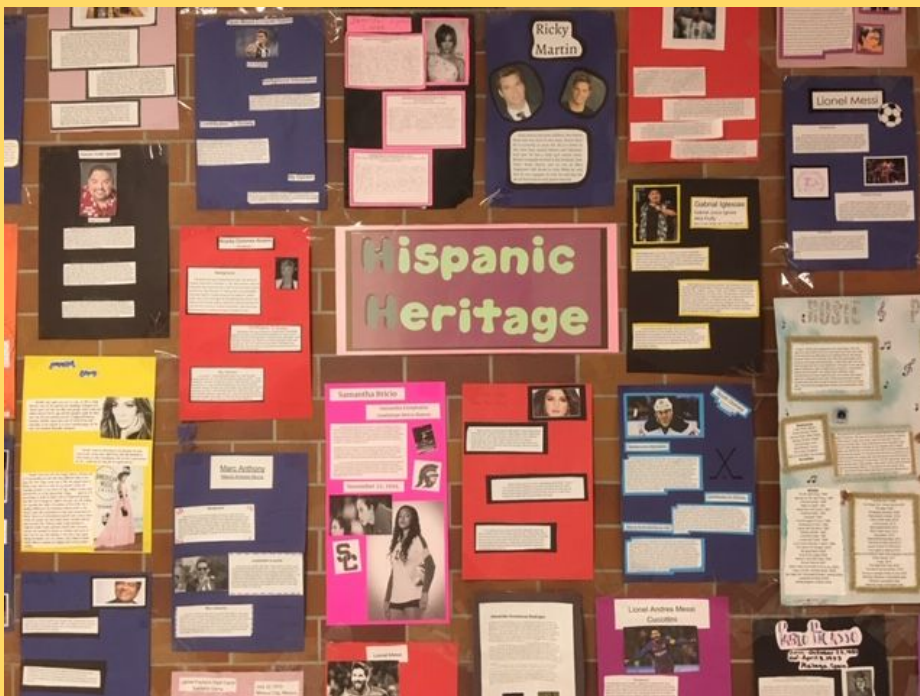
This is how we Roll...



All the students and teachers in Team Echo went on a bowling field trip this week at Jewel Lake Bowling Alley. The event was fun for all and is a fantastic example of the power of the Team structure at Mears, giving small groups of teachers and students the opportunity to form strong bonds and build quality relationships.

Go Panthers!

Students Celebrate Hispanic Heritage



Student work celebrating the historic contributions of people of Hispanic origin is on display at Mears. This curriculum highlights Mears focus on celebrating the diversity of its students and families.

Great Alaska Shake Out



On Thursday morning at 10:17am, students participated in the Great Alaska Shake Out, a coordinated state-wide earthquake safety drill. Thanks to Mr. Mike Scott, Mears Assistant Principal, for organizing the event and for working to ensure the safety and well being of everyone at Mears.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

Friday, Oct 18 - NO SCHOOL - Inservice

Wednesday, Oct 23 - Early Student Release - 11:45am

Student Led Conferences - 12:15pm-3pm

Thursday, Oct 24 - Early Student Release - 11:45am

Student Led Conferences - 12:15pm-3pm & 4pm-7pm

Friday, Oct 25 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher training

Saturday, Nov 2 - Mears Holiday Bazaar - 10am-2pm

Friday, Nov 8 - Veteran's Day Assembly - 9am

Mears Parents and Guardians

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Wednesday, Nov 6 - Wrestling Match @ Dimond HS - 5pm-7pm

Friday, Nov 8 - Veteran's Day Assembly - 9am

Note: All after school sports will begin at 5:00 pm due to bussing constraints.

Important Information: Student-led Conferences, Oct. 23 & 24

Be sure to schedule your Student-led Conference at Mears.

Go to:

<https://apps.asdk12.org/ConferenceScheduling/StudentScheduleStartExt.aspx>

What are Student-Led Conferences?

In a student-led conference, the student tells the story of his/her learning. Using a portfolio representing work samples from the respective time period, a student describes his/her educational growth. This is an opportunity for students to make learning active, to self-reflect and evaluate performance, and to discover who they are as learners.

Student-led conferences give students the opportunity to showcase strengths, and also to set goals to improve in areas of weakness. During a student-led conference, parents should:

- Offer support and encouragement throughout the conference
- Focus on your child's learning and insights
- Trust your child's assessment
- Help set realistic goals with your child
- Focus on the big picture and not single mistakes
- Ask questions for clarification

Many of you say you expect your child to share his work with you at home on an ongoing basis. How is a student-led conference any different than this? After participating in a student-led conference that is teacher supported, it is easy to see the difference between sharing work at home and sharing a portfolio at school. At school, students are taught ways in which to be self-reflective of their on-going work. It is by listening to students' self-reflections that we learn the most about our students' growth. By having the core teachers participate in the student-led conference, it gives them an opportunity to interact with the points that are brought up by the

student. The students are generally insightful and honest when their parents and teachers support them through a conference. They are more apt to experience, “aha moments” when analyzing their work habits and learning with their parents and teachers by their side. It is the process of sharing the reflections with parents and teachers together that is so powerful.

Fundraising Announcement:

For students going on the Mears Washington DC Student Tour this Spring, there will be a silent auction fundraiser at Mears during both days of Student Conferences, Oct. 23-24. Auction items will be available for viewing and bidding at the Multipurpose Room. We appreciate any support you can offer, as all proceeds will be used to support our students heading to the Nation's Capital.

As Winter Approaches... Think Student Safety

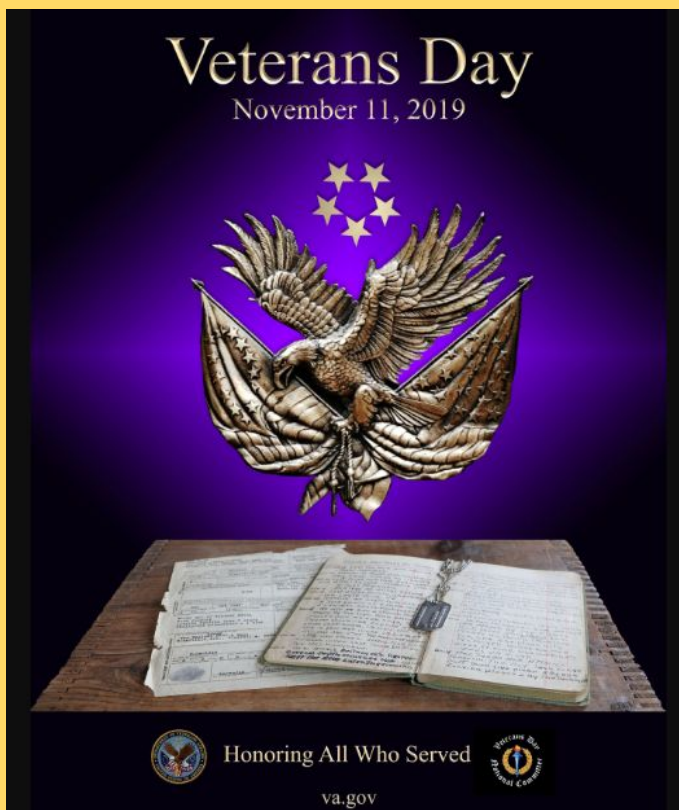


Students arriving in the dark at Mears at 8:00am.

A few important safety reminders, now that winter is nearly upon us:

- Students should wear bright colored or reflective clothing in the mornings so drivers can see them as they walk or ride to school.
- Students are required to wear close-toes shoes beginning Monday, Oct. 21 until the end of 3rd quarter in the Spring.
- Mears administrators are working with the ASD Maintenance Team to ensure that the campus and its surrounding pathways are well illuminated when it is dark.

Mears To Host Veteran's Day Assembly, Nov. 8th



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Monday, November 11, 2019 is Veteran's Day. Mears Middle School will have an assembly on Friday, Nov. 8th to recognize our veterans. Family members who are veterans and/or active military personnel are invited to attend. Additionally, part of the assembly will include a slideshow. If you would like a photo of a veteran in your family to be included, please email the photo and the related student(s) name, grade and the name and title of the veteran to:

middleton_nick@asdk12.org

(Email Subject: Veteran's Day)

Please send photos by Friday, Oct. 25. Photos will not be accepted after Oct. 25. Thank you.

--Nick Middleton, Social Studies, 8

Example:

Student name and relation--Jon Smith's Grandpa

Grade 8

Veteran's title and name--Col. Archie Sykes

≡Backman Recommends≡



Mears Parents and Guardians,

October is National Anti-Bullying Month. I encourage you to check out online resources at the Stomp Out Bullying website. Here are two helpful links to get you started.

As part of our commitment to creating the safest, most inclusive school environment possible, Mears Middle School will be hosting a series of anti-bullying education activities toward the end of the month. I encourage you to have conversations about bullying with your student. And please, if you are aware of a situation involving bullying at school or online, be sure to inform a staff member at Mears. All of us need to Stand Up and Stomp Out Bullying! --Eric

<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/get-help/about-bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/get-help/parents-page/>



Mears Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

Anti Bully Awareness Parent Night Oct 30, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Parents, please join us for an informational night on Anti-Bullying.

Reflections Art Contest has begun to see more information visit www.MearsPTSA.com

Categories include: Literature, Music Composition, Dance Choreography, Film Production, Photography and Special Artist.

TEAM SPIRIT WEAR IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER VISIT

WWW.MEARSPTSA.COM TO PURCHASE A T-SHIRT \$15, HOODIE \$45 OR STICKERS \$5 EACH.

4th Annual Holiday Bazaar is November 2.

Do you or your spouse, child have a business and would like to reserve a booth? Is your child going to Costa Rica or Washington, D.C. and need to do fundraising? To reserve a spot visit www.mearsptsa.com (click on the Holiday Bazaar image). We would love to see food trucks, games, student entrepreneurs, hand crafted items, musical performances, dance performances, Santa Claus, Photo Booth. Does this sound like something you would like to do? Booths are \$30 Business/Vendors, \$10 for student fundraisers

100th and Victor/Southport Intersection and our children need you-

Please consider taking this survey about your thoughts on this and attend the Bayshore Community Council Meeting November 14 at 7pm in the Bayshore Clubhouse.

For the last several years I have been in meetings with ASD and MOA about the 100th and Victor Intersection. I have approached them to add a pedestrian activated crosswalk or traffic light active during the busy hours (before and after school and rush hour). I am now being told that I need community support. If you could please take this survey I would greatly appreciate it. Within the last 3 YEARS 4 Mears Students have been hit trying to cross this intersection.

<https://forms.gle/pDg9Jm3LR7gA9dQaA>

KTUU has also came and did a news story on this issue as well.

<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Anchorage-mother-calling-for-safer-student-walking-routes-560936091.html?fbclid=IwAR37JzE1oPlDJH7Q4lwV-rJMjKIHMcbELvWfu6HSubRDGnMooCDbNdD7r1M>

Facebook group for this intersection is:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/848171765540783/?ref=br_rs&fb_dtsg_ag=AQxhIkJ_rN2V-pyc9iw_oalvY4CiOyMs2d9QTSrHT5pw4gQ%3AAQzyUXQbmlz34Gklv94TqnFF0K0ZmSGWMMEVktGCwflsuA&jazoest=28028

If you would like to write a letter in support of a traffic light. Please include Name, Address (showing which community you reside in), Phone or email and what you support. You can drop the letter off at Mears or mail it to the school 2700 w 100th Ave Anchorage, AK 99515 address it to April Eide- PTSA

Teacher Gift Card Winners

Thank you to all the staff that has become a PTSA supporting member this year.

Congratulations to our gift card winners:

Aly Lindsey

Janie Klueber

Mariah Lambert

Holly Barclay

The grand prize winner of the School Supply Cake is Jason MacDonald.

Thank you again for being great teachers at Mears and supporting the PTSA.

April Eide

Mears PTSA President

Dance Fun



Congratulations to Mr. Mike Scott and Mears Student Advisory Board Leaders, who helped plan a very fun Fall Dance. Special thanks to all the parents and staff members who volunteered to help chaperone.

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](#)