



*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.

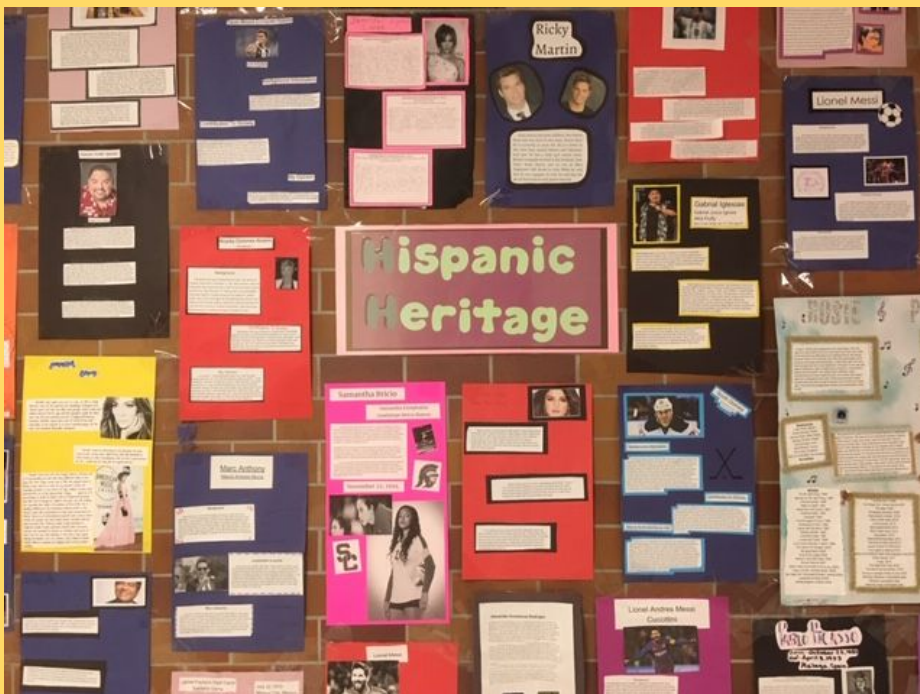
## This is how we Roll...



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*

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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

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

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

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

Go to:

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

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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



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## ⇐ 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.**

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**Reflections Art Contest** has begun to see more information visit [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://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.MEARSP TSA.COM](http://WWW.MEARSP TSA.COM) TO PURCHASE A T-SHIRT \$15, HOODIE \$45 OR STICKERS \$5 EACH.**

### 4th Annual Holiday Bazaar is November 2.ÄÄ

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**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.**

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# 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

