



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 6, 2019

The Ancient Art of Calligraphy



On Tuesday, September 3, students in Ms. Kat Yackel's art classes hosted students from Mears' Japanese Immersion classes for a demonstration in the ancient art of calligraphy. The lesson is a great example of a powerful collaboration between the fine arts and world language departments at Mears. The lesson also shows Mears' commitment to celebrating cultural diversity and global citizenship. Special thanks go out to Ms. Yackel, Ms. Hiromi Chambers and Ms. Kiyoko Loer for their planning and organization of this special day.

Mears' Incredible Office Staff

Meet Mears main office staff, an incredible group of dedicated, friendly and helpful professionals who are essential to Mears day-to-day operations. Whenever you have questions or need assistance, be sure to let one of our amazing main office staff members help you.

Good Morning!



Ms. Debbie Rohle, Mears Registrar

Welcome to Mears!



Ms. Mary Andrus, Mears Main Office Administrative Assistant

How Can We Help You Today?



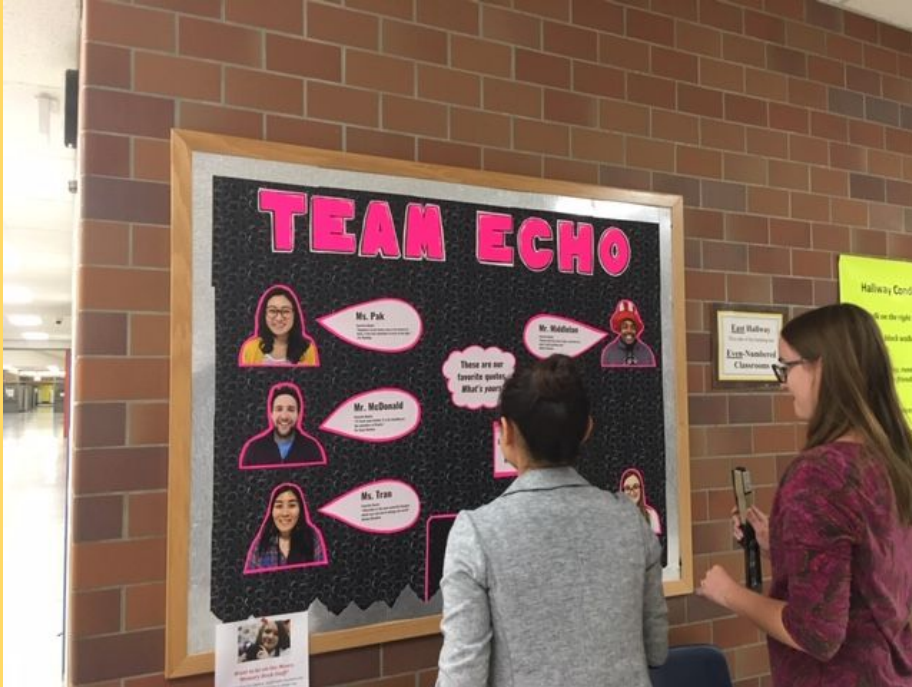
Ms. Paige Haider, Mears Accountant

How Are You Feeling?



Mr. Daniel Booher, Mears Nurse

Team Spirit



The teachers on Team Echo prepare for Open House on Thursday, Sept. 5th, by decorating the first floor wall with their favorite quotes. What's your favorite quote?

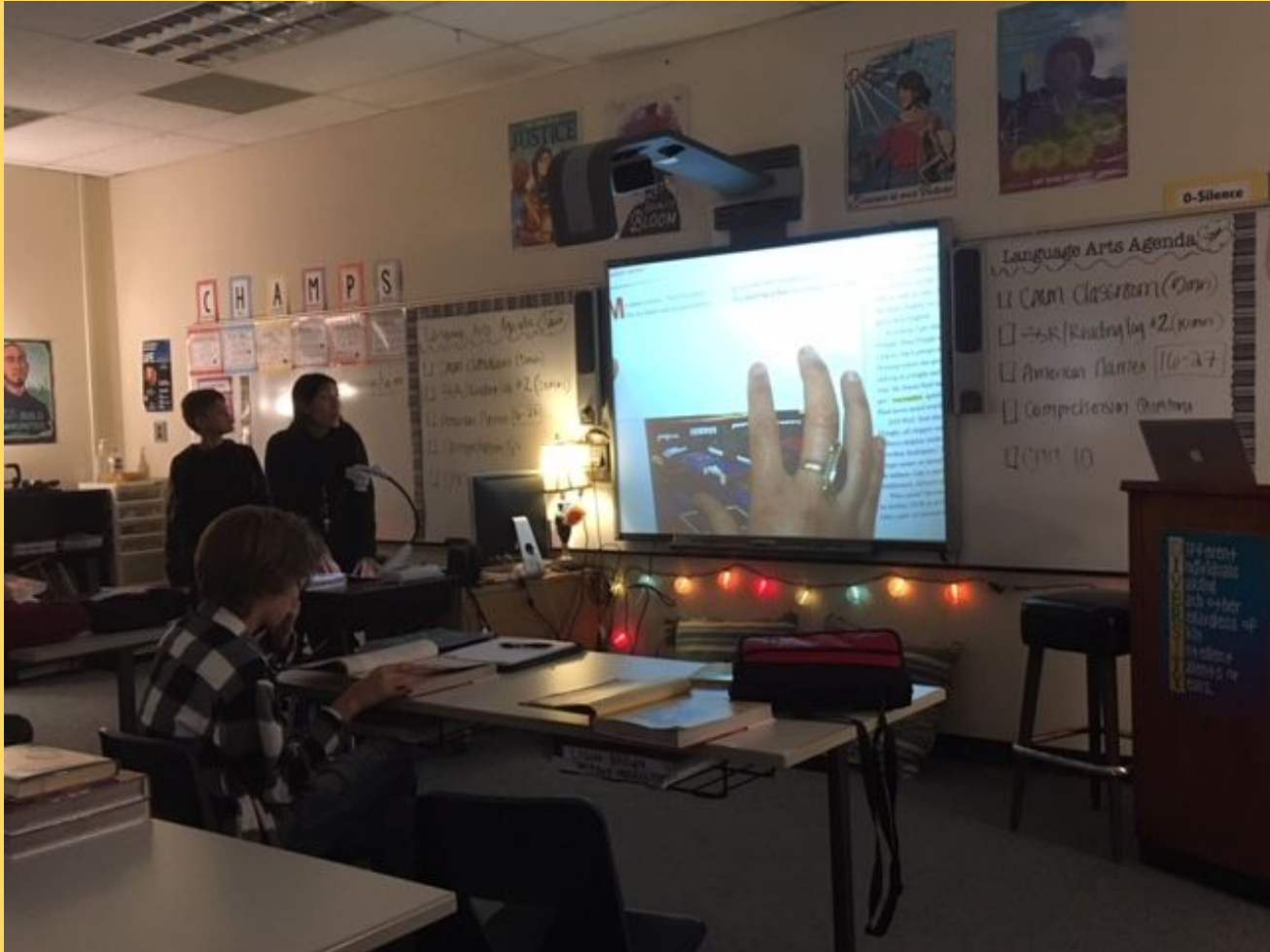
Go Team Echo!

Laps at Lunch



A number of students at Mears often walk the indoor track during lunch time after eating their meal. Students walk together and talk and even sometimes sing. The activity is a great way to exercise and socialize with friends at the same time.

Developing Literacy



Ms. Liza Tran, Language Arts teacher, facilitated a student-led close reading activity on Wednesday this week. Students read “American Names,” by Toni Johnston. The class is addressing the big question -- how do decisions affect your identity? In this story, students are specifically analyzing whether or not something as simple as name can impact one’s identity.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

Thursday, Sept 12 - Staff Meeting - 3pm

Friday, Sept. 20 - PTSA Teacher Grant Applications Due

Mears Parents and Guardians

Thursday, Sept 12 - Cross Country Running Meet @ Service HS - 5:00 pm

Monday, Sept 16 - Archery I BEGINS - 3pm-4:30pm

Thursday, Sept 19 - Cross Country Running Meet @ Chugiak HS - 5:15 pm

Tuesday, Sept 25 - Cross Country Running Meet @ Mirror Lake - 5:00pm

Note: Cross Country meets will begin at around 5:00 pm due to bussing constraints.

Fall Sports....

If your student is participating in a fall sport the following items are required:

1. Current physical (within the last 18 mos.)
2. A completed participation form
3. Fee for interscholastic sport, \$110 (cash/check) or a receipt of payment made online
OR a completed and approved fee waiver.

All forms are available on the ASD website or the Mears office.

Important Attendance Information

Attendance Line: 566-3300 – includes past and present absences

Office number: 742-6400

- **If your student is going to be out** - please call the attendance line, 566-3300 to report the absence. Make sure to spell your students name!!
- **If you are picking your student up early** – Please send a note with them to school so they can get a blue pass from the front office. This will save classroom interruption and less wait time when you come to the office to sign them out.
- **Attendance Calls** – if your student was marked absent have them check with their teachers to find out which period to get the correction taken care of.
- **End of the day calls** – Please allow the office runners at least 20 min. before the end of the day to deliver messages promptly to your student to avoid last minute confusion
- **Prearranged absences** – Request forms are available in the student service's office for absences of 5 or more days. Missed homework will be requested from teachers but it is the students' responsibility to make sure all school work is complete.
- **Phone calls** – Please be patient with ringing phone lines. The office has very busy times so leave a message and we will get to it as soon as we can!

We realize that emergencies do come up and we try to do everything we can to accommodate them so please keep them to a minimum!!

⇐Backman Recommends⇒

EDUCATION

'Popular' Kids Aren't That Special

They do play a role in setting a school's norms—but kids' parents and close friends have more sway.

JOE PINSKER AUG 8, 2019



Mears Parents,
Here's a very interesting read about new research that examines "popularity" in middle and high school. Who has the most influence in the lives of young people? How much sway do "the popular kids" actually have? The findings show that while popularity matters, parents and close friends actually hold considerably more sway in influencing the choices our kids make. The research is a great reminder for parents of teenagers to never underestimate the impact you continue to have in your kid's life.
--Eric

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/08/popular-high-school/595738/>

Keep the Donations Coming: Students Organize Fire Relief Efforts



Dear Mears Families,

The Service Learning class has begun our first project to help others.

We are collecting the following items to help Alaskans tragically displaced by wildfires:

Baby wipes	Non-perishable foods, such as:
White vinegar	Cereals
Baking soda	Baby foods
Duct tape	Baby formula
Heavy Duty work gloves	Gatorade
Bleach	Apple juice
Handi-Wipes	Orange juice
Paper plates/cups	Canned milk
Plastic ware	Soups
"Bag of Rags" (Costco or auto supply stores)	Canned tuna
Paper towels	Canned chicken
Toilet paper	Canned beef (Costco)
Laundry soap	Salt/pepper
Dish soap	Dog and cat food
Boxed matches	Condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayo
New packs of underwear and socks.	Toothpaste, tooth brushes

These are just a few ideas based on the needs indicated by first responders, working in the Talkeetna/Caswell area.

People have lost their homes, which means EVERYTHING. Basic items we take for granted are gone.

Ex: A can opener is needed to open canned goods.

Please use your imagination and think about the things you would miss if everything except the clothes on your back disappeared, those are the items we need.

Donations can be brought to room 106 until 9/13/19.

Thank you for your support!



Mears PTSA is sponsoring a Membership Drive! Each team will be competing for prizes, based on the team with the highest enrolment in our PTSA.

When you enroll as an individual member or a family membership, your student(s) will be credited as a PTSA member for the Drive.

An ice cream party will be awarded to the top team, 7th or 8th, who has the highest enrolment during the PTSA Membership Drive.

We will also be awarding a popcorn party to the top 7th grade team and the top 8th grade team who are runners up!

The Drive ends at our next PTSA meeting, Thursday September 19th at 6:30pm in the Library.

Membership forms are available in the school office and the Black Cat Cafe. You can also enroll online at www.mearsptsa.com

Becoming a Member does not mean you have to volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of a volunteer for each of the following days : Monday Morning, Tuesday Morning, Wednesday Lunch, Thursday Morning and Thursday Lunch. These shifts are a mixture of working the café and the school store.

Visit www.mearsptsa.com sign up for volunteering, purchase gift cards, membership, see what's happening.

Check us out on Facebook. Search for Mears PTSA.

Maybe if I stand really still,
they won't notice me.



A giant bull moose greeted teachers and staff at Mears early Friday morning, Aug. 30th. Assistant Principal, Mike Scott, stood watch over the scene to make sure everyone was safe. Eventually, the moose wandered off the school premises to let everyone resume their day.

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](#)