



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, January 10, 2020

Together Again



Students at Mears enjoyed their first day back at school on Monday, January 6, 2020. In Ms. Megan Perkin's PE class, students were excited to put on roller blades for a little indoor skating in preparation for ice skating later this month. Cold weather has brought with it ice and Mears outdoor rink will soon be in use for hockey and other activities.

Mears Welcomes Chitose Guests



On Wednesday this week, Mears had the privilege of hosting a group of teachers and administrators from our sister school in Chitose, Japan. The educators are part of a contingent of guests who are visiting Sand Lake Elementary school as part of the annual Japanese Immersion student exchange.

Good Morning, Panthers!



Every morning at Mears members of the Student Advisory Board deliver the morning announcements, including leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Beginning this new year, Rihana Poska, 7th grade, and Daesha Mortera, 8th grade, have taken on this important and fun responsibility. They are the voice of the Panthers!

Orchestra Gets Warmed Up



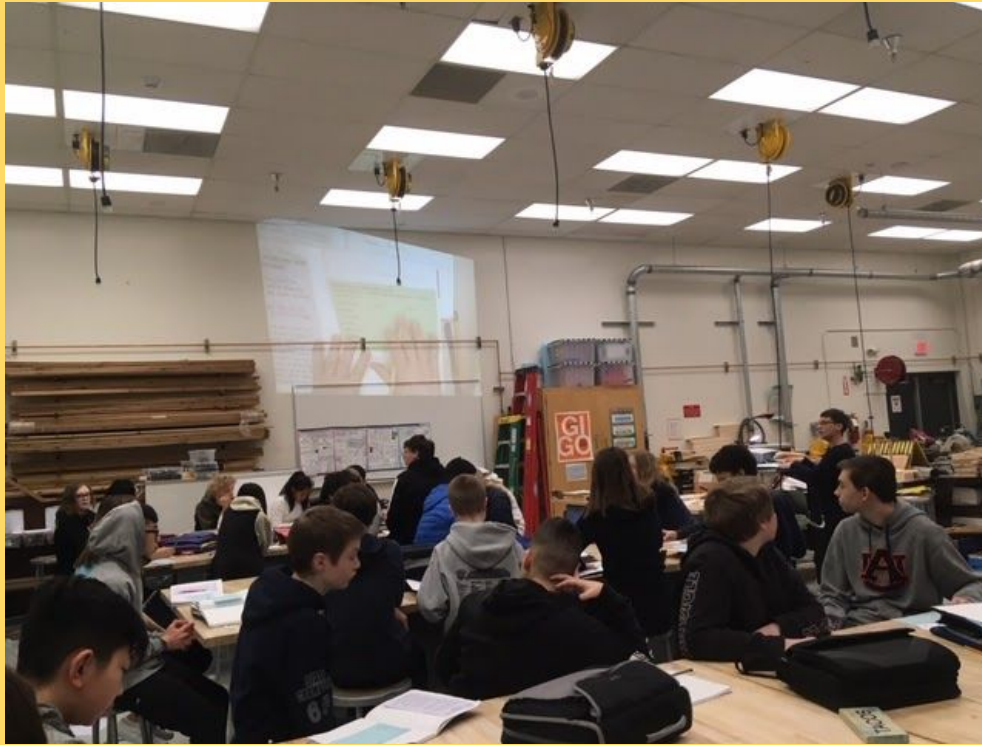
On their first day back to school, students in Mr. O'conner's orchestra class began with a warm up exercise followed by an introduction to a new score, which will be performed later in the year.

Exploring Symmetry



Students in Ms. Kat Yackle's art classes are currently working on projects that explore the concept of symmetry. Here a group of students are reviewing public displays of model student work completed by their peers.

The Design Process



Students in Ms. Diane McLaughlin's Design and Modeling classes are busy learning steps to the design process. This introductory lesson gives students the opportunity to problem-solve, think strategically and creatively, and to work on a collaborative team to find solutions to design challenges.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

Wed 1/15 - 3pm SPED Dept Mtg - Rom 114

Thurs 1/16 - All Day - Club Photos

Thurs 1/16 - 3pm Staff Mtg - Library

Thurs 1/16 - 6:30pm PTSA Mtg - Library

Tues 1/21 - 7:15am MLT Mtg - Office Conference Room

Thurs 1/23 - 8am Team Leadership Mtg - Hanshew MS

Fri 1/24 - 8:15am Geo Bee - MPR

Fri 1/24 - 5:30pm CC Ski Meet @ Kincaid

Mears Parents and Guardians

Thurs 1/16 - All Day - Club Photos

Thurs 1/16 - 6:30pm PTSA Mtg - Library

Wed 1/22 - 6:30 - 8:00pm - PTSA Sponsored Parent Informational Night - Vaping

Fri 1/24 - 8:15am Geo Bee - MPR

Fri 1/24 - 5:30pm CC Ski Meet @ Kincaid

SPORTS....

Sign ups for Cross Country Skiing, Boys Basketball, and Archery 2 has begun!!

See Ms. Megan Perkins if you have any questions about Skiing, Mr. Jason MacDonald with questions about Basketball, and Ms. Heather Fleming with questions about Archery.

See Mrs. Daniels in the office if you have any questions regarding paperwork and/or payment.

Note: All after school sports practices begin at 3:00 and all meets will begin at 5:00 pm due to bussing constraints.

Off-Campus Traffic Reminder



Mears Families,
If you drop off or pick up students in either Skiff Circle or Sextant Circle, two popular drop-off/pick-up points just to the east of the campus, please be certain to stay clear of driveways and mailboxes. With recent snow, homeowners have noted that some families waiting for students are blocking driveways and mailboxes for postal carriers. Let's be good Dimond-area neighbors!
Sincerely,
Mike Scott, AP

Job Opportunity: Parents are Perfect



ASD currently has several food service positions open at various schools throughout the district. Substitutes are also needed in many school cafeterias to assist with preparing food, and serving breakfast & lunch to students. Hours are perfect for parents: part-time and flexible. Fill out an application at the ASD Building at 5530 East Northern Lights Blvd at the Boniface Mall or go to www.asdk12.org. For more information call Susan at 348-5185.

Students Safety Reminders Stay Warm in Cold Weather



Mears Families,

In case of an emergency outdoor evacuation, is your student ready for this cold weather?

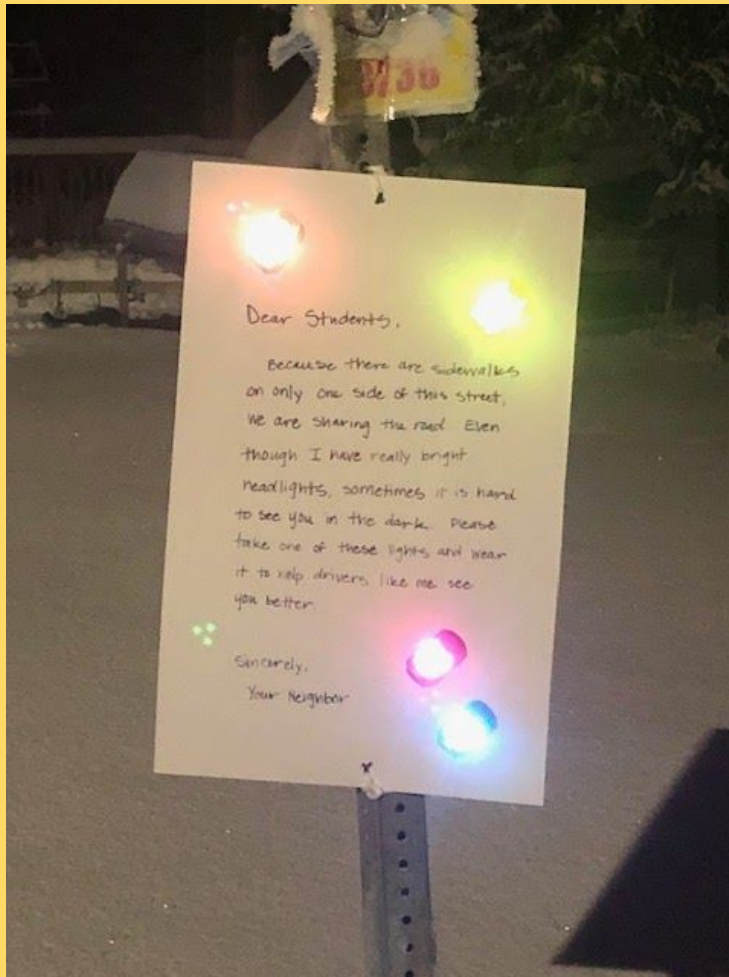
Please know that we would only evacuate the school in this type of weather under extreme circumstances. Still, it is imperative that we are all prepared and that our students remain safe.

Middle school students often wear shorts, forget gloves, coats, and hats. This leaves them vulnerable to the cold at bus stops or outside in case of emergency.

Please insist that your student layer up and wear winter-appropriate clothing. Have your student bring and store some extra warm socks and other gear in their locker. The cold snap is here to stay for a bit, so let's keep all of our students as warm as possible and safe.

Thank you. --Ms. Jennifer Palinko, Mears Security Specialist

Stay Light and Bright in the Morning



Mears Families,

A concerned neighbor recently posted this reminder to students to be sure to wear lights and/or reflective clothing in the morning. Our neighbor even generously provided small lights for students to take to help ensure their safety. It is great to be a part of a community that cares so much for its young people.

Please be sure that your students are adequately illuminated in the mornings so that they are highly visible to drivers in the darkness.

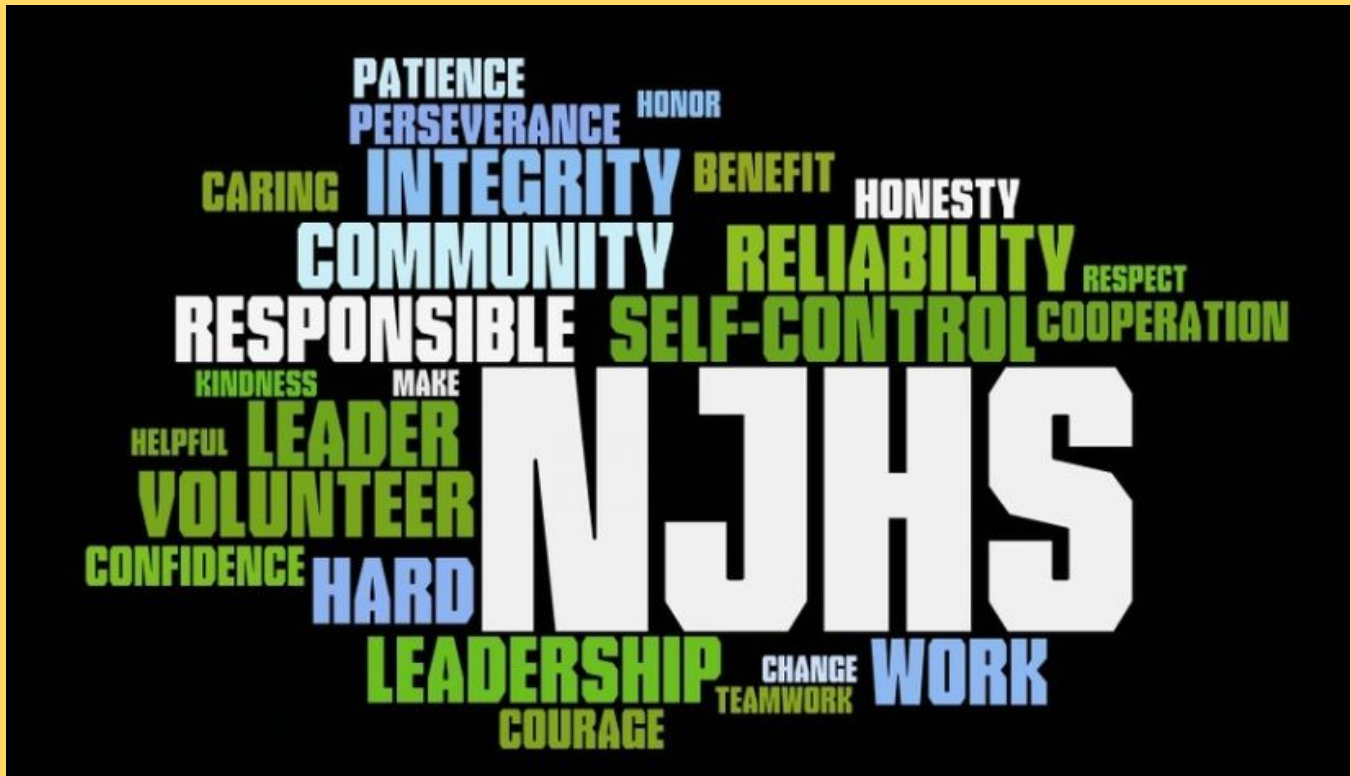
Thank you. --Eric

Health Reminder

Parents just a reminder that vaccinations are recommended and required to be maintained in an up to date status to be a student in the ASD. Many Middle School students need to have a Tdap booster. Please check with your provider to ensure that your student is up to date on vaccinations. If you have questions I can assist you in determining if your student is coming due for any vaccinations. Feel free to contact me at 742-6401 with any questions or concerns about the health of your child.

Daniel J Booher
School Nurse

National Junior Honor Society



What is NJHS? We are students and teachers who appreciate working hard for our academic and achievement goals, enjoy helping others through service in our school and neighborhood, and having fun at the same time.

NJHS sponsors Janie Klueber, Lani Roylance, and Marah Lambert are looking for new members who find meaning in the above statement. If you are interested, please see any one of these teacher-sponsors who can help you join this prestigious organization.

Some of the projects NJHS participates in include:

- The *Pennies for Patients* campaign to raise awareness and funds to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- The *Super Sweepers* program, sponsored by the Municipality of Anchorage during Spring Cleanup Week
- Selling Valentine candy-grams and/or flowers during lunch; having them delivered to individual students

All paperwork for new NJHS candidates is due to Mary Andrus by Friday, Feb. 7 at 3:00pm. The 2nd semester Induction Ceremony will be held on Thurs., Feb. 27 from 6:30-8:00pm in the MPR; refreshments will be served afterward. All candidates and members are expected to attend the evening ceremony. The rehearsal for this event will be held the previous afternoon in the MPR from 3:00-4:00pm.

⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒

Mears Families,

On Wednesday, January 22, Mears Middle School and the PTSA will co-host an important Educational Community Night focused on the health risks of vaping and e-cigarettes to young people. The event will feature an expert guest speaker, Ms. Shanice Roache, MPH, who is a local health professional who promotes youth health initiatives.

Please join us for this important event and take a moment to read up on some of the latest research on the serious risks of vaping to young people. --Eric

[Vaping: What You Need to Know, Childmind](#)

[Quick Facts on Risks of E-Cigarettes to Young People, US Center for Disease Control](#)



PARENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT

Wednesday, January 22, 6:30-8:00pm, Mears Library

Topic: Vaping Prevention and Student Health



Special Guest Speaker:

Shanice Roache is a Health Promotions Coordinator at American Lung Association in Alaska. Her main role as a community coordinator is to identify public spaces in Anchorage and work with them to create smoke free policies. Ms. Roache finished her Masters of Public Health at Tulane University in May 2018 where she specialized in Maternal and Child Health.

Memory Book online ordering www.ybpay.com

NEW this year you can personalize the memory book with your students name. Its an additional \$5. Make checks payable to Mears PTSA or pay with a credit card online.

Ways to support Mears without spending any additional money.

Shutterfly - <http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com/> Coupon books have been given to all students and extras can be found in the main office.

Amazon- <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999>

Fred Meyers- <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4> Mears Code
We currently have 8 family members participating.

For more information about Mears PTSA visit:

<https://mearsptsa.membershiptoolkit.com/home>

Thank You to Dawn and ASD Food Services



Special thanks goes out to Ms. Dawn Fischer-Peters, who does an incredible job every day leading the Mears Food Service Team. Keeping students well nourished is essential to healthy growth and development, as well as academic success.

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](#)