



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, January 14, 2022

Mears 8th Graders Tour Holocaust Museum



This week, Mears 8th graders attended a virtual tour of The Holocaust Museum LA. The tour was led by Mr. Mitch Kreitenberg, whose family members were prisoners in Auschwitz during World War II. The tour offers Mears students powerful first-person testimony about the history of the Holocaust, a subject they read about in Elie Wiesel's famous novel, *Night*. Special thanks to Ms. Sally Pak, Ms. Mia Sison, and Ms. Kayla Callahan for organizing the tour. Mears also extends its gratitude to the staff at the Holocaust Museum LA for their ongoing partnership with Mears Middle School.

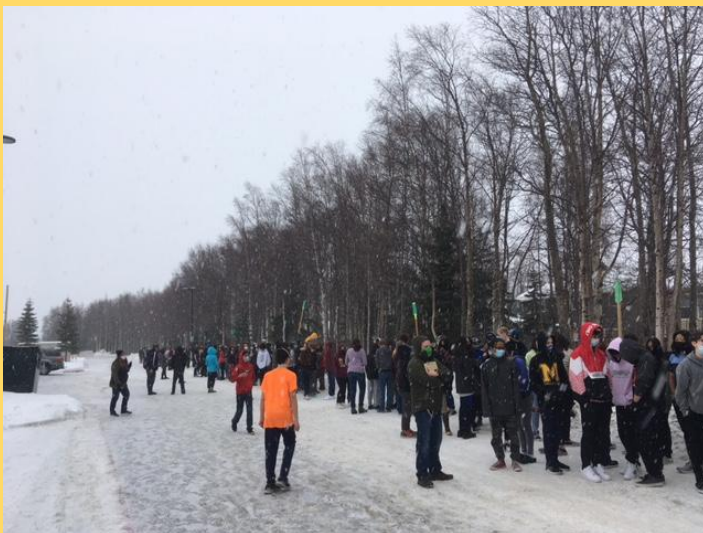
Be an “Upstander”



During the virtual tour of the Holocaust Museum, Mr. Kreitenberg (see above) spoke to Mears students about the importance of taking an active role in one's community to stand up to bullying, harassment, and discrimination. He called this being an “upstander.”

At Mears, students and staff continue to strive to live up to the values and actions communicated in the No Place for Hate Middle School Pledge, which promotes respect, responsibility, and inclusivity for all.

School Safety Week



Under the skillful leadership of Mr. Mike Scott, Mears students and staff engaged in a series of safety drills this week, including a duck-and-hold earthquake activity and a school-wide evacuation. Mears students did a great job following instructions and supporting our efforts to be prepared.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Monday, Jan. 17 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Wednesday, Jan. 19 – Mears Staff Meeting, 3:00-4:00pm, Library

Kare Kits for Blessing Boxes

ALASKAN TEEN VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE FOOD AND ESSENTIALS TO FAMILIES IN NEED WITH BLESSING BOXES

DAILY POINT OF LIGHT # 6631 | OCT 18, 2019 | BY POINTS OF LIGHT



ASHLEY PERRY HAS TURNER SYNDROME, A CHROMOSOMAL CONDITION WHICH SHE SAYS INSPIRES HER OWN VOLUNTEERISM. "I'VE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF KINDNESS AND VOLUNTEERING AS I HAVE FACED MY OWN HEALTH CHALLENGES, WHICH INSPIRES ME TO HELP OTHERS IN RETURN." /COURTESY ASHLEY PERRY

EXAMPLES OF WHAT'S NEEDED:

- Hairbrush
- Combs
- New Socks
- New Underwear
- Hand Soap/Bar soap
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Dental Floss
- Shampoo
- Chapstick
- Mouthwash
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Products

Blessing Boxes are located all over Anchorage and provide food and other essential goods for anyone who need them. This inspiring project was created by Mears/Diamond Alumni, Ashley Perry. Mears is committed to supporting Ashley's vision of providing for those in our community who are less fortunate.

<https://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/alaskan-teen-volunteers-to-provide-food-and-essentials-to-families-in-need-with-blessing-boxes/>

BRING ANY ITEMS TO ROOM 106 BY 2/28/22.

DONATED ITEMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED INTO "BLESSING BOXES" ALL ACROSS ANCHORAGE.

Cultivating Alaska's Youth Leaders



Mears 8th grade students are encouraged to apply for Alaska's Points of Light Youth Leadership Program, which offers leadership development training during Spring Break, March 7-11, 2022.

<https://www.alaskapyli.org/>

Mears Electronic-Device Policy Reminder



Mears Families,

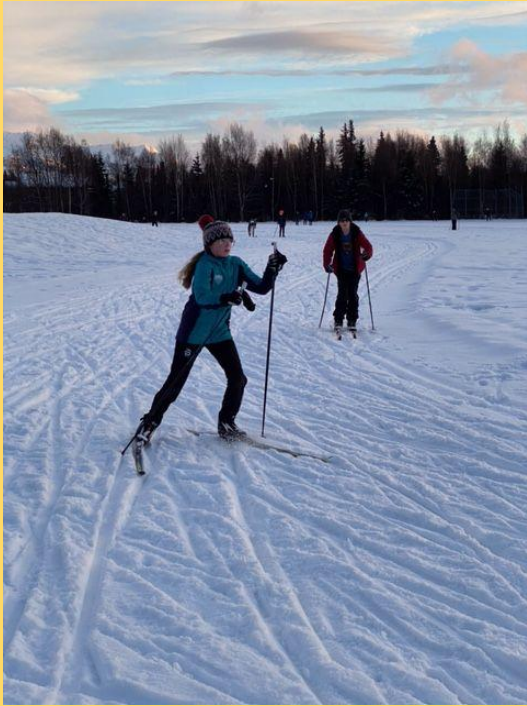
Mears students continue to do a great job following the new school cell phone policy. With no phone use in the hallways and at lunch students are engaging in more outgoing and healthy social behaviors.

If the policy is violated, devices will be picked up by family at the front window. We recognize this is an imposition for families, so please speak to your students about not using phones during the day.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Mears Administration

Mears Activities Update



Cross Country Skiing, Boys Basketball, and Archery are now underway with hundreds of students participating in these great extra-curricular activities.

Here is a great photo of Mears XC skiers at a recent practice at Kincaid Park, where district-wide competitions are held.

Special thanks to Ms. Megan Perkins and Ms. Holly Barclay for all they do to organize and coach our winter athletes.

Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:

- Middle School Participation Form
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk_MrWGZd4mjAkPMj5/view
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
 - <https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4260/COVID-19%20Waiver.pdf>
- COVID-19 Return To Play
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>
- Health Examination Form
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lI5oSifxCsxF-MNlknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/view>

Added to these forms, if a student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the three months prior to the activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form.

Forms can be scanned and emailed to our AAFP: spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org or dropped off at the school by your student near the main office between periods 1 and 2: designated basket supervised by Ms. Spartz-Hays.

Visit Mears website for all activities updates and information:
<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4260>

Upcoming Activity Events

Cross Country Skiing

| DATE | STYLE | LOCATION | TIME |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------|
| January 26, 2022 | Classic | ERHS | 5:30 PM |
| February 2, 2022 | Classic | Bartlett HS | 5:30 PM |
| February 9, 2022 | Mixed Relays | Kincaid | 5:30 PM |
| February 16, 2022 | Skate | Service HS | 5:30 PM |
| February 23, 2022 | Skate | Chugiak HS | 5:30 PM |
| March 2, 2022 | Freestyle Championships | Kincaid | 5:30 PM |

Boys Basketball

Please use this link to see dates/times/locations for boys basketball:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQZXUeKA-yyzAvNgF0TWfYc3dUrhGCOVtIlgKbzI7mWbDwcHly3mwDQId4xoo61NQ/pubhtml>

Remember Mears families:

1. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian;
2. All spectators must wear masks at all times at indoor events.

Thanks for your help and support!

Mike Scott, Mears AP

Panthers Write!

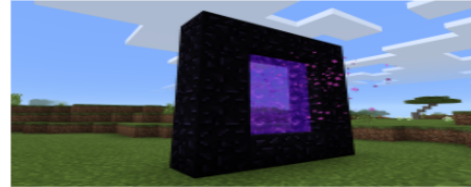
January Writing Contest

Exploring Portals

C. S. Lewis used a wardrobe, J. M. Barrie used the second star to the right, and Lewis Carroll used a rabbit hole—each a gateway to another world. This month, pick an object that is important to you and transform it into a portal to an alternate world. Write a story about someone discovering the portal and adjusting to life where everything is foreign. Take into consideration where this secret passage is located and what it feels like to pass through it.

The deadline is Friday, January 28th. Stories can be no more than 1,000 words. Please submit stories to the Panther Participation course inside Canvas..

Exploring Portals

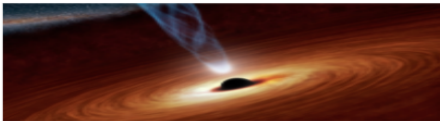


Consider the following questions as you plan your story:

- What world will the main character travel to?
- Who will be in your story?
- How will they be transported?
- What awaits them in this new place?
- Do they return, and if so, how?



[Click here to begin your story.](#) (Have your Googledrive open.)



Submission Guidelines:

Go to Panther Participation.
Click on January Writing Contest.
Click "Start Assignment" at the top.
Select "Google" tab. (Must have your ASD Googledrive open.)
Find and select your story.
Click submit.

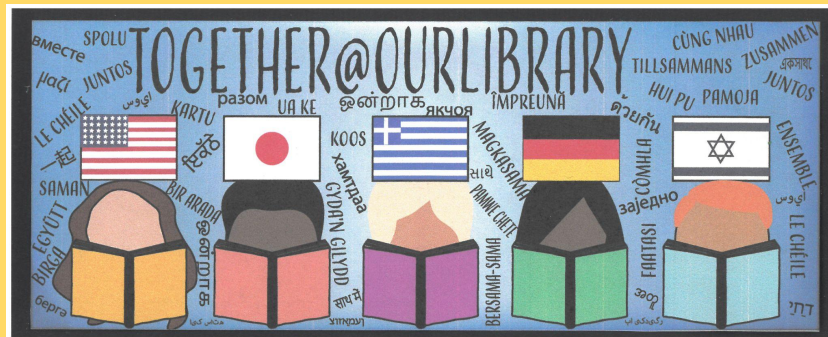
[Click here to submit in Panther Participation.](#)

Deadline is Friday, January 28th.

Library at Mears Bookmark Contest Winners



Please congratulate **Trinity Morel** (left, vertical) and **Addyson Solberg** (right, horizontal), the winners of the Mears Middle School bookmark contest. Their bookmarks will represent Mears in the district competition.



Mears Health Update

Mears Welcomes Nurse Richards



The Mears community welcomes Ms. Karin Richards, our new school nurse. A graduate from UAA, Ms. Richards has worked in Texas as a neonatal intensive care nurse for the last ten years. She was born in Fairbanks, AK and grew up in North Pole. She recently moved back to Alaska with her husband and two dogs because they missed it so much.

Ms. Richards is excited to begin to her work as a middle school nurse and looks forward to getting to know Mears students and to support their health and wellbeing.

Important Covid Health Reminders:

Updated Resources for Families

- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

Other Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

Mears Counseling Corner

Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)

Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade
svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org
907-742-6428



PTSA Meeting Schedule

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

Upcoming PTSA General Meeting -- Jan. 18, 2022 5:30pm

Meeting Dates for Spring Semester: Feb. 22, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 3, 2022

[Mears PTSA Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 958 2804 2654

Passcode: 124813

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom.

PTSA Volunteer Needs

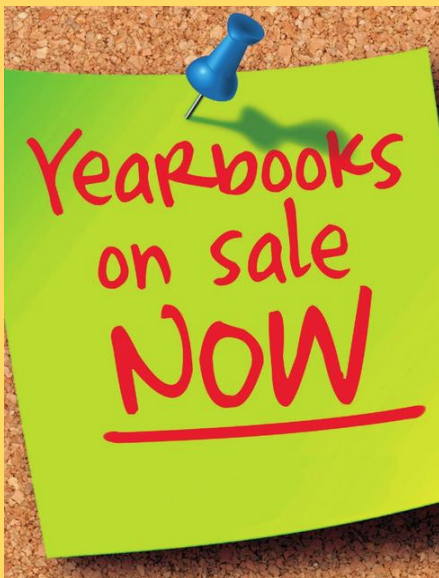
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 – 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now! Purchase your yearbook at www.ybpay.com use Yearbook ID: 13921122 Mears PTSA

Thank you, Teachers and Staff



A heartfelt thank you goes out to all Mears teachers, staff, and also to our substitutes, whose ongoing dedication and support for our students and families is truly inspiring. During these challenging times, with so much uncertainty, Mears staff members continue to show up every day ready to serve our community. We are all so fortunate to be part of a school community that places such value on professionalism, collegiality, and hard work.

Go Panthers!



We are on Dena'ina Homeland

Mears Middle School acknowledges that we operate and gather on the traditional land of the Dena'ina Peoples and honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

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](#)