



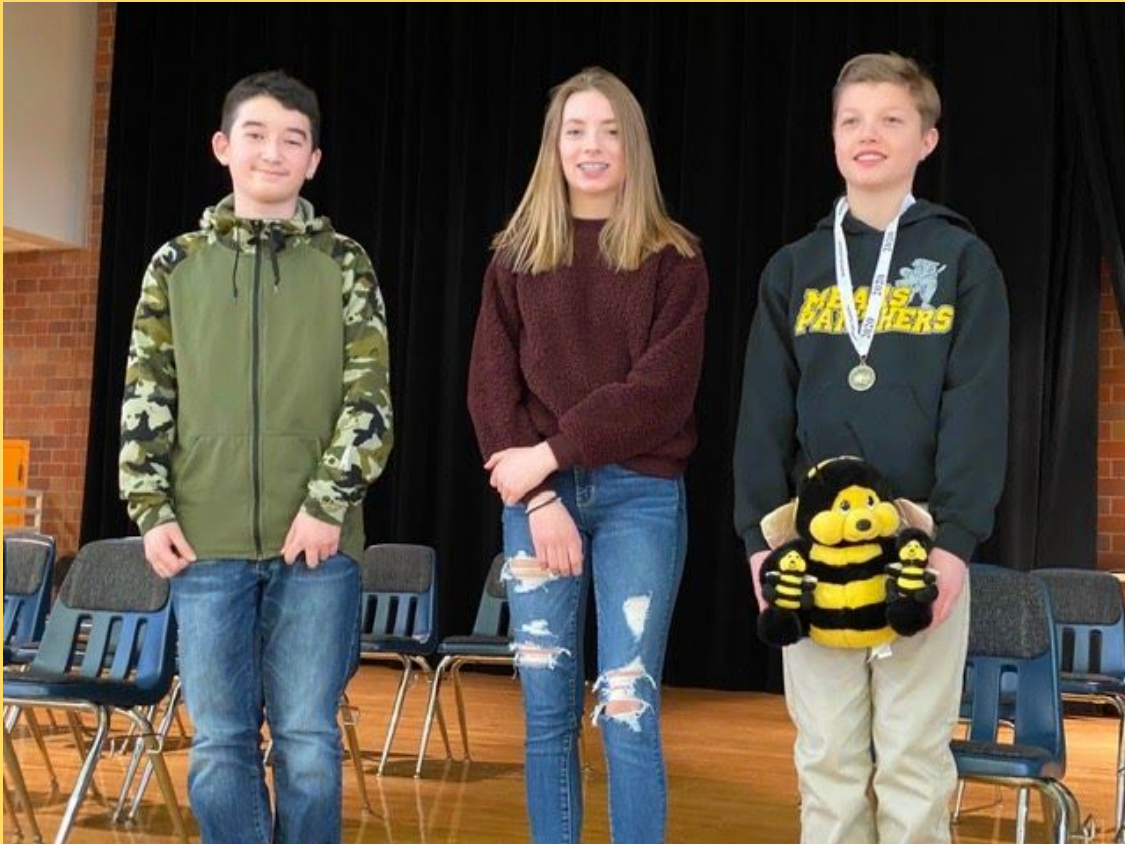
Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, January 24, 2020

## *Panthers Are Winners in Geography Bee*



Congratulations to Lucas Walters (7th), Taylor Hartman (7th), and Riley Gross (8th), who won this year's Geography Bee at Mears Middle School. In the end, it was Riley who was named the champion of the annual competition, in which every student in a social studies classroom at Mears participates. The highly engaging competition requires students to answer a series of challenging quiz questions related to local, state, and world geography.

Special thanks goes out to all of Mears social studies teachers for organizing this fun educational event.

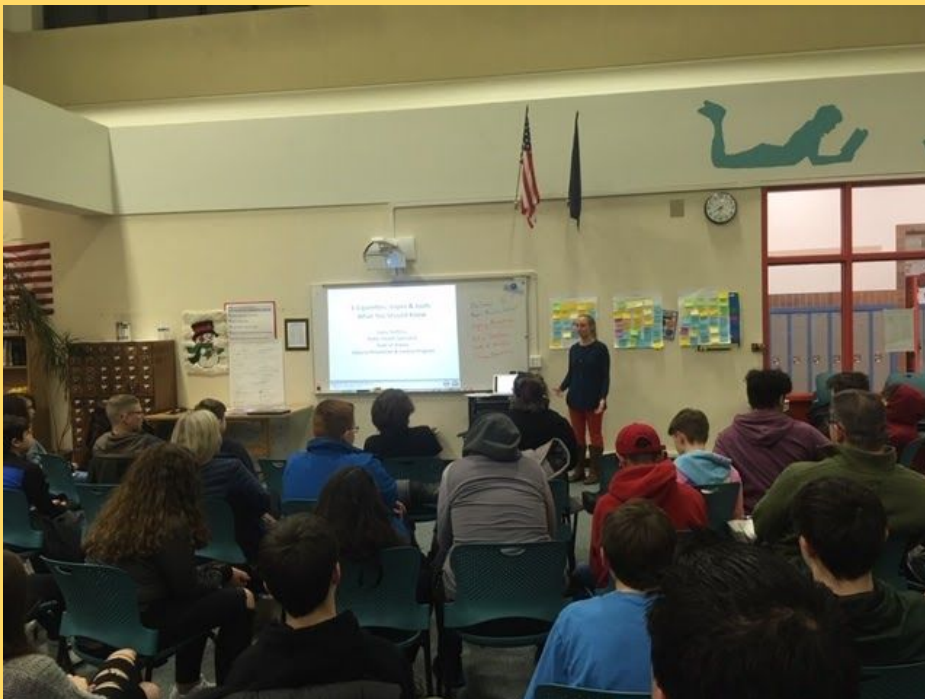
# Panthers Excel Academically

## Mears 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Totals

Grade	# of students with GPA of 3.0-3.9	# of students with GPA of 4.0	% of students
7th	156	69	62
8th	153	53	55

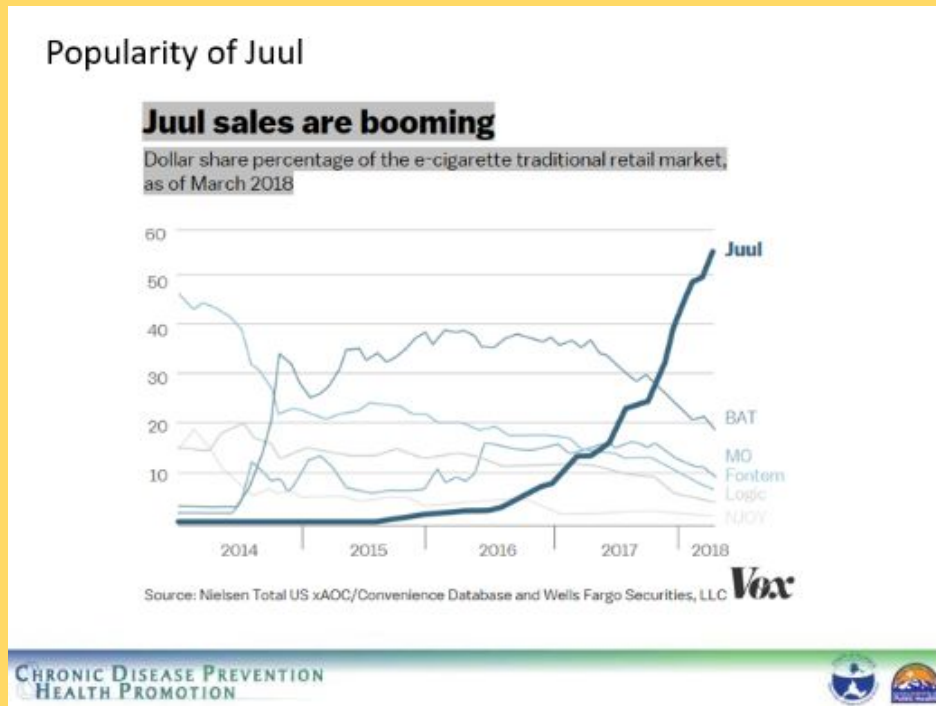
Grades for the second quarter are now recorded and well over half of the student body at Mears have GPAs of 3.0 or greater and have earned Honor Roll status. Sixty-two percent of 7th graders and fifty-five percent of 8th graders have earned this impressive distinction. Academic achievement of this sort is the result of the efforts of the entire school community--teachers, staff members, parents, and students--and our collective commitment to hard work, learning, growth, and the potential of all students.

## Many Turn Out for Vaping Prevention



On Wednesday evening, Mears and the PTSA hosted a Vaping Prevention Education Night. The well attended event was highly informative with Ms. Katie Steffens, Public Health Specialist with Alaska's Tobacco Prevention Program, providing up-to-date information on the health risks of vaping.

# Vaping Rates Continue to Rise



Here is a graph showing the booming sales of Juul, the popular vaping device marketed to young people. Juul and other e-cigarette devices were the focus of Wednesday's night's presentation. Use of Juul and other devices is highly addictive and can lead to serious health risks.

## Fabulous First Lines



Mears library currently has a wonderful display of the “fabulous first lines” of popular books for young readers.

Example: “He was not sure exactly when he became a child of the forest.” --Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen



# Interpreting the US Constitution



Mears 8th graders having been working to interpret the US Constitution. Here are a collection of students' illustrations which offer visual depictions of the rights and responsibilities outlined in one of our nation's most important founding documents.

# Teachers Lead Exciting Teams Initiative



Earlier this week, Mears Collaborative Team Teacher Leaders gathered at Hanshew Middle School for a day of professional development. These educators are engaged in the inspiring work of leading the district-wide initiative to build highly responsive and effective collaborative teams in ASD's middle schools.

# *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

## **Mears Teachers and Staff**

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

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

Tues 1/28 - Battle of the Books - 9am-11:30am - Library

Wed 1/29 - CC Ski Meet @ Mirror Lake Middle School - 1:45pm

Thurs 1/30 - Boys Basketball (C1 - 5:00pm/C2 - 6:00pm/C3 - 7:00pm) @ Mears

Thurs 1/30 - Boys Basketball (C4 - 5:00pm/JV - 6:00pm/V - 7:00pm) @ Wendler

Fri 1/31 - Music Dept Recruiting Field Trip - 8:15am-2:30pm - Area Elem Schools

## **Mears Parents and Guardians**

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## **SPORTS....**

**NYO** - Now accepting paperwork - Practice begins Feb 3.

**Sign ups for CCSki, Basketball and Archery is now closed!**

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

## IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTE TO PARENTS

If your student is NOT feeling well, they MUST see the school nurse FIRST before leaving the school per ASD policy!!

With all the different virus' going around this year, Nurse Dan needs to keep track of the health needs in our school to keep it safe. We have too many students texting parents during class to come pick them up, which is against the cell phone policy and doesn't allow the nurse to know if a contagious virus is walking out the door.

Parents PLEASE help us out and tell your student(s) to go see the nurse!! He will get in contact with you if they need to go home. Thank you for your help with this important safety matter!!

### ⇐Backman Recommends⇒



Mears Families,

I am writing to notify you that during the week of January 27-31, Mears Middle School will be teaching students the Alaska Safe Children's Act Curriculum (Erin's and Bree's Law). The lessons will be taught next week in science classes in both 7th and 8th grade.

The State of Alaska requires all schools to

provide these lessons, which focus on child sexual abuse and dating violence awareness and prevention. At Mears, we are committed to ensuring that all of our students are empowered with information to help keep them healthy and safe. For more information, please visit: <https://education.alaska.gov/schoolhealth/safechildact>

The content of the lessons is published by Safer, Smarter Teens. You can visit their website for more information:

<https://saferSMARTerteens.org/education/middle-school/>

The law allows for parents and guardians to choose not to have their child participate in the program. If you do not wish for your child to participate, parents and guardians can sign the opt-out form that was emailed to all Mears families earlier this week. We have additional copies of the form available in the main office. The form can be returned to your student's science teacher or to the main office by Monday, Jan. 27. Thank you.

--Eric



**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>

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## 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](#)