



Mears Middle Schools

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 14, 2022

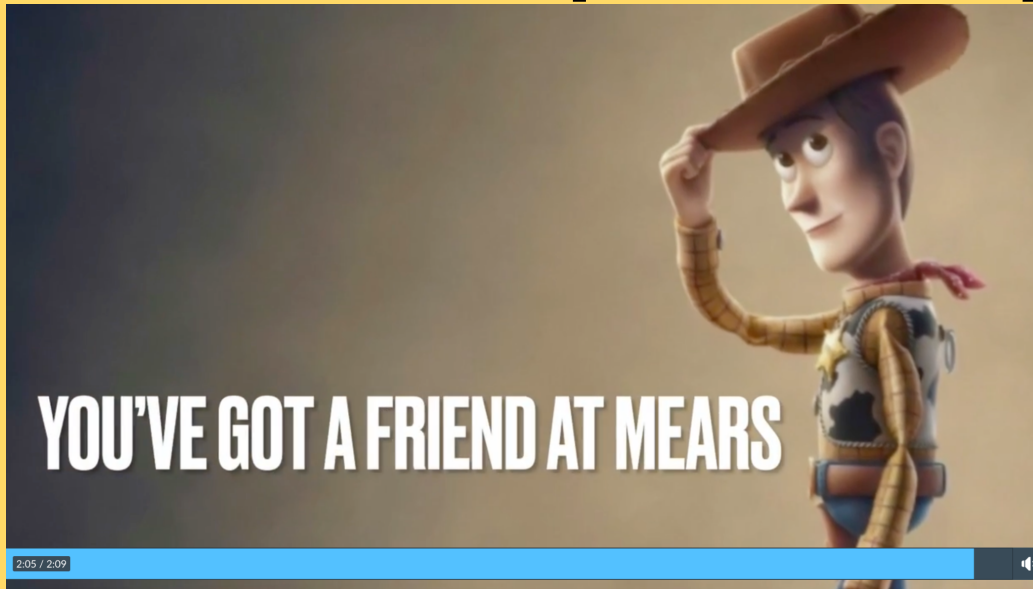
Celebrating Japanese Language & Culture



On Saturday, Oct. 8, Mears hosted the annual Tomo No Kai, Japanese Immersion Dinner and Auction Event. Due to Covid, this is the first time the event has been held in-person in three years. Needless to say, there was an outpouring of community support, with an extremely large turnout and fundraising effort. Hundreds of families, along with Mears and Dimond alumni, attended the fun event, which included taiko drumming, video tributes, presentations, and a wonderful catered dinner. Special thanks to all the parents, educators, and staff who support Japanese Immersion at Sand Lake, Mears, and Dimond!

Go Panthers! -Eric

Health Students Explore Friendship



[Video: Health Promotes Friendship Message](#)

Student Safety Remains Top Priority



As part of Mears school-wide safety plan, students and staff participate in monthly safety and evacuation drills. Led by Assistant Principal, Ms. Crysta Svendsen, Mears continues the important work of practicing safety. Here are students during an evacuation drill this week.

Upcoming Community Events

- **FRI 10/14 Team Day at Mears** A day of fun, team building, and social learning. On October 14th each of the Mears teams will be participating in special activities designed to promote a positive school culture. More information will be coming soon as your Mears' teachers plan for this special day.
 - **MON 10/17: Girls Volleyball: 1st Practice**
 - **MON 10/17: Wrestling: 1st Practice**
 - **MON 10/17 - THU 10/20: Spirit Week** (read further in the Panther Pride)
 - **THU 10/20: First All School Halloween Dance!** Sponsored by the students of the MMS NJHS!
 - **FRI 10/21: ASD Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!!!**
 - **TUE 10/25: Quarter 1 Grades available on Q/Parent Connect**
 - **WED 10/26: Early Dismissal 11:45 a.m.**
 - **WED 10/26: Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences 12:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **THU 10/27: Early Dismissal 11:45 a.m.**
 - **THU 10/27: Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences 12:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
 - **FRI 10/28: ASD Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!!!**
 - **10/31: Halloween!**
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Mears Staff Calendar

- **TUE 10/25: All Employee Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m., MMS Library**
 - **FRI 10/21: ASD Teacher In-Service Day: Quarter Grading**
 - **FRI 10/28: ASD Teacher In-Service Day: Subject Specific Training Districtwide**
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MEARS MS HALLOWEEN DANCE!!!!

THURSDAY 10/20/22....MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!



Mears MS will hold its first all school dance on Thursday, 10/20/22, students are encouraged to wear costumes to the dance, not permitted as part of the costume: no face coverings (i.e. no masks), no gore, no fake weapons of any kind, costume must be age appropriate - students must be *fully covered*.

The dance is sponsored by the MMS National Junior Honor Society. **\$2.00 Dance Tickets** go on sale during both grade level lunches Monday 10/12/22. Don't wait to purchase your tickets; the dance will be capped at 400 students to maximize fun and provide safe supervision! No exceptions will be made.

Snacks will be available and sold by the PTSA at the school store. **Only Mears MS students are able to attend, school ID required.** Thank you.

IT'LL BE A GHOULISH GOOD TIME!!!

Please Sign Up for Conferences, Oct. 26-27

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

Parent/Teacher (Student Led) Conferences are on WED 10/26, 12:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and THU 10/27, 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. By clicking on the following link you can schedule your MMS student(s) conference with their primary team teachers. Follow the process instructions to book the conference that best suits your family's schedule on either of the two days.

[Access the Conference Scheduler](#)

Parent/Teachers Conferences are a valuable tool in the education of every child that attends Mears MS. During conferences, parents and/or guardians have the opportunity to talk with teachers about important information that will help the student this school year. Active participation of parents and guardians is essential! Communication between the home and school is one of the best ways to ensure that a child's school experience is successful. For more information on Student Led Conferences, go to the Mears MS website or call the school office.

EARLY RELEASE ON CONFERENCE DAYS: Mears MS students will be released on WED 10/26 and THU 10/27 at 11:45 a.m. Mears MS will reopen the building at 12:10 p.m. On WED 10/26 teachers and staff will take a break from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as no conferences will be scheduled during that time.

TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY(S): There will be no school for all ASD students on FRI 10/21 and again on FRI 10/28. Sports practice and other school activities will not take place on either In-Service Day as well.

We highly encourage all Mears MS parents and/or guardians to make Parent/Teacher Conferences a priority on the two days provided.

Thank you! Mears MS Office Staff (907) 742-6400



Conferences are a great opportunity to come to Mears and meet members of our incredible staff. Here's a terrific photo of Ms. Julie Gregory, Ms. Marisa Massey, Ms. Kay Schuster, and Ms. Abby Viens, members of Mears' exceptional Special Education staff.

THU 10/6 - 10/31 TRICK OR EAT 2022

CITYWIDE FOOD DRIVE & MMS TEAM COMPETITION!



During the month of October Mears MS will be participating in a food drive benefiting the FoodBank of Alaska. To boost support for the month-long event, Mears MS grade level teams will be competing for a prize to be awarded for the team that donates the most food - in pounds! Food collection boxes have been placed in the Science and Social Studies classroom and will be collected on Tuesday & Friday each week, weighed and the total weight recorded.

The school team with the highest contribution by weight will win an Ice Cream Party in November!

Please send non-perishable items to school with your student during the month of October. Should parents or guardians prefer to make a monetary donation instead; please make your checks payable to *FoodBank of Alaska*; each dollar will equate to a pound, and your \$25.00 (or more) check would add that in weight to the team competition! Please indicate in the memo section your student's team name. Monetary donations will be delivered on the same day as the food donations. You can also contribute online by using your credit card:

Please Visit: www.FoodBankofAlaska.org

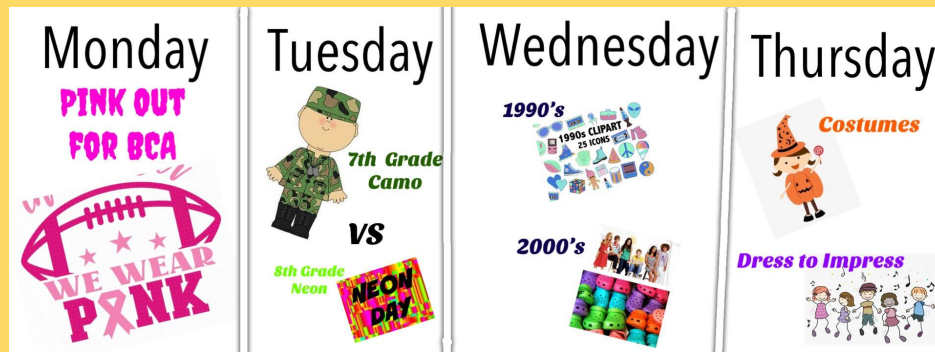
Click On: **"Donate"** in the browser bar and complete process

Simply provide a copy of your donation receipt and that amount will be recorded into pounds for your student's team competition.

For a complete list of items please go to the Mears MS or Food Bank of Alaska website. Thank you for helping those in need this holiday season! Questions? Please email Ava Goodman @ goodman_ava@asdk12.org

Spirit Week Mon 10/17 - 10/20

Next week, is Mears first Spirit Week of the school year! Led by student leaders on the Student Advisory Board (SAB), Spirit Week consists of a series of fun dress up days and culminating in an after-school dance on Thursday, Oct. 20th. Students are reminded of the importance of always wearing school appropriate attire and maintaining school rules.



Transportation and Attendance Update

Average Daily Attendance Rate for the week of 10/10-14:

94%

Planning Ahead: Mears Busing Stops on 10-20-22



This week, Mears students have maintained a daily attendance average of 94%! Congratulations on a job well done! Strong daily attendance is one of the key indicators for success in school.

Please note that student drop-off and pick-up zones will not change once busing resumes. Parents may continue with the routines they have already established.

All Mears busses #80-87 will run during Cohort 3. See below for Cohort busing schedule:

Cohort 1 (Bus #1-38): Aug. 18-Sept. 9

Cohort 2 (Bus #39-77): Sept. 12-Sept. 30

Cohort 3 (Bus #78-116): Oct. 3-Oct. 20

ASD has made available individual bus schedules and information for all students. Please visit [Q ParentConnect](#) to see your student's schedule.

Here's a step-by-step guide for accessing Q Parent Connect:
<https://confluence.asdk12.org/x/QQP6Cq>

Mears Activities & Sports

22-23 SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	SEASON START:	SEASON END:
Cross Country Running	August 22nd	October 6th
Basketball - Girls	August 22nd	October 8th
Baseball (Baseball is coordinated by American Legion.)	August 22nd	TBA
Softball (Softball is coordinated by Anchorage Sports Association)	Spring	Spring
Wrestling	October 17th	December 7rd
Volleyball	October 17th	December 10th
Cross Country Skiing	January 12th	March 2nd
Basketball - Boys	January 10th	March 3rd
Track & Field	March 6th	May 8th
Soccer	Spring 2022	Spring 2022
Archery 1	September 12th	October 7th
Archery 2 (same as 1 but with different dates)	January 11th	February 8th
Archery 3	March 20th	April 14th
Native Youth Olympics	TBA	TBA
Tennis	April 18th	May 13th



Middle school is a great time to try new things and meet new people. Here at Mears we have an amazing array of activities & sports for everyone. Below is a list of the upcoming Interscholastic and Intramural options. Here is a direct link to our Sports & Activities on our [Mears Website](#) for more information on signing up. You can find the sign up forms on our website.

Archery

Due to popular demand, another session of archery has been added, March 20 - April 14. Be an archer, we're right on target!

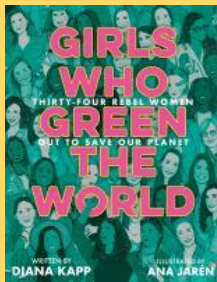




Once sign up forms are completed, [scan](#) and email the to our AAFP: spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org or forms can be dropped off at the main office between periods 1 & 2. *Fee waivers are granted based on need.

Mears Library

New books have arrived! Here is a sampling:



Part biography, part guidebook to the contemporary environmental movement, an inspired collection of profiles, featuring environmental changemakers, social entrepreneurs, visionaries and activists.



This "hauntingly atmospheric" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review), heart-stopping middle grade novel follows three of the Wolfskinder, German children left to fend for themselves in the final days of World War II, as they struggle to hold onto themselves and each other while surviving in the wild.



The dead still walk in Denmark. Already crushed by his father's death & his mother's remarriage, the young prince Hamlet is confronted by his father's ghost, bearing terrible news: he didn't simply die. He was murdered. Now Hamlet lives only for his vengeance - no matter how many other people must die for it.

Mears Monthly Writing Contest

What is it?: The Mears creative writing contest is an ongoing writing opportunity throughout the school year with a new prompt introduced at the start of each month and the entry deadline falling near the end of the month. Students who submit winning entries receive recognition, publishing opportunities, and awards. More importantly, the monthly contests provide students opportunities to be creative, to seek audiences for their writing outside the classroom, and to write down stories we all carry within us.

How to participate: Register for the Panther Participation course inside Canvas. (Check for an invitation in your email inbox.) Or, visit the Mears web page and click on "activities," then "creative writing contests" for further details and helpful hints to get started.

October Writing Contest



Bookends are devices we place at the ends of our bookshelves to prop up our books. Bookends can also describe the beginning and ending of a story.

Begin your story with the line: "The voice on the other side of the door cackled a most hideous laugh."

End your story with the line, "So, that's why I no longer go trick-or-treating alone."

What occurs between these bookends is up to you. Be creative, be adventurous, be daring. Judges will analyze stories for clearly developed setting and conflict, as well as rising action (or suspense) throughout the story.

October Contest—continued

Writing Tips:

- Develop the setting to fit the suspenseful tone. Use sensory details (the 5 senses).
- Develop characters through action, dialogue, and detail. Show your characters doing something.
- Consider a surprise or twist at the end, which is often the case in spooky genres.

Stories can be no more than 1,000 words. Deadline to submit is Friday, October 28th.

Waaa-ha-ha-ha!



To begin your story, [click on this link](#).

(Make sure your ASD Googledrive is open first.)



To submit your story in Canvas:

[Click here](#), then perform the steps below.

1. When inside Canvas, click on blue “start assignment” button (top)
2. Click on the “Googledrive” tab.
3. Find your Googledoc entitled “October Writing Contest.”
4. Select it.
5. Click submit at the bottom.
6. Click submit a second time.

Mears Technology

ASD has published the amounts that will be charged as fines for repairing and replacing Chromebooks. When a students’ Chromebook needs to be repaired the fine will be generated in ParentConnect and can also be paid there.

Lost/Missing Chromebook - \$225
Lost/Missing/Damaged Charger - \$25
Screen Replacement - \$50
Hinge - \$15 each
Hinge covers - \$10 each
LCD Top Cover - \$25
Front Screen Bezel (frame around screen) - \$20
Bottom Cover - \$25
Keyboard - \$50
Missing keys - \$5 each up to the price of full keyboard
Top Case - \$75
USB-C Ports/Input Ports - \$150 each
Camera/Microphone - \$25

Please talk with your child about keeping their Chromebook in good condition.

Mears Counseling Corner

8th Graders Showing Inclusivity @ Mears



[Bee Kind-Episode Two](#)

STOP BULLYING

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.

October is National
Bullying Prevention Month

Teresa Harrison-7th Grade
harrison_teresa@asdk12.org
Direct: 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr-8th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
Direct: 907-742-6424

Questions, comments, concerns?
Email or
[Contact Request Form](#)

October's National Bullying Prevention Month will raise awareness across the country. It is important to realize that students, parents, teachers, and school administrators can all play a role in creating positive changes that impact our students at Mears.

Anti-Bullying Slogan Winners!

Students participated in a schoolwide survey and were asked to create a slogan for anti-bullying awareness at Mears. After considering over 500 slogans, the winners were Malachi Cochran's **"Don't Be Seen As Mean"** slogan and Parker Finch who was inspired by our upcoming dance with his **"Let's Boogie, Not Bully"** slogan.

Nice job gentlemen and way to be creative! They won some prizes and these slogans will be great reminders that Mears is a positive and encouraging place to be!



Counselors at Mears work hard to be proactive and encourage a bully-free zone. Last month we created a video about teasing and this month our video will highlight Digital Citizenship, discuss online bullying and [how to be an upstander](#).

Mears Student Health Update



This upcoming Monday, October 17th, I will be conducting health screenings for all 7th grade students. These health screenings include height, weight, hearing and vision. If your student wears contacts or glasses, please make sure they bring them on Monday. I will notify parents if there are any concerns regarding hearing or vision screening results. The screenings will occur during social studies classes. Please reach out to me if you have any questions. My email is richard_karin@asdk12.org and my office number is

907-742-6401.

ASD will be holding flu clinics on October 26th and 27th. Please see the fliers below for clinic locations and times. I will also have tetanus boosters available at the clinic held at Mears on October 26th.



I would like to warn families about the “One Chip Challenge”. Paqui, a chip company, sells a chip laced with Carolina Reaper and Scorpion peppers. The challenge is to eat the single chip and wait as long as possible before eating or drinking anything. A handful of students around the country have been hospitalized after eating these chips. I have included an article from Poison Control about the risks of partaking in this challenge.

<https://www.poison.org/articles/is-the-one-chip-challenge-dangerous>

Links to important information:

“When to Keep Your Child Home From School” policy:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/6622>.

[Here is a link to ASD's “Return/Stay at School Protocol”](#)

I hope everyone is staying healthy. Please reach out to me with any health-related questions you have. -**Nurse Karin Richards**



*Free. Open to the public. No insurance required.

Flu Vaccines

Anchorage School District Parent Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, October 26th From 1pm to 7pm	
❖ Begich Middle School	❖ Hanshew Middle School
❖ Central Middle School of Science	❖ Mears Middle School
❖ Clark Middle School	❖ Mirror Lake Middle School
❖ Goldenview Middle School	❖ Romig Middle School
	❖ Wendler Middle School

Thursday, October 27th From 1pm to 7pm	
❖ Bartlett High School	❖ Eagle River High School
❖ Bettye Davis East High School	❖ Service High School
❖ Dimond High School	❖ South High School
	❖ West High School

Fluarix for 6 months and older and Fluvad High Dose for 65+ while supplies last.
*Tdap will be available at select schools.

Print the consent form at <https://www.asdk12.org/Domain/1216>
Contact Healthcare Services at 742-4136 or your school nurse for more information.



PTSA General Meeting Schedule: All Mears Community Members are Welcome -- Second Wednesday of each month @ 5:30pm via Zoom

Semester 1: Nov. 9, Dec. 14

Semester 2: Jan 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10

Topic: Mears PTSA General Meeting

[PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 981 2989 0912

Passcode: 986530

Parents and Family Members, please consider supporting Mears PTSA by becoming a volunteer, which is a fun and valuable way to support our students and teachers.

Please like and follow us on Facebook **Mears Middle School PTSA** for more information.

- You can contact us at MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com
- Visit www.MearsPTSA.com for general information
- To join the PTSA, visit [MemberHub](#)

To purchase Mears Gear (including gym clothes), visit the [Mears Middle School Store](#)

Join Team PTSA: Volunteer Interest Form:
<https://forms.gle/P8yYKMPSuwzPR2ZU8>

The 2022-23 Mears Yearbook is Now on Sale



Mears families can also order online by going to: ybpay.com using access code 13921123 (see the attachment). Please be certain to print and keep a copy of your receipt after completing and paying for the online purchase. Please do not wait to submit your yearbook order(s). Understand that orders made online after 11:59 p.m. on night of March 26, 2022 are not guaranteed a yearbook order. Questions? Please contact the Mears MS PTSA via email at: mearsms.pts@gmail.com

Be Sure to Get Your Mears Gear for 2022-23!



PTSA is proud to announce its new online store. Items can be purchased online and delivered directly to your home.

<https://mearspts.squarespace.com/>



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](#)