



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, December 13, 2019

*"Speak Poet, Speak!"*



Congratulations to Mr. Thomas Pease, Ms. Liza Tran, Mr. Matthew Bennice, and all the amazing students who participated in last Friday's Poetry Slam. The event was a huge success with some twenty Mears students performing original poems to an audience of a few hundred of their peers. Special thanks go out to Mears' guest poetry slam coaches, Brian Hutton, Tara Devlin, and Peter Porco, who did fantastic work preparing.

# My iPhone

By Nora McBride, 8th Grade -- performed at last week's Mears Poetry Slam



My friend, my foe  
Demanding and drawing me in, you know.

But oh, don't you see  
I try to resist it  
But then boy do I miss it.

So cruel and captivating, that thing  
Making me blind  
Taking over my mind.

But, to have the world at my fingertips  
I just can't let that slip.

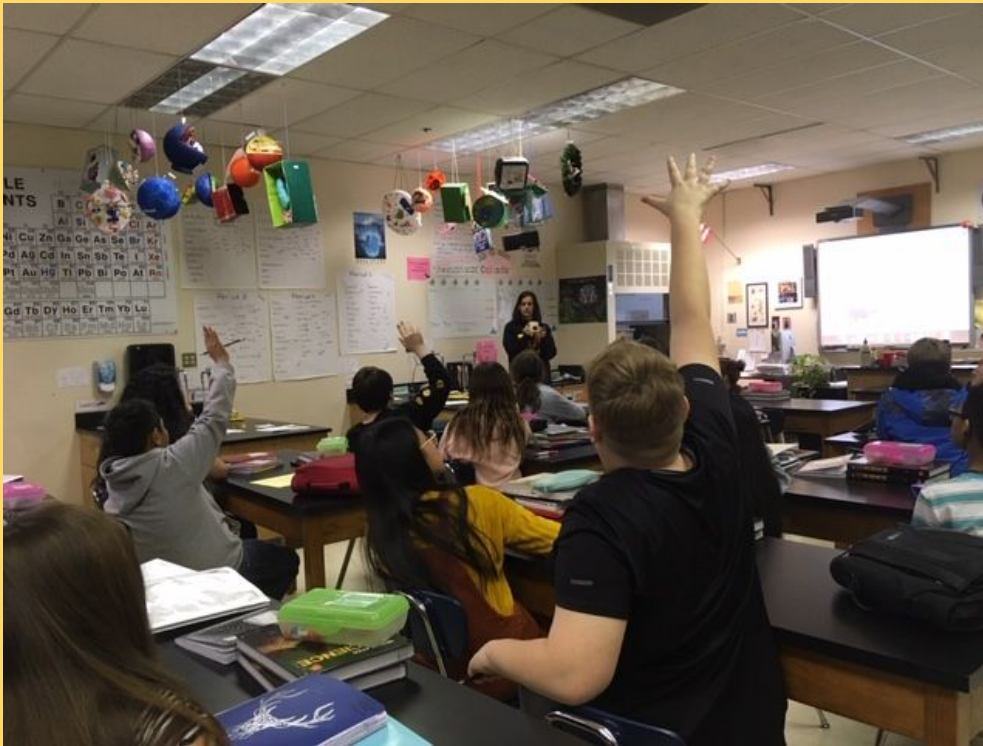
How I wish I didn't rely on it,  
That iPhone.

# Cast Your Vote



ASD is sponsoring a district-wide bookmark design contest. Students at Mears have designed an array of wonderful bookmarks that are currently on display in the library. Students, staff, and community members are encouraged to come vote for your favorites. The winning design of the contest will be mass produced and distributed throughout the district.

# Observation and Evidence



Students in Ms. Christa Brown's Science 7 classes have been studying the evolutionary biology of a variety of animals that are native to Alaska. The unit culminated with the challenge of using observation and reasoning skills to identify the animals by just looking at a skull (see below).

## Can you identify this skull?



Is it a Black Bear?  
Brown Bear? Polar Bear?  
Moose? Wolf? Coyote? Caribou?

How do you know?  
What do you observe?  
What evidence has led you to your conclusion?



# Academic Conversations



Students in Ms. Sally Pak's Language Arts 8 classes have been engaging in rigorous academic discussions about George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Using the Socratic Seminar instructional practice, discussions about the famous text are student-led and involve advanced discussion and questioning techniques.

# Literary Terminology



Students in English Language Arts classes are exploring the joys and complexity of literature. Students in Language Arts classes have identified key literary terms and put them on display in 8th grade hallway.

# Student Voice and Choice



Mears Student Advisory Board worked this week on determining themes for the upcoming Spirit Week, December 16-19. The students also worked together to select upcoming school-wide activities to promote inclusion and unity. Mears is working with the Anti-Defamation League to become a No Place For Hate designated school.

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

### **Mears Teachers and Staff**

MAP Testing - Reading - Monday Dec 9 - Friday Dec 13

Friday Dec. 13 - 9am Music Assembly - MPR

Monday Dec. 16 - Friday Dec. 20 - Secret Santa Week

Tuesday Dec. 17 - 3pm Staff Meeting - Library

Thursday Dec. 19 - 2pm Staff vs. Student Volleyball Game

Thursday Dec. 19 - 6:30pm - PTSA Mtg - Library

Friday Dec. 20 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Grading Day

## Mears Parents and Guardians

Friday Dec. 13 - 9am Music Assembly - MPR

Thursday Dec. 19 - 6:30pm - PTSA Mtg - Library

Saturday Dec. 14 - 9am - Volleyball Tournament - V @ Mears; JV2 @ Hanshew; C2 @ Chugiak HS; C4 @ Clark

Friday Dec. 20 - Friday Jan. 3 - No School - Winter Break

## SPORTS....

Sign ups for Cross Country Skiing, Boys Basketball, and Archery 2 will begin on Monday, November 25th.

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.**

## Be Sure to Sign Up for Youth Mental Health

To meet the mental health needs of students, one of the elements of this year's initiative is to train all staff in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Dimond is scheduled to be trained with Mears. Please select one of the all-day trainings on MLP. Classified staff may attend depending on available space and principal permission.

Group 2 Dimond HS, Mears MS; All Times 8:00 am- 3:30 pm

Saturday Sessions; paid

December 14---Education Center Learning Lab

January 25---Education Learning Lab





Looking for stocking stuffer ideas? Visit our [online store](#) to purchase some of our new items. Water bottle, phone stand, chapstick/mints combo, metal straws and gift cards.



**Holiday shopping** is upon us, so while you're shopping at any of the places listed below, considering using these links. A portion of each sale these stores gives back to the school.

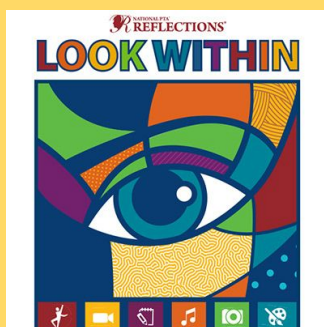
Shutterfly <http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com/>  
 Coupon books have been given to all students and extras can be found in the main office.

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.

Memory Book online ordering [www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com)

Order today and save \$5. Prices go up January 1st. NEW this year you can personalize the memory book with your students name. Its an additional \$5.



**Reflections Art Contest is DUE by December 12.** Turn in completed entries to the school store during lunch or before school.

Fore more information and student entry forms visit [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

Categories include: Literature, Music Composition, Dance Choreography, Film Production, Photography and Special Artist

# Mears Angel Tree



During this season of giving, Mears Service Learning students have set up a Salvation Army Angel Tree. You can brighten a young person's holiday season by volunteering to purchase a gift. Please come by the tree, located in the main office hallway, and select a young person to support through giving.

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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](#)