



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 14, 2020

## *Mears Celebrates Black History*



Can you name these famous Americans? Mr. Doug Williams, Mears ELA 7 teacher, and his students have created this wonderful collage of portraits of historical figures--each an inspiring Black American who has made a significant contribution to our nation through achievement in athletics, art, science, politics, law, justice, and freedom.



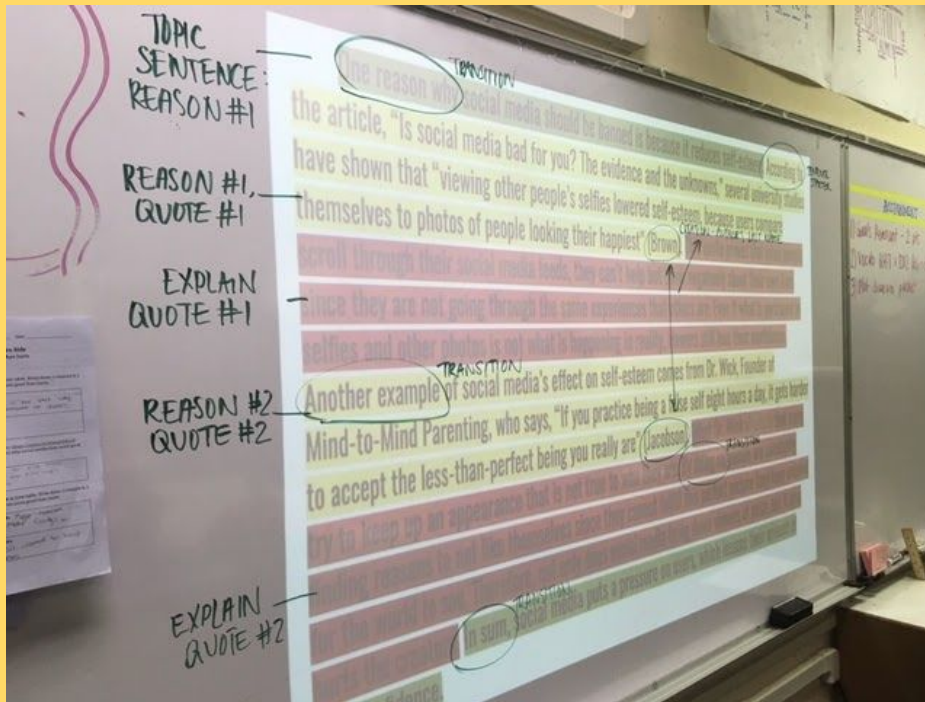
# Mears Welcomes Families for Students-led Conferences, Feb. 12-13



Strong partnerships between school personnel and families is essential to quality education. Thank you to all Mears families who attended this week's student-led conferences.



# Close Reading



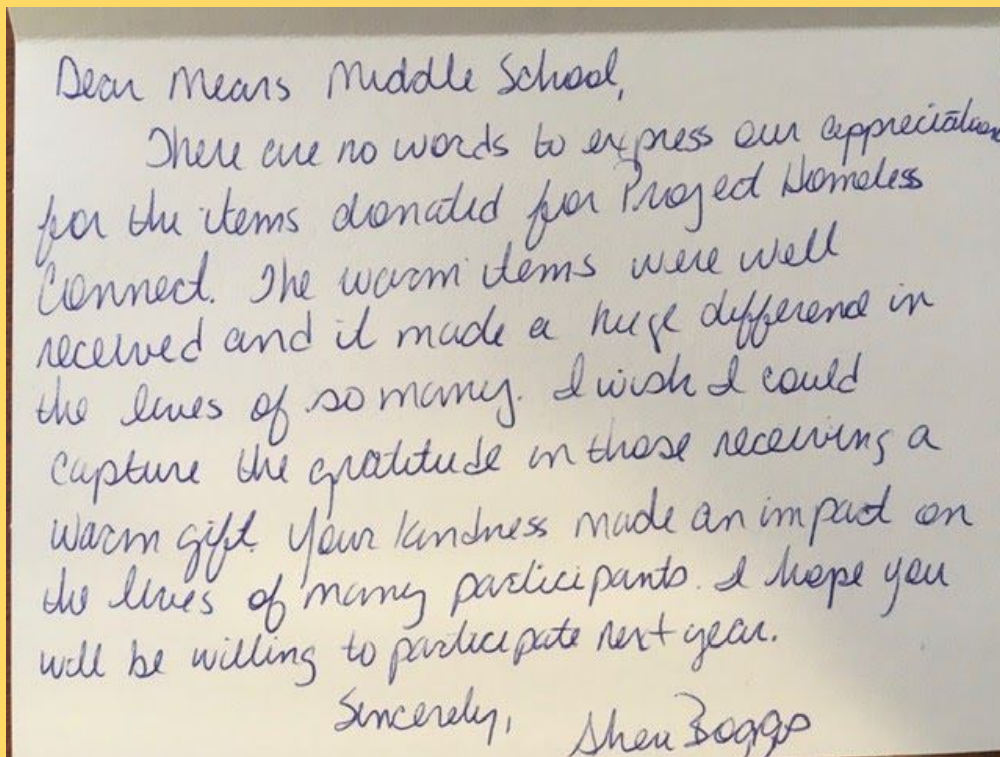
In her Language Arts 8 classes, Ms. Mia Sison has been leading close reading activities with her students. Using the classroom whiteboard to enlarge the text, Ms. Sison helps students identify academic vocabulary, topic sentences, and the use of evidence.

# SAB Plans Family Dance



Mr. Mike Scott, Assistant Principal, led a productive meeting this week with the Student Advisory Board to plan for next week's Family Dance. Students have selected a Hawaii theme for decorations and dress. The dance is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19th.

# Mears Makes a Difference



Congratulations to all the Mears community members--students, staff, and families--who donated items of clothing for last month's Project Homeless Connect drive. Through the school's participation, Mears was able to contribute to a community-wide effort to help others throughout Anchorage.



# Mears/Dimond Alumni Returns



Mears/Dimond alumni (2011, 2014) Taylor Tipton returned to Mears this week to train with Nurse Dan. She is working on her nursing degree at UAA and is completing her hours of on-the-job training. Congratulations, Taylor!

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

### **Mears Teachers and Staff**

2/13 - Early Release - 11:45am

2/13 - Student Led Parent Conferences - 12:30pm - 3:00pm

2/14 - Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL for students

2/17 - Holiday - NO SCHOOL

2/18-19 - ACCESS Testing

## Mears Parents and Guardians

2/13 - Early Release - 11:45am

2/13 - Student Led Parent Conferences - 12:30pm - 3:00pm

2/14 - Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL

2/17 - Holiday - NO SCHOOL

2/18-19 - ACCESS Testing

2/18 - Boys Basketball (C2 - 5:00pm/C3 - 6:00pm/C1 - 7:00pm) @ Begich

2/18 - Boys Basketball C4 - 7:00pm @ Central

2/19 - CC Ski Meet @ Chugiak - 5:30pm

2/19 - School Family Dance - 6:30pm-8:00pm

2/20 - Boys Basketball C3 - 5:00pm @ Begich

2/20 - Boys Basketball (C1 - 5:00pm/C2 - 6:00pm/C4 - 7:00pm) @ Mears

2/20 - Music Fundraiser Concert - 6:30pm @ Mears

## Family Climate and Connectedness Survey

The Anchorage School District is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the **School Climate and Connectedness Survey®**, a state-wide survey for students, staff, and families. This survey, which is conducted annually, measures the perceptions of each school's climate, including the engagement of students, staff, and families.

All Mears families are strongly encouraged to take the survey. Your feedback will help us create the safest and healthiest school climate possible.

Link: [surveys.panoramaed.com/aashb](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aashb)

Access Code: mearsfamily


# SPORTS....

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

**Track and Field** - Accepting paperwork starting on Tuesday, February 18 - Practice begins Monday, March 16th

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

## February is Visit Our Schools Month



**Come see what we're doing**


During the month of February, we are opening the doors of every school for guided, public tours.

We welcome everyone to join us by visiting our community's schools, whether you have children in ASD or not.



***Every Tuesday***  
***Every school***  
***9:30 a.m.***  
***All February***

Evening tour at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25 only

[www.asdk12.org/visit](http://www.asdk12.org/visit)



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

 AnchorageSchoolDistrict  @asd\_info @DrDeenaBishop

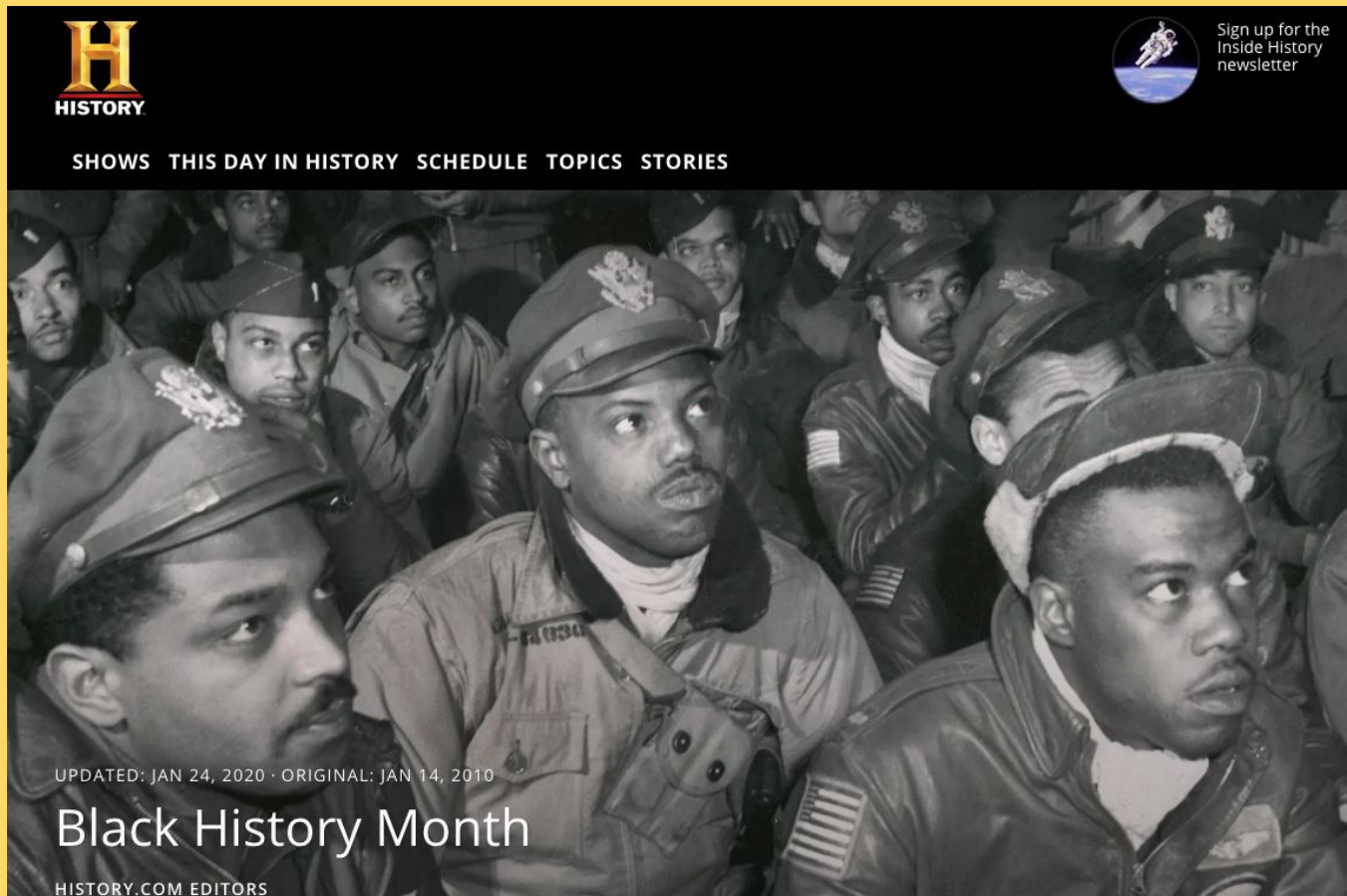
Tell us what your favorite part of your tour was by using the hashtag #MyASDSchoolVisit

Mears, along with schools throughout ASD, is proud to open its doors to visitors every Tuesday at 9:30am during the month of February. All community members are encouraged to join us at Mears for a guided public tour of our exceptional school.

Come see Mears' Panthers in action with teachers, students, and staff at work and play during a regular day of school.

Go to: [www.asdk12.org/visit](http://www.asdk12.org/visit)

## ⇐ Backman Recommends ⇐



February is Black History Month. In celebration of the incredible contributions of Black Americans to our nation's past and present, Mears families are encouraged to spend some time learning about Black History. Visit the History Channel's website this month and check out the inspiring collection of documents, photos, and videos that chronicle this important story. --Eric

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>





**Mears Middle School**  
**Anchorage, AK**

**PTSA**

## **ATTENTION 8th Grade Families**

These two years at Mears have gone by quickly! Middle school is a short, but important stepping stone between elementary and high school. Soon, our students will be touring Dimond and thinking about classes for next year and the transition to high school.

Mears has a tradition of sending off our 8th graders with a special celebration, the *8th Grade Bash*. It is a fun afternoon, filled with activities outside, a barbecue lunch and other special treats. The Mears PTSA sponsors this event, and we couldn't do it without our wonderful family volunteers!

Are you available to help plan this fun event? We are looking to form a committee - many hands make light work! If so, [click here to volunteer](#) - *\*PTSA members that have selected this event as an interest in volunteering, will be contacted shortly to see if there is still interest.*

Thank you!

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Great benefit of being part of the PTA network. Thank you National PTA and Bark for teaming up and offering this great product to our families.

Go to <https://www.bark.us/protects/mearsptsa> to learn more about bark and to sign up. As a benefit to you, enjoy Bark family memberships at the preferred pricing rate of \$8.10/mo or choose the annual plan for just \$89.10.

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## **Memory Books online ordering [www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com) \$35**

Order today. Don't delay and be the parent that your student didn't get a memory book. NEW this year - you can personalize the memory book with your student's name. Its an additional \$5. Order online and receive a free wall calendar or easel from Shutterfly.

**Personalization deadline is April 6.** Pre Orders without personalization are due May 15th. We will only have 400 books for sale. This includes the presales. Currently, we have sold 120 books.

Make checks payable to Mears PTSA or pay with a credit card online [www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com)

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## Rate your meal on the ASD app - we will listen!

Do you have a favorite hot lunch or breakfast item and wish you could see it on the menu more often? Let us know! Not only can you view upcoming lunch menus on the new app, but you can also get nutrition information and tell us how you feel about your meal. If you love it or don't care for it, let us know - the power is in your hands to influence what's for lunch!

### Step 1 Find your School Menu

- Download and open the ASD app



- Trouble downloading? [Click here](#)
- Swipe to Web Menus and select
- Enter the name of your school, search and select

### Step 2 Locate the Item

- Select the date you want to view
- Select the menu item
- Review the nutrition Information
- Scroll to the bottom

### Step 3 Rate your Item!

- Scroll all the way to the bottom
- You will see 5 stars
- Select the stars to rate your item
  - 1 Star = I don't care for this item
  - 5 Stars = I love this item

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**Ways to support Mears without spending any additional money.**

**Shutterfly -** <http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com/>

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

Fred Meyers- <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4> Mears Code

We currently have 18 family members participating. Thank you to those that have selected Mears to be your organization of choice.

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It's never too late to become a PTSA Supporting Member. Do you support the events PTSA sponsors? Does your child shop at the school store or cafe? Are you aware that the PTSA has given over \$25,000 in grants just this year? We couldn't do all that without the support of the many Mears families and students.

Visit our website [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com) to become a supporting member.

Did you know that being a PTA member gets your benefits to all at all of these businesses?



For more information about Mears PTSA visit:

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



The image shows a collection of children's drawings pinned to a black surface. The most prominent drawing is a cartoon of SpongeBob SquarePants, labeled 'For Mission Room Campin'. Other drawings include a person with long hair, a face, a person, a sun, and a drawing of a person with long hair. The title 'Wall of Doodles' is written in large, colorful, stylized letters at the top.

# Mears Middle School Mission

**Mears Middle School Website**