



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 28, 2020

Thank you, Ms. Mary!



After twelve years of service to Mears Middle School, Ms. Mary Andrus is retiring from her post as Mears' Main Office Administrative Assistant. During her long tenure at Mears, Ms. Andrus has been the first point of contact for students, family members, and staff needing assistance. She is highly skilled, resourceful, and possesses extensive institutional knowledge of the school and district. On a daily basis, she helps address the needs of members of the Mears community with kindness, good humor, and care. Ms. Andrus has been a wonderful colleague and a tremendous asset to Mears Middle School. She will be dearly missed. We wish her all the best as she transitions into a new and exciting future.

Mears Students Compete in Spelling Bee



Led by Mears English Language Arts Department, Mears students competed this week in a challenging school-wide spelling bee. The competition was held on the big stage in the multi-use room and was hosted by Ms. Ariane Aramburo from Channel 2 News. Tension built throughout the morning as students, one after the other, were asked to spell words aloud. In the end, two students emerged as victorious: Charlize Moore, 8th grade (winner) and Jahzara O'Neil, 8th grade (runner up). The annual competition is a great example of Mears' commitment to academic rigor and literacy.

News Anchor Joins Mears Team



Mears was proud to welcome Ms. Ariane Aramburo, Channel 2 KTUU News Anchor and Executive Producer, to host this week's spelling bee. Ms. Aramburo did an exceptional job leading students through the challenging competition. Pictured here with Ms. Aramburo are Mears teachers Ms. Sally Pak, Mr. Greg Ross, Ms. Mia Sison, and Ms. Lisa Peckman.

Pizza with the Police



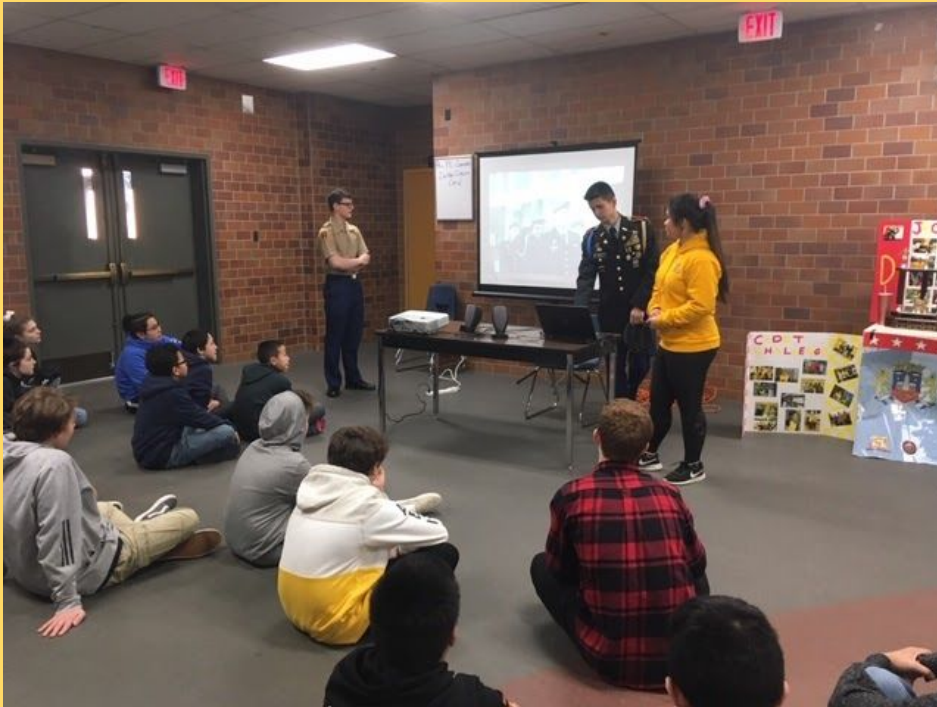
A number of students enjoyed a pizza lunch in Mears Library with School Resource Officers this week. Officer Wells and Pratt enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with students in a friendly and relaxed setting. The event was co-sponsored by ASD and the police department to build a greater sense of trust and familiarity between students and SROs. More trust shared between our students and law enforcement officers translates into a safer school community.

8th Graders Prep for High School



It has been a big week for Mears 8th graders, who were visited by Dimond High School counselors to share important information about the transition to high school. Here are students in Mr. Nick Middleton's class learning how to read a high school transcript, including earning credits and calculating one's GPA.

Dimond JROTC Presents at Mears



Dimond High School students gave Mears 8th graders a presentation on the JROTC program and the many opportunities it offers. The presentation was one of many this week, designed to support Mears students' transition into high school.

Library Promotes Black History



Ms. Heather Fleming, Mears Librarian, has done it again! In honor of the important contributions of Black literary figures, authors and their characters, Mears library has on display a wonderful collection of books. One of the best ways to become culturally literate is to read the works of authors from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups.

Student Leader Promotes Donation Drive



Student Advisory Board Leader, Evan Hamey, 7th grade, is promoting a donation drive in support of Covenant House, the Anchorage-based Homeless Services Center. Evan is coordinating with students from Dimon High to collect goods by this Monday, March 2nd. (See flyer below)

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

2/28: 8th grade Assembly - 10am; 7th grade Assembly - 2pm
3/3: Team Echo Visits DHS 12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
3/4: Student travel to Washington DC & Costa Rica
3/5: Team Surprise FT to Skateland

Mears Parents and Guardians

3/3: Team Echo Visits DHS 12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
3/4: Student travel to Washington DC & Costa Rica
3/5: Team Surprise FT to Skateland
3/6: In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!
3/9 thru 3/13: Spring Break - NO SCHOOL! Enjoy your week!

Athletics Announcement



Important Announcement:

Please take the survey. We Want Your Feedback!



Mears Family Climate and Connectedness Survey

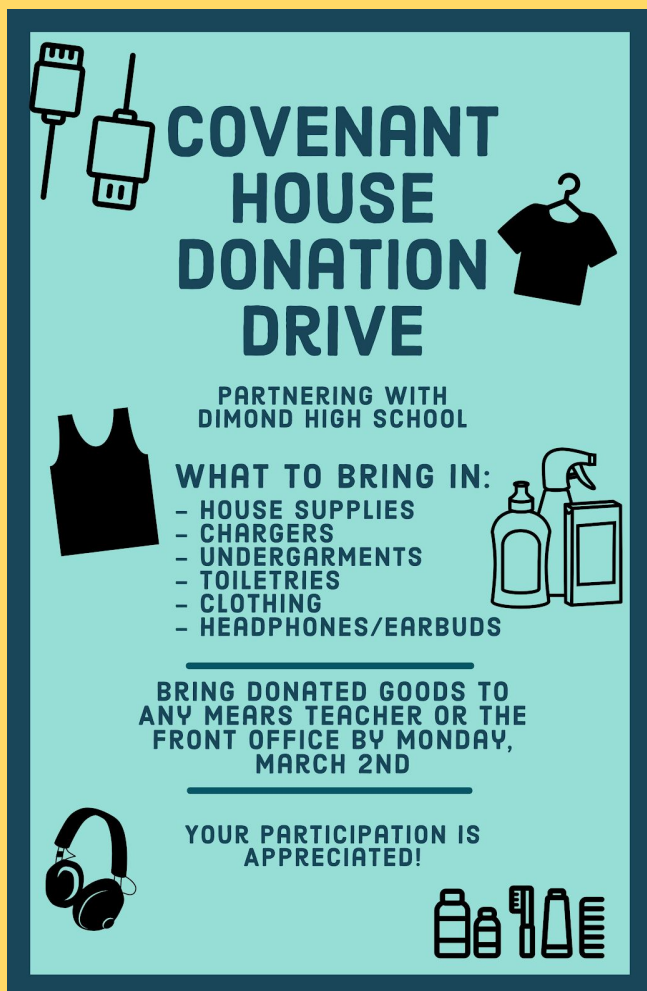
The Anchorage School District is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the **School Climate and Connectedness Survey®**, a state-wide survey for students, staff, and families. This survey, which is conducted annually, measures the perceptions of each school's climate, including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

Access Code: mearsfamily

Support Donations for Covenant House



Donations will be collected this Monday, March 2nd.



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!

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.

Memory Books online ordering 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

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.

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 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>

Team Spirit



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](#)