



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 7, 2020

## *Mears Welcomes New Students*



It is that exciting time of the school year when Mears begins to welcome students from its feeder schools in preparation for the 2020-21 school year. Throughout this week, students from Kincaid, Sand Lake, Bay Shore, Chinook, and Gladys Wood Elementary toured Mears. On behalf of all of Mears' teachers and staff, we welcome our new students and their families to our wonderful school community. Go Panthers!

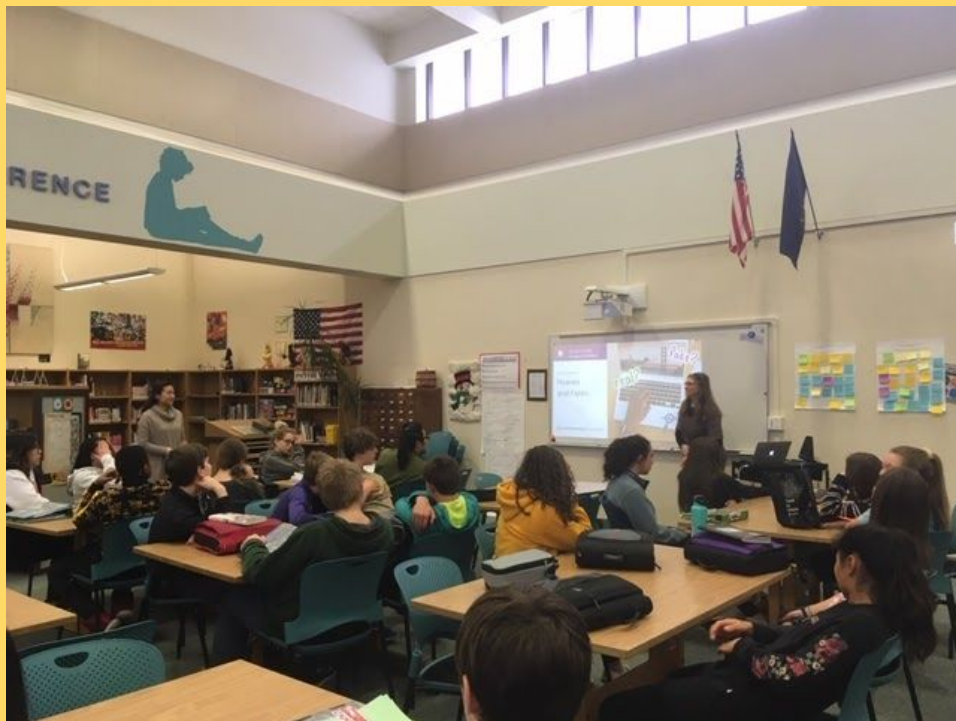
# Team Eklutna Visits Hatchery



Congratulations to the students and teachers on Team Eklutna for their highly successful field trip last week to the William Jack Hernandez Fish Hatchery. The state of the art hatchery, which is located on Ship Creek, raises some four million fish a year for recreational and conservation purposes. Students on the field trip learned about the amazing life cycle of salmonid and many important facts about the local waterways and importance of environmental stewardship. The lessons were highly engaging and fun!



# Teaching Research Skills



Earlier this week, Ms. Heather Fleming led students in Ms. Sally Pak's Debate class in a workshop on methods of research. Students were taught about how to determine the credibility of online research sites and quality evidence.

# XC Night Race at Eagle River



Congratulations to all the Panther skiers and their incredible coaches for a fantastic race on Wednesday night. In spite of a dark and crowded course, the Panthers had a great race!

# Mears Music Goes on Tour



Mears' Concert Band has been on tour, performing for all the feeder elementary schools. So far the band has performed for students at Kincaid, Gladys Wood, and Chinook. At Mears, we are extremely proud of our music program and strongly encourage incoming 7th graders to join.

# Mears & Dimond Team Up in Anaheim, CA



Last week, a team of educators from Mears Middle School and Dimond High School teamed up and headed to Anaheim, CA for the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Summit. The team had a lot of fun and engaged in some really important work.

At the conference, the Mears/Dimond team worked together on strengthening the pathway from 7th and 8th grade to high school for those students taking any of the PLTW classes. At Mears, these classes include: Design and Modeling and Animation and Robotics. Participation in these classes prepare students well for Dimond's PLTW pathways in engineering, computer science and environmental science.

The strength of PLTW curriculum is that it focuses on essential skills for success in school, the work place, and life in general: Ethical Decision-making, Collaboration, Communication, Problem-solving, and Critical Thinking.

# Student Safety: Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

When dropping off or picking up students, please use caution when driving in the left lane of the driveway. Students cross from the parking lot east of the driveway, and they are sometimes difficult to see, so for the sake of safety, please drive very slowly in that left lane. Finally, if you're dropping a student at the curb, please wait for an opportunity: please do not cut in front of others waiting by the curb.

Thanks,

Mears Safety Team

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

### **Mears Teachers and Staff**

2/11 - MLT Mtg - 7:15 am

2/12 - Early Release - 11:45am

2/12 - Student Led Parent Conferences - 12:30pm - 7:00pm (Lunch break 3-4p)

2/14 - Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL for students

2/17 - Holiday - NO SCHOOL

2/18-19 - ACCESS Testing

### **Mears Parents and Guardians**

2/11 - CC Ski Meet @ Service - 5:30pm

2/11 - Boys Basketball (C4 - 5:00pm/C1 - 6:00pm/C2 - 7:00pm) @ Romig

2/11 - Boys Basketball (C3 - 5:00pm/JV - 6:00pm/V - 7:00pm) @ Mears

2/12 - Student Led Parent Conferences - 12:30pm - 7:00pm (Lunch break 3-4p)

2/14 - Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL

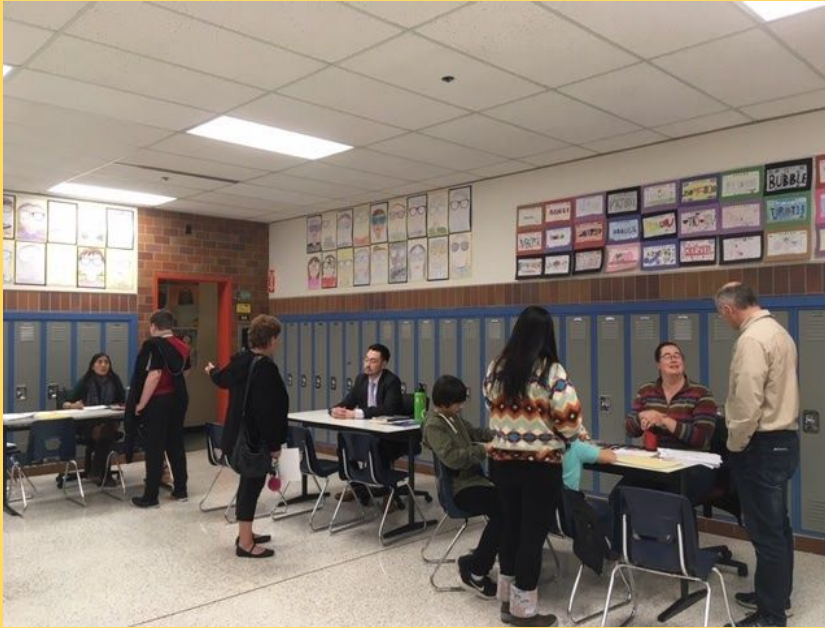
2/17 - Holiday - NO SCHOOL

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# Sign Up for Student-Led Conferences

## February 12 & 13



On February 12 and 13, 2020, Mears Middle School is excited to host student-led conferences. The third quarter of the school year is now well underway and student-led conferences are a great way for parents to hear directly from your student and their teachers about their learning and progress. All parents are strongly encouraged to sign up and attend a conference on February 12 or 13.

The online scheduler for student-led conferences is open. Please use the Anchorage School District homepage at <https://www.asdk12.org/> to access the sign in page. Parents may also go to Mears' school website to sign in: <https://www.asdk12.org/Domain/72>

Parents and guardians should sign up to conference with their child's teacher-team (Surprise/7, Blackstone/7, Eklutna/7, Echo/8, Muir/8, Raven/8).

## 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](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb)

Access Code: mearsfamily

## SPORTS....

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

**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

**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≡



Every day, students gather in the library to play chess and checkers.

Students have a great time competing with one another, using critical thinking skills to try to outsmart and out-strategize their opponent.

While having fun playing, our students are also actually enhancing their intellectual and academic skills. Check out the following links to read more about the benefits of playing board games and to learn about some of the best games out there. --Eric

The science: What experts say about the intellectual and academic benefits of games

<https://www.parentingscience.com/board-games-for-kids.html>

Some recommendations for great board games to play at home or at school:

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/games-skillbuilders/6-great-board-games-to-boost-critical-thinking-in-teens-and-tweens>





# Mears Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

## Sign Up to Support our Teachers

PTSA is organizing a potluck for staff during next week's Student Conferences. If you'd like to bring in desserts, drinks or taco bar items please use the link below to sign up. Items will need to be brought in Wednesday between 7:45 am and 1:30 PM.

[Sign Up for Staff Potluck](#)

## 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?

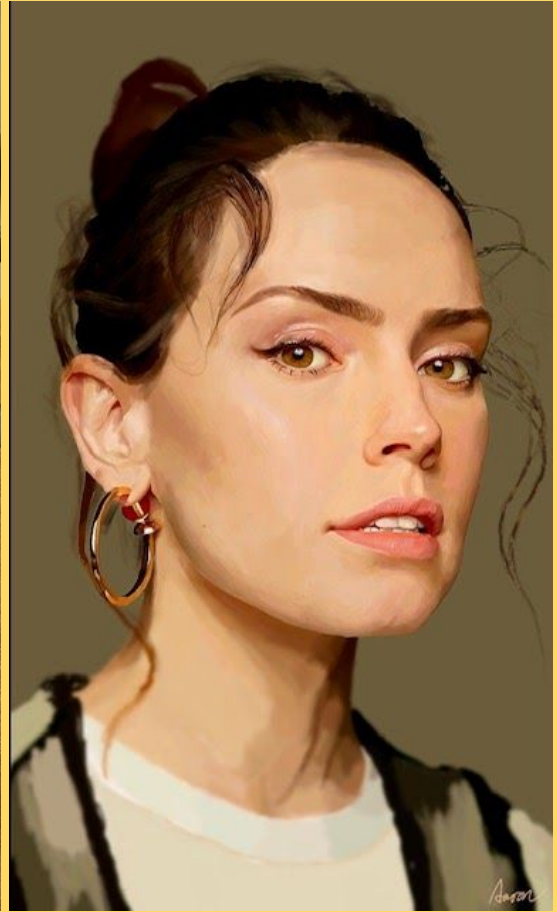
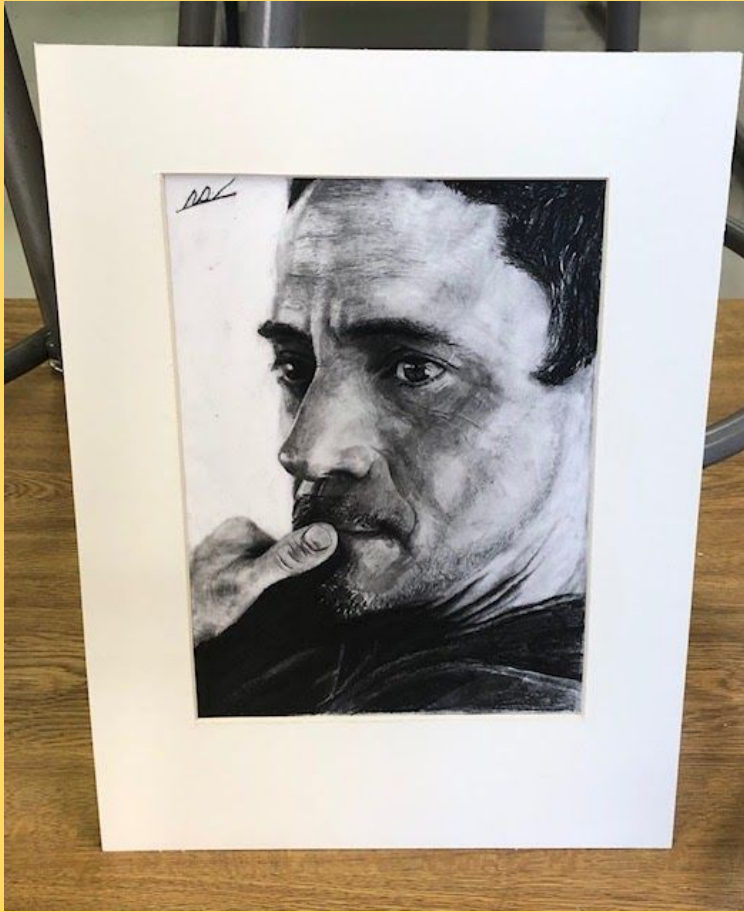


For more information about Mears PTSA visit:

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



# Superhero and Jedi



Congratulations to Mears 8th grader, Aaron Stocks, who recently completed these incredible portraits of Iron Man and Jedi Rey. What a talent!

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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](#)