



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, March 6, 2020

Honoring National Junior Honor Society



Last week, Mears Middle School honored its newest members of the National Junior Honor Society. With dozens of parents and family members present, Mears teachers and the principal recognized sixteen new inductees to the celebrated national organization.

Special guest, Ms. Maile Johnston, Miss Alaska 2019, spoke eloquently about the importance of risk-taking and perseverance. Special thanks to Ms. Janie Klueber, Ms. Lani Roylance, and Ms. Marah Lambert for organizing this special event.

Teams Flourish During Minute-to-Win-It



Congratulations to all the students and faculty at Mears for a truly exceptional Minute-To-Win-It Assembly last week. Mears 7th and 8th grade teams were spirited and enthusiastic. All showed incredible school spirit during the fun-filled competition. Special thanks goes out to Mr. Jason MacDonald, who did an incredible job organizing this highly successful event.

Mears Students Win iDidaMovie Contest



Congratulations to Mears Video Production students Andora Ovsepyan and Freyja Boyd, both 7th graders, who won first place in the district-wide 2020 iDidaMovie Contest. The students' video titled "You Are Perfect" won in the "Teach Me Something" category. Andora wrote and sang her song about self-love while playing her ukulele.

You can watch their movie on the Mears Middle School YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmK2Xqkdgtc>

Spheros on the Loose



Seventh graders on Team Eklutna gathered in the library this week to drive programmable Spheros. This fun and highly engaging activity is part of a coding lesson in all 7th grade science classes.

Laser Printing in Design and Modeling



Students in Ms. Diane McLaughlin's Design and Modeling classes are now using laser printers to carve out special individualized designs. Use of this kind of high tech equipment is ongoing in Mears Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classrooms, where students are learning important, high-demand skills in design and technology, in addition to work-ready skills like collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Dimond Welcomes the Class of 2024!



All of Mears 8th graders have toured Dimond High School this week. Organized by counselors from both schools, the visits allow Mears students to get into high school classrooms and interact directly with Dimond High students and staff.



Mears students were invited to participate directly in a series of fun activities led by Dimond High student leaders. Pictured here are Mears and Dimond students performing together for some spirit-building, chanting, and dancing.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

3/15: First day back/4th Quarter Begins

3/19: Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m.

3/19: PTSA Meeting 6:30 p.m.

3/30 thru 4/3: PEAKS Testing

Mears Parents and Guardians

3/6: In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!

3/9 thru 3/13: Spring Break - NO SCHOOL! Enjoy your week!

3/16: First day back/4th Quarter Begins

3/16: Baseball and Softball starts

3/18: Track and Field starts

3/19: PTSA Meeting

3/25: Mears/Diamond STEAM Night @ Mears Multiuse Room, 6:30pm

3/30 thru 4/3: PEAKS Testing

Teachers and Staff:

Youth Mental Health First Aid -- Final Session

There will be one last session of the Youth Mental Health First Aid class on March 19 for any certificated staff who has yet to attend. Please go to the MLP website to register today.

<https://login.frontlineeducation.com/login?signin=a872530f499cc7edd9c458ec2d3645d2&productId=pd&clientId=pd#/login>

Parents and Families: Map Donations Needed for Art Project



Ms. Yackel, Mears Art Teacher, is prepping for an upcoming project that includes the use of maps.

Please bring in any maps you would like to donate. National Geographic and/or travel maps are ideal for the project. Feel free to send them with your students or drop them off yourself in the main office. Thank you. --Eric

Athletics Announcement



Mears' requirement only: all students must have an updated physical on file

Important Announcement:

Please take the survey. We Want Your Feedback!



Mears Family Climate and Connectedness Survey

The deadline is fast approaching and will end on March 30, so please complete your survey today.

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



Mears Middle School
Anchorage, AK

PTSA



You are invited to attend Mears/PTSA STEM Night on
Wednesday, March 25, 6:30–8:00pm at Mears

Mears Families,

Did you know that careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are growing more than twice as fast as the rest of the job market? You already know how valuable STEM is to your child's future success...but do you know how much fun it can be?

Come find out at Mears PTSA STEM + Families Science Festival, sponsored by Bayer at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 25 in Mears' Multi-use Room. The festival will be a super fun, family-friendly event that will spark passion for STEM through hands-on activities and experiments co-led by students and faculty from Mears Middle School and Dimond High School.

Research shows that family engagement at school leads to greater student success, so come join us at Mears on March 25th!

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.

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.

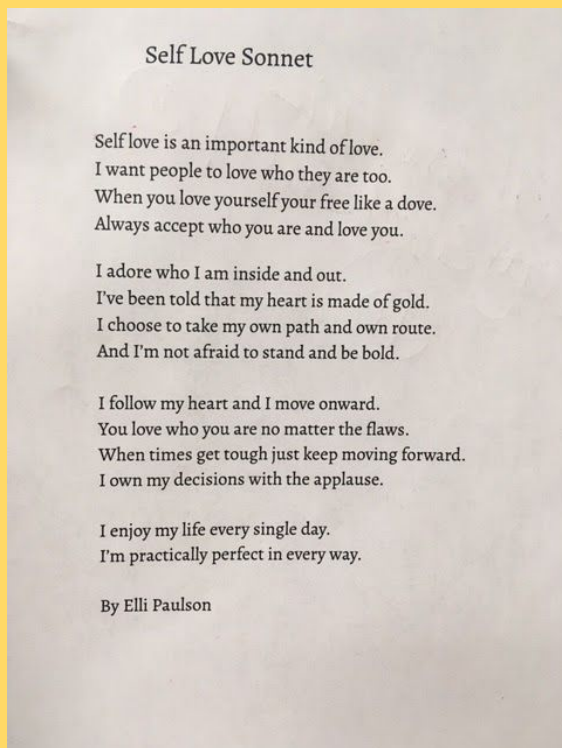
Visit our website www.MearsPTSA.com to become a supporting member.

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://mearsptsamembershiptoolkit.com/home>

Self-Love Sonnet



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](#)