



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 15, 2022

## *NJHS Carnival, An Incredible Success*



Last week, Mears National Junior Honor Society hosted its first annual Spring Carnival. The event, which was very well attended, showcased a number of fun, interactive games and activities. After a two-year absence of in-person school events, the Spring Carnival was celebrated by all who attended. Students, family members, and school staff relished the opportunity to gather together as a school community, to have fun, and raise funds for a great cause. Proceeds from the event, which totalled an incredible \$5,300, will all be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation, link: <https://wish.org/akwa>. A very special thank you goes out to Ms. Mia Sison, Mears NJHS faculty moderator, and members of Mears PTSA, for their amazing leadership and support. We also wish to thank all the wonderful student-leaders who make up Mears chapter of NJHS.

**Go Panthers!**

# Language Arts Plot Analysis



Ms. Lisa Peckham's 7th grade Language Arts students have created a public display of their recent plot analysis projects for the novels *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London and *The Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis. The work presented by the students demonstrates lots of hard work and a high level of comprehension of the two texts.

# Students Express Their Uniqueness



Students in Ms. Pak's Language Arts classes have created some incredible artwork recently. Inspired by Elie Wiesel's Holocaust novel, *Night*, students have hand-painted small placards that reflect something that is unique and special to each of them.

# Stay Informed/Get Involved

Tuesday, April 19 – AK STAR Testing 7th Graders ELA

Tuesday, April 19 – PTSA Meeting via Zoom, 5:30pm (see slide #9 for link)

Wednesday, April 20 – AK STAR 7th Graders Math

Thursday, April 21 – PTSA/Mears Screenagers Next Chapter Film Community Event, 6:30pm Mears Library, Free Event for all Mears Community Members

AK STAR Testing Schedule for 4-19 and 4-20

	Tuesday 4/19		Wednesday 4/20	
	Reading		Math	
	7th	8th	7th	8th
1st	4th (testing)	1st	4th (testing)	5th
2nd		2nd		6th
3rd		3rd		7th
4th		1st Lunch		1st Lunch
	2nd Lunch	4th	2nd Lunch	4th
5th	5th	5th	1st	1st
6th	6th	6th	2nd	2nd
7th	7th	7th	3rd	3rd

## Tech Tips for Students Before Testing:

1. Locate your district-issued Chromebook and make sure it is fully charged.
2. Students should hold down the Chromebook power button for 10 seconds. The screen will go black, hold for a couple more seconds to get to 10.
3. Let the button up, then press/release to turn the computer back on.

## Bring Quiet Reading Activity:

4. Be sure to bring a good book, comic, or magazine to read after testing. No electronic devices are allowed during the testing session, and students will need a quiet activity after their test is completed.

**SCREENAGER NEXT CHAPTER Presented By Mears PTSA**  
NEXT CHAPTER Presented By Mears PTSA  
📍 2700 W 100th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99515, USA  
🕒 Thursday, Apr 21, 2022, 6:30 PM to Thursday, Apr 21, 2022, 8:30 PM  
Free

SHARE THIS  
📺 0 ❤️ 0 👍 0

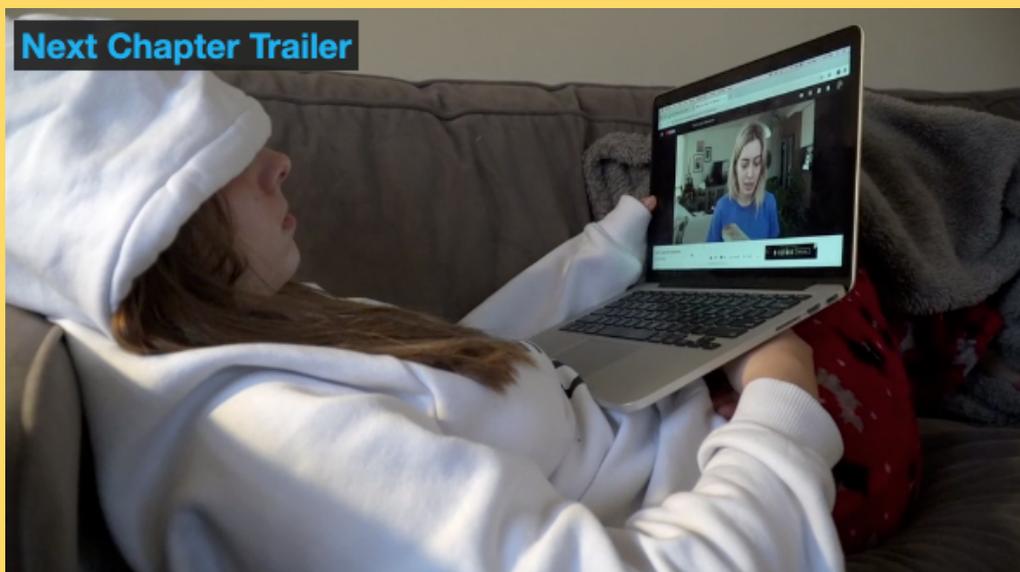
#Screening #Family & Education #Parenting

Mears Families,

On Thursday, April 21, at 6:30pm, Mears Middle School and PTSA are co-sponsoring an in-person community event, which will feature a showing of the film Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER. In an effort to better equip members of our school community with tools to navigate the challenges of digital and social media, PTSA and Mears are hosting this special in-person event. The event is free to all members of our school community and will be followed by a short discussion facilitated by school staff.

To sign up for the event, please use the “REGISTER” tab in the upper right corner of the event page linked below:

<https://www.eventcombo.com/e/screenager-next-chapter-presented-by-mears-ptsa-45676>



“This is a film that examines the science behind teen’s emotional challenges, the interplay of social media, and what can be done in our schools and homes to help them build crucial skills to navigate stress, anxiety, and depression in our digital age.”

# Mears Counseling Corner

## Future Freshman of Dimond High School Class of 2026!



Current 8th grade students, who will be entering Dimond High School in the fall of 2022, and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. We'll share information about 9th grade classes, sports, and activities. Department chairs, counselors and teachers will also be onsite to answer questions. Please see the flier below for more information.

[DHS Transition to High School Resources](#)



Team Echo prepares to depart for their tour at DHS.

Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)

Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade  
[burr\\_caitlin@asdk12.org](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade  
[svendsen\\_crysta@asdk12.org](mailto:svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6428

# April Creative Writing Contest

## Song Lyric Poems

*And we gonna let it burn, burn, burn  
burn.*

Being the way you are is enou ou ough.

*WE ARE NEVER EVER EVER GETTING BACK  
TOGETHER.*

April is poetry month. To honor our poets and their poetry, this month's writing contest will require you to write a poem. What? You say you don't like poetry? Wait! Song lyrics are poetry, and I bet you have a favorite song or two. So give it try!

**Here's April's prompt: Select a line of lyrics from your favorite song. Make those lyrics the first line and the last line of your poem.**

*Hey I just met you and this is crazy.*

*Out on your corner in the pouring rain.*

*This is the part when I say I  
don't want ya.*

So get ready, it's go time.

Deadline: Friday, April 29th.

**See writing tips on the next slide.**

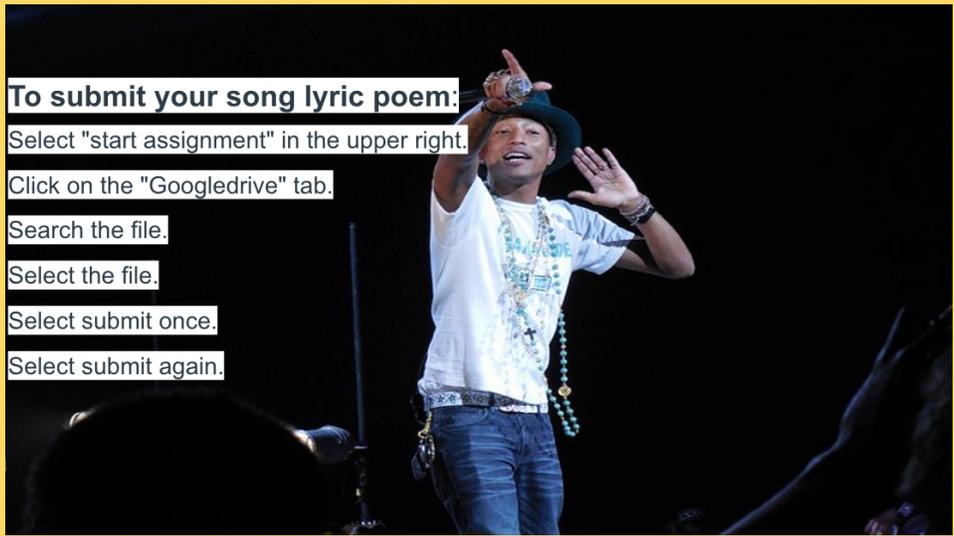


### Lyrics-to-Poetry Tips

- Consider what the line you chose means to you.
- Once removed from the song, can the line take on a new and different meaning?
- Experiment with different poetic devices: rhyme, repetition, alliteration (the repetition of sound), simile, metaphor or personification.
- Poems can be rhyming or non-rhyming but must begin and end with the same line from a song.
- At the end of your poem, give credit to the musician whose line you borrowed.
- Suggested length: 8-20 lines.

[Click here to begin writing.](#)





To submit your song lyric poem:

Select "start assignment" in the upper right.

Click on the "Googledrive" tab.

Search the file.

Select the file.

Select submit once.

Select submit again.

Congratulations to the  
March Writing Contest  
Winners!

First Place:  
Imari Navarro

Runner Up:  
Coe Benito

## Mears Library It's a Spring Thing

Library aides Claire Saltzman and Charlotte Church are revamping the library's displays to reflect reading and the change of seasons.



# Mears Health Update

## Important Covid Health Reminders:



<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/returntoschoolpolicy/return-to-schoolwork>

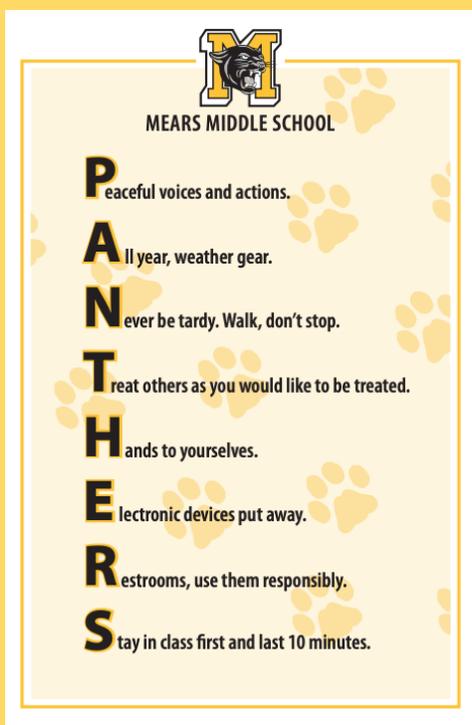
- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

Other Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

## Panther Expectations Poster



Credit to the Mears Foundations team in developing the content of the new poster and Tom Hoffman, local graphic designer, for his donated work on the design and layout. Students can now see these awesome looking posters throughout the building: Thanks, everyone!

# Mears Activities Update

Mears Families:

Track and Field season is underway and we already have nearly 100 participants. Please know that we welcome additional sign ups through the first week, so the deadline for sign up is 3:00 pm on Thursday, March 24th. Additionally, we're looking forward to starting **tennis and soccer**; these intramural sports begin on April 18th, which is a week later than initially planned. My hope is that the weather will be just a bit warmer, allowing for more outdoor enjoyment.

If your student is involved in the Track and Field team, the district has published the new schedule. See link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSddovJU77zzzfz298lFwll2rUudSkNID1dSDOs5TLyXX0iEU9mRKGKsKm5k-UEEsrsCJP5cOf4uqBK/pubhtml>

Best Wishes,

Mike Scott, Mears AP

## **Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:**

- Middle School Participation Form
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk\\_MrWGZd4mjAkPMj5/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk_MrWGZd4mjAkPMj5/view)
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
  - <https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4260/COVID-19%20Waiver.pdf>
- COVID-19 Return To Play
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywx2-J5U/view>
- Health Examination Form
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1115oSifxCsxF-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/view>

Added to these forms, if a student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the three months prior to the activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form.

Forms can be scanned and emailed to our AAFP: [spartz-hays\\_robin@asdk12.org](mailto:spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org) or dropped off at the school by your student near the main office between periods 1 and 2: designated basket supervised by Ms. Spartz-Hays.

Visit Mears website for all activities updates and information:

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4260>

# COVID-19 Return To Play

In addition to the standard forms and COVID-19 waiver, if a student has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and seeks to begin or return to a sport or activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form. The school nurse can provide more information; however, it's essentially a form (linked above and below) that requires 2 steps:

1. If the student has a confirmed positive COVID-19 test, a healthcare professional must sign off that he/she is able to return to the sport or activity prior to participation (not required to return to school).
2. Upon submission of this form, coaches will employ the slow re-entry process to ensure safety. **Please view the document to see the transitional return process. (Apologies: Last week I included the wrong link-please view this one).**
  - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>

Although the form is not new, our employment of the document will be more stringent. All families that agree to participate in sports sign the COVID-19 waiver, which makes the Return to Play documentation part of the process. Our hope is to enhance safety and help students as they restart strenuous activity. If you have any questions please contact Mike Scott, Mears AP, or Karin Richards, Mears Nurse.

[scott\\_michael@asdk12.org](mailto:scott_michael@asdk12.org)  
[richards\\_karin@asdk12.org](mailto:richards_karin@asdk12.org)



## PTSA Meeting Schedule

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

## Upcoming PTSA General Meeting -- April 19, 2022 5:30pm

Meeting Dates for Spring Semester: Apr. 19, May 3, 2022

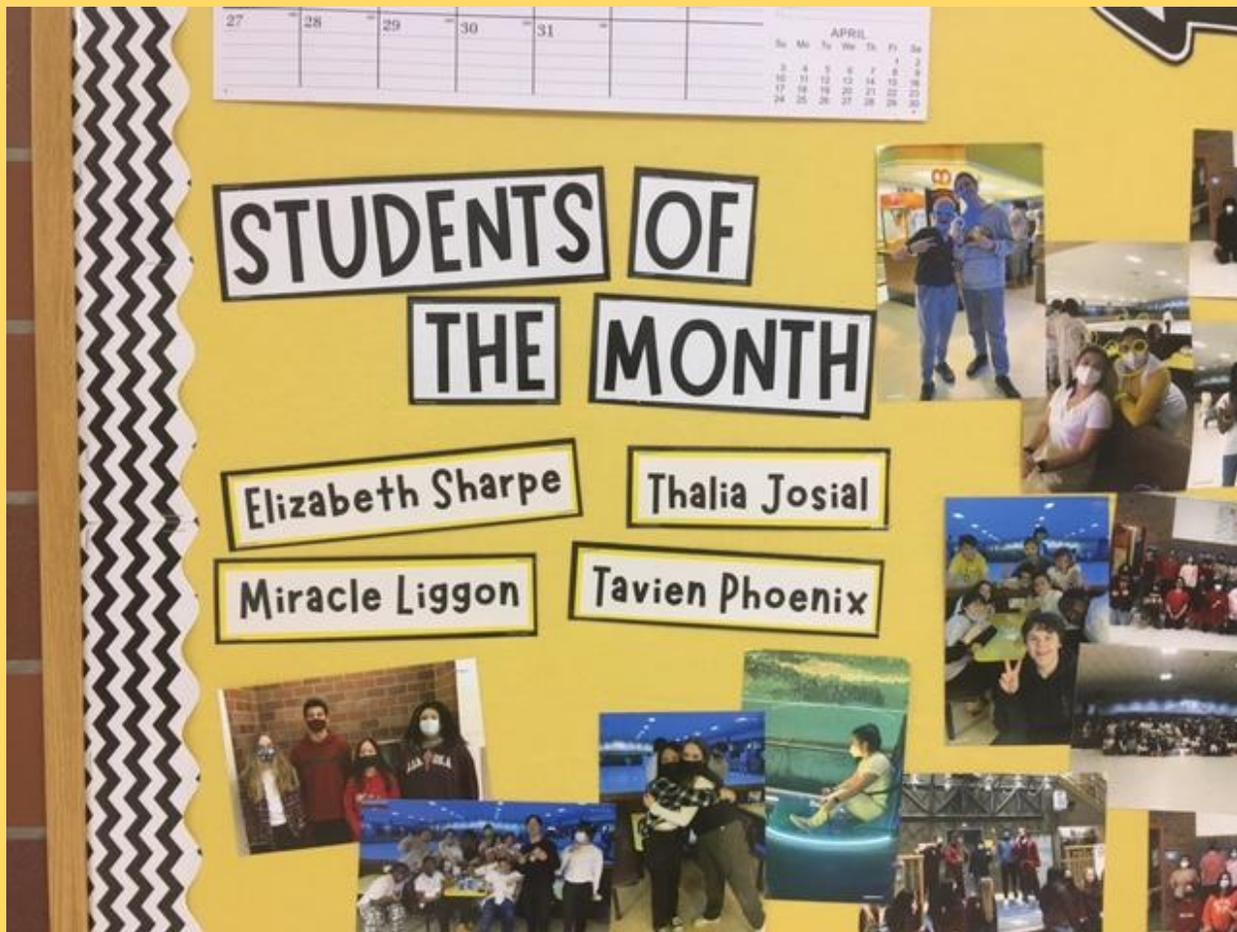
[Mears PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

## PTA Fundraising Opportunity

We are proud to announce our new Mears PTSA School Store Online! We are able to bring many brand-name items delivered directly to your home!

<https://mearsptsa.squarespace.com/>

## Team Muir Celebrates Students



Congratulations to Team Muir and the Students of the Month!

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## **We are on Dena'ina Homeland**

**Mears Middle School acknowledges that we operate and gather on the traditional land of the Dena'ina Peoples and honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.**

## **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](#)**