



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 22, 2021

Fast Pack of Panthers



The Mears Cross Country running season has come to a close. The season was incredibly successful, as it provided student-athletes with the opportunity to make new friends, build strength and endurance, and compete with other students from throughout Anchorage. We should all be very proud of our student-athletes for working hard and showing great sportsmanship throughout the season. A big special thanks to our amazing coaches, Ms. Holly Roberts, Mr. Dennis Sorenson, and Ms. Holly Barclay.

Go Panthers!

Mears Welcomes Families



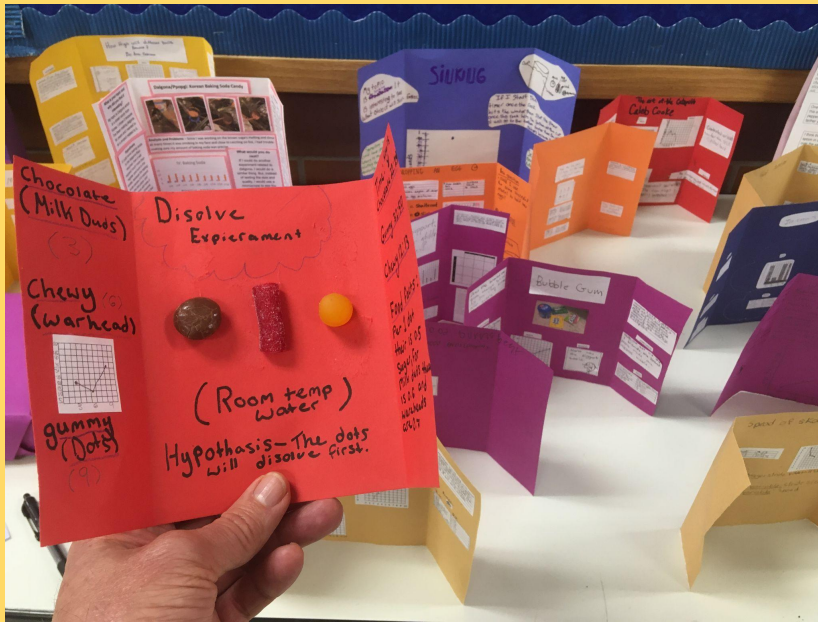
On Wednesday and Thursday this week, Mears enthusiastically welcomed parents and families back into the school building for in-person teacher conferences. The conferences were very well attended and gave teachers the opportunity to continue to build strong relationships with families.

Students Commit to Being Upstanders



Mears students showed their support for the No Place for Hate Middle School Pledge, which encourages young people to "Stand Up" to bullying and hate and to build a campus culture that values respect and welcomes everyone.

Mini Science Projects on Display



Students in Mr. Armentrout's 8th grade science classes created mini-science project displays to showcase during conferences this week. Using the scientific method, students gathered and compiled evidence to support or refute their hypothesis.

BOO Grams for Sale



Students leaders on the Student Advisory Board sold Boo Grams during conference days this last week as a fundraiser for their organization. SAB student representatives have been especially busy these last few weeks promoting school spirit and positive campus culture.

Stay Informed/Get Involved



Mears Music Fall Fun Concert -- Thursday, Oct. 28, 7:00-7:45pm/ Come see Mears' advanced jazz, concert, and orchestra bands all play in the MPR.

Exciting Exterior Renovation is Planned for Mears Middle School

Community Input is Welcomed -- Survey Feedback Window is Open Until Monday, Oct. 25

Link: [Community Feedback Form for Mears Exterior Design Project](#)

Planned for summer, 2022, the Mears Exterior Design Project will provide new replacement siding to the entire school. To update the school building to current energy efficiency codes, a construction team will remove all existing siding and add 2" of continuous exterior rigid insulation outside of the existing studs. New construction will also include a new rainscreen exterior siding, which are offered in two distinct, separate concept options. Both concept construction plans have similar costs for materials and construction.



Mears community members cast votes for their favorite concept designs during conference days, Oct. 20-21. Feedback gathered from in-person voting, along with the online survey, will be used to guide decisions made about Mears' new exterior construction.

Concept A: Kincaid Tree Facade



Concept A:

Exterior Tree Facade, inspired by vintage photos of Jane Mears. Tree images are based on photographic replications of the Kincaid Park treeline and are created by perforating holes into the siding.

Key elements:

- Modern and unified design
- Aluminum siding with higher gauges down low for maintenance and longevity

- Monochrome panels to aesthetically tie into remaining indoor and outdoor elements
- Underside of entry soffits (hidden at a distance) are painted brightly in vibrant school colors, so building remains appropriate to middle school feel
- Option to add a textual historic recollection about Jane Mears or a Jane Mears quote
- Option to add a textual Dena'ina quote or visual tribute in recognition of Dena'ina land in Anchorage

Concept B: Traditional Mears



Concept B:

Inspired by original colors and proportions of school's exterior design.

Key elements:

- Red wood veneer bands on fiber resin panels visually connect to some brick tile that remains on exterior and interior
- Flexible color selection possibilities
- Dark metal steel siding with higher gauges down low is used for longevity and maintenance
- Subtle reference to Mears' school colors of black and

gold through contrast of dark siding and bright painted soffits above entryways.

- Concept B offers flexibility of color choice for wood veneer bands.

Remember Your Chromebooks, Mears

Beginning the week of 10/4, Mears will seriously curtail the practice of checking out Chromebooks to students during school. At this point, all students have been provided the opportunity to check out a Chromebook from ASD. If they have declined, it is because they have their own Chromebook. It is incredibly important that students remember to charge and bring their Chromebook to school each day. Students leaving class to check out Chromebooks interferes with their education and prevents staff from taking care of work that enhances your child's education.

Please make Chromebook preparation part of your student's nightly and morning routine. Teachers will have a few power cords in their classes, but students should also bring this item, too. I've been reminding students that this is part of being responsible at school over the last few days. Please work with Mears to ensure that your student brings his/her Chromebook fully charged each day. Finally, if for some reason, your student has need of a Chromebook, please contact Mears soon, and we'll take care of that: 742-6400.

Thanks,
Mike Scott
Assistant Principal

Mears Activities Update

2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun four great activities a Mears as of Thursday, August 19th: Girls Basketball, Baseball, Archery, and Cross Country. Practices run daily from 3-4:30 PM; please be punctual for pick up, as coaches cannot leave until students are picked up.

ASD's guidance indicates that students are not required to wear masks during active portions of practice, but I encourage all the students to wear masks at all times, particularly those involved in indoor activities. This promotes safety and helps allow for continuation of the activity in the even of a positive case.

Additionally, coaches will take temperatures prior to practice with a forehead-scanning thermometer. They will also encourage the use of hand sanitizer and social distancing when possible.



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
- 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/11I5oSifxCsxF-MNlknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/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 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>

Upcoming Activity Events

Wrestling

Wrestling started on 10/11/21. We'll include a schedule here in the coming weeks; it's also available at ASDK12.org: simply search for "Middle School Sports" on the site.

Volleyball

This sport starts on 10/25/21. We look forward to seeing your students there! We have plenty of room, and we accept paperwork until Friday, October 29th.

Safety Minute:

Warm Clothing and Safe Walking-Reflective Clothing

Mears Families:

Remember, students should wear **suitable footwear; students may not wear open-toed shoes 2nd and 3rd quarter for safety reasons.** Additionally, students should be certain to wear school-appropriate clothing; warmth is key. Finally, bright, **reflective clothing should be considered if your student walks to school,** for it's tough to see students on these dark mornings. I often see students waiting outside in the morning for the bus, and although I drive slowly and watch for students, sometimes they're still difficult to see. Make certain to help students make good choices about bright, reflective clothing if they're outside in the morning. I'll continue to remind students in the announcements, too.

Enjoy the reasonably long fall season!

Mike Scott, Mears AP

Honoring Veterans

Veterans Day Photo Form

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thursday, November 11, 2021, is Veterans Day. Mears Middle School will observe Veterans Day on Friday, November 12th where we have a virtual assembly honoring all our veterans. Additionally, part of the virtual assembly will include a slideshow. If you would like a photo of a veteran in your family included in the slideshow, please email the photo and the required information to hannam_leslie@asdk12.org (Email Subject: Veterans Day). Forms need to be submitted by Monday, 11/1, and cannot be accepted after that date.

Sincerely,
Mears Staff

Please send the following information and a photo to Mrs. Hannam by Monday, 11/1/21.

Student name and relation to veteran: _____ Grade: _____

Veteran's title and name: _____

Example

Student name and relation: Jon Smith's Grandpa

Grade: 8

Veteran's title and name: Col. Archie Sykes

Library at Mears

Bookmark Contest: Together@our library™

The annual Anchorage School District library bookmark contest is here! Every year there is a new theme. Entries are due **December 3, 2021**. Submit your entry to Mrs. Fleming, the school librarian. A template of the correct size is available to download from the [library website](#) and paper copies are available in the library.


Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Together@our library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: 7" x 2 ¾" either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade on the back of the bookmark




No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.

Panthers are Writers



October Creative Writing Contest



A moose, a mask and Mears

Write a story that contains these 3 items in it. Stories should have a clear beginning middle and end and should contain memorable characters.

Submission deadline:
Friday, October 29th

Length Limit: 1,000 words

See next slides for additional hints and guidelines.

How to submit your story:

1. Join Panther Participation by clicking on the course in Canvas.
2. Click the link below to make a copy of the Googledocument. (You will need to have your Google drive open in your ASD account.)
3. Write your story in the Google document provided, then upload it to the October Writing Contest inside Panther Participation.

Tips for Writing your Story:

Decide on:

Characters--Who will be in it?

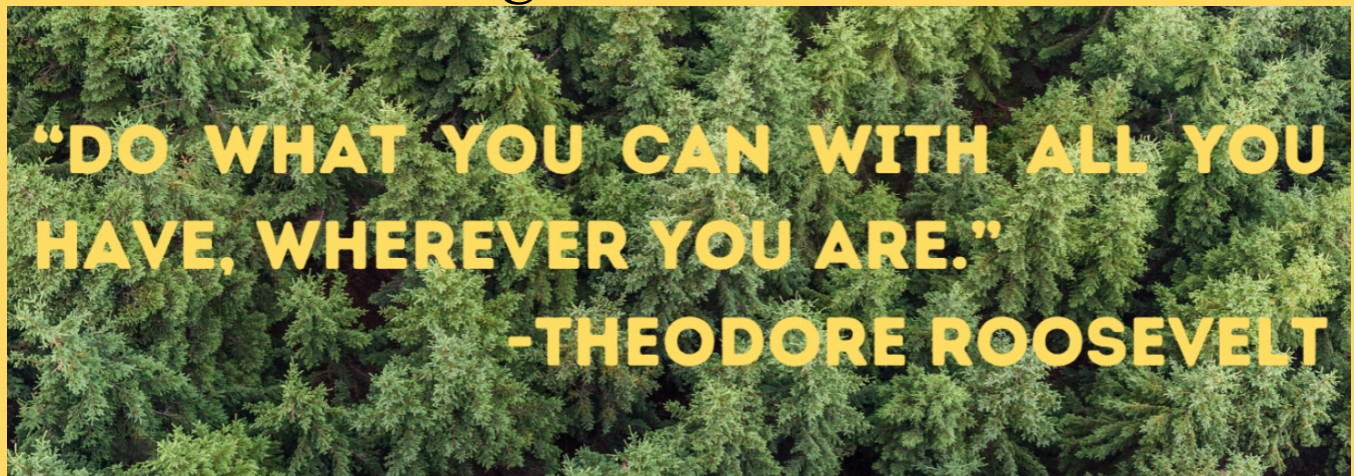
Setting--Where are we?

Conflict--What's the problem?

Plot--Think action! Make something happen.

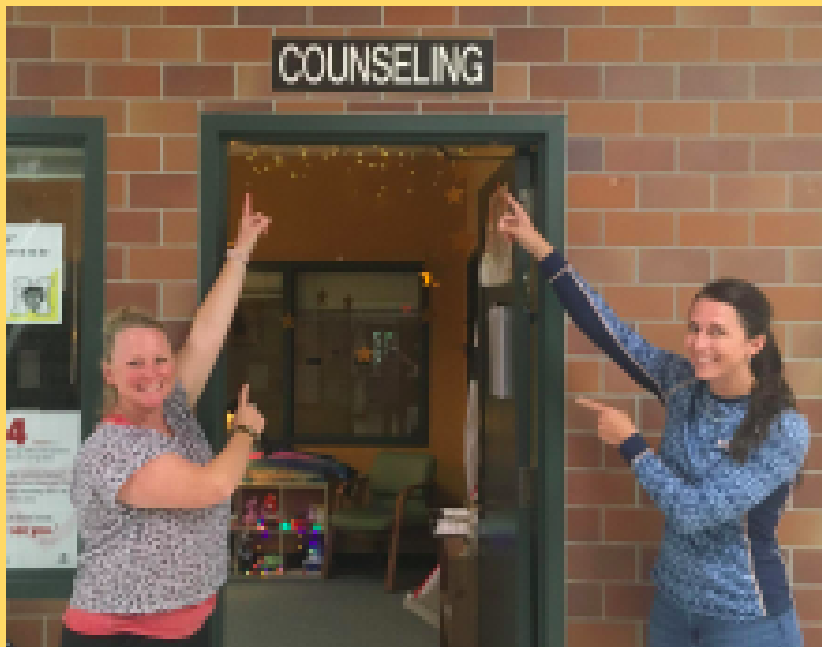
Note: Limit the number of characters in a short story. Otherwise, it gets too cumbersome and confusing.

Mears Counseling Corner



Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

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

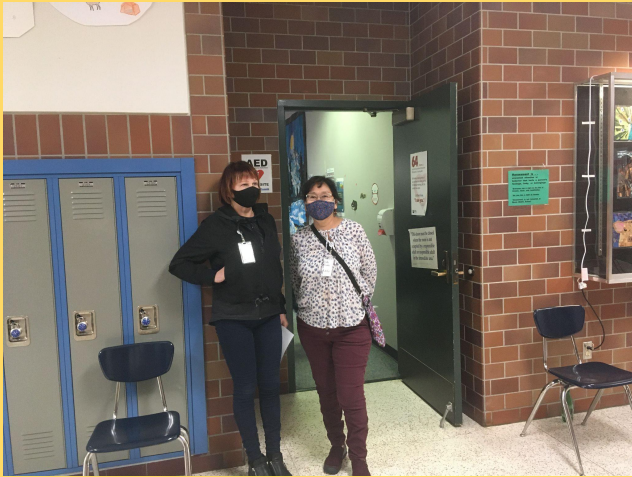


Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade
svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org
907-742-6428

Nurse Dan's Health Update

Important Covid Health Reminder:



Thank you volunteers for supporting Mears vaccination clinic, Thursday, Oct. 21.

Please stay home if you're feeling sick

Just a reminder to parents and students. To help mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic please do not come to school if you are feeling sick. If you start to feel sick during the day, come to the nurse's office for an evaluation.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



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.

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

Please email [Mears PTSA](#) to ask for the Zoom link and passcode. The meeting information is also available in the version of this newsletter that was emailed to families on 10/22/21.

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.

PTSA Volunteer Needs

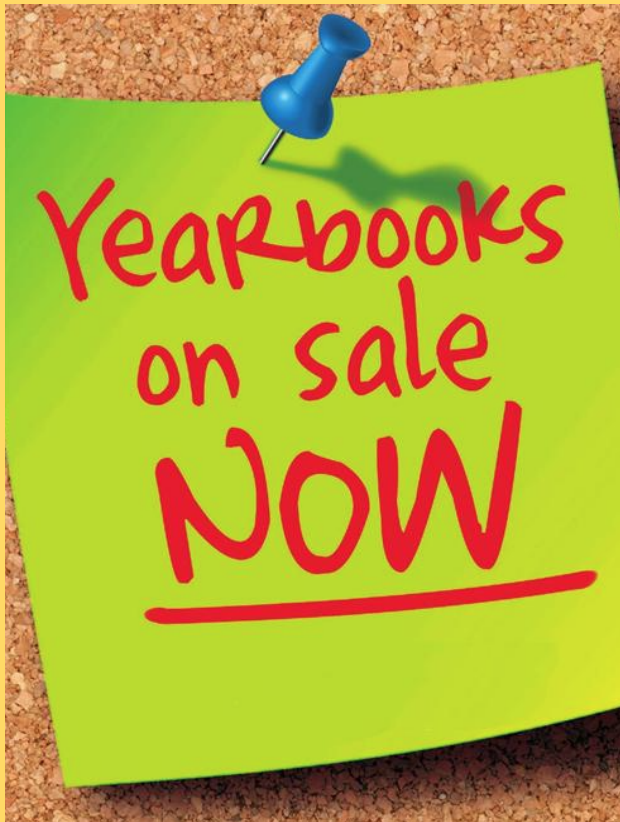
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

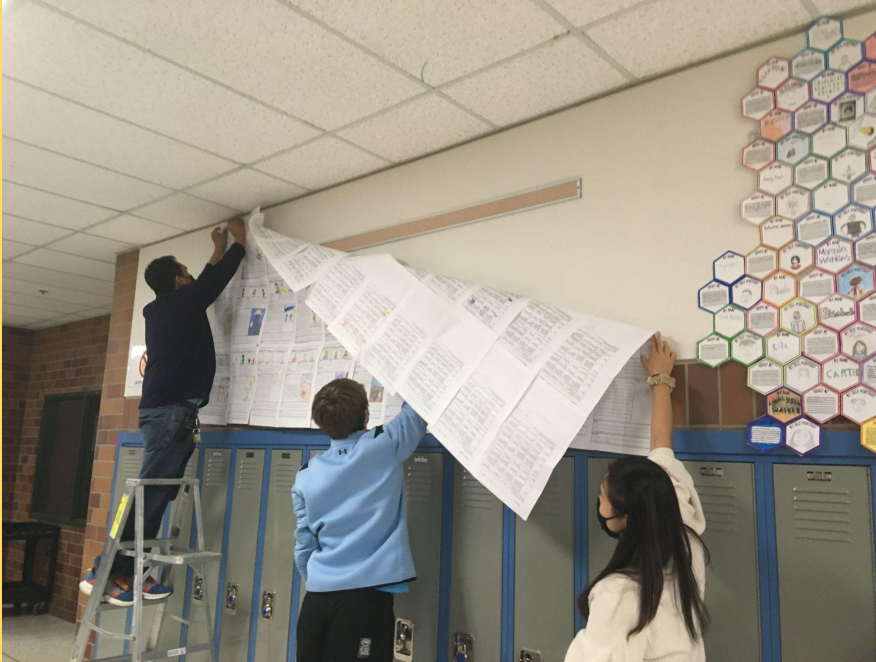
[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 – 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now! Purchase your yearbook at www.ybpay.com use Yearbook ID: 13921122 Mears PTSA

Special Thanks Romy!



Special thanks to Mr. Romeo Laganson, and the entire custodial crew at Mears, who did so much to help our teachers prepare for the conference days.

Go Panthers!



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](#)