



Mears Middle Schools

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 21, 2022

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## *NJHS Student Leaders Host First Dance*



On Thursday, Oct. 20, Mears students had a blast at the first dance of the year. Hosted by Mears National Junior Honor Society students, the well attended dance was the culminating event following a week of spirit-themed dress up days. Students who attended enjoyed a great DJ, fun group photos, PTSA pizza and food, and terrific costumes. Mears teachers and staff were thrilled to see all of our students having fun together, celebrating the last day of the first quarter. Go Panthers! –Eric

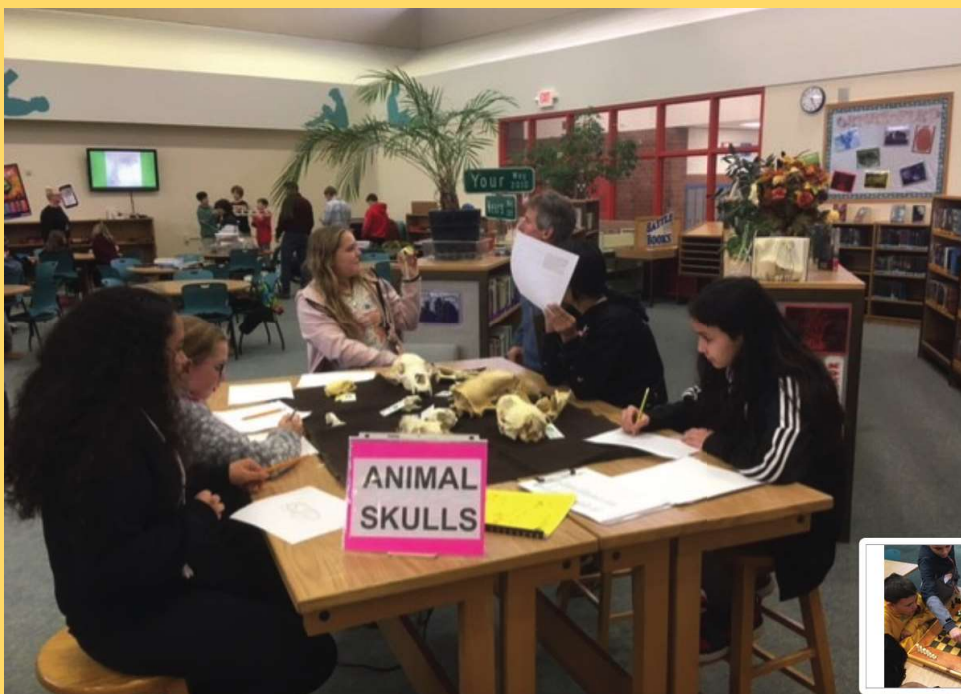
Watch the Video: [Mears Halloween Dance Highlights](#)

# Team Day Activities Build Connections



On Friday, Oct. 14, Mears Collaborative Teams all spent a day together engaged in fun field-day activities. Some of the Teams went on field trips to go roller skating or bowling. Others stayed at school and participated in a number of fun, active, and creative activities.

## Team Field Day Takes Learning Outside the Classroom



Pictured here are students on Team Blackstone who participated in a science activity which challenged them to identify the skulls of Alaska animals, including a polar bear, wolf, lynx, and an owl.

# Upcoming School Event & Activities Events

- **MON 10/24 - THU 10/27: Last week of the Citywide Food Drive at Mears MS!**
  - **TUE 10/25: Quarter 1 Grades available on Q/Parent Connect**
  - **WED 10/26: Early Dismissal 11:45 a.m.**
  - **WED 10/26: Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences 12:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
  - **THU 10/27: Early Dismissal 11:45 a.m.**
  - **THU 10/27: Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences 12:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
  - **FRI 10/28: ASD Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!!!**
  - **MON 10/31: Halloween!**
  - **TUE 11/1: Fall FUNraiser Band/Orch. Concert 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**
  - **TUE 11/8: Election Day! Please check for your local polling place.**
  - **TUE 11/8: ASD Asynchronous Learning Day - More information to come.**
  - **THU 11/10: Mears MS Salute to the Military Assembly! 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
  - **THU 11/10: Wrestling Match @ Mears MS 5 p.m.**
  - **FRI 11/11: Veteran's Day Holiday NO SCHOOL!!!!**
  - **MON 11/14: Girls Volleyball @ Mirror Lake MS 5 p.m.**
  - **TUE 11/15: Wrestling Match @ Clark MS 5 p.m.**
  - **WED 11/16: Girls Volleyball @ Mears MS 5 p.m.**
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## Mears Staff Calendar

- **TUE 10/25: All Employee Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m., MMS Library**
  - **WED/THURS 10/26-27: Conference Schedule**
  - **FRI 10/28: ASD Half-day In-Service**
  - **TUE 11/15: Mears MS Leadership Meeting 3:00 p.m. MMS Library**
  - **WED 11/16: ASD CT Leads 3:00 p.m.**
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Conferences give parents a great opportunity to meet with teachers and to see their student's academic progress. Here are parents at last year's conference looking through student work portfolios.



# Conference Sign Up, Oct. 26-27

Parent/Teacher (Student Led) Conferences are on WED 10/26, 12:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and THU 10/27, 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. By highlighting and clicking on the following link, you can schedule your MMS student(s) conference with their primary team teachers. Follow the process instructions to schedule conference tiems that best suits your family's schedule on either of the two days.

## [Access the Conference Scheduler](#)

Parent/Teachers Conferences are a valuable tool in the education of every child that attends Mears MS. During conferences, parents and/or guardians have the opportunity to talk with teachers about important information that will help the student this school year. Active participation of parents and guardians is essential! Communication between the home and school is one of the best ways to ensure that a child's school experience is successful. For more information on Student Led Conferences, go to the Mears MS website or call the school office.

**EARLY RELEASE ON CONFERENCE DAYS:** Mears MS students will be released on WED 10/26 and THU 10/27 at 11:45 a.m. Mears MS will reopen the building at 12:10 p.m. On WED 10/26 Conferences will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.(teachers and staff will take a break from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as no conferences will be scheduled during that time), on Thursday 10/27 Conferences will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

**ELECTIVE CLASSES:** To meet with Elective Teachers (Art, Consumer Science, World Languages, Design & Modeling, Video & Computer Tech, and PE & Health), after you have met with Team and Math Teachers, please make your way to the Elective classrooms no appointment is needed. Thank you!

**TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY(S):** There will be no school on FRI 10/28. There will be no MMS sports practices or other school activities held on that day.

We highly encourage all Mears MS parents and/or guardians to make Parent/Teacher Conferences a priority on the two days provided.

Thank you! Mears MS Office Staff (907) 742-6400



Conferences are a great opportunity to come to Mears and meet members of our incredible staff. Here's a terrific photo of Ms. Julie Gregory, Ms. Marisa Massey, Ms. Kay Schuster, and Ms. Abby Viens, members of Mears' exceptional Special Education staff.

# TRICK OR EAT 2022 CITYWIDE FOOD DRIVE & MMS TEAM COMPETITION!



We are in the **FINAL WEEK** of the Mears MS October food drive benefiting the FoodBank of Alaska. Grade level teams are in a HOT, HOT, HOT competition for a prize to be awarded for the team that donates the most food - in pounds! Food collection boxes have been checked and weighed each week, the current leading team is **Team Muir!!!** On Wednesday and Thursday during Parent Teachers Conferences all the Team boxes will be placed in the main hall on the first floor of the building, students and their families can bring in both non-perishable food or

cash/check donations and place them in the Team boxes. The food drive will end on Thursday 10/27/22 at 3:15 p.m. at the close of Parent Teacher Conferences; final weigh in will be at 4 p.m. All donations will be taken to the FoodBank of Alaska. On Monday 10/31/22 the winning Team by weight will be announced.

Remember if you prefer to make a monetary donation instead; please make your checks payable to FoodBank of Alaska; each dollar will equate to a pound, and your \$25.00 (or more) check would add that in weight to the team competition! Please indicate in the memo section your student's team name. Monetary donations will be delivered with the food donations. You can also contribute online by using your credit card:

Please Visit: [www.FoodBankofAlaska.org](http://www.FoodBankofAlaska.org)

Click On: **"Donate"** in the browser bar and complete process

Simply provide a copy of your donation receipt and that amount will be recorded into pounds for your student's team competition.

Also want to thank our NJHS students for arriving very early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to collect, weigh and deposit/store all the food donations. Your help is greatly appreciated!

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# Transportation and Attendance Update

Average Daily Attendance Rate for the week of 10/17-20:

# 93%

This week, Mears students have maintained a daily attendance average of 93%! Congratulations on a job well done! Strong daily attendance is one of the key indicators for success in school.

## Mears Busing Limited to 3 Routes Beginning 10-24-22



Please note that student drop-off and pick-up zones will not change with busing schedule changes. Parents may continue with the routines they have already established.

All Mears busses #80-87 will run during Cohort 3. See below for Cohort busing schedule:

## New Full-Time Routes Include: 228, 231, 241

ASD has made available individual bus schedules and information for all students. Please visit [Q ParentConnect](#) to see your student's schedule.

Here's a step-by-step guide for accessing Q Parent Connect:  
<https://confluence.asdk12.org/x/QQP6Cg>

# Mears Activities & Sports

22-23 SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	SEASON START:	SEASON END:
Cross Country Running	August 22nd	October 6th
Basketball - Girls	August 22nd	October 8th
Baseball (Baseball is coordinated by American Legion.)	August 22nd	TBA
Softball (Softball is coordinated by Anchorage Sports Association)	Spring	Spring
Wrestling	October 17th	December 7rd
Volleyball	October 17th	December 10th
Cross Country Skiing	January 12th	March 2nd
Basketball - Boys	January 10th	March 3rd
Track & Field	March 6th	May 8th
Soccer	Spring 2022	Spring 2022
Archery 1	September 12th	October 7th
Archery 2 (same as 1 but with different dates)	January 11th	February 8th
Archery 3	March 20th	April 14th
Native Youth Olympics	TBA	TBA
Tennis	April 18th	May 13th

Middle school is a great time to try new things and meet new people. Here at Mears we have an amazing array of activities & sports for everyone. Below is a list of the upcoming Interscholastic and Intramural options. Here is a direct link to our Sports & Activities on our [Mears Website](#) for more information on signing up. You can find the sign up forms on our website.

Once sign up forms are completed, [scan](#) and email the to our AAFP: [spartz-hays\\_robin@asdk12.org](mailto:spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org) or forms can be dropped off at the main office between periods 1 & 2. \*Fee waivers are granted based on need.

## Volleyball Season Gets Started



This week, Mears Girls Volleyball got started with tryouts and after school practices. We look forward to a terrific season.



# Mears Library



New book arrivals and recommendations:



The dead still walk in Denmark. Already crushed by his father's death & his mother's remarriage, the young prince Hamlet is confronted by his father's ghost, bearing terrible news: he didn't simply die. He was murdered. Now Hamlet lives only for his vengeance - no matter how many other people must die for it.



Part biography, part guidebook to the contemporary environmental movement, an inspired collection of profiles, featuring environmental changemakers, social entrepreneurs, visionaries and activists.



This "hauntingly atmospheric" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review), heart-stopping middle grade novel follows three of the Wolfskinder, German children left to fend for themselves in the final days of World War II, as they struggle to hold onto themselves and each other while surviving in the wild.



# Mears Counseling Corner



October's National Bullying Prevention Month will raise awareness across the country. It is important to realize that students, parents, teachers, and school administrators can all play a role in creating positive changes that impact our students at Mears.

## Anti-Bullying Slogan Winners!

Students participated in a schoolwide survey and were asked to create a slogan for anti-bullying awareness at Mears. After considering over 500 slogans, the winners were Malachi Cochran's "Don't Be Seen As Mean" slogan and Parker Finch who was inspired by our upcoming dance with his "Let's Boogie, Not Bully" slogan.

Nice job gentlemen and way to be creative! They won some prizes and these slogans will be great reminders that Mears is a positive and encouraging place to be!



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Counselors at Mears work hard to be proactive and encourage a bully-free zone. Last month we created a video about teasing and this month our video will highlight Digital Citizenship, discuss online bullying and [how to be an upstander](#).

Teresa Harrison-7th Grade  
[harrison\\_teresa@asdk12.org](mailto:harrison_teresa@asdk12.org)  
Direct: 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr-8th Grade  
[burr\\_caitlin@asdk12.org](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
Direct: 907-742-6424

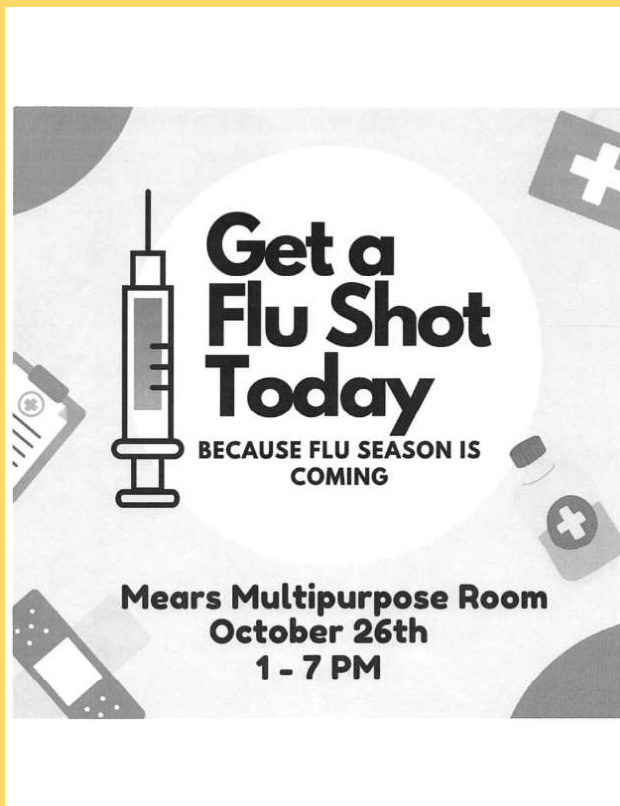
Questions, comments, concerns? Email or  
[Contact Request Form](#)

# Mears Student Health Update



The 7th grade screenings on Monday, October 17th, were a success! I had an awesome team of Charter College nursing students help me conduct the screenings.

ASD will be holding flu clinics on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Please see the fliers below for clinic locations and times. I will also have tetanus boosters available at the clinic held at Mears on October 26th.



\*Free. Open to the public. No insurance required.

## Flu Vaccines

**Anchorage School District** Parent Teacher Conferences

<b>Wednesday, October 26th</b> From 1pm to 7pm	
❖ Begich Middle School	❖ Hanshaw Middle School
❖ Central Middle School of Science	❖ Mears Middle School
❖ Clark Middle School	❖ Mirror Lake Middle School
❖ Goldenview Middle School	❖ Romig Middle School
	❖ Wendler Middle School

<b>Thursday, October 27th</b> From 1pm to 7pm	
❖ Bartlett High School	❖ Eagle River High School
❖ Bettye Davis East High School	❖ Service High School
❖ Dimond High School	❖ South High School
	❖ West High School

Fluarix for 6 months and older and Fludax High Dose for 65+ while supplies last.  
\*Tdap will be available at select schools.

Print the consent form at <https://www.asdk12.org/Domain/1216>

Contact Healthcare Services at 742-4136 or your school nurse for more information.



### Important Health Announcement:

I would like to warn families about the “One Chip Challenge”. Paqui, a chip company, sells a chip laced with Carolina Reaper and Scorpion peppers. The challenge is to eat the single chip and wait as long as possible before eating or drinking anything. A handful of students around the country have been hospitalized after eating these chips. I have included an article from Poison Control about the risks of partaking in this challenge.

<https://www.poison.org/articles/is-the-one-chip-challenge-dangerous>

### Links to important information:

“When to Keep Your Child Home From School” policy:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/6622>.

[Here is a link to ASD's “Return/Stay at School Protocol”](#)

I hope everyone is staying healthy. Please reach out to me with any health-related questions you have. **-Nurse Karin Richards**



### PTSA General Meeting Schedule: All Mears Community Members are Welcome -- Second Wednesday of each month @ 5:30pm via Zoom

Semester 1: Nov. 9, Dec. 14

Semester 2: Jan 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10

[PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 981 2989 0912

Passcode: 986530



Parents and Family Members, please consider supporting Mears PTSA by becoming a volunteer, which is a fun and valuable way to support our students and teachers.

Please like and follow us on Facebook **Mears Middle School PTSA** for more information.

- You can contact us at [MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com](mailto:MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com)
- Visit [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com) for general information
- To join the PTSA, visit [MemberHub](#)

To purchase Mears Gear (including gym clothes), visit the [Mears Middle School Store](#)

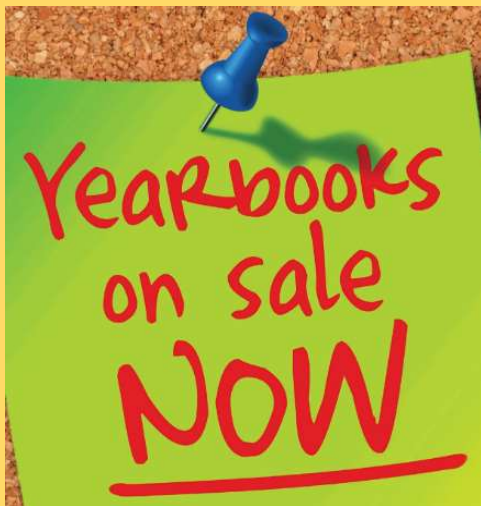
Join Team PTSA: Volunteer Interest Form:

<https://forms.gle/P8yYKMPSuwzPR2ZU8>



Consider joining the Mears Student Store Sales Team. It's a great way to support Mears!

## Yearbook is Now on Sale



Mears families can also order online by going to: [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com) using access code 13921123 (see the attachment). Please be certain to print and keep a copy of your receipt after completing and paying for the online purchase. Please do not wait to submit your yearbook order(s). Understand that orders made online after 11:59 p.m. on night of March 26, 2022 are not guaranteed a yearbook order. Questions? Please contact the Mears MS PTSA via email at: [mearsms.pts@gmail.com](mailto:mearsms.pts@gmail.com)

## Get Your Mears Gear Online



PTSA is proud to announce its new online store. Items can be purchased online and delivered directly to your home. <https://mearsptsa.squarespace.com/>

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## Teacher Fun on Dress Up Day



Many Mears teachers showed their school spirit on Halloween Dress Up Day!



## 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](#)