



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, May 15, 2020

Student Creativity is Unleashed

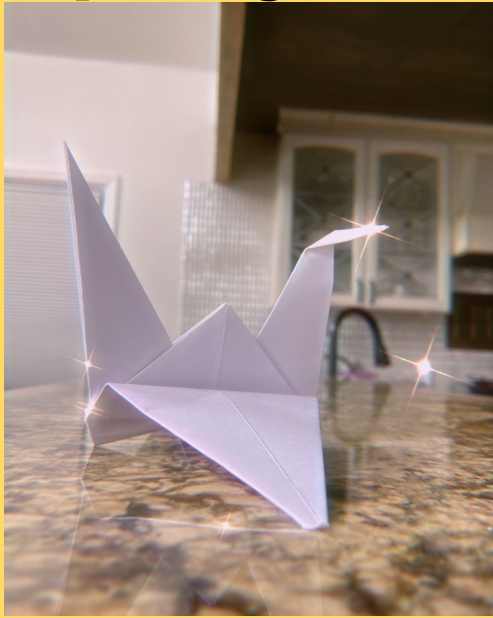


The Office Spoof Quarantine Edition

A few months ago, Mears Video Production student Freyja Boyd was working on a spoof of the television show The Office at school. Due to Covid-19 and the subsequent school closure, she obviously was not able to finish her project. So, from her home, Freyja continued the project and made a quarantine version which is interspersed with clips from the actual show. Pretty brilliant indeed! Thanks for sharing, Freyja. Enjoy!

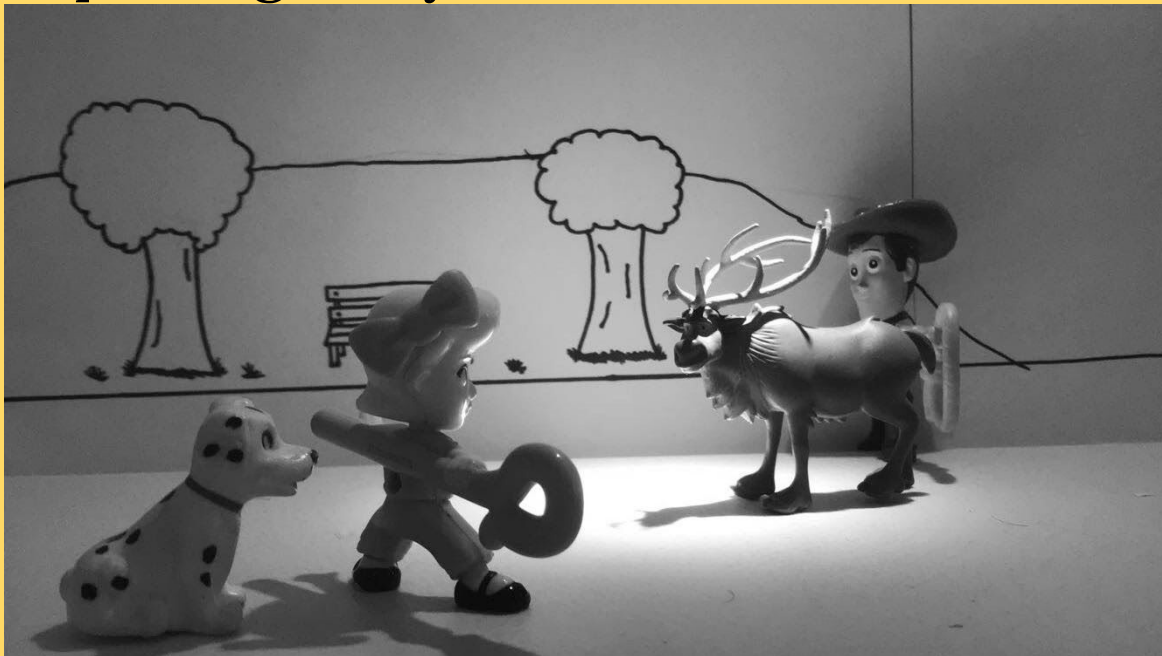
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjxHrHBlHG0&feature=youtu.be>

Exploring Culture and Heritage



Students in Mears Social Studies classes have been exploring different cultures from different regions of the world. The curriculum includes a number of hands-on activities designed to give students the opportunity to explore culture from new perspectives, including food, art, and music. Here Evelyn Gutierrez Perez created origami and Aniah Harris cooked pancit for their Asian culture assignment.

Exploring Early Cinema



Students in Ms. Holly Roberts' History of Cinema class have been learning about early American cinematography. Here is Dorence Braganza's photographic study of 1940's cinema lighting styles with objects around her house.

3D Makers



Students in Ms. Diane McLaughlin's 3D Design and Modeling class continue to generate three dimensional creations. Working remotely from their homes, students send their latest designs to their incredible teacher, who creates them with the 3D printer. The students in the class get to watch the process via Zoom. Ms. McLaughlin is reporting a high level of engagement in the project. Here are some of the students' latest creations.

Important Updates:

Last Week of School: Finish Strong!

Education is vitally important to every one of our students. Academic engagement at school or at home strengthens us as individuals and as a community. School enriches our lives and makes us more thoughtful, creative, and empowered.

With just one week of the school year remaining, we need to do everything we can to promote Mears online learning program. Here are a few helpful talking points to continue to promote effort and engagement at home.

- ❖ We continue to work to prepare students for the next grade level, which will be more challenging than the last.
- ❖ It is critical that we take full advantage of the limited time we have left this school year.
- ❖ Teachers will continue to offer encouragement and valuable feedback to support critical learning and growth.
- ❖ Be patient. Be kind. Do your best every day!

Honor Roll and 4.0 GPAs Celebrated:



Thanks to the great work of Ms. Ava Goodman and Ms. Paige Daniels at Mears, students will be recognized for achieving Honor Roll status during the 3rd quarter. We will also be celebrating the academic achievements of all students who have received a 4.0 GPA. Certificates and Letters of Recognition are being mailed out directly to the families of these young scholars. Of course, we would all prefer to celebrate these students in person, as we are so proud of their accomplishments!

Summer School Sign Up (Free):



Keep the momentum to ensure a solid start next fall with
Summer Learning Opportunities
for all grade levels



- ▶ **Self-directed** online or paper and pencil options
- ▶ **Core subjects:**
English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- ▶ **Free** for ASD students

 www.asdk12.org/summerlearning
For questions and support call 742-HELP (4357)

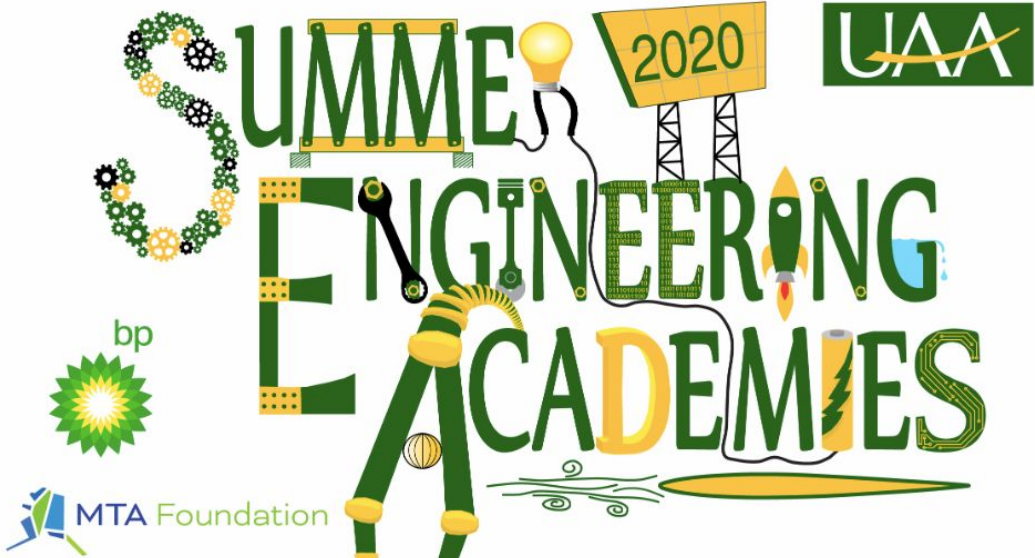

Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life



ASD is providing free summer school opportunities for middle school students. Signing up is easy. Just go to the website above or call 907-742-HELP. Stay connected and keep learning during summer!

Summer Engineering Academy

Summer Engineering Academies



SUMMER ENGINEERING ACADEMIES 2020

UAA

bp

MTA Foundation

The graphic features the text 'SUMMER ENGINEERING ACADEMIES' in large, stylized green letters. The 'S' is decorated with gears. A lightbulb is integrated into the 'M'. A yellow banner with '2020' is above the 'E' in 'ENGINEERING'. A rocket is integrated into the 'N'. A green banner with 'UAA' is to the right. The 'bp' logo is to the left. The 'MTA Foundation' logo is at the bottom left. A green gear-like shape is at the bottom center.

The UAA Summer Engineering Academies are a series of fun, hands-on, and engineering-themed summer camps for middle school and high school students. This summer, the Academies have moved completely online, with week-long camps focused on coding, 3D modeling, and videography. This is a great way to flex those learning muscles over the summer and increase interest in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The camps cost \$100, but tuition waivers are available for families who need them. The application is now open. You can learn more at www.uaa.alaska.edu/sea or by emailing sea@alaska.edu.

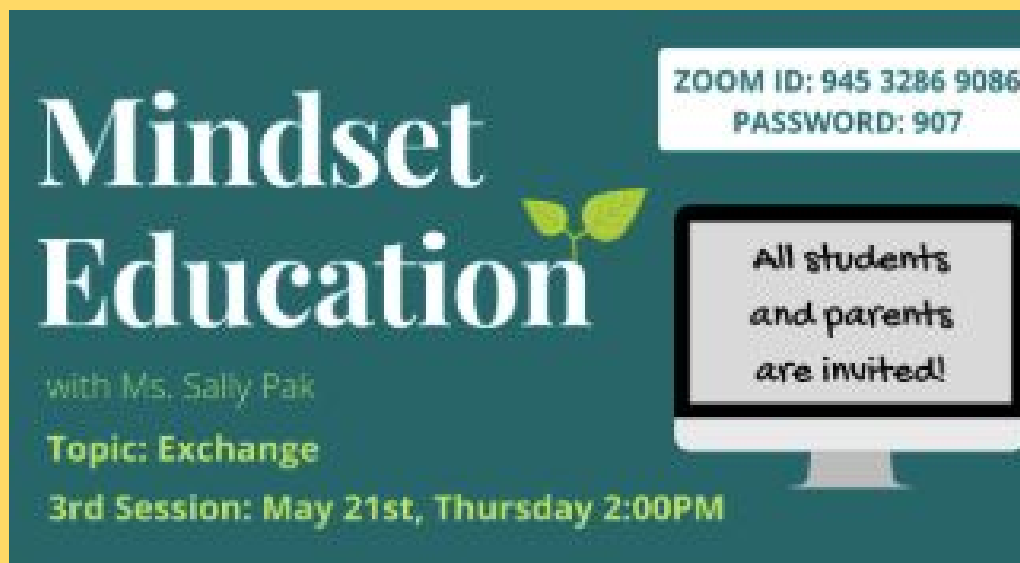
Memory Book Delay:

Unfortunately, due to complications caused by the pandemic, Life Touch is unable to ship Mears Memory Books prior to the end of school next week. Mears administration will work with the PTSA to organize a distribution plan, once the books arrive in early June. Once the books arrive, we will communicate directly with all the families who have ordered a book. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Student Personal Items Pick Up:

Any student's personal items not picked up last week will be safely stored until the Fall; to help ensure the health and safety of everyone, there will not be an additional opportunity for these items to be picked up this school year.

Mindset Education Series: Come Join the Discussion

A poster for the Mindset Education series. The background is dark teal. On the left, the words "Mindset Education" are written in large, white, serif font. To the right of "Education" is a small green sprout with two leaves. Below this, in a smaller white font, it says "with Ms. Sally Pak". Further down, "Topic: Exchange" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "3rd Session: May 21st, Thursday 2:00PM" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. On the right side of the poster, there is a white rectangular box containing the text "ZOOM ID: 945 3286 9086" and "PASSWORD: 907" in a black, sans-serif font. Below this box is a graphic of a computer monitor with a black frame. Inside the monitor's screen, the text "All students and parents are invited!" is written in a black, cursive font.

Ms. Sally Pak, Mears Language Arts teacher, will lead the third and final session of the Mindset Education series. Students, families, teachers, and staff are all invited to attend. This week's session on the topic of isolation was extremely informative and uplifting.

Here's a preview of this week's session:

Exchange: If there is a problem you cannot solve, it is because you are trying to solve it on your own. When you do not have the power to solve a problem on your own, struggling with it will not make the problem go away. It is necessary to accept the hearts of other people. Since our hearts are not always precise, through accepting the hearts of others, we can become free from our thoughts.

Zoom Link:

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/94532869086?pwd=RE1Td2V2b0F3NzY0SWMwNDE0UGlXZz09>

Meeting ID: 945 3286 9086

Password: 907

Mears Counseling Services



**Mears Community
Outreach - Counseling
Department**

Please visit [Mears Counseling Services](#) to connect with Mears counselors for any support your student or family may need. We are here to help.

Mears counselors host Office Hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00-11:00am.

Student Activities -- 10:00-10:30am

Tech Support -- 10:30-11:00am

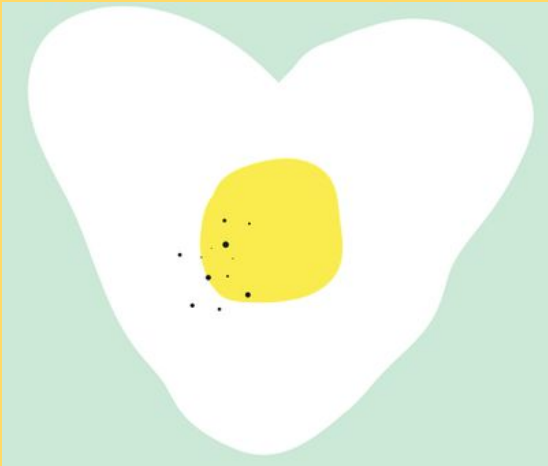
ASD Family Nutrition

ASD Student Nutrition will continue food distribution of pre-packaged breakfast and lunch meals for any child 18 or younger at established food service sites. Mobile food service routes will remain scheduled to accommodate students and families unable to access the school distribution sites. Information on feeding sites and mobile bus route meal drop off can be accessed at this link: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15121>.

ASD Educational Resources and Support

For support of any kind, please call 907-742-HELP

⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒



Here's an upbeat article about some of the more positive developments that have resulted from stay and home and social distancing practices.

What are some of the Bright Spots you have discovered?

[The Bright Spots, The Atlantic Magazine](#)



Mears/PTSA will notify families soon about distribution plans for the Class of 2024 T-Shirts. Thank you to all who sent in the shirt size requests.

IT'S TIME TO RECRUIT A NEW PTSA BOARD.

DO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? 1ST VICE PRESIDENT? 2nd VICE PRESIDENT? SECRETARY? TREASURER?
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED?

Nominations for next year's board are now being accepted. If you are interested, fill out the nomination form which can be found on our website www.mearsptsa.com Our current board is termed out and has students that are moving on to High School. We need great leaders to help keep Mears PTSA running strong. [Nomination Form](#)

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](#)