



Mears Middle School

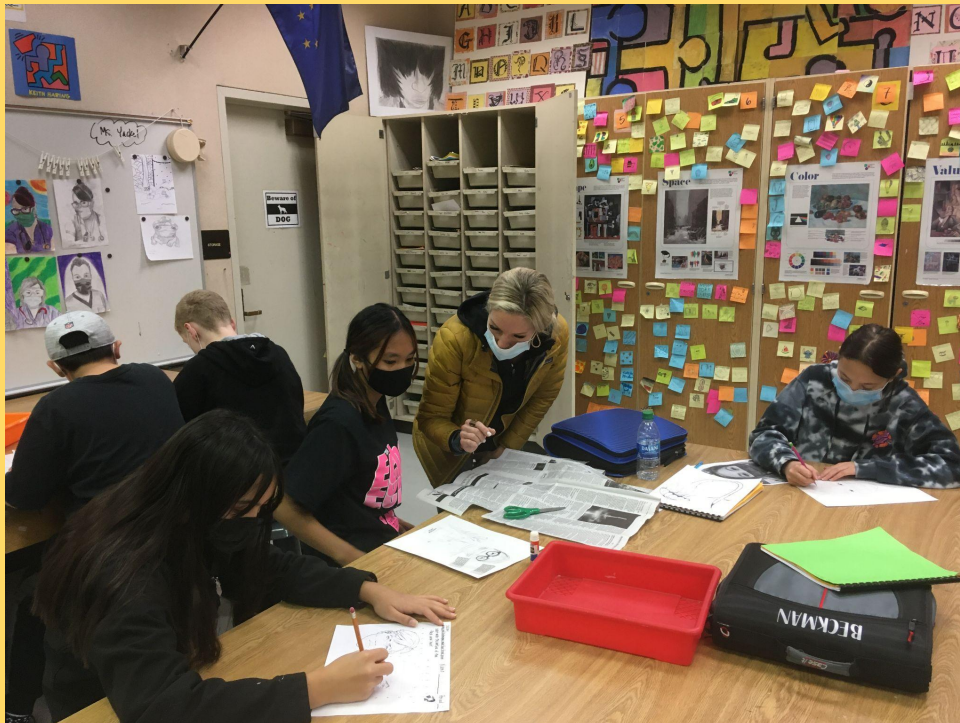
# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, November 5, 2021

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## *Incredible Self Portraits*



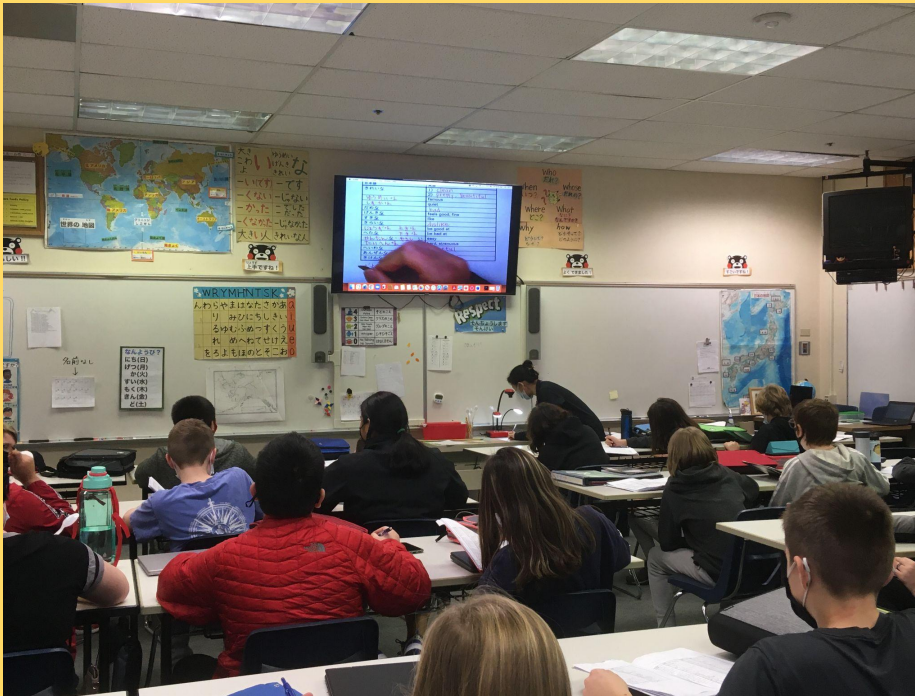
Ms. Kat Yackel, Mears Art Department Chair, has been facilitating a really engaging project, focused on the creation of illustrated self-portraits. As shown in the photo below, student self-portraits include Covid face masks, making them unique to this historic school year. Entering Ms. Yackel's class, one can immediately see a high level of creativity, personal interest and effort in the project. **Go Panthers!**

# Self Portraits on Display



Student self portraits on display in Ms. Yackel's classroom. The portraits are a showcase of talent, effort, creativity, and also the wonderful diversity of students at Mears.

# Daily Japanese Vocab Review



Ms. Kiyoko Loer, Mears Japanese Immersion Teacher, leads her students through their daily vocabulary review. For each Japanese word, students quickly raise their hand to say aloud the Japanese pronunciation, followed by the English translation.



# Mears Practices Schoolwide Safety



Mears Middle School practiced a schoolwide ALICE Drill on Friday, Nov. 5th. During the drill, teachers led students through a series of safety activities, including a school lock down and classroom door barricade. Mr. Mike Scott led the entire school through the drill step-by-step over the building PA system. At the end of the drill, students and staff talked through different scenarios and appropriate safety procedures.

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

### Next Week's Schedule:

Wednesday, Nov. 10 -- Staff Meeting, 3:00-4:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 11 -- No School for Students; Cross-District Professional Development Day for Teachers and Staff

# New Bathroom Pass Procedures



Mears will institute a new plan for restroom/out-of-classroom passes. Students will sign out and use a link. They will also leave their cell phone when they sign out of class in a secure place. The intention is to better quantify student time spent outside of class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call.

## Safety Minute:

### Warm Clothing and Safe Walking-Reflective Clothing



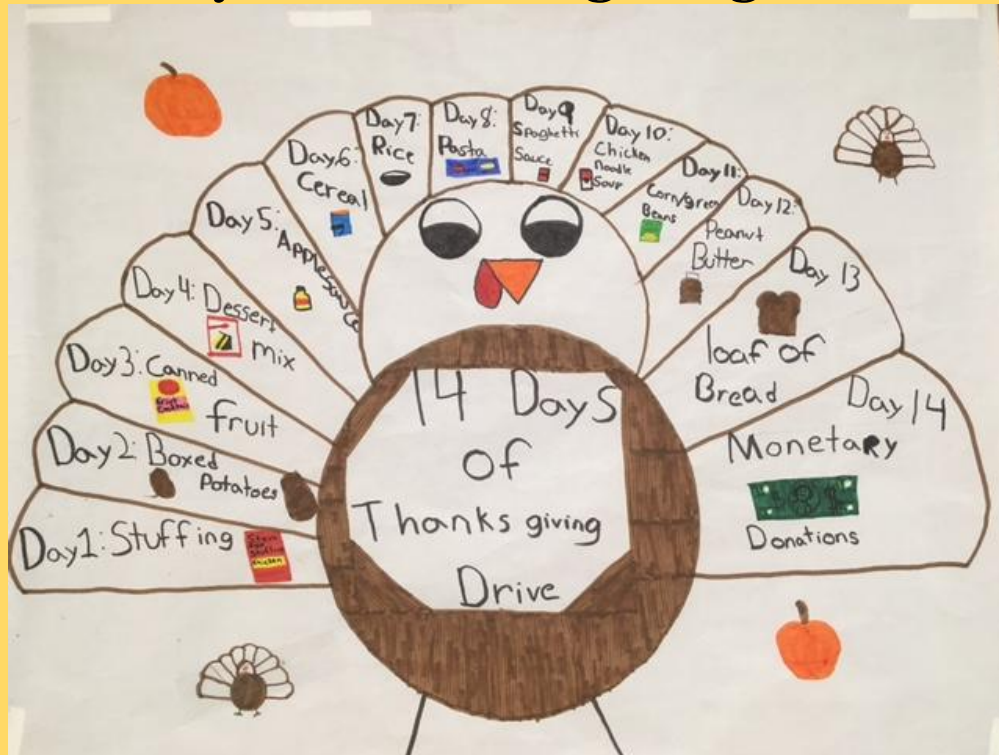
Mears Families:

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.

To this end, we have plans to distribute some reflective tape to students (Thanks, Ms. Bivins!). We're organizing this process, and it will happen soon. I'll continue to remind students in the announcements, too.

Enjoy the start of winter! --Mike Scott, Mears AP

# The 14 days of Thanksgiving Donations



Students in Mears Community Service class are busy organizing a school-wide Thanksgiving Drive to collect food items for families in our community. Please consider donating the following items over the next two weeks. Students on the Mears Team that bring in the most items will celebrate with a school-sponsored Team party. The Thanksgiving Drive is a wonderful opportunity for us to give back to the community.

Things to bring:

Day 1 (November 1) - stuffing mix

Day 2 (November 2) - boxed potatoes

Day 3 (November 3) - canned fruit

Day 4 (November 4) - dessert mix

Day 5 (November 5) - jar of applesauce

Day 6 (November 8) - box of cereal

**Day 7 (November 9) - package of rice**

**Day 8 (November 10) - package of pasta**

**Day 9 (November 12) - spaghetti sauce**

**Day 10 (November 15) - chicken noodle soup**

**Day 11 (November 16) - can of corn/green beans**

**Day 12 (November 17) - peanut butter**

Day 13 (November 18) - loaf of bread

Day 14 (November 19) - Monetary Donations (money will be used to buy turkeys or hams.)



# ⇐ Backman Recommends ⇐



Here's a great article from Edutopia that offers educators and families helpful strategies that can help our students continue to reacclimate to the challenges of being back in school.

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/helping-students-reacclimate-being-others-all-day>

**Building a Positive and Inclusive School Culture**  
**Student Leadership Training Opportunity**  
**Nov. 17, Jan. 19, March 16**  
**8:15am-10:15am at Mears Middle School**



The No Place for Hate Leadership Training Series is limited to 30 students, who will participate in all three training sessions.

Students who participate in the leadership training sessions will focus on the following:

- Building a cohesive, respectful school climate
- Exploring and celebrating people's identities
- Learning strategies to be an "upstander" to address negative stereotypes, bullying, and other hurtful behaviors
- Developing leadership skills in community-building, collaboration, and communication

**Here's a link to the application:**

**[NPFH Student Leadership Training](#)**

# Mears Activities Update

At this point, students can get involved in wrestling or volleyball. These are wildly popular activities. Volleyball, for example, has well over 100 participants. It's great to see students having fun and interacting with each other. See below for information about getting involved. As a reminder, Cross Country Skiing and Boys Basketball start right after the break, so if you're interested, please submit your paperwork in advance.

## **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/1l15oSifxCsxF-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](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>

## Upcoming Activity Events

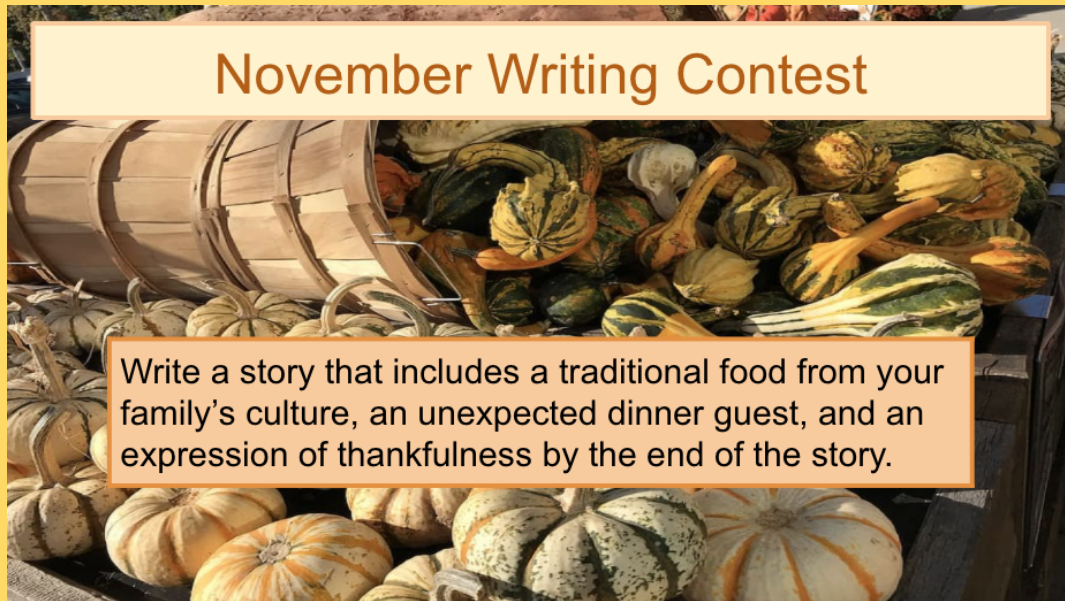
### **Wrestling**

- November 2nd @Mears: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- November 9th @Mears: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- November 16th @Clark: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- November 23rd @Romig 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- December 1 @ Goldenview Unseeded Tourney-1:30 PM-8:00 PM
- December 2 @Goldenview Seeded Tourney-1:30 PM-8:00 PM

### **Volleyball**

Link for Middle School Volleyball Schedule: [2021 VB Schedule Tentative.pdf](#)

# Panthers Write!



## November Writing Contest Details:

Since food and conversation are part of any harvest celebration, judges will be looking for stories that contain sensory description (tastes, smells, sights and sounds), along with lively dialogue (characters in conversation). Good luck, and happy feasting!

Deadline for entries is **Tuesday, November 30th.**

Length limit is 1,000 words.

[Click here to write your story.](#) (Be sure you have your ASD Google account open.)

[Click here](#) or go to Panther Participation in Canvas and select the November Writing Contest assignment to submit your story.



## October Writing Contest Winners

[The Moose and the Mask](#) by Madden Hamey  
[Moose Mask Mears](#) by September Alldredge

Here's September Alldredge with Mr. Thomas Pease.



# Library at Mears

## Noodletools = Great Bibliography



Students in Mr. Buchanan's 7th grade social studies classes made a trip to the library to learn the basics of Noodletools and how to use it to create a bibliography for their research projects.

Tutorials and guides are available on the Mears library website.

Direct link to [Mears, Noodletools website.](#)

## Battle of the Books

The district competition date has been announced! Teams will gather in the West/Romig library on February 1st, 2022 from 9AM to 2PM to determine which school's team will go to the state finals.

## Bookmark Contest: Together@our library™

The library has already received several amazing entries for this years' bookmark contest! You have until **December 3, 2021** to submit an entry. The theme for this year is Together@our library. A template of the correct size is available to download from the [library website](#) and paper copies are available in the library.

## 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](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6424

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

# Nurse Dan's Health Update

## Important Covid Health Reminder:



Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[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 contact the Mears PTSA for the Zoom meeting information.

Email: [MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com](mailto:MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com)

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom.

### **PTSA Volunteer Needs**

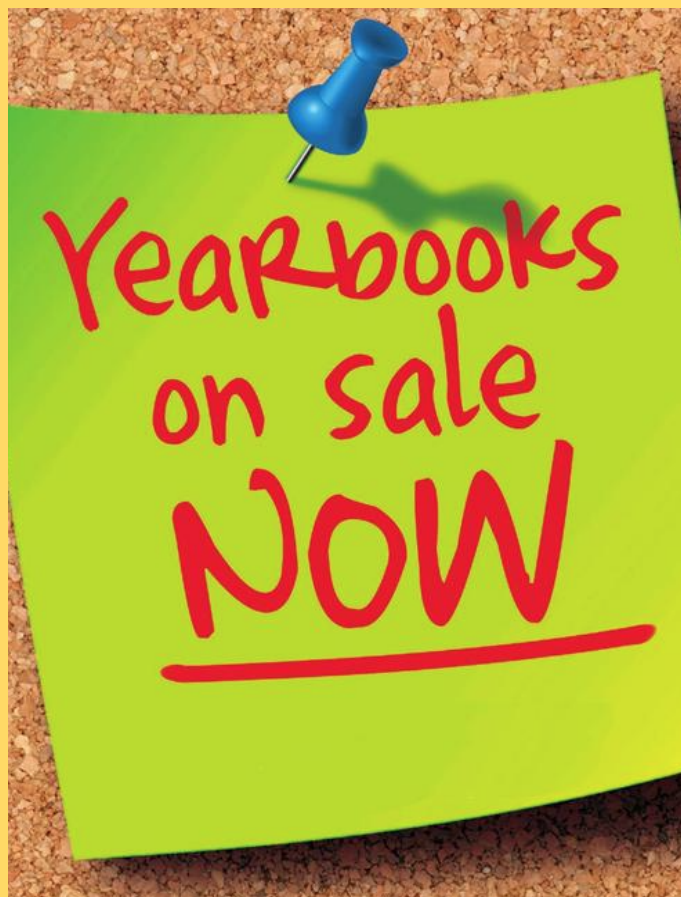
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- 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](http://www.ybpay.com) use Yearbook ID: 13921122  
Mears PTSA



# Promoting the Positive



Student artwork recently put up throughout the building reflects positive messages promoting school unity.

**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](#)