



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Wednesday, November 24th, 2021

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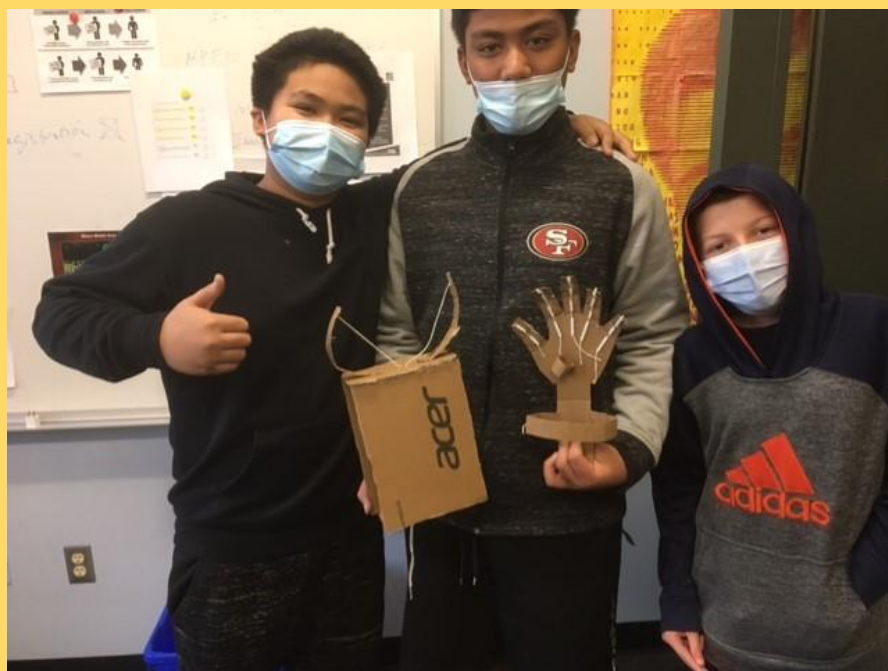
THANKSGIVING ISSUE!

*Panthers Like to Study*



Mears Panthers are academically strong as students! This group of students is proudly displaying their honor roll certificates: Great Work, Panthers!

# Cardboard Robot Hands



Students at Mears are incredibly creative. In this case, students have created robot hands made of cardboards. You can see in the image above that they are appropriately proud of their work: Great job, Panthers!

## Impressive Levels of Achievement for Q1

### Mears 1st Quarter Honor Roll Totals, 2021-22

Grade	# and % of students with GPA of 3.0-3.9	# and % of students with GPA of 4.0	% of students
7th	150/40%	88/23%	63%
8th	145/37%	106/26%	64%

Total enrollment: 774/ 379 7th graders and 394 8th graders|

Well over half of all students at Mears Middle School, 63%, have posted a Grade Point Average (GPA) over 3.0. Notably, a quarter of all students, 194 total, have straight As and a GPA of 4.0.

Students who met this academic benchmark will all be recognized with an official Honor Roll certificate, which will be distributed during class time in the coming days.

On behalf of the entire staff at Mears, we commend all the hard work and effort that these students have put forward to earn such impressive marks. We also thank our parents and families for supporting our student's efforts at home and at school.

We encourage all students to do their best every day and to ask for help whenever they need it. The second quarter is ending soon and we encourage all of our students to do their best work and to finish strong. --Mr. Backman, Principal

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25-26 -- No School/Thanksgiving Holiday

Planning Ahead:

MAP testing window, 11/29-12/16

Mears assessment schedule:

- week of 11/29: Math (Mon, Tue, Wed, possibly Th)
- week of 12/6: Reading (Mon, Tue, Wed, possibly Th)
- week of 12/13: Make-up Testing (Mon, Tue, Wed)
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## Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy: Big Changes Semester 2



Beginning on January 3rd, the first day of semester 2, students will no longer be able to use their cell phones or electronic devices in the hallways, multipurpose room, or any other school areas between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:45 PM. Teachers will remain in complete control of electronic device use in their classrooms.

We ask that you also discuss this huge change with your student to ensure a successful transition to the new policy. Please review the following information for consequences if students violate the policy that starts on January 3rd, 2022; **we depend on your support for the successful implementation of this new policy.**



As part of this support, we ask that you communicate with your student through the office.. When you text or call your student during class, it can create a behavioral concern for the staff member that does not help provide the best possible educational experience.

**For infractions in the hallway/MPR, we will use the following structure and use the updated electronic device spreadsheet and Q. to keep track of related behavior:**

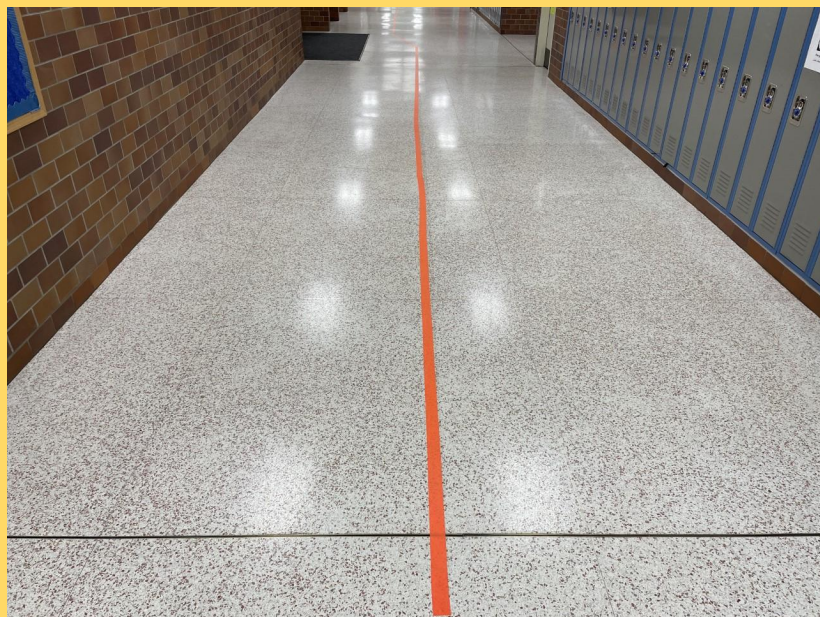
- 1st infraction: phone taken and returned by same staff to student.
- 2nd infraction: phone taken provided to administration for parent pickup.
- 3rd infraction: phone taken provided to administration for parent pickup + work detail.
- 4th infraction:: phone taken provided to administration for parent pick up+In School Suspension (ISS).
- 5th infraction: phone taken provided to administration for parent pick up+ 2 ISS and mandatory meeting with administration for behavioral plan consideration.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mears Administration

## All Hallways Return to Two Directions: Stay to the Right, Please



With the great consistency students continue to show in mask wearing, we've decided to return to two-direction hallways, so beginning on **Monday, November 29th**, students will walk in either direction in the downstairs hallways, staying to the right of the centerline. Additionally, we're returning to full locker use; however, students may continue to use their backpacks until January 3rd. We are encouraging students to grow accustomed to not using bags and backpacks during

the day to prepare them for the new semester, so please remind them of the change periodically, and encourage them to use their locks and lockers.

Thanks for your help!  
Mike Scott, Mears AP

## Safety Minute: Warm 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. We never know when we might need to evacuate the building for a short period of time, so it's critical to have reasonably warm clothing on at all times.

⇐ *Backman Recommends* ⇒

## Celebrate Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month 2021



Did you know that over 20% of students at Mears are either Native Alaskan or Native American?

Be sure to check out all the terrific resources at PBS and [Celebrate Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month, 2021/PBS](#)

# Thanksgiving Drive Shows Generous Spirit



Students and families at Mears have generously participated in our Thanksgiving Food Drive, bringing in enough food items to fill 50 meal boxes for families in our community. Catholic Social Services recently picked up this substantial donation, with students in Mr. Greg Ross's Community Service class supporting this effort. Great work, Panthers!

## 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/11I5oSifxCsxF-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>

## Upcoming Activity Events

### Wrestling

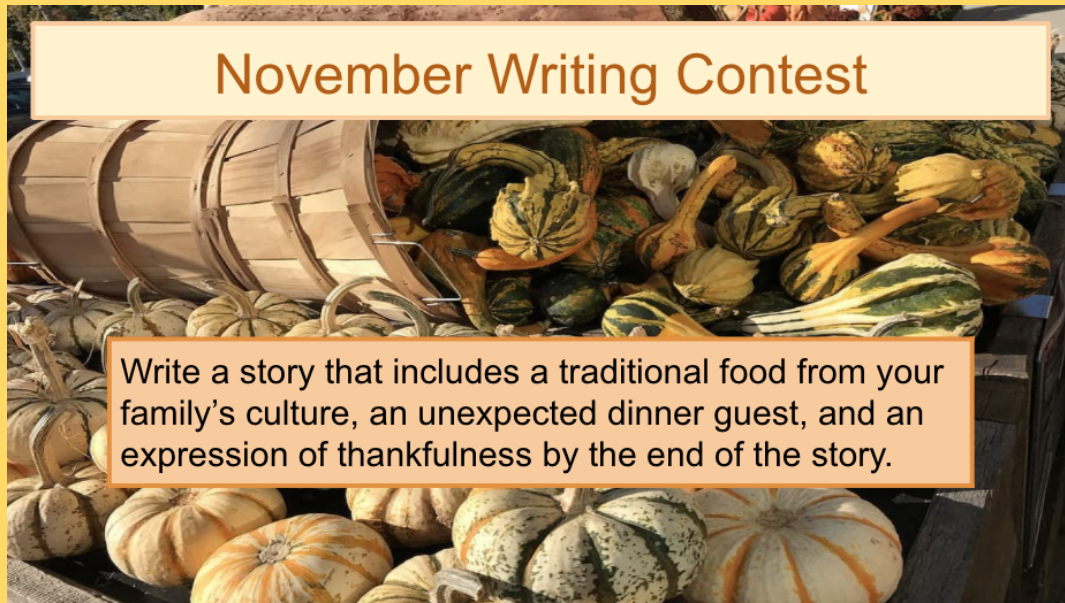
- December 1 @ Goldenview Unseeded Tourney-1:30 PM-8:00 PM
- December 2 @Goldenview Seeded Tourney-1:30 PM-8:00 PM

### Volleyball

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



# Panthers Write!



## November Writing Contest

Write a story that includes a traditional food from your family's culture, an unexpected dinner guest, and an expression of thankfulness by the end of the story.

### 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.

## Library at Mears

### 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

[Mears PTSA Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2513 4041

Passcode: 436866

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

### **PTSA Volunteer Needs**

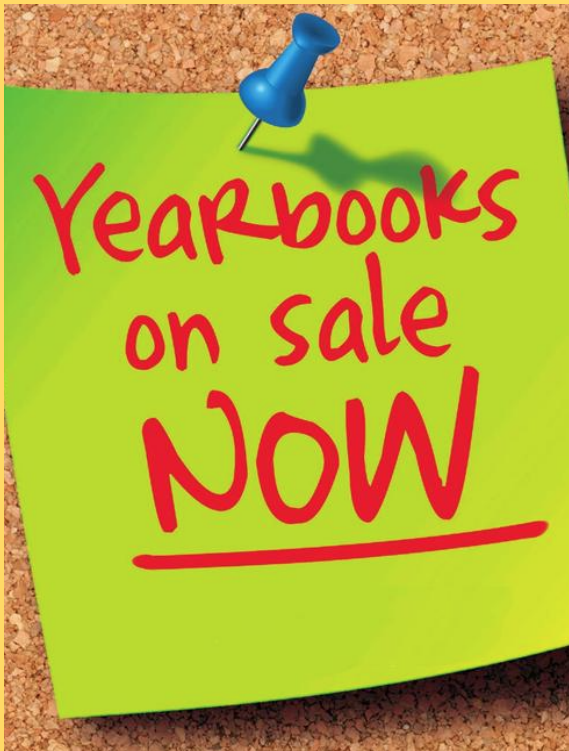
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- 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



# Great Displays Around the School



Mears staff has recently taken on the challenge of updating and improving many of the display cases and wall displays around the school. Above is a great example of this in the Mears Library; it was created by Ms. Heather Fleming, our dedicated librarian. As an added bonus, students are encouraged to check out these books, so it's a very useful tool to encourage reading.

## Great Work, Mears Staff!

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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](#)