



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, January 21, 2022

## *Team Raven's Tie-Dyed Team T-Shirts*



Today, students and staff on Team Raven demonstrated their school pride by wearing their new, popular tie-dyed team t-shirts. Students in Ms. Kayla Callahan's (pictured above, right) 8th grade ELA classes enjoyed tie-dying their own shirts in a recent team building activity. The shirts showcase team unity, while at the same time display each student's individual personality and style. Go Panthers!

# Hard Work Continues to Pay Off

## Mears Q2 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	142/38%	60/16%	54%
8th	157/40%	81/21%	61%

Total enrollment: 772/ 377 7th graders and 395 8th graders

The new Honor Roll list for the second quarter shows that Mears students continue to perform at very high levels academically. With well over half of Mears students in both grades earning Honor Roll status, the Mears community has a lot of reasons to be proud. Most importantly, well over half of our students are demonstrating a strong commitment to hard work and academic excellence even amidst all the challenges of this period of time.

## Young Leaders Take Initiative



This week, Mears hosted the second No Place for Hate Student Leadership Training Workshop. Participating students are learning extremely valuable communication skills and gaining insight into the importance of building safe and inclusive communities.

# Stay Informed/Get Involved

Planning Ahead:

The annual Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for Feb. 16-17 are cancelled. Instead, these will be regularly scheduled school days.

Friday, Feb. 18 – State Release Teacher Work Day; No school for students

Monday, Feb. 21 – President's Day Holiday

## Kare Kits for Blessing Boxes



EXAMPLES OF WHAT'S NEEDED:

- Hairbrush
- Combs
- New Socks
- New Underwear
- Hand Soap/Bar soap
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Dental Floss
- Shampoo
- Chapstick
- Mouthwash
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Products

Blessing Boxes are located all over Anchorage and provide food and other essential goods for anyone who need them. This inspiring project was created by Mears/Diamond Alumni, Ashley Perry. Mears is committed to supporting Ashley's vision of providing for those in our community who are less fortunate.

<https://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/alaskan-teen-volunteers-to-provide-food-and-essentials-to-families-in-need-with-blessing-boxes/>

BRING ANY ITEMS TO ROOM 106 BY 2/28/22.

DONATED ITEMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED INTO "BLESSING BOXES" ALL ACROSS ANCHORAGE.

# Cultivating Alaska's Youth Leaders



Mears 8th grade students are encouraged to apply for Alaska's Points of Light Youth Leadership Program, which offers leadership development training during Spring Break, March 7-11, 2022.

<https://www.alaskapyli.org/>

## Mears Electronic-Device Policy Reminder



Mears Families,

Mears students continue to do a great job following the new school cell phone policy. With no phone use in the hallways and at lunch students are engaging in more outgoing and healthy social behaviors.

If the policy is violated, devices will be picked up by family at the front window. We recognize this is an imposition for families, so please speak to your students about not using phones during the day.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Mears Administration

# Important Parking Reminder



Parents and family members are reminded that designated handicapped parking spaces are reserved exclusively for those with Reserved Parking Placards.

When dropping off or picking up your students, please be mindful of where you are parking and be sure that you are abiding by law.

Thank you.

# Mears Activities Update



Cross Country Skiing, Boys Basketball, and Archery are now underway with hundreds of students participating in these great extra-curricular activities.

Here is a great photo of Mears XC skiers at a recent practice at Kincaid Park, where district-wide competitions are held.

Special thanks to Ms. Megan Perkins and Ms. Holly Barclay for all they do to organize and coach our winter athletes.

## **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>

## COVID-19 Return To Play

Mears Families:

In addition to the standard forms and COVID-19 waiver, if a student has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and seeks to begin or return to a sport or activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form. The school nurse can provide more information; however, it's essentially a form (linked above and below) that requires 2 steps:

1. If the student has a confirmed positive COVID-19 test, a healthcare professional must sign off that he/she is able to return to the sport or activity prior to participation (not required to return to school).
2. Upon submission of this form, coaches will employ the slow re-entry process to ensure safety. **Please view the document to see the transitional return process.**
  - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11I5oSifxCsxF-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/view>

Although the form is not new, our employment of the document will be more stringent. All families that agree to participate in sports sign the COVID-19 waiver, which makes the Return to Play documentation part of the process.

Our hope is to enhance safety and help students as they restart strenuous activity. If you have any questions please contact Mike Scott, Mears AP, or Karin Richards, Mears Nurse.

[scott\\_michael@asdk12.org](mailto:scott_michael@asdk12.org)  
[richards\\_karin@asdk12.org](mailto:richards_karin@asdk12.org)

# Upcoming Activity Events

## Cross Country Skiing

DATE	STYLE	LOCATION	TIME
January 26, 2022	Classic	ERHS	5:30 PM
February 2, 2022	Classic	Bartlett HS	5:30 PM
February 9, 2022	Mixed Relays	Kincaid	5:30 PM
February 16, 2022	Skate	Service HS	5:30 PM
February 23, 2022	Skate	Chugiak HS	5:30 PM
March 2, 2022	Freestyle Championships	Kincaid	5:30 PM

## Boys Basketball

Please use this link to see dates/times/locations for boys basketball:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQZXUeKA-yyzAvNgF0TWfYc3dUrhGCOVtIlgKbzI7mWbDwcHIy3mwDQId4xoo61NQ/pubhtml>

## **Remember Mears families:**

1. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian;
2. All spectators must wear masks at all times at indoor events.

Thanks for your help and support!

Mike Scott, Mears AP

# Panthers Write!

### January Writing Contest

### Exploring Portals

C. S. Lewis used a wardrobe, J. M. Barrie used the second star to the right, and Lewis Carroll used a rabbit hole—each a gateway to another world. This month, pick an object that is important to you and transform it into a portal to an alternate world. Write a story about someone discovering the portal and adjusting to life where everything is foreign. Take into consideration where this secret passage is located and what it feels like to pass through it.

The deadline is Friday, January 28th. Stories can be no more than 1,000 words. Please submit stories to the Panther Participation course inside Canvas.

### Exploring Portals



Consider the following questions as you plan your story:

- What world will the main character travel to?
- Who will be in your story?
- How will they be transported?
- What awaits them in this new place?
- Do they return, and if so, how?

[Click here to begin your story.](#) (Have your Google Drive open.)



## Submission Guidelines:

Go to Panther Participation.  
Click on January Writing Contest.  
Click "Start Assignment" at the top.  
Select "Google" tab. (Must have your ASD Googledrive open.)  
Find and select your story.  
Click submit.

**[Click here to submit in Panther Participation.](#)**

Deadline is Friday, January 28th.

## Library at Mears ASD Bookmark Contest Winner



Please congratulate **Addyson Solberg**, this year's winner of the ASD district-wide bookmark contest. Addyson's bookmark will be copied and distributed to students and staff throughout the district.

# Mears Health Update

## Important Covid Health Reminders:

Updated Resources for Families



### **COVID Close Contact and Quarantine Policy**

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/returntoschoolpolicy/return-to-schoolwork>

- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

Other Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

## 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



### **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.

### **Upcoming PTSA General Meeting -- Feb. 22, 2022 5:30pm**

Meeting Dates for Spring Semester: Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 3, 2022

#### [Mears PTSA Zoom Link](#)

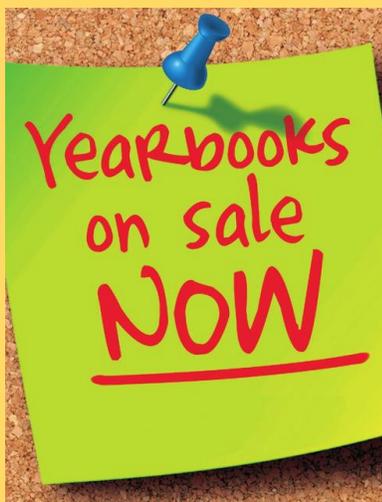
Meeting ID: 958 2804 2654

Passcode: 124813

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

#### [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

# Thank you, Bus Drivers and Substitutes



A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the bus drivers and substitutes who serve Mears Middle School and all the schools in ASD! During these challenging days of Omicron illness and staffing shortages, the work you do every day is essential to keeping our students in school. We appreciate all that you do for our students and families!

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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](#)