



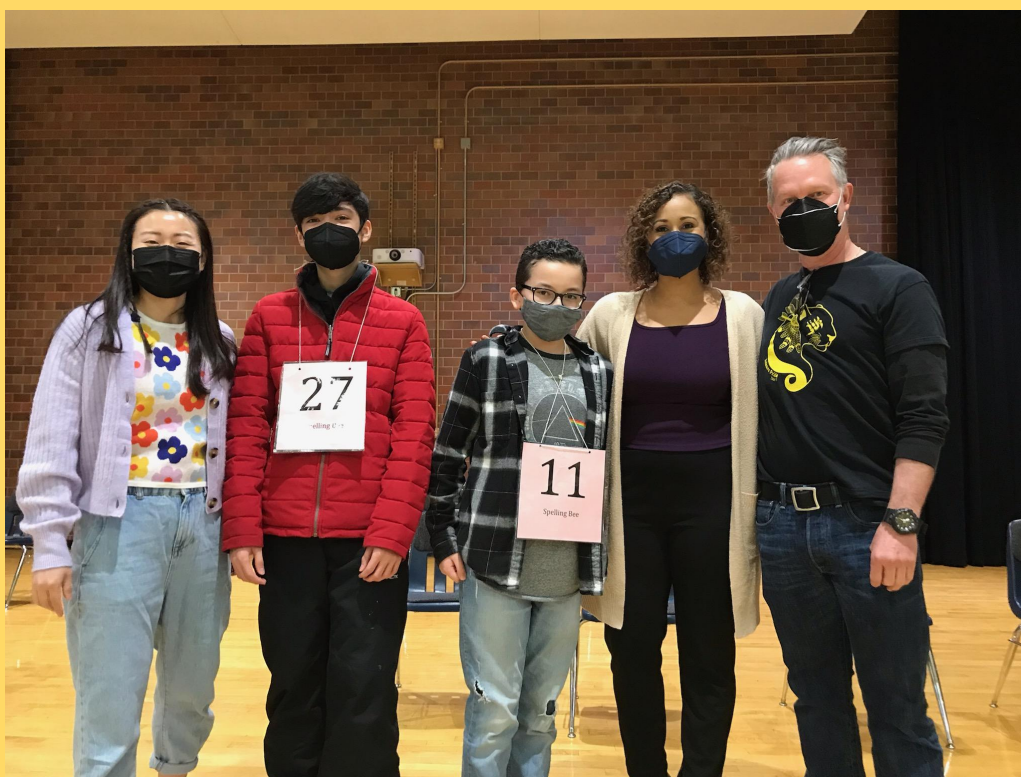
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mears Spelling Bee Champs



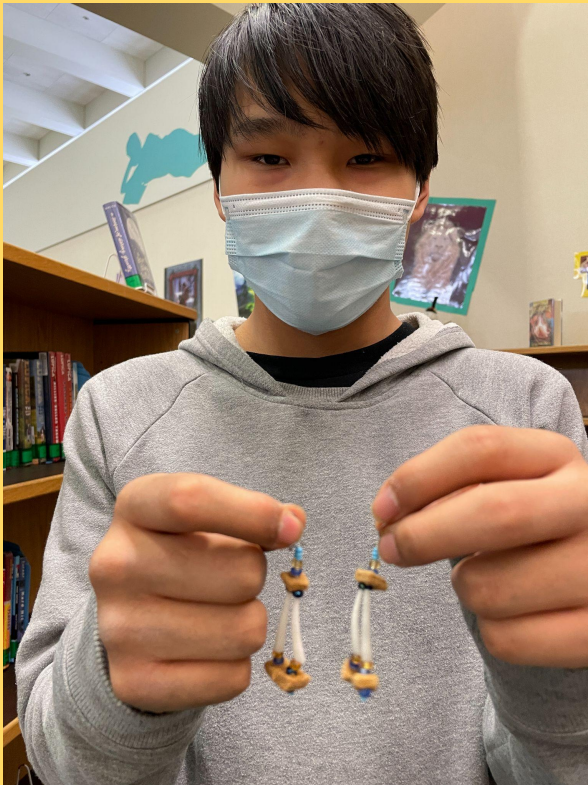
Yesterday, Mears hosted its annual Spelling Bee, where dozens of students competed on the big stage in the MPR and showed their adept spelling skills. In the end, two spellers emerged as champs: Linwood Stowe (1st place) and Soren Getti (2nd place). Special thanks goes out to Ms. Ariane Aramburo, KTUU News Anchor, for her incredible event facilitation, along with Mears teachers, Mr. Ross, Ms. Pak, Ms. Callahan, Ms. Sison, and Mr. Pease, for their leadership and organization of this fun annual event. **Go Panthers!**

The Martian Movie Day



Teachers on Team Echo hosted a movie day in the MPR yesterday. After reading Andy Weir's famous sci-fi novel, *The Martian*, students were given the opportunity to enjoy watching the film together, along with a pizza lunch.

Native Craft Making



Here is Clement Takumjenak, an 8th grade Honor Roll student, with the earrings he made with Ms. Benita Holt, Mears Coordinator of Indian Education. Students in the program often participate in activities focused on Native Alaskan craft-making and the arts.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Planning Ahead:

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

Monday, Feb. 21 – President's Day Holiday

Thursday, Feb. 24 – New Families Online Orientation Event, 6:00-7:00pm

Friday, Mar. 4 – State Release Teacher/Staff In-Service Day; No school for students

Mon.-Fri., March 7-11 – Spring Break; No School


Mon. March 14 – Beginning of 4th Quarter

Concerns about Vaping

How to talk to teens about vaping.

Find tips on how to speak to your teenager about e-cigarettes.

[View this tip sheet to learn more \(PDF\)](#) >



Dangers of e-cigarettes, vaping and JUULs: How to talk to kids

Without question, vaping is one of the gravest health concerns that faces our young people. Please talk to your student about the dangers of vaping and encourage them to let staff know if they see this illegal and inappropriate activity occurring on school grounds. We've included a link below to some educational information on health concerns related to vaping in this week's newsletter.

<https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking-tobacco/the-ugly-truth-about-vaping>

New Panther Expectations Poster



MEARS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Peaceful voices and actions.

All year, weather gear.

Never be tardy. Walk, don't stop.

Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Hands to yourselves.

Electronic devices put away.

Restrooms, use them responsibly.

Stay in class first and last 10 minutes.

Great Extra-curricular Opportunities

Indian Education After School Tutoring



Indian Education After School Tutoring
3-4pm, Room 212, Mon-Thurs

No tutoring every other Wed starting
with no tutoring on 2-16. If interested,
please email Gabriella Hesselink @

hesselink_abigail@asdk12.org

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From the hosts of Project Pie Face . . .

7TH GRADERS --

JOIN

NATIONAL JUNIOR
HONOR SOCIETY

Want more information?
Attend the (rescheduled)
informational meeting in
Ms. Sison's classroom (104)
after school on Wednesday,
February 23rd from 2:50-3:10.



The due date has been EXTENDED!

FEBRUARY 25 GOT QUESTIONS? EMAIL MS. SISON
AT SISON_MIA@ASDK12.ORG

Application link (QR code to the left!)
<https://forms.gle/95g2jD2zESB1Mqw49>

Mears Activities Update

Boy's basketball, cross-country skiing, archery, and Junior Native Youth Olympics have all had great seasons. Students have learned a great deal about each sport, and I'm happy to report that for many students this was

their first exposure to their respective sport, and this is the ultimate aim of all of our activities. Thanks to families for encouraging your students to get involved!



Here is a great photo of Mears' boy's basketball during a recent game: Go Panthers!

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
- 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/11l5oSifxCsxF-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 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

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. (Apologies: Last week I included the wrong link-please view this one).**
 - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/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
richards_karin@asdk12.org

PLAY SOFTBALL!



ANCHORAGE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ABOUT ASD MIDDLE SCHOOL FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Interested in playing a safe and fun team sport while making new friends and representing your school? Anchorage Sports Association is partnering with the Anchorage School District to offer Middle School Fastpitch Softball for girls attending middle school.

All practices held after school from 3:00-4:30pm (days subject to availability).

Who: Girls: 6th, 7th & 8th Graders in Middle School
When: Practices: At least 2x practices per week beginning March 22
Games: Saturdays beginning April 30
Where: Practices: Local Middle Schools
Games: Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex

For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.anchoragesports.com/mfsdpitch>
Or call the ASA Office at 907-562-1513

"The Anchorage School District does not endorse these materials or the viewpoints expressed in them."

Softball Is Coming Soon

I'm excited to say that softball will begin soon. It starts the week of March 22nd. See the flier above for more information and contact Anchorage Sports Association (907) 562-1513 if you're interested in this fantastic opportunity.

Mike Scott, Mears AP

Upcoming Activity Events

Cross Country Skiing

February 23rd	Skate	Chugiak	5:30 PM
March 2nd	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-yyzAvNgF0TWFYc3dUrhGCOVttlgKbzI7mWbDwcHIy3mwDQId4xoo61NQ/pubhtml>

Track and Field

Track and Field begins after spring break: Thursday, March 17th. Please see the link below for more information on dates/times for events. As with most of our activities, practice is held at Mears, 3:00-4:30 PM

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSddovJU77zzzfz298lFwll2rUudSkNID1dSDOs5TLyXX0iEU9mRKGKsKm5k-UEEsrsCJP5cOf4uqBK/pubhtml>

For all Mears Activities: 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!: February's Writing Contest

Lights, Camera, Action

Create a Video Story

This month, tell a story in 4 minutes or less in which you include a social media mishap. Use at least two of the following social media terms in your story:

#Blessed
This Ain't It
Delete Your Account
Social NOTworking
Instafamous

Record your 4-minute story in Canvas Studio.
Deadline for video submissions is Friday, February 25th.

Story Guidelines:



1. Make your story fit the theme of social media slogans. Use at least two of the slogans provided. (You may use more than two.)
2. Tell your story in no more than 4 minutes.
3. The story can be fiction or nonfiction, or a blend of the two.
4. Write out a draft of your story first, even though the story entry itself will be spoken words, recorded using the Canvas studio tool. (See the video tutorial on Canvas studio inside the Canvas module.)



Planning your Video Story:

- Start with action!
- Organize your story around a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Write it out. Have another person read it and give you feedback.
- Read your story multiple times, play it in your mind, practice it in front of your dog. Become so familiar with your story that you don't even need notes.
- Perform a timed rehearsal. Remember, no more than 4 minutes.
- Remember to tell your story and not simply read it. Consider volume, pauses, voice, body posture, hand gestures, facial expressions.
- When you are ready to record, watch the instructional video in this module on how to record using Studio and how to submit your completed video.

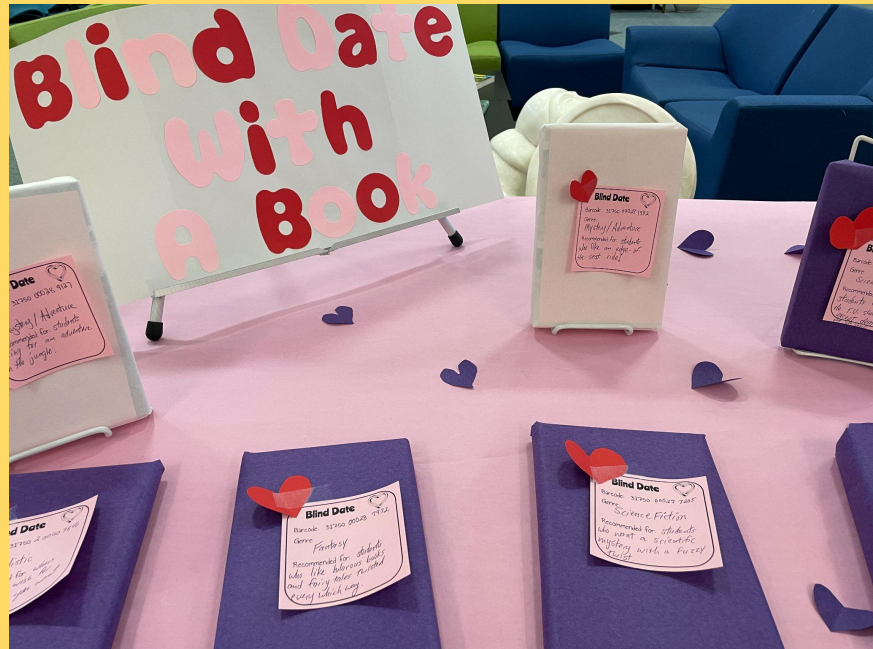
Congratulations to January's Writing Contest Winners:
Madden Hamey and Marissa Kimura

[January Writing Contest Winners](#)

Library at Mears

Blind Date With A Book

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and the library is offering a sweet treat to anyone who completes a blind date with a book! Check out a book using only the genre and a one sentence description. After you are finished reading, complete the Rate Your Date slip and return it to the library.



Mears Health Update

Important Covid Health Reminders:

Updated Resources for Families

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

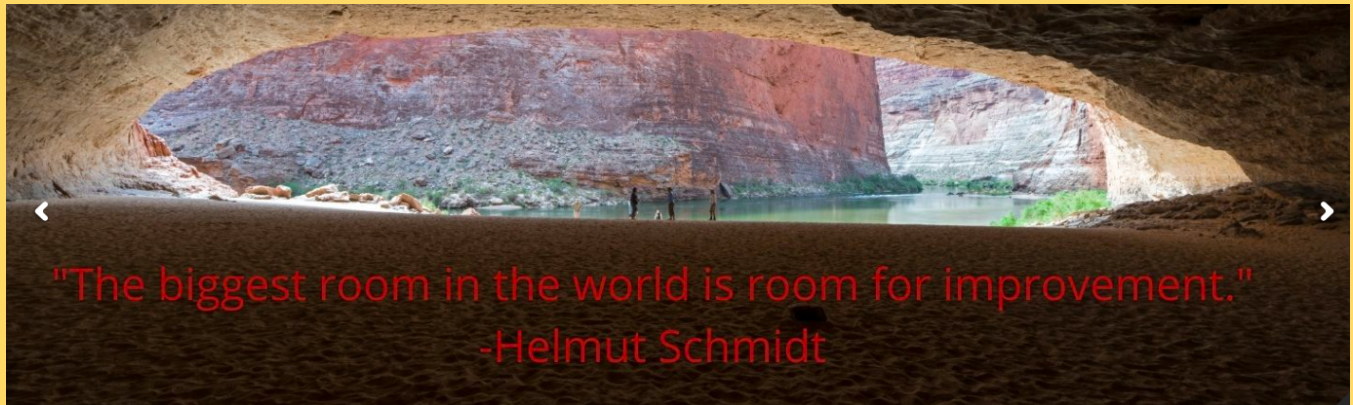
- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

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
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade
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 use Yearbook ID: 13921122 Mears PTSA

Congratulations to Abrianna Helzer for her amazing cover design for this year's Yearbook.

Mears Promotes Allyship

From Bystanding to Allyship



We must be willing to move from “safe” to brave spaces – taking risks and standing together to create a world of difference.

An ‘ally’ is someone who has privilege but chooses to stand for and with marginalized communities by taking **tangible, ongoing** actions to dismantle systems of oppression.





During the in-service day this week, Mears teachers and staff participated in a morning training session with facilitators from the No Place for Hate educational program. The workshop was focused on creating a school environment that is safe and inclusive—a brave space that addresses negative bias and stereotypes proactively.



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](#)