



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 11, 2022

Generous Support for Mears Music



Last night, the Mears Middle School Music Program hosted a well attended and incredibly successful fundraising event. The annual Cake Auction drew hundreds of generous supporters, who enjoyed an evening of terrific musical performances by choir, orchestra, and band students, as well as raised thousands of dollars for the program. Special thanks to Ms. McCubrey, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Edwards and their amazing student-musicians.

Mears extends a big thank you to all who donated cakes and funds to support music education at Mears. **Go Panthers!**

Mears Welcomes New Panthers



Sixth graders from all of Mears' feeder schools participated in a series of school tours and orientation activities this week. Mears is proud to welcome students from the graduating class of 2028 from Bayshore, Kincaid, Gladys Wood, Chinook, Sand Lake, Campbell, Aquarian Charter, Kasuun, and others. Special thanks goes out to Ms. Caitlin Burr and Ms. Crysta Svendsen and all the other staff who

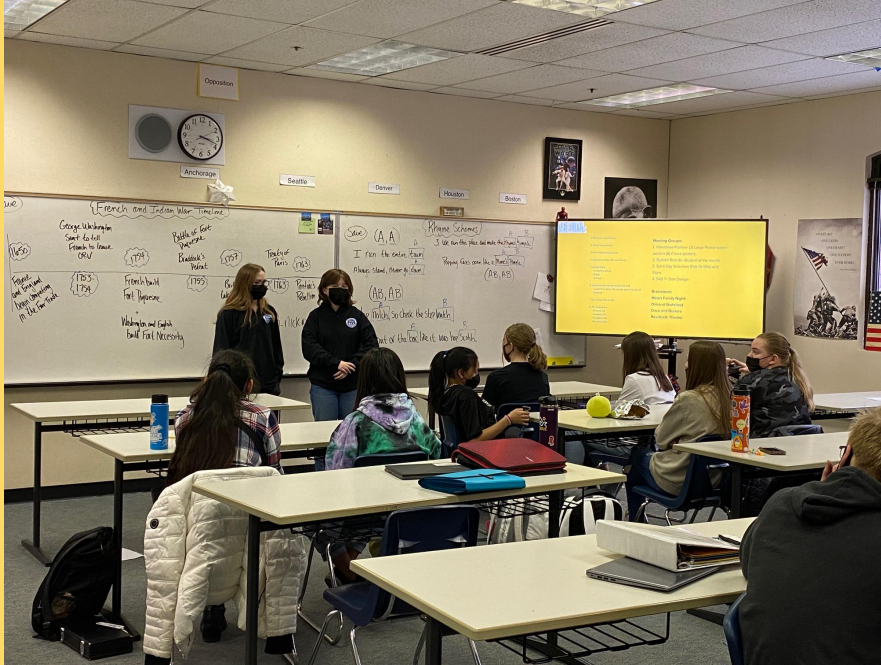
assisted with the tours. We also thank our student leaders from National Junior Honor Society and Student Advisory Board for leading the school walking tours.

Celebrating Hard Work



This week, students at Mears received Honor Roll certificates to celebrate their impressive academic achievement. Over 60% of Mears students are currently on the Honor Roll with GPAs of 3.0 or higher. 15% of Mears students have perfect 4.0 GPAs. Congratulations to all of our scholars!

SAB District Representatives



Student Advisory Board members Ella Wheelles and Moira Nevala represent Mears Middle School during district-wide student leadership meetings. Pictured here are Ella and Moira giving a report to Mears SAB leaders after meeting at ASD's Education Center with other student leaders from throughout the district.

Robot Demonstration in the Library



FBI Special Agent Espeland visits with 7th grade science classes and demonstrates one of the bomb unit robots. Students learned how the robots assist the FBI in many situations, not just explosive ones! Agent Espeland also answered questions on a wide variety of subjects including how to become an FBI agent, and his most memorable assignments. Students are currently studying coding in computer science.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, Feb. 16 – Staff Meeting, 3:00–4:00pm, Library

The annual Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for Feb. 16-17 are canceled. 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

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

Spirit Week Feb. 14-17

Mears SPIRIT WEEK

Monday 2/14	Tuesday 2/15	Wednesday 2/16	Thursday 2/17
CUPID'S ARROW 	Tourist Tuesday 	One Color Wednesday 	Throw Back Thursday 
Show your School Spirit Be the first team to win the 2022 Mears Spirit Trophy			

New After School Tutoring Opportunity

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

From the hosts of Project Pie Face . . .

7TH GRADERS --

JOIN

NATIONAL JUNIOR
HONOR SOCIETY

Invitation letters were sent out to all eligible 7th graders on Friday, February 11.



Applications are due

FEBRUARY 23

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

Application link (QR code to the left!)
<https://forms.gle/95g2jD2zESBIMqw49>

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 boy's basketball in a recent match up during middle school tournament play.

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/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 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!



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/msfastpitch>

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 if you're interested in this fantastic opportunity.

Mike Scott, Mears AP

Upcoming Activity Events

Cross Country Skiing

DATE	STYLE	LOCATION	TIME
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-yyzAvNgF0TWfYc3dUrhGCOVttlgKbzI7mWbDwcHly3mwDQId4xoo61NQ/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.

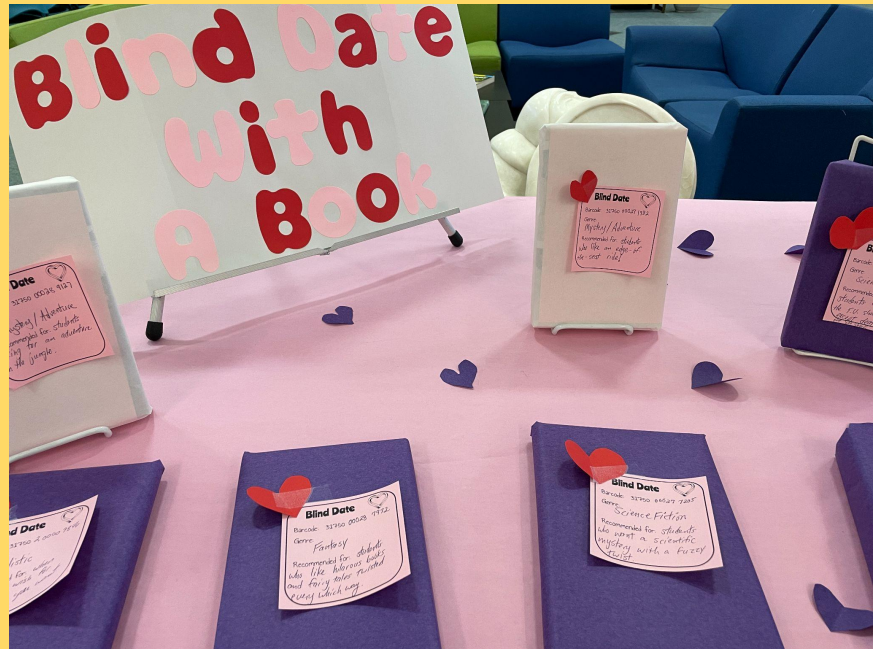
Congratulations to January's Writing Contest Winners:
Madden Hamey and Marissa Kimura

[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>

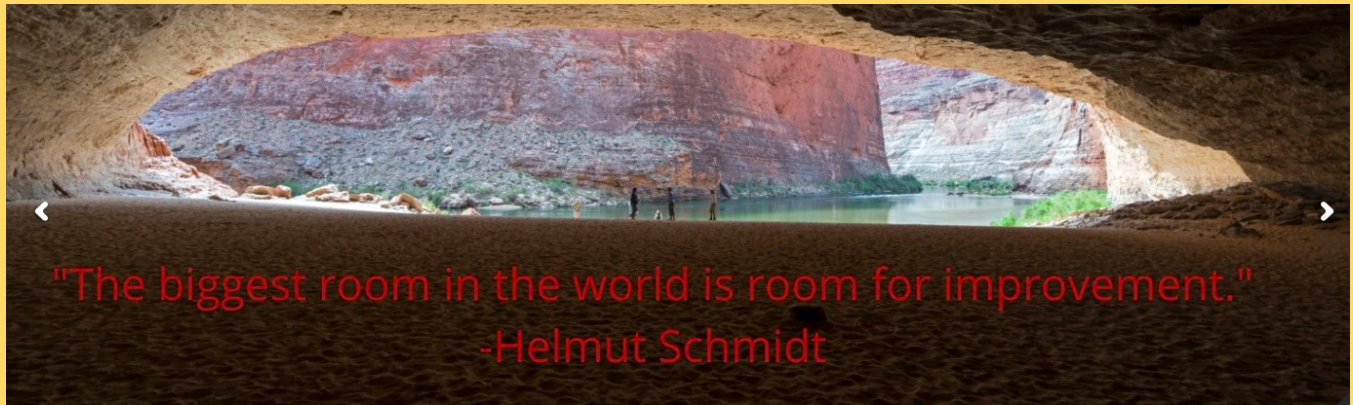
- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

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.

Fun Without Phones!



Students are enjoying a variety of activities during lunchtime that do not require phones or electronics. Here is a group of students playing a competitive game of “Spoons,” a popular card game that requires quick thinking and speedy reaction time.



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](#)