



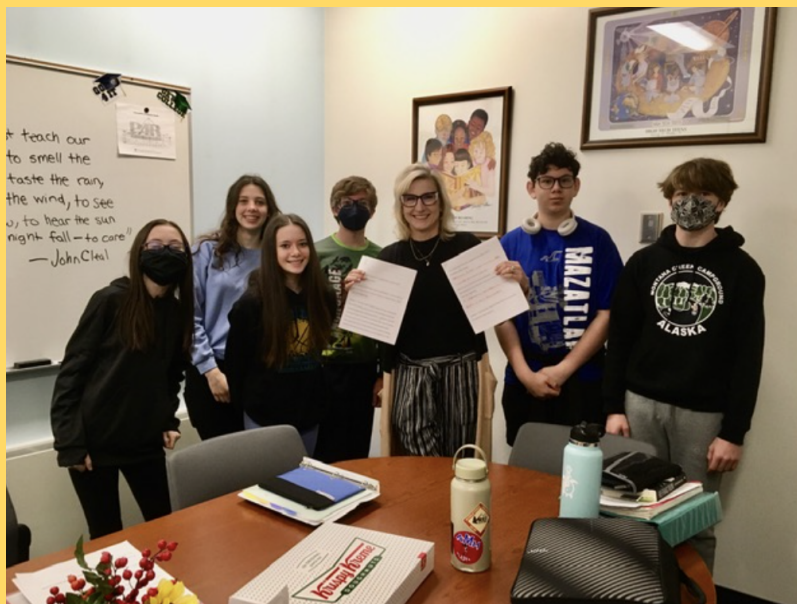
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 22, 2022

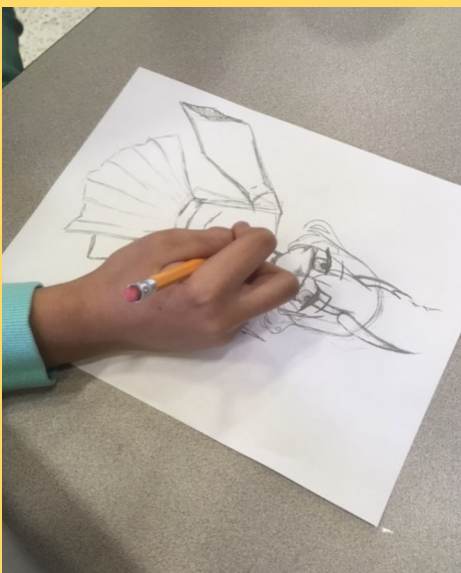
Japanese Immersion Collaborates with Superintendent



This week, ASD's Superintendent, Dr. Deena Bishop, spent Tuesday morning at Mears with a group of stellar Japanese Immersion students, who assisted with the translation of a speech for Dimond High School's graduation ceremony. Dr. Bishop, who came to school bearing the gift of donuts for students and staff, expressed her appreciation for the students' help and was profoundly impressed with their level of fluency in Japanese and strong communication skills.

Go Panthers!

New Interactive Activities Flourish During Lunchtime



Since Mears adopted its No Phone policy earlier in the year, students have been engaging in a wide variety of fun, interactive activities during lunchtime. Recently, we have seen an increasing number of students playing card games, practicing their ukuleles, and drawing. All of these activities promote creativity, interpersonal skills, and also friendship.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age

Through the generous support of Mears PTSA, the original Screenagers film is available for free to all members of the Mears school community for the next two weeks.



Film viewing available at no cost for the Mears school community, April 22-May 10

<https://www.eventcombo.com/e/screenagers-growing-up-in-the-digital-age-presented-by-mears-45898>

MAP Testing Schedule for Math and Language Arts

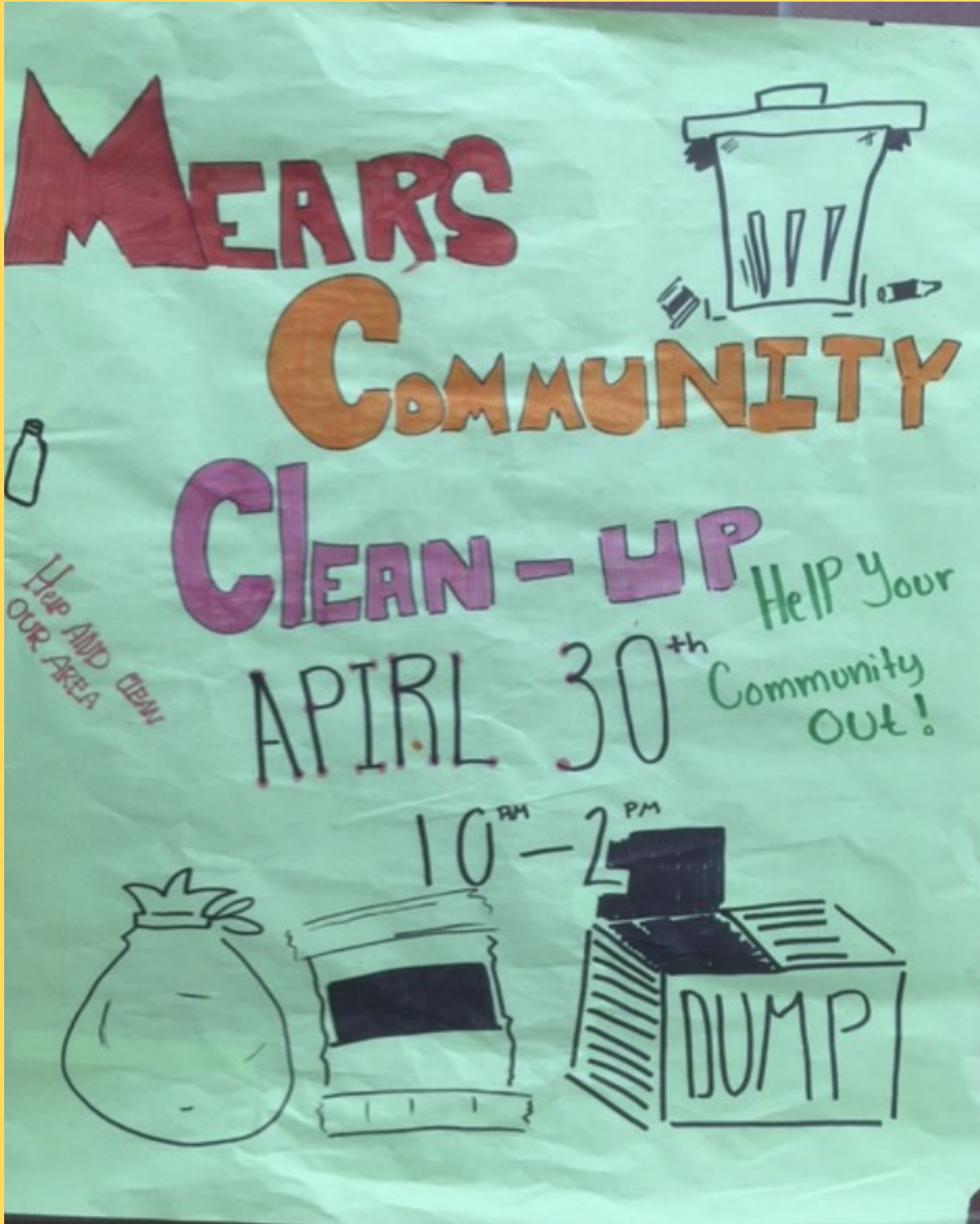
Math MAP	Mon. 4/25 -Wed. 4/28
Math Makeups	Fri. 4/29
ELA MAP	Wed. 5/4- Fri. 5/6
ELA Makeups	Mon. 5/9

The Importance of MAP Testing

Mears Families, please note that MAP test results are a very tool for measuring student academic progress. The assessment is given three times each academic year and the results are used by teachers to identify important areas of needed academic focus and support for individuals and groups of students. MAP assessment results are also used by counselors, department chairs, and administrators to ensure that students are scheduled in the most appropriate classes in math, language arts, and science.

Spring Neighborhood Cleanup This Weekend

Come lend a helping hand, as Mears Community Service Students organize the annual neighborhood clean up. The event begins at Mears (east parking lot) at 10:00am and will end at 2:00pm. Volunteering is a great way to show your appreciation for all the community support that the Mears/Diamond community gives to Mears.



April Creative Writing Contest

Song Lyric Poems

*And we gonna let it burn, burn, burn
burn.*

Being the way you are is enou ou ough.

*WE ARE NEVER EVER EVER GETTING BACK
TOGETHER.*

April is poetry month. To honor our poets and their poetry, this month's writing contest will require you to write a poem. What? You say you don't like poetry? Wait! Song lyrics are poetry, and I bet you have a favorite song or two. So give it try!

Here's April's prompt: Select a line of lyrics from your favorite song. Make those lyrics the first line and the last line of your poem.

Hey I just met you and this is crazy.

Out on your corner in the pouring rain.

*This is the part when I say I
don't want ya.*

So get ready, it's go time.

Deadline: Friday, April 29th.

See writing tips on the next slide.

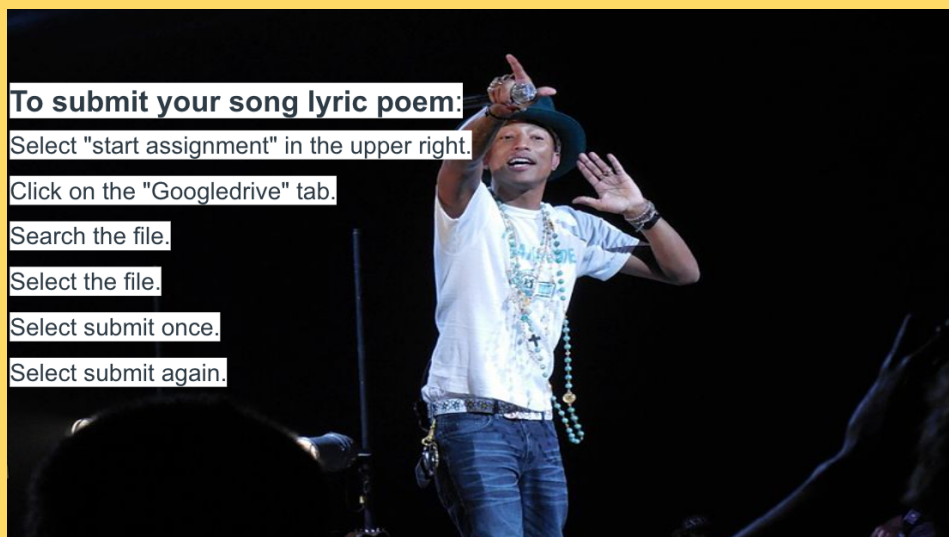


Lyrics-to-Poetry Tips

- Consider what the line you chose means to you.
- Once removed from the song, can the line take on a new and different meaning?
- Experiment with different poetic devices: rhyme, repetition, alliteration (the repetition of sound), simile, metaphor or personification.
- Poems can be rhyming or non-rhyming but must begin and end with the same line from a song.
- At the end of your poem, give credit to the musician whose line you borrowed.
- Suggested length: 8-20 lines.

[Click here to begin writing.](#)





Congratulations to the
March Writing Contest
Winners!

First Place:
Imari Navarro

Runner Up:
Coe Benito

Mears Library Summer Reading Opportunities

Summer is a great time for kids to choose their own reading material. In the Kids & Family Reading Report from Scholastic 70% of kids who responded positively about enjoying summer reading said it was because they could choose what they wanted to read. One limiting factor for summer reading is access to books. Below are several ways students can access reading and listening material during the summer.

Anchorage Public Library Summer Discovery Program

The kick-off event will be held at the Loussac Library on May 14th from noon to 4pm. However, students may participate in the competition in person or virtually. Reading logs will be available on the [Summer Discover website](#) in May.

SORA - books, magazine, and audio

Students can read or listen to ebook, e-audiobooks, and now magazines in SORA. The SORA app is a free download for mobile devices and students use their regular district credentials to create an account. SORA is also available as a website on laptops and Chromebooks.

AudiobookSYNC 13+

This program is aimed at teens ages 13 and older, it offers a pair of electronic audiobooks every week from April 28th through August 17th. Register with an email address on the [AudioSYNC website](#), then access and download the titles using SORA!

More information on all of these options is available on the [Library at Mears](#) website with links to detailed directions.

Mears Health Update

Important Covid Health Reminders:



<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](#)

Panther Positive Behavior Contest

In the interest of encouraging and acknowledging positive behavior at Mears, we began our Panther Positive Behavior Contest. Each week, I provide tickets to teachers and staff.



I announce a particular positive behavior we're targeting that week (i.e. seated and ready to learn when the bell rings), and teachers and staff provide students that exhibit these behaviors with tickets. Then students place the tickets in the contest box in the library, and I draw two names from each grade level at the end of the day Friday. On Monday, I announce the winners, and they

receive a small prize and congratulations. Their names are also emblazoned on the nearby library wall. It's a great opportunity to encourage students to employ positive behaviors. I want to thank Ms. Fleming for the space and the cool wall display and Mr. Anderson for building the box expressly for this purpose. Finally, I would like to thank the Foundations team at Mears for making this idea a reality: see image.

Great job, everyone!

Mike Scott, Mears AP

Mears Activities Update

Mears Families:

The track season's final events are occurring next week. Please see the ASD schedule for track in the link below for any questions:

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

Students are also enjoying soccer and tennis/pickleball. Thanks to Mears families for encouraging students to join in the fun!

Best Wishes,

Mike Scott, Mears AP



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/1lI5oSifxCsxF-MNlknP6hBp0FPtELfEl/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

Mears Counseling Corner

Future Freshman of Dimond High School Class of 2026!



Current 8th grade students, who will be entering Dimond High School in the fall of 2022, and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. We'll share information about 9th grade classes, sports, and activities. Department chairs, counselors and teachers will also be onsite to answer questions. Please see the flier below for more information.

[DHS Transition to High School Resources](#)



Team Echo prepares to depart for their tour at DHS.

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 -- May 17, 2022 5:30pm

Final Meeting of the Year!

[Mears PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

7th Graders--Be Sure to Get Your Mears Gear for Next Year

We are proud to announce our new Mears PTSA School Store Online! We are able to bring many brand-name items delivered directly to your home!

<https://mearsptsa.squarespace.com/>



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](#)