



*Mears Middle School*

# **Panther Pride**

*Respect, Responsibility, Creativity and Academic Excellence*

Friday, August 30, 2019

## *Panthers Move Training Indoors*



During the first week of school, air quality was so poor athletes throughout Anchorage moved practices indoors. Mears cross country runners trained indoors, running through the hallways and up and down the stairs. Pictured here are a group of student-athletes running past their coach, Ms. Holly Roberts, as she checks runners' lap times. As air quality has improved this week, our coaches have moved practices outdoors. **Go Panthers!**

# Panthers Cross Country Team Photo, 2019-20



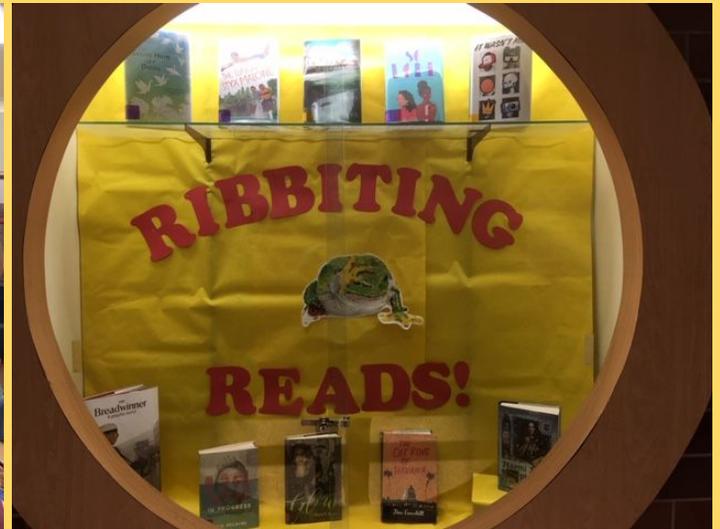
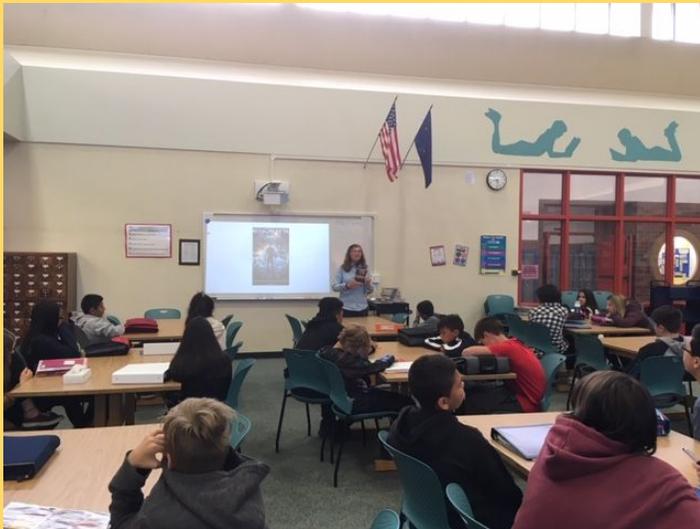
## School Safety Drills



During the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 27, Mears Middle School practiced a series of safety drills, which included stay put, classroom lockdown and full school evacuation. The drills gave students and staff the opportunity to practice safety protocols so that in the event of a real emergency everyone would know what to do and where to go. Students and staff took the drills very seriously and did a great job

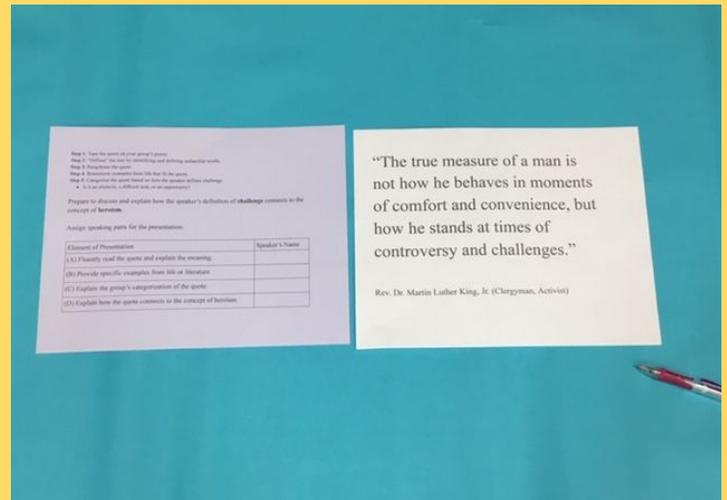
following directions. Student safety, health and wellbeing are our highest priority at Mears.

# Don't Judge a Book By Its Cover



Mears librarian, Ms. Heather Fleming, has given a series of presentations to 7th graders about the school library and the power of reading. Students were given instructions about how the library works, including how to check out books. Encouraged to not judge a book by its cover, students selected books based on their interest in the first sentence of the text.

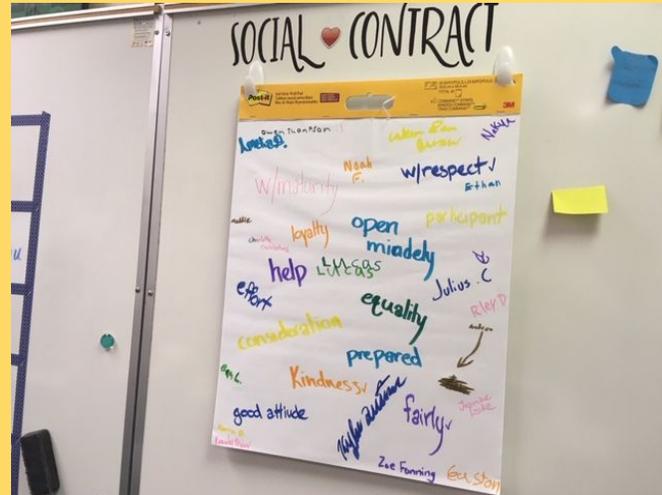
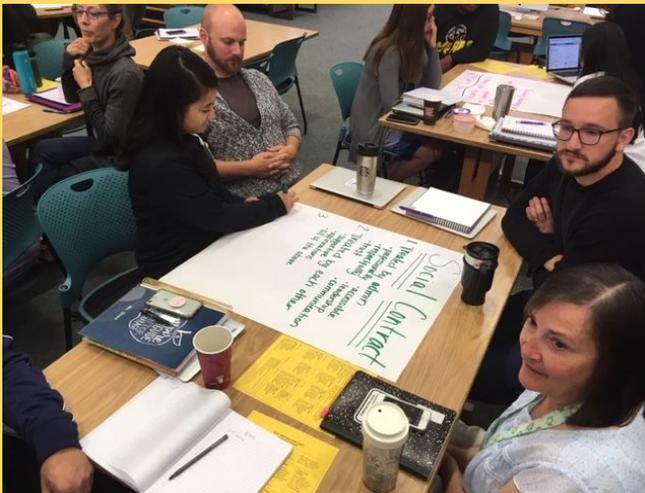
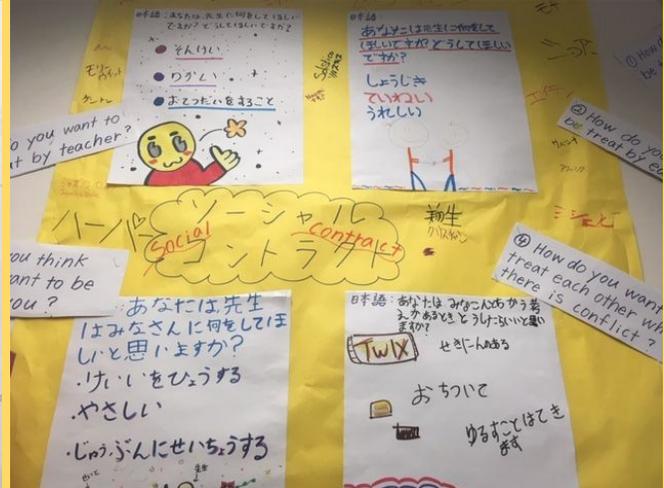
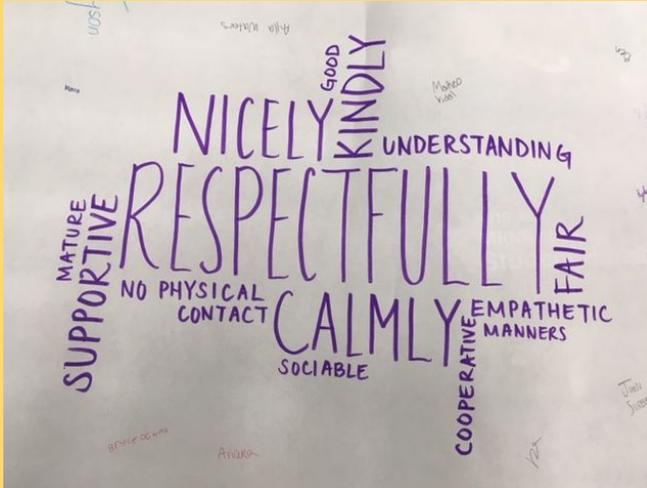
# Are Challenges Obstacles or Opportunities?



Students in Ms. Sally Pak's Language Arts 8 class prepare for a small group presentation on the underlying meaning of Dr. King's famous quote about the true measure of people. Students worked collaboratively to determine the meaning of King's statement and to provide real-world examples of his ideas.

# ⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒

How do you want to be treated? How will you treat others?



Teachers and students alike spent time during the first few days of school creating Social Contracts. The activity, which was completed in each and every classroom, is designed to establish guidelines for values and behaviors that everyone agrees to uphold. These social contracts are the foundation for building a school community that is committed to respect and inclusion. Included in Mears' mission statement is the goal of fostering self-respect, responsibility and integrity.

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

### **Mears Teachers and Staff**

Thursday, Aug. 29 -- Staff Meeting, Mears Library, 3-4:15pm

Thursday, Sept. 5 -- Open House, 6:30pm

### **Mears Parents and Guardians**

Thursday, August 29 - School Photos

Monday, Sept 2 - HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

Thursday, Sept 5 - Open House - 6:30pm

Thursday, Sept 12 - Cross Country Running Meet @ Service HS - 5:00 pm

Monday, Sept 16 - Archery I BEGINS - 3pm-4:30pm

Thursday, Sept 19 - Cross Country Running Meet @ Chugiak HS - 5:15 pm

Tuesday, Sept 25 - Cross Country Running Meet @ Mirror Lake - 5:00pm

**Note: Cross Country meets will begin at around 5:00 pm due to bussing constraints.**

## **Important Attendance Information**

Attendance Line: 566-3300 – includes past and present absences

Office number: 742-6400

- **If your student is going to be out** – please call the attendance line, 566-3300 to report the absence. Make sure to spell your students name!!
- **If you are picking your student up early** – Please send a note with them to school so they can get a blue pass from the front office. This will save classroom interruption and less wait time when you come to the office to sign them out.
- **Attendance Calls** – if your student was marked absent have them check with their teachers to find out which period to get the correction taken care of.
- **End of the day calls** – Please allow the office runners at least 20 min. before the end of the day to deliver messages promptly to your student to avoid last minute confusion
- **Prearranged absences** – Request forms are available in the student service's office for absences of 5 or more days. Missed homework will be requested from teachers but it is the students' responsibility to make sure all school work is complete.
- **Phone calls** – Please be patient with ringing phone lines. The office has very busy times so leave a message and we will get to it as soon as we can!

We realize that emergencies do come up and we try to do everything we can to accommodate them so please keep them to a minimum!!

# Students Organize Fire Relief Efforts



## **Dear Mears Families,**

The Service Learning class has begun our first project to help others.

We are collecting the following items to help Alaskans tragically displaced by wildfires:

**Baby wipes**

**White vinegar**

**Baking soda**

**Duct tape**

**Heavy Duty work gloves**

**Bleach**

**Hand-Wipes**

**Paper plates/cups**

**Plastic ware**

**"Bag of Rags" (Costco or auto supply stores)**

**Paper towels**

**Toilet paper**

**Laundry soap**

**Dish soap**

**Boxed matches**

**New packs of underwear and socks.**

**Non-perishable foods, such as:**

**Cereals**

**Baby foods**

**Baby formula**

**Gatorade**

**Apple juice**

**Orange juice**

**Canned milk**

**Soups**

**Canned tuna**

**Canned chicken**

**Canned beef (Costco)**

**Salt/pepper**

**Dog and cat food**

**Condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayo**

**Toothpaste, tooth brushes**

These are just a few ideas based on the needs indicated by first responders, working in the Talkeetna/Caswell area.

People have lost their homes, which means EVERYTHING. Basic items we take for granted are gone.

Ex: A can opener is needed to open canned goods.

Please use your imagination and think about the things you would miss if everything except the clothes on your back disappeared, those are the items we need.

**Donations can be brought to room 106 until 9/13/19.**

**Thank you for your support!**

# District Busing Announcement



Well over half the student body at Mears takes the bus to and from school each day. Every day, a total of fourteen buses help transport students to Mears. During the first few days of school some of our buses ran late and/or drove routes incorrectly. School administrators are working closely with the district transportation office to ensure

that our buses are safe and on time. We appreciate your support and patience as we work toward this goal.

## **Fall Sports....**

Cross Country Running - 8/22-10/11

Soccer (no fee) - 8/26-9/20

Girls Basketball - 8/26-10/11

Archery I (no fee) - 9/16-10/11

**If your student is participating in a fall sport** the following items are required:

1. Current physical (within the last 18 mos.)
2. A completed participation form
3. Fee for interscholastic sport, \$110 (cash/check) or a receipt of payment made online  
OR a completed and approved fee waiver.

All forms are available on the ASD website or the Mears office.

## Mears PTSA Community Education Series and Activities Calendar, 2019-20

Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's calendar of events hosted by Mears' PTSA. This series of educational events and activities are designed to address important topics of interest to our school community and the young people we serve.

Tues., Sept. 24 -- Digital Citizenship, 6:30-8:00pm

Wed., Oct. 30 -- Bullying Prevention, 6:30-8:00pm

Wed., Nov. 20 -- Vaping, 6:30-8:00pm

Tues., Jan. 28 -- Teenage Health and Development, 6:30-8:00pm

Wed., Feb. 19 -- Family Dance Night, 6:30-8:00pm

Wed., Mar. 25 -- STEM Night/Team Competition, 6:30-8:00pm

TBD, April -- 9th Grade Preview Night @ Dimond HS

## Be Informed: Know the Law

Parents and Community members, please be aware that new laws prevent cell phone use on mobile communication device while driving a moving vehicle in active school zones.

AO NO. 2019-51(S), AS AMENDED

MUNI.ORG/ASSEMBLY

### NO CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL ZONES FACTSHEET\*



A new ordinance (law) passed by the Anchorage Assembly on June 20, 2019 makes it unlawful for a driver of any vehicle to talk on a mobile communication device while driving a vehicle within an active school zone or on school grounds, unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.



***Want to help the school earn more money at no extra cost to you?***

Added benefits for Mears Middle School and the PTSA. If you shop at any of these places be sure to use the links provided or sync up your rewards card to Mears Middle School PTSA

**Amazon:** <https://smile.amazon.com/>

**Shutterfly:** <http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com/>

**Fred Meyer Community Rewards:** Login into your account from a computer or web app (not phone apps) and add Mears Middle School to your Community Rewards program. It's that simple. FAQs <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-9>

## Inspired Teaching!



Mears science teacher, Mr. James McDonald, proves that even a t-shirt can promote critical thinking. Good curriculum is everywhere at Mears!

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## *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](#)