



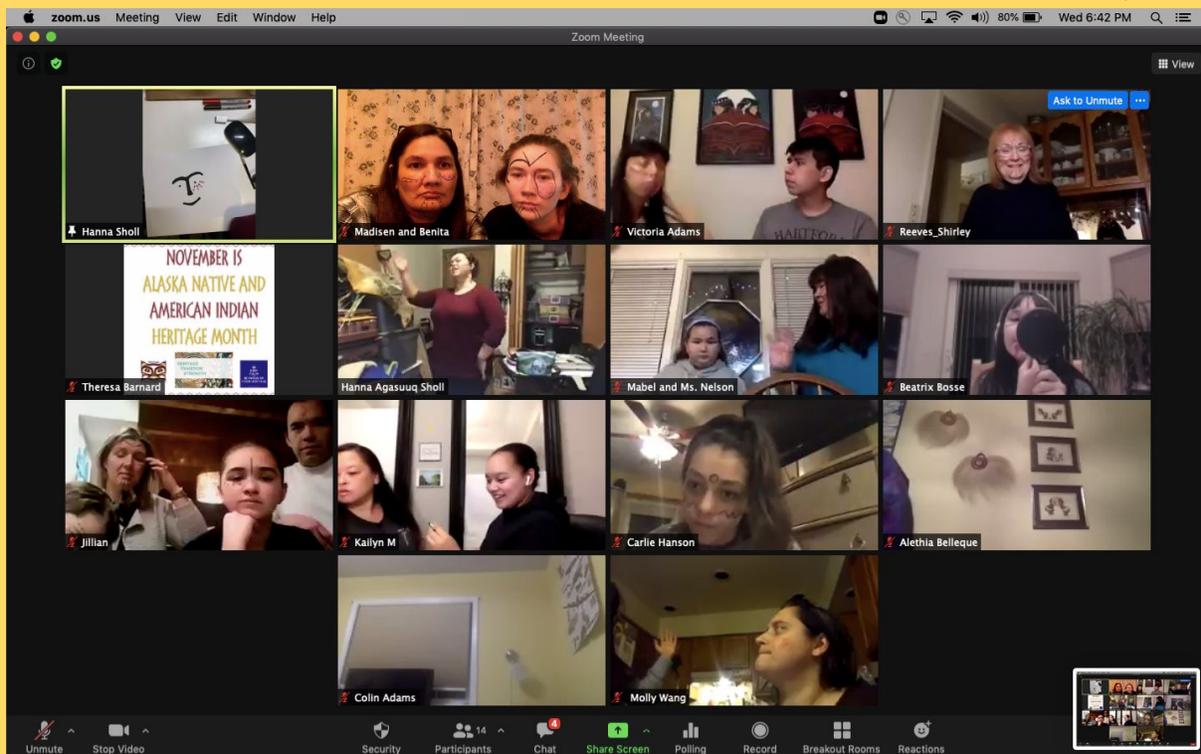
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, November 20, 2020

Mears Celebrates Alaska Native Heritage



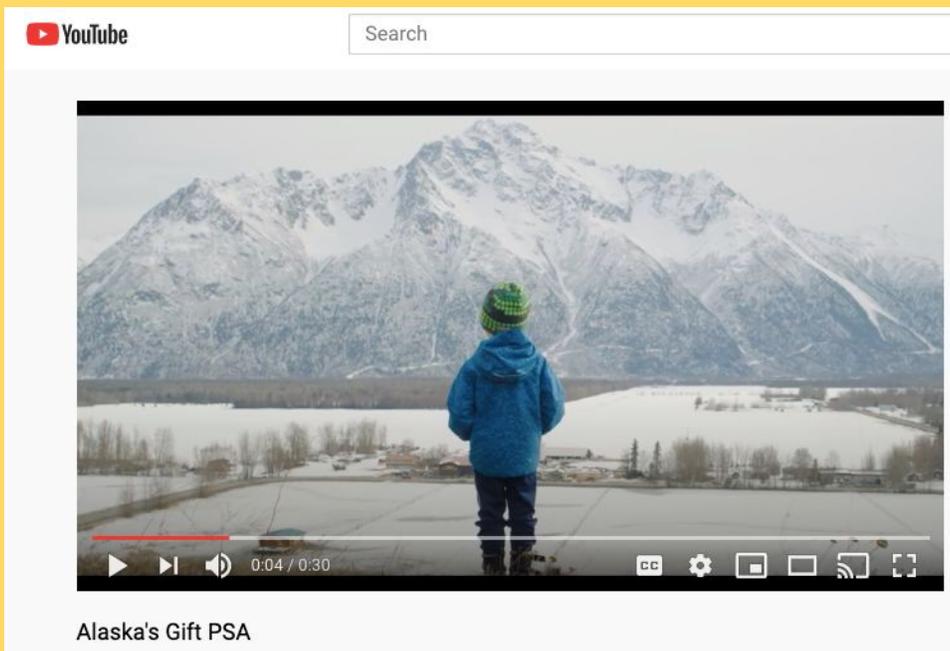
Happy Heritage Month! November is commonly referred to American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate diverse cultures and traditions! Mears students enjoyed a traditional indigenous tattooing/face painting event on Nov. 17 and 18 with Dimond and Gladys Wood. Mears students in the photo above include: Beatrix Bosse, Keona Hess, and Kailyn Middleton. Hanna Sholl shared her knowledge, skills, and family with us! If you are interested in learning more about Hanna Sholl, please click on the following sites: <https://www.fineartsbyhannasholl.com/> Special thanks to Ms. Benita Holt for being such a great advocate for Mears students.

SAB Takes Initiative



Congratulations to all the members of Mears Student Advisory Board, who have been busy these last few weeks preparing for a number of important activities. SAB will be promoting a holiday spirit week, winter community giving drive, and a school-wide pledge to combat hate speech and bullying. Mears' young leaders are showing great initiative!

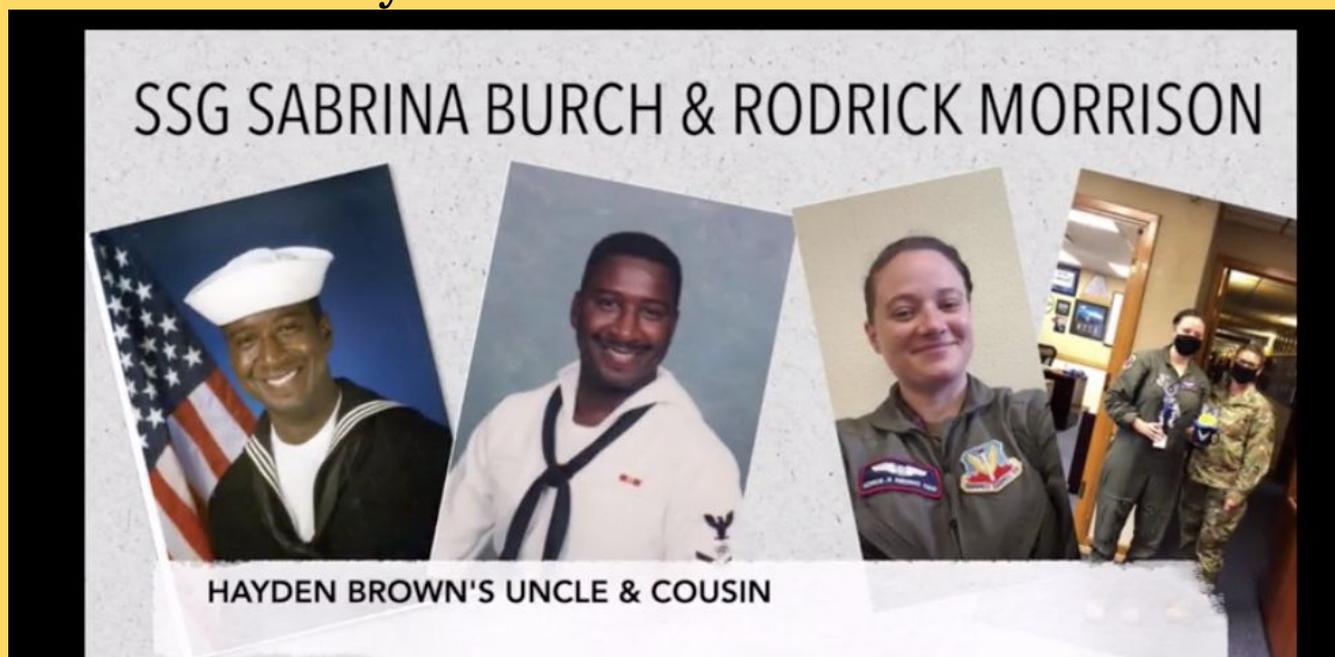
Why Not Wednesdays



Hello Mears! For this week's Why Not Wednesday activity, we want to focus on getting outside and being active. It's more important than ever to get outside and enjoy the space and beauty of the outdoors in Alaska. We encourage everyone to participate in Why Not Wednesday by taking photos of you outside with your family being active! Check out this inspiring video:

[Alaska's Gift PSA](#)

For those who haven't seen it... Veteran's Day Video Tribute



Be sure to check out the video tribute:

[Mears Veteran's Day Video Tribute](#) Download from Google [HERE](#)

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday/Nov. 23 -- | Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am
CT Leads, 2:30-3:30pm
Planning and CT before and after school |
| Tuesday/Nov. 24 -- | Planning and CT before and after school |
| Wednesday/Nov. 25 -- | Collaborative Teams, 8:00-9:00am
Teacher/Staff Work Day ends at noon
Student Advisory Board, 1:00-2:00pm |
| Thursday/Nov. 26 -- | Happy Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Friday/Nov. 27 -- | Happy Thanksgiving Holiday |

Parents and Families

Planning Ahead

Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 & 27, 2020

Get Involved & Stay Connected:



Thanksgiving Blessing ANCHORAGE

Do you need assistance providing a Thanksgiving meal for your family? The Anchorage faith community, Food Bank of Alaska, and thousands of volunteers are here to help provide families in need with a turkey and all the fixings.

November 23, 2020

DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION
Have space available for us to place the box of food. Bring proof of zip code; you may only attend one site. We encourage you to arrive by 6 pm.

12 - 8 pm

Mt. View Community
Tikahtnu Commons (Old Sam's Club parking lot) 99508, 99514
1074 N. Muldoon Rd.
Mt. View Community Center-Boys & Girls Club
315 N. Price Street
(Walking participants ONLY)

2 - 7 pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 13111 Brayton Drive	99507, 99511, 99515, 99516, 99518, 99523, 99540, 99587
New Season Community Development Inc. 639 W. International Airport Rd. #24 Location Change	99502, 99507, 99517, 99519
Central Lutheran Church 1420 Cordova St.	99501, 99503, 99510, 99512, 99513, 99520, 99524
St. Patrick's Parish 2111 Muldoon	99504, 99509, 99521
Joy Lutheran Church 10111 E. Eagle River Loop Rd.	99505, 99506, 99567, 99577

New to Curbside Pickup: PUZZLES!



Borrow a puzzle from the library to work on over the holidays; we have lots of puzzles to choose from. I can't guarantee that all the pieces are there but they are still fun to work on. A list of puzzles can be found at this link. [Library Puzzles](#) Fill out the form at that link to request a puzzle and watch for a message from Mrs. Fleming to pick it up! Curbside is on Tuesdays, 11AM - 5PM and Thursdays, 11AM - 3:30PM

Bookmark Contest Only 10 More Days

Go Virtual@your library™

2020 - 2021 Bookmark Design Contest

sponsored by the ASD Librarians

Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Go Virtual@your library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: 7" x 2 ¾" either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade

No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.

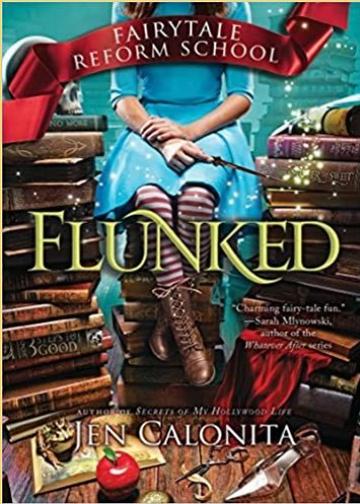
Use your imagination and any ideas relating to reading, literacy and the love of the library!

Entries are due November 30, 2020.

Ways to submit your entry: through Panther Pictures in Canvas, Google Drive, email, or drop it off at the school during curbside pickup hours (Tues. 11AM - 5PM, Thurs. 11AM - 3:30PM). Contact Mrs. Fleming, the librarian, at 742-6432 or fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you need to make alternative arrangements for submitting your entry.

Panthers are READERS!

Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month, on Zoom, and we keep in contact through Canvas. Contact Mrs. Fleming for the Canvas join link. fleming_heather@asdk12.org or call 742-6432.

Each month, we have daring discussions and artful activities around the book, followed by the nomination of books and a vote on what title we will read for the next month. We are currently reading *Flunked*, by Lauren James. It is book one in the Fairytale Reform School series. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15th at 2:15 PM.** Come with a title to nominate for January.

Mears Battle of the Books



Battle meetings are on Wednesdays, at a new time: 12 PM (noon). Access Zoom links, discussions, activities, participate in the leaderboard, earn badges and more by joining the Mears Middle School Battle of the Books Canvas course. There won't be assignments or lessons, I promise.

Contact Mrs. Heather Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

Panthers are Mathematicians!

MathCounts

MATHCOUNTS Competition Series

Calling all students who want to be challenged in mathematics in a fun and competitive environment! All students are welcome to join Mears' MATHCOUNTS club! We will meet weekly on Tuesday's (beginning October 20th) from 3pm-3:45pm (on Zoom for now). The goal is to grow together with our math skills while building confidence—and compete!

Are you in? Questions? Contact this year's sponsor:
Mrs. Marah Lambert (Mears Math Teacher):
Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org

MATHCOUNTS®

SPRINT **TARGET**

TEAM **COUNTDOWN**

MATHCOUNTS provides engaging math programs to US middle school students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving.

our mission



Panthers are Writers!

November Writing Contest



I matter because...

Write a poem, short story, essay or a dramatic interpretation, either fiction or nonfiction, that addresses the theme, "I matter because..."

All of us have stories to tell. All are welcome and encouraged to join in! Feel free to direct any questions to Mr. Pease at

pease_thomas@asdk12.org

Follow the Reflections guidelines for literature described on the PTSA website by clicking here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B-URgyK-1gWbGchXpyOt1TvPRDBCaw7M/view>

Mears Writing Contest Deadline: **Monday, November 30th**. Write and Submit to the Mears Writing Contest.

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mears-creative-writing-contest/home>

PTSA Reflections Entry Form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wO6Mr68qfl0xFZunP2jA6UJAUozr3451/view>



October Creative Writing Contest Results

Everett Scott has been awarded first place in the October writing contest. His personal narrative, Arctic Winter Game Champions, capture the peaks and valleys of competition along with travel complications and an unexpected twist. His story addressed challenges head-on and revealed the personal growth that resulted.

Runner up goes to Ella Wheelles for her personal narrative, The Hottest Week of Summer. It too addressed the challenge of competition, along with personal insights into friendships made along the way.

Congratulations to both of our October winners and thank you to all Mears students who participated.

We look forward to reading many more submissions for the November challenge!

Mears Counseling Corner

Hello Mears Families,

We are officially halfway through quarter 2! As a student body we are seeing an increase in participation and student achievement. There are a few students who could benefit from investing a little more time in their academics and getting those assignments turned in. Remember, self-advocacy is a lifelong skill -- if you need help, please ask your teachers or counselors.

Parents and families, your student's grades are continually updated in Q, which is viewable in QParentConnection. If you do not know your pin or password, please call the front office at 907-742-6400 or call your counselor to get that important information.

Parent/Family Tools:

- Q Parent Connection for checking grades: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1697>
- Canvas Parent Observer (see attachment) Link for detailed class info and student progress in Canvas: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5039>
- Mears Landing Pad (see attachment for Clever access) for Applications being used this year and helpful tech tips: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4940>
- There is tutoring and homework help available, contact your counselor for more information.

Sincerely,

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen, 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr, 907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 907-742-6426



Mears Outreach Counseling Page HELP Ticket <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Recently Updated: ASD's Health and Safety Covid Matrix

ASD's planning and decision-making process for determining the District's risk level for conducting school takes multiple community factors into consideration. The District conducts this process in close conversation with the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

In recent months, organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization have expanded their guidance and resources regarding safely providing public education. This new information includes a range of metrics and other criteria that allows districts, in close coordination with state and local health officials, to revise and adapt school opening guidelines based on the unique context of their community.

Here is a link to ASD's Covid Community Health Matrix: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



Congratulations to Mears' New President Curt Ehrhart and Sheila Hill as our new Treasurer.

Mears PTSA still has open leadership positions, including Vice President and Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to support this great organization and our wonderful school community.

Love art? Drawing? Photography? Writing? Dance? Create a project representing why You matter and submit to us for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest.

CALL FOR ENTRIES



What is Reflections? Watch this youtube video on what it is.

<https://youtu.be/IX-rzWHnY5Q>

Do you enjoy art, music, and dance or have an interest in writing, producing films, and taking photos? Then join us and have fun unleashing your inner artist with PTA Reflections! This year's theme, "I Matter Because...," calls for your own unique interpretation through the arts.

Pick up submission guidelines and an entry form today from www.MearsPTSA.com and return by **December 1, 2020**.

Submit digital copies of all entries to MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com. Save original work for us to collect at a later time

Divisions: Film Production, Visual Arts, Dance Choreographer, Music Composition, Special Artist, Photography, Group Dance, Cultural Heritage, and STEAM.

Student Entry Forms are found at www.MearsPTSA.com

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at PTA.org/Reflections/Awards.

facebook

Were on Facebook

**JOIN
FOR
YOUR
CHILD**

**National
PTA**
everychild.onevoice.®

Thank you for the continued support of the Mears PTSA. Our school store sells PE approved clothing, beanies, baseball caps, hoodies and more is online www.MearsPTSA.com

Join Mears PTSA Membership become part of an organization that is the leading Child advocacy group in the Nation. You not only become a member

of Mears. But Alaska PTA and National PTA. Membership benefits include Office Depot/Office Max, Hertz, and more. Learn more about the benefits at www.MearsPTSA.com

Mears Celebrates Heritage



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](#)