



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, November 6, 2020

## *Halloween Photo Contest Winners*



Mears is proud to announce the winners of the Halloween Costume Photo Contest.

**First Place: Kayla Peppinger, 7th**  
**Second Place: Logan Ehrhart, 8th**  
**Third Place: Jennie Becker, 7th**

We want to thank all of our wonderful contestants and encourage students and families to continue to participate in upcoming school-wide activities: See all of our creative contestants here:

[Mears Halloween Costume Contest](#)

# Veteran's Day Assembly, 2020



*DHS Color Guard, Veteran's Day Assembly, Mears Middle School, 2019*

Mears Parents and Guardians,

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 is Veterans Day. Mears Middle School will observe Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> where we have a virtual assembly honoring all our veterans. Additionally, part of the virtual assembly will include a slideshow. **If you would like a photo of a veteran in your family included in the slideshow, please email the photo and the required information to [middleton\\_nick@asdk12.org](mailto:middleton_nick@asdk12.org) (Email Subject: Veterans Day).** Final deadline for photo submission: Friday, Nov. 6 at 3:00pm.

Sincerely,

Mears Staff

**Last Request: Please send us your family's Veterans Day Photo Today**

*Please email the following information and a photo to Mr. Middleton by Monday, 11/2/20: Student name and relation to veteran, student grade level, and Veteran's title and name.*

Example

*Student name and relation: Jon Smith's Grandpa*

*Grade: 8*

*Veteran's title and name: Col. Archie Sykes*

## *Stay Informed and Get Involved*

### Teachers and Staff

- Monday/Nov. 9 -- No Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am  
Planning and CT before and after school
- Tuesday/Nov. 10 -- Veteran's Day Virtual Assembly, 2nd Block  
Planning and CT before and after school
- Wednesday/Nov. 11 -- State Release Teacher/Staff Work Day  
Collaborative Teams, 8:00-9:00am  
Staff Meeting, 9:30-10:30am  
Departments, 12:45-1:45pm  
Student Advisory Board, 1:00-2:00pm
- Thursday/Nov. 12 -- Planning and CT before and after school
- Friday/Nov. 13 -- Planning and CT before and after school

### Parents and Families

- Tues., Nov. 10 -- Veteran's Day Assembly held during 2nd Block, 10:25am
- Wed. Nov. 11 -- State Release Teacher/Staff Work Day

## Get Involved & Stay Connected:

### Access to Your Student's Canvas Account



ASD Families can access their student's Canvas account by referring the directions provided here:

[Canvas Parent Observer Guide](#)

# Bookmark Contest Is Underway

## 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

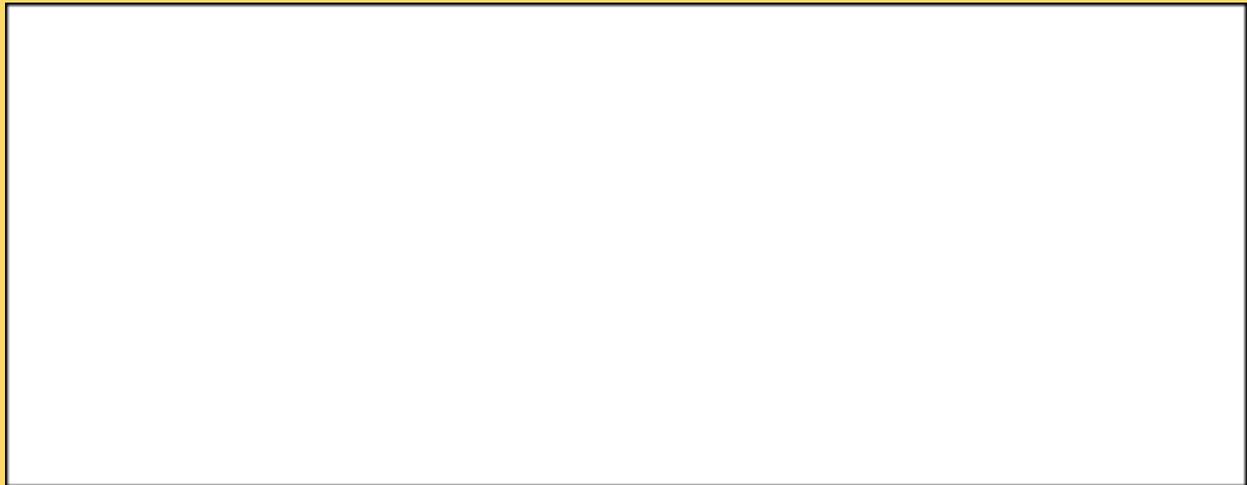
**No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.**

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

Submit your entry to your school librarian through Panther Pictures in Canvas, Google Drive, email, USPS, or drop it off at the school during curbside pickup hours. Entries are due November 30, 2020. The winning school entries will go to district judging. **Entries become the property of the Anchorage School District and may be used in other advertisements.**

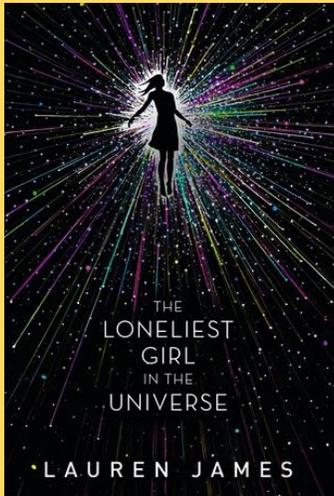
The winning designs will be reproduced and distributed to ASD schools!

Sample size of bookmark is below (7" x 2 ¾") which may be used vertically or horizontally.



# Panthers are READERS!

## Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month, on Zoom, and we keep in contact through Canvas.

Each month, we have lively discussions around the book and then students nominate, and vote for the novel to read for the next month. We are currently reading *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe*, by Lauren James. **Our next meeting will be on November 11th at 12PM.** Come with a title to nominate for December.

## Mears Battle of the Books



Battle meetings are on Wednesdays, at 1PM through Zoom. 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](mailto:fleming_heather@asdk12.org) if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

# Panthers are Mathematicians!

**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 20<sup>th</sup>) 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®**

**our mission**  
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.



SPRINT      TARGET

TEAM      COUNTDOWN

# 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..."

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>



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](mailto:pease_thomas@asdk12.org)

### October Creative Writing Contest Results

Everett Scott has been awarded first place in the October writing contest. His personal narrative, *Arctic Winter Game Champions*, captured the peaks and valleys of competition along with travel complications and an unexpected twist. His story addressed challenge 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

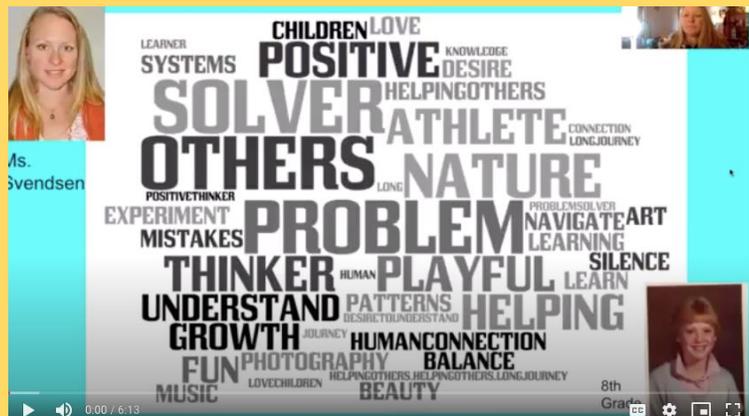
# Check out Mears Counselors' Videos



Ms. Caitlin Burr  
[Counseling Department Overview](#)



Mr. Brent Haugen  
[Student Supports](#)



Ms. Crysta Svendsen  
[Best Practices Habits for Success](#)

Questions about school work or your class schedule?  
Need help with organization or test preparation?  
Are you feeling like you need some additional support during distance learning?

Mears students, parents, and guardians should fill out the [Counselor Help Ticket Link](#) anytime you need assistance.

## 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 the new ASD Covid Community Health Matrix: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



**Next PTSA meeting is November 12 at 6:30.**

**Zoom link**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84656470869?pwd=UFpHQ2ZaZWFrWVJEWkk3UHJ4VE43UT09>

**Meeting ID: 846 5647 0869**

**Passcode: 094360**

**Because voting will be taking place all PTSA members need to have a camera and microphone on. If we don't have a quorum voting will be done electronically.**

Come join the Mears PTSA Board.

We have candidates for President and Treasure. Looking for a Secretary and Vice President. Elections will take place November 12. Fill out the nomination form or attend our meeting and make your nomination announcement at the meeting.

This is a great experience. Even with COVID there is still plenty a PTSA can do to support our students, families and teachers. Elections will be taking place in November. [Nomination Form](#)

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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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com) and return by **December 1, 2020**.

**Submit digital copies of all entries to [MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at [PTA.org/Reflections/Awards](http://PTA.org/Reflections/Awards).

Were on Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.The "Join for Your Child" logo, featuring the words "JOIN FOR YOUR CHILD" in white, bold, uppercase letters stacked vertically on a dark orange background.The National PTA logo, featuring the words "National PTA" in white, with "PTA" in a larger, bold font, and the tagline "everychild.onevoice." below it, all on a dark orange background.

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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](http://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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

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## Mears Royalty



*A House Divided: Mr. Middleton and Ms. Middleton from the Houses of Echo and Raven!*

# 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](#)