



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 9, 2020

## *Mears Launches Community Yearbook Project*



Let's face it, not being in school in person has presented us all with many challenges, and having material to fill a yearbook for this school year is definitely one of them. SO... we are calling on families to provide photos for this year's yearbook! Do you have any pictures of your child busily working away on Zoom? Maybe they have been working on a science experiment for class? Do they play sports for a team outside of school? Maybe they are artistic and have drawn or created that perfect piece of art that is just waiting to be showcased! Halloween is almost upon us, and it just wouldn't be the same if we didn't have pictures of students in their costumes!

# Share Your Stories, Photos, and Artwork!

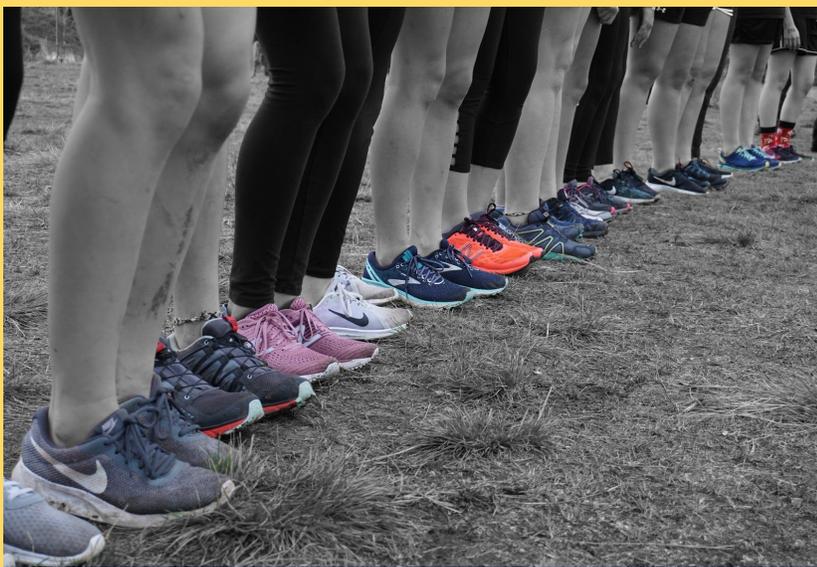
Along with individual pictures, we are also looking for families who would like to have their own half (or full )page of stories and pictures of their child's experience throughout this year (similar to the senior pages that parents purchase in high school yearbooks, only this is absolutely FREE!) The deadline to let us know that you would like one of these pages will be **November 6th**. You send us the content; we will take care of the page layout. It's that simple! (**Content would not be due until March 1st**. If you reserve a page, however, please don't back out! It will become part of our plan.)

Stories/anecdotes should be e-mailed to [barclay\\_holly@asdk12.org](mailto:barclay_holly@asdk12.org). You can just type your text in the body of the e-mail, or you can attach a Word document and/or share through Google Docs. Make sure you include your child's name and grade! Photos can also be E-mailed, and they need to be sent at the highest resolution. Do you have other cool and creative ideas? Please let us know! All ideas are welcome!

We are also holding a **yearbook cover contest**. If your child is feeling artistic, this may be just what they need! Artwork needs to be on 12" x 18" paper oriented horizontally (this will be folded in half to create the front and back cover of the book.) Submissions are due to Mrs. Barclay (same e-mail as above) by **November 25th**. Submissions may either be hand-drawn or computer-generated. It must also be original!

THANK YOU! -- Ms. Holly Barclay, Mears Teacher and Yearbook Coordinator

## Mears Student Athletics and Activities Survey



Although at present, we do not have a date for a return to the building, we hope to offer students sports and activities options when we do return. To that end, Mears seeks your input as to what types of sports and activities families and students would like to see offered when students are able to return to the building.



Relevantly, all public-health protocols and ASD COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be employed. Additionally, all sports offered will be intramural, occurring only at Mears with other Mears students. Finally, student and staff health will, as always, be the highest priority.

Please take a few moments with your student to share your preferences . We appreciate your thoughtful insight and feedback!

Survey Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhqJvFyFkIdK3l9HAZFJO\\_aV26z-n63PBzCWijYK0t8R0iXw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhqJvFyFkIdK3l9HAZFJO_aV26z-n63PBzCWijYK0t8R0iXw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Eklutna Selects Team Design



Congratulations to Jillian Aubree Dolph, 7th grade, of Team Eklutna, who designed this fantastic team logo. Jillian's design will be used on all Team Eklutna swag, including t-shirts and sweatshirts.

Great work, Jillian!

# Mears Creative Writing Contest

Write a personal narrative in which you describe a challenging situation you experienced recently. Include your reactions and responses to the situation as you write about it. Finally, at the end of the personal narrative, make it clear to the reader what discovery or lesson you learned from this experience. Remember, even unfortunate situations can yield positive



Your personal narrative should be no more than 1,000 words. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, October 30th**.

Welcome to the launch of the 2020-21 Mears creative writing contest. At the start of each month between now and May, Mears students will be presented with a new writing prompt. Students will have all month to brainstorm, craft and polish their writing before submitting it to the contest. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore your creative side by checking out the October writing prompt below. More information, examples, writing tips and submission instructions can be found by clicking in the links and slides on the Mears landing pad.

Be sure to visit the [Mears Creative Writing Contest Landing Page](#)

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)

## Mears Battle of the Books has Begun



Battle meetings will be 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. Use the link below to

join: <https://asdk12.instructure.com/enroll/NXKT7C>

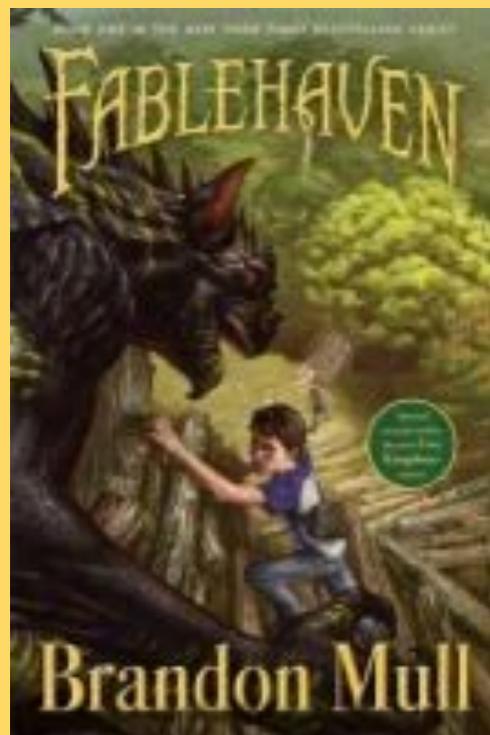
Contact Mrs. Heather Fleming at [fleming\\_heather@asdk12.org](mailto:fleming_heather@asdk12.org) if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

## Mears READS Book Club

The book club meets once a month and we keep in contact through a Google classroom.

Each month, students nominate, and vote for a novel to read for the next month. We are currently reading Fablehaven, by Brandon Mull. Our next meeting will be on October 14th at 12PM. Come with a title to nominate for November.

In your Google drive, click on the apps icon and go to Classroom. Join with the code koudai5 to see the activities, discussions, and the Zoom link.



## 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!



SPRINT



TARGET



TEAM



COUNTDOWN

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

**MATHCOUNTS**



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*

## *Stay Informed and Get Involved*

### Teachers and Staff

Monday/Oct. 12 -- Staff Meeting Check-in, 8:00-8:30am  
Tuesday/Oct. 13 -- Planning and CT before and after school  
Wednesday/Oct. 14 -- CT Meetings, 8:00-9:00am  
Wednesday/Oct. 14 -- CT Leads w/ Levers for Learning, 10:30am-12:00pm  
Wednesday/Oct. 14 -- Departments (optional) 12:45-1:45pm  
Thursday/Oct. 15 -- Planning and CT before and after school  
Friday/Oct. 16 -- State Release Grading and Planning Day

### Parents and Families

Friday/Oct. 16 -- No School/End of First Quarter, State Release Grading Day  
Monday/Oct. 19 -- Second Quarter Begins  
Wednesday-Thursday/Oct. 22 -- Back to School/Teacher Conferences, more information to follow next week

## Important Updates:

### 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](#)

# Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Expanded



**Renew applications for free and reduced meals!**

Student nutrition is essential to learning and growth. Be sure to submit your application for ASD's Free and Reduced Priced Meal Program today. The process is very simple and incredibly important to the health of our students.

Application link:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/13246>

# Mears Family Outreach Form



**Contact us with feedback and concerns.**

Mears Parents and Families can use this form to communicate any questions, concerns, or feedback you have about the 2020-21 school year. We will make sure to respond to each query within the next couple of days either by phone or email. We deeply value the strong partnership we share with each of our families. Go Panthers! --Eric

[Mears Family Outreach](#)

## Mears Counselors Are Here to Help



[Mears Counseling](#)

[Counselor Help  
Ticket Link](#)



**PTSA Leadership Wanted.**

**We are still on the hunt for 2020/2021 Board members.**

**President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.**

**[Nomination Form](#)**

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# This survey plays an important role in improving Mears Middle School.

**The National PTA School of Excellence** recognition program opens the lines of communication and critical thinking within school communities to make data-driven decisions that yield positive, long-term results. Help Mears become a School of Excellence 4 Years in a row. Completion of this survey helps us know where we as a School and PTSA can improve.

<https://forms.gle/YNXRtuRvaruBA6tP7>

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A dark blue rectangular banner with the words 'GRANT OPPORTUNITY' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

**GRANT  
OPPORTUNITY**

Mears PTSA is now accepting Panther Grants Applications for Parents and Staff to submit. We have \$21,000 that will be rewarded to Parents/Students and Teachers/Staff. The amount awarded may vary with the number of requests. Every year Mears PTSA provides grants for staff, but this year we are opening it up to families as well.

Submit by October 15.

These grant requests are for ways to help with making your student/s digital learning a little more successful.

**Grant Request for Families:** <https://forms.gle/Xy1cuoAkQxpAX2uM6>

**Grant Request for Staff:** <https://forms.gle/qw3dBDVpWhwPm2Ft5>

# I Matter Because...

2020-2021



## 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



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**School Store is open online and Wednesdays 10-2. Call the office if you're unsure if we're set up. Orders clothes online or stop by [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)**

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)

Orders purchased by Wednesday will be ready for pick up on Friday.



Join Mears PTSA and 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 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](#)