



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 1, 2021

## *Empowering Student Voice*



On Wednesday this week, Mears Student Advisory Board met for the first time this year. Mears student leaders are a diverse group of 7th and 8th graders who are representative of each of the six collaborative teams. The Student Advisory Board is moderated by Mr.

Nick Middleton, 8th grade social studies teacher, who will work with the group to promote a positive, fun, and inclusive school climate, while at the same time helping students develop strong communication, collaboration, and leadership skills.

**Go Panthers!**

# Baseball Season Success



Mears baseball has just concluded a very successful season. Special thanks to Mr. John Bruce and the other coaches, who helped lead our student-athletes in a long-awaited season. The coaches were especially pleased with all the growth our players showed and their strong team spirit and sportsmanship.

# Playing Percussion



Students in Mr. Jason Edwards band classes are learning to play percussion. Here students play snare drums and xylophones, as they perform a series of warm up songs with the band.

# Stay Informed/Get Involved

## Teachers and Staff

Wednesday, Oct. 6 -- Mears Staff Meeting, 3:00-3:45, Library

## Student/Parent/Teacher Conference Days

### Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21

For in-person and face-to-face meetings with your teachers, Mears families should plan to attend the Student/Parent/Teacher conferences next month. These meetings will be scheduled in advance for all interested parents and families, which will allow us to safely social distance and limit the number of persons in the building at one time. Masking and other Covid mitigation protocols will be practiced at all times during the event.

Online scheduler is now live. Sign up for your conference by using this link:

[Parent/Student/Teacher Conference Scheduler, Oct. 20-21, 2021](#)

## Safety Minute:

### Warm Clothing and Safe Walking

Mears Families:

Please be certain to remind your students that cold weather has arrived. It's critical that all students wear clothing to cover their bodies, for there's always a chance we may need to spend time outside in the event of an emergency. **This includes suitable footwear; students may not wear open-toed shoes 2nd and 3rd quarter for safety reasons.**

Additionally, students should be certain to wear school-appropriate clothing. Finally, bright, reflective clothing should be considered if your student walks to school, for it's tough to see students on these dark mornings. I'll remind students in the announcements, too.

Have a great start to fall!

Regards, Mike Scott, Mears AP

# Mears Activities Update

## 2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun four great activities a Mears as of Thursday, August 19th: Girls Basketball, Baseball, Archery, and Cross Country. Practices run daily from 3-4:30 PM; please be punctual for pick up, as coaches cannot leave until students are picked up.

ASD's guidance indicates that students are not required to wear masks during active portions of practice, but I encourage all the students to wear masks at all times, particularly those involved in indoor activities. This promotes safety and helps allow for continuation of the activity in the even of a positive case.



Additionally, coaches will take temperatures prior to practice with a forehead-scanning thermometer. They will also encourage the use of hand sanitizer and social distancing when possible.

### 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](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/11I5oSifxCsxF-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfEI/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](mailto: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>

## Upcoming Activity Events

### **Cross Country Running Meets: All begin at 5:30 PM**

10/6/21: Kincaid Park  
10/13/21: Kincaid Park

### **Girls Basketball: Any student spectators must be accompanied by a parent or guardian**

9/28/21  
10/2/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule and Coach Handout  
10/9/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule and Coach Handout

### **Wrestling**

This sport starts on 10/11/21. We look forward to seeing your students there!

### **Volleyball**

This sport starts on 10/11/21. We look forward to seeing your students there!

## Remember Your Chromebooks, Mears

Beginning the week of 10/4, Mears will seriously curtail the practice of checking out Chromebooks to students during school. At this point, all students have been provided the opportunity to check out a Chromebook from ASD. If they have declined, it is because they have their own Chromebook. It is incredibly important that students remember to charge and bring their Chromebook to school each day. Students leaving class to check out Chromebooks interferes with their education and prevents staff from taking care of work that enhances your child's education.

Please make Chromebook preparation part of your student's nightly and morning routine. Teachers will have a few power cords in their classes, but students should also bring this item, too. I've been reminding students that this is part of being responsible at school over the last few days. Please work with Mears to ensure that your student brings his/her Chromebook fully charged each day. Finally, if for some reason, your student has need of a Chromebook, please contact Mears soon, and we'll take care of that: 742-6400.

Thanks,  
Mike Scott  
Assistant Principal

## Library at Mears

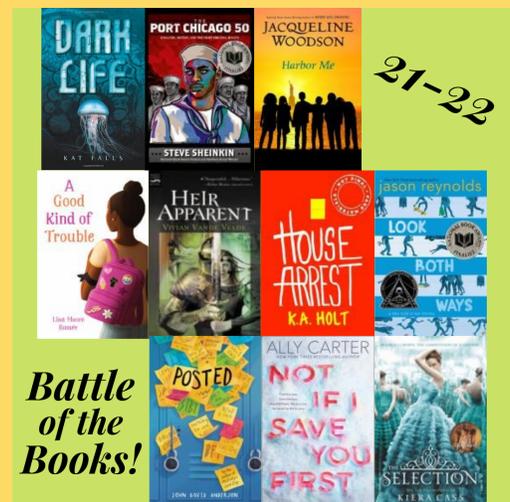


Cinema class has been creating sets and filming silent movies this week in the library alongside students checking out books to read when they finish with the MAP test.

Also, new books have arrived! Each book goes through a process to get it ready for the shelves and to add it to our public access catalog.

## Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books meetings will be held on Tuesdays. A meeting will be held during both lunch periods. Once practice questions are available we will increase the number of days we meet.



**TITLE CHANGE!** *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* was dropped from this year's battle list. *Dark Life* by Kat Falls is the replacement title. Copies of all books are available.

# Panthers are Writers



## October Creative Writing Contest



### A moose, a mask and Mears

Write a story that contains these 3 items in it. Stories should have a clear beginning middle and end and should contain memorable characters.

**Submission deadline:**  
**Friday, October 29th**

**Length Limit: 1,000 words**

See next slides for additional hints and guidelines.

## How to submit your story:

1. Join Panther Participation by clicking on the course in Canvas.
2. Click the link below to make a copy of the Googledocument. (You will need to have your Googledrive open in your ASD account.)
3. Write your story in the Google document provided, then upload it to the October Writing Contest inside Panther Participation.

## Tips for Writing your Story:

Decide on:

**Characters**--Who will be in it?

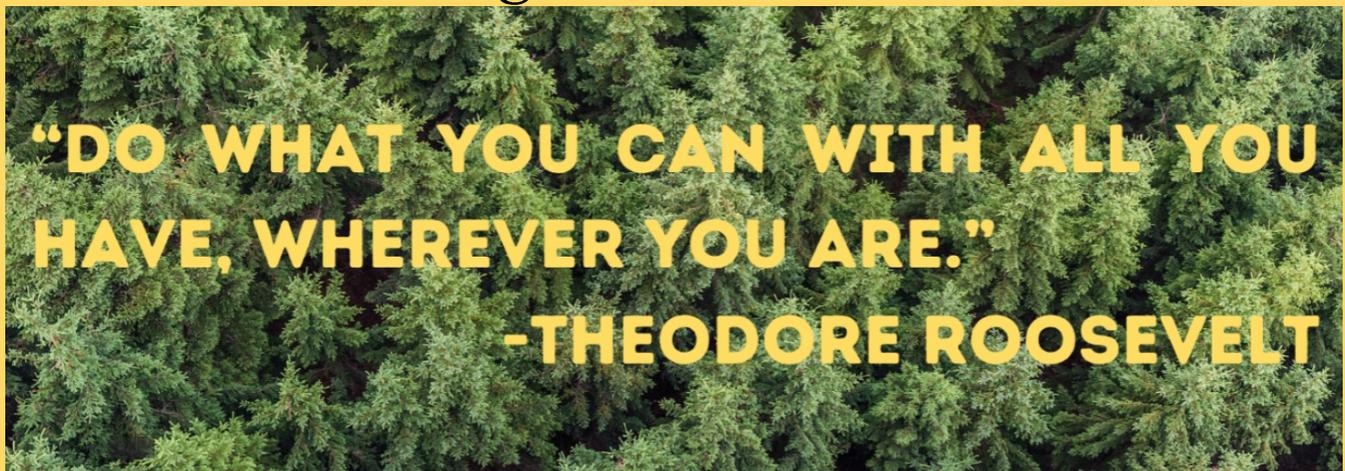
**Setting**--Where are we?

**Conflict**--What's the problem?

**Plot**--Think action! Make something happen.

Note: Limit the number of characters in a short story. Otherwise, it gets too cumbersome and confusing.

## Mears Counseling Corner



Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)



Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade  
[burr\\_caitlin@asdk12.org](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade  
[svendsen\\_crysta@asdk12.org](mailto:svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6428

## Nurse Dan's Health Update Important Covid Health Reminder:



### Please stay home if you're feeling sick

Just a reminder to parents and students. To help mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic please do not come to school if you are feeling sick. If you start to feel sick during the day, come to the nurse's office for an evaluation. We are working hard to keep all students and staff healthy and following this process will help.

## Free Covid-19 Vaccinations Available at Mears, Oct. 21

COVID vaccine clinic. Mears will be hosting a COVID vaccine clinic on October 21st from 12 noon to 7 PM. This is an opportunity for any eligible person (12 years old or older) to begin or continue the vaccination process. Yes pfizer boosters will be available to those eligible to receive the booster. For information on booster recommendations visit the CDC website. If you have questions feel free to contact Nurse Dan at 742-6401. Please take advantage of this opportunity and remember there is no charge to you or your insurance for this clinic.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



### **PTSA Meets This Week**

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.

### **PTSA General Meeting -- Oct. 12, 5:30pm**

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

[Mears PTSA Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2513 4041

Passcode: 436866

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.

## PTSA Volunteer Needs

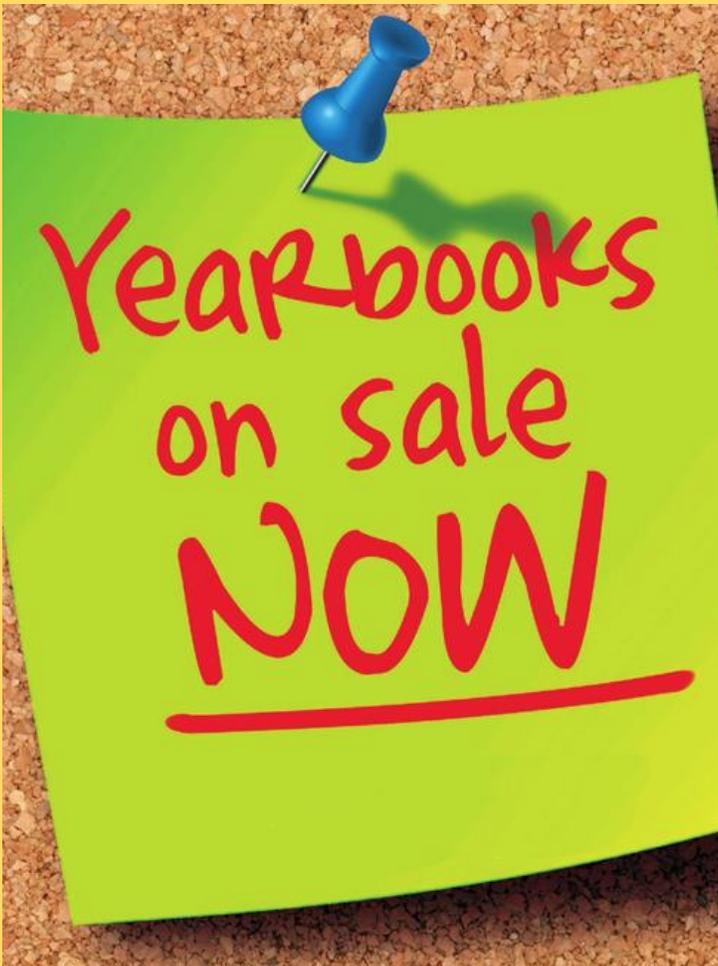
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

## Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 - 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now!  
Purchase your yearbook at  
[www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com) use Yearbook ID:  
13921122 Mears PTSA

# Mears Student Store is Now Open



Special thanks to PTSA volunteers for supporting the Student Store, which provides snacks and Panther gear to students during lunch, and is a great source of revenue for teacher Panther Grants.

## Go Panthers!

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## 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](#)