COOP SCOOP
11 October 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

GET OUTSIDE & GET MUDDY WITH PIONEER SPRINGS

Join us in making Pioneer Springs even more wonder-filled! This year, we're raising funds to improve our Athletic Fields and enrich our outdoor learning spaces, including our Zensory Garden. Our wish? 100% of our families contribute to the Annual Campaign at a level that is sustainable for them.

Here are some ways that your family can support Pioneer Springs:

- Make a tax deductible, one-time direct donation (**click here**)
- Spread the word: invite three significant adults in your child's life to support Pioneer Springs.
- Set up a tax deductible monthly contribution (**click here**)

You can also support our annual campaign by participating in the Get Outside & Get Muddy Challenge, and our flower bulb sale.

Have you made your hat yet? **We hope you can join us on Friday, 18 October for the Get Muddy Derby**. Click here for the schedule and click here to volunteer to make the event spectacular!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 1 Oct-31 Oct: Annual Fundraising Campaign
- 14 Oct: 4th grade field trip
- 16 Oct: WINGS meeting, 9 am
- 18 Oct: Get Muddy Derby
- 18 Oct: Blood Drive, 9 am-1 pm
- 21 Oct: Board Meeting
- Who to Contact and When

MEET OTHER PARENTS & SUPPORT PSCS AT OUR 16 OCTOBER WINGS PTO MEETING

Are you looking for a chance to make a difference at Pioneer Springs? Hoping to meet other families? Wondering what WINGS PTO is all about? Hang-out with WINGS at 9 am on Wednesday, 16 October! We will be setting-up for the Get Muddy Derby, exchanging stories about the wonders of having a student at a nature school, and enjoying refreshments. Questions? Email wings@pioneersprings.org.

Looking for a simple way to support the Annual Campaign? Enter our raffle! **Prizes include Panthers tickets, admission to the Renaissance Fair, and the cash jackpot in our 50/50 raffle! Click here to enter today**.

GET MUDDY AND GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE ON 18 OCTOBER



Pioneer Springs is excited to announce that we are partnering with One Blood to host a blood drive during the Get Muddy Derby on Friday, 18 October. **You can sign-up to donate here**.
OneBlood will make a contribution to Pioneer Springs on behalf of blood donors.
High School Students who are 16 years old or older can donate with parents' consent and must bring a consent form to the bus on the day of the blood drive. All donors and prospects must have a picture ID showing date of birth. For students, OneBlood will accept a print out form from PSCS administration with their date of birth or if they can be identified by a teacher or staff member. **Click for Eligibility and Consent Forms.**

SAVE THE DATE: MAKE PIONEER SPRINGS-STYLE MAGIC AT THE FOLKLORE & FAIRYTALE FESTIVAL



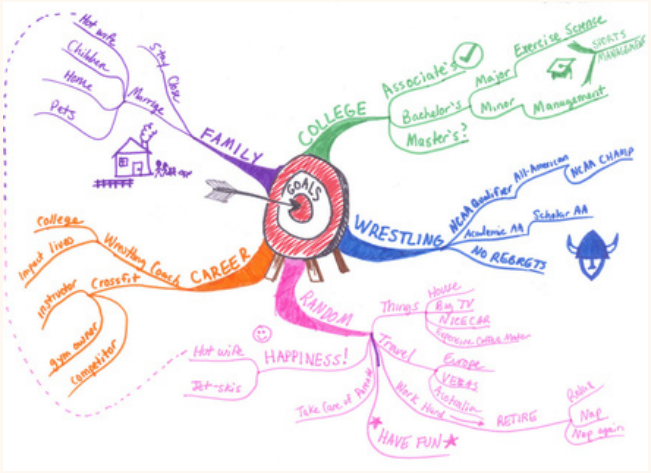


You are cordially invited to join us on 8 November for the Folklore & Fairytale Festival, a beloved Pioneer Springs Tradition celebrating myths, folk tales, and fairytales! Guests are strongly encouraged to wear homemade costumes inspired by a beloved childhood story.

Fairy Godmothers, Godfathers, and creative magic-makers are invited to join the Folklore & Fairytale Festival Committee to plan the magic and bring it to life. **Our first meeting will be on 21 October from 8:30-9:30 am in the Castle**. If you have questions, or are unable to attend the meeting but would like to lend a hand, email Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org).

The **Get Muddy Derby** is going to be very muddy. And wet. **Please send a change of clothes, along with dry socks and shoes, for your student on Friday, 18 October**.

INTRODUCING THINKING MAPS, A POWERFUL TOOL FOR SUPPORTING LEARNING



A great education teaches students *how* to think, rather than teaching them *what* to think. Thinking Maps, visual tools that use specific patterns to organize and process information, are a powerful strategy for helping students develop critical thinking skills. Part of the power of Thinking Maps is that they can be used by students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, and in all subject areas. Because they are simple and versatile, Thinking Maps are a tool that students can learn how to use quickly and independently–which means that students who use Thinking Maps are empowered to deepen their critical thinking skills in creative ways. Learn more about Thinking Maps on this handout from the Shincliffe Primary School, ask your student to teach you her/his favorite maps, and give them a try at home!

LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNITIES IN ACTION & CAPSTONE GRADUATION PROJECTS ON 23 OCTOBER AT 6 PM





If your student is in High School, then s/he is a member of CIA--Communities in Action. Join our 23 October information session, and will learn about the exciting projects that students complete in CIA. If you have a freshman or a sophomore, plan to stay for about 20-30 minutes. If you have a junior or a senior, plan to stay for about 45 minutes.

The information session will begin at 6 PM on pioneerzoom.com. **RSVP here**.

PIONEER SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT STUDIES JOURNALISM AT ELON UNIVERSITY, BY LOKI KUZMA, PSCS SENIOR



Over this past summer I had the incredible opportunity to attend an immersive journalism internship at Elon university. The Emerging Journalists Program published our own newspaper and our own video broadcast! We wrote on a variety of topics; there were political beats, sports beats, history and feel good beats. This program offered hands-on journalism experience including photography, videography and writing. Other parts of this internship included visiting the Greensboro civil rights museum, and interviewing the representative of Orange county Renee Price about a house bill. It was an amazing experience. I am so grateful for the educational opportunities and even more so for the people I got to meet.

The emerging journalism program is available to rising seniors and takes place on Elon university's campus. It is intended for students of marginalized backgrounds, and is entirely free. If you are interested (or you believe your child may be interested) please check out this delightful opportunity. Applications are opening in the next few weeks.

EJP 2024 Newspaper and Broadcast

Program Information

Program Application

If you have further questions, please contact Kelly Furnas curriculum coordinator at kfurnas@elon.edu.

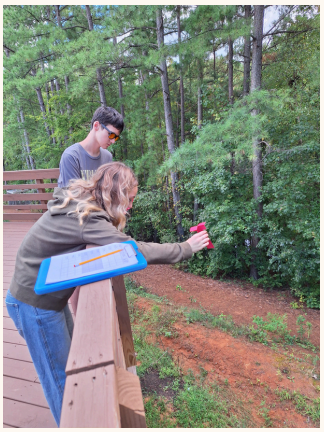








STUDENT SMILES


Physical Science students created whirlygigs of 3 different designs, two standards and a unique design of their own. We dropped these from the top of the High School deck then recorded the descent time as a proxy for air resistance. Students also had a chance to modify the center of gravity for their 3 whirlygigs designs by adding paper clips. Students then calcuated the velocities of the various whirlygigs and assessed the advantages and disadvantages of their designs.




5th grade had a visit from Mr. Corey's Horticulture students to teach them about how to start and maintain our *Hugelkultur* garden.





3rd grade spent their whole day learning outside last Friday and enjoyed a math scavenger hunt to identify shapes in nature. Along the way, they found these sweet creatures!

STUDENT SMILES



High School Student Government met on Tuesday to plan the High School obstacle course for the Get Muddy Derby.



Ms. Jess' class FINALLY received their long awaited rug and Ms. Jess was over the moon with excitement she had to take a moment to enjoy it!













Ms. Stacey's classes spent Friday, Oct 4 outside! 7th grade enjoyed hammocks and camp chairs while practicing proportional relationships. 8th grade found natural objects that illustrated rotations, reflections, dilations, or translations.

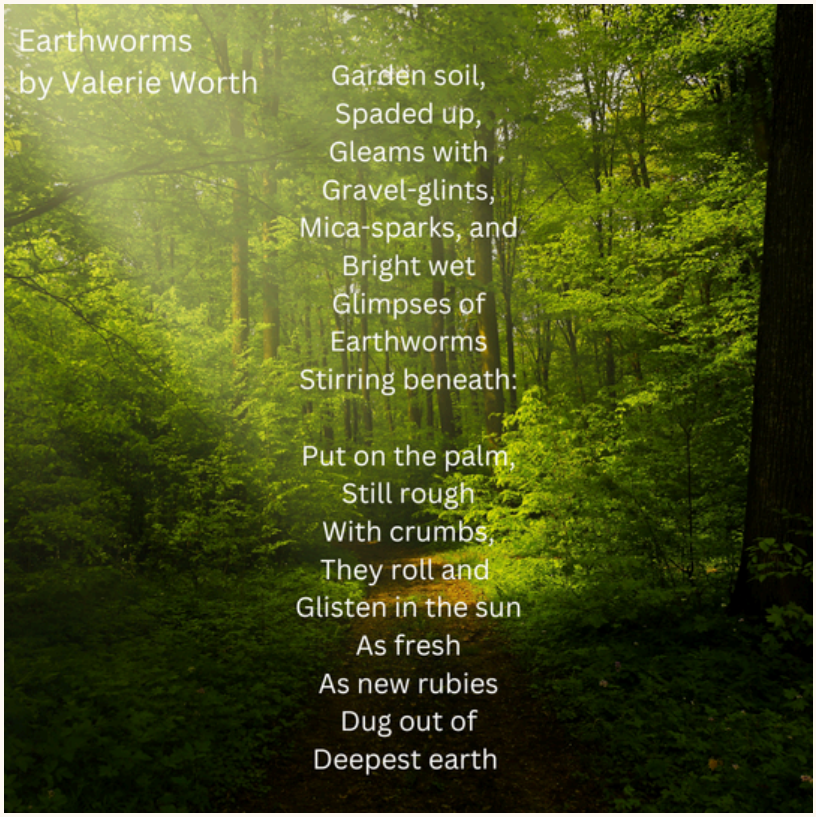
DID YOU SEE THE AURORA BOREALIS ON THURSDAY?

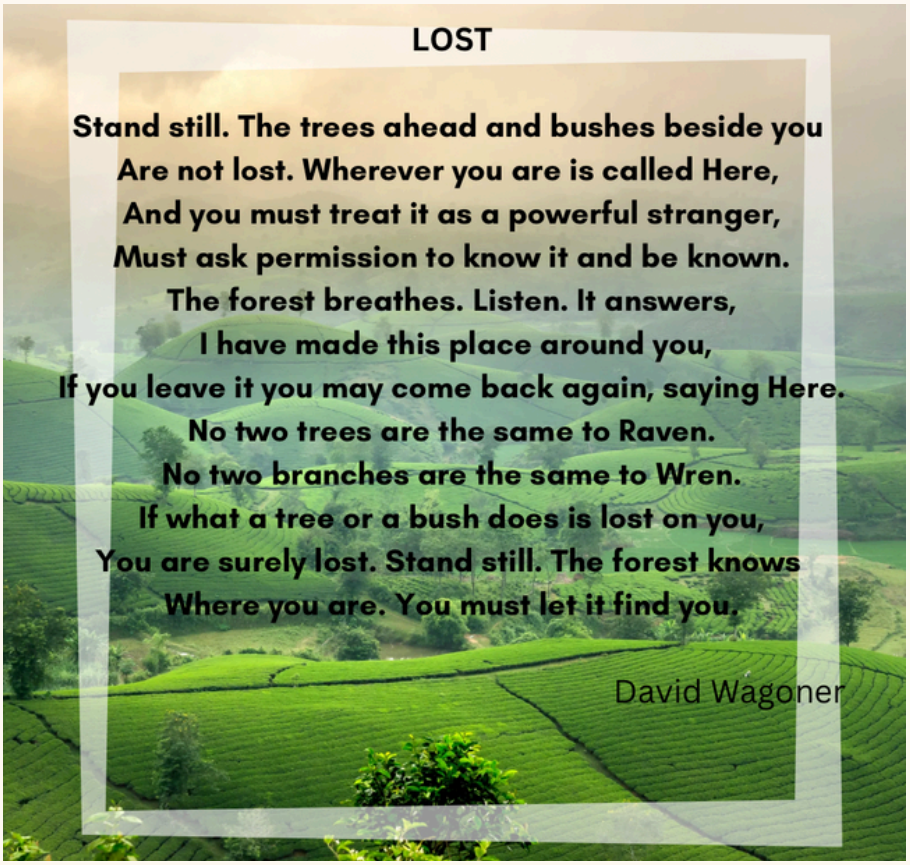
On Thursday afternoon an exceptionally strong solar flare sent charged solar particles towards Earth, resulting in visible northern lights above Charlotte. Did your family see them? Share your photos on social media and tag #pioneersprings.








Earthworms
by Valerie Worth
Garden soil,
Spaded up,
Gleams with
Gravel-glints,
Mica-sparks, and
Bright wet
Glimpses of
Earthworms
Stirring beneath:
Put on the palm,
Still rough
With crumbs,
They roll and
Glisten in the sun
As fresh
As new rubies
Dug out of
Deepest earth


LOST
Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you,
If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you.
David Wagoner