COOP SCOOP
10 January 2025
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 & IMMERSE YOURSELF IN IN SCIENCE & WONDER AT THE CABINET OF CURIOSITIES





During the Renaissance merchants, intellectuals, and members of the aristocracy were fascinated by the question of what the natural world could reveal about human nature. To explore this question, they collected marvelous and peculiar objects and displayed them in Cabinets of Curiosity. These collections represented early scientific attempts to study, organize, and make sense of the natural world. They were also important spaces for building scientific communities. Early scientists would visit one another's collection to share knowledge and make discoveries together.

On Friday, January 24 Pioneer Springs will celebrate the ways in which the natural world sparks wonder, nurtures discovery, and sustains scientific inquiry and understanding at our first annual Cabinet of Curiosities. Each science class will create an exhibition sharing something that they have learned this year. Additionally, Ms. Sandy, our school naturalist, is creating a Wonder-Walk at the Pond. You are invited to join us, to get curious, and to celebrate the wonders of science and the natural world! **Click here for the schedule**.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 14, 15, 17 Jan: HS exams & EOCs
- 20 Jan: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- 24 Jan: Cabinet of Curiosities
- 27 Jan: Board Meeting
- 29 Jan: WINGS meeting, 9am
- Spring Athletics & Pioneer Plus information
- High School Exam Schedule
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Who to Contact and When

We hope your family is warm, dry, and safe in the wintery weather! Click here for our Inclement Weather Policy, which includes information about how PSCS sends school closure notifications. Click here for all of our school policies.

SPRING EXTRACURRICULAR AND ATHLETICS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! REGISTER TODAY

Is your student interested in arts & crafts, Dungeons & Dragons, chorus, math, Spanish cooking, or becoming a wilderness pioneer? Register for these spring Pioneer Plus experiences today! **Click here for the registration form, which includes payment information, and meeting schedules.**

Do you have a young fencer, basketball player, cornhole maven, disk golf champion, pickleball aficionado, cross country runner, or a young person who wants to learn more about these sports in your home? You are in luck! Spring Athletics registration is now open! **Click here for the registration form, which includes the practice schedule and payment information.**

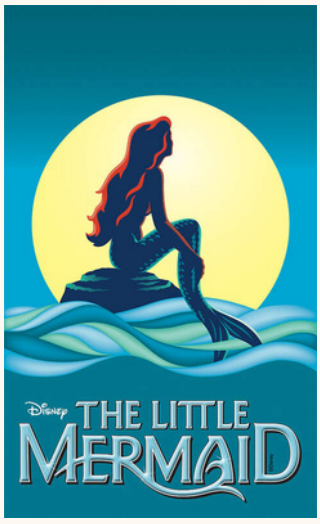
Registration for Pioneer Plus and Athletics is due no later than January 26. Questions? Email latoshac@pioneersprings.org.

Note, the YMCA has cancelled this weekend's basketball game due to weather conditions.

PSCS Basketball Schedule 24-25

Date	Location	Time
1/11	Simmons YMCA 6824 Democracy Dr. Charlotte NC, 28212	2:00-3:00
1/18	McCrorey YMCA 3801 Beatties Ford Rd Charlotte NC, 28216	2:00-3:00
1/25	Keith YMCA 8100 Old Mallard Creek Rd Charlotte NC, 28262	2:00-3:00
2/1	Simmons YMCA 6824 Democracy Dr. Charlotte NC, 28212	1:00-2:00
2/8	McCrorey YMCA 3801 Beatties Ford Rd Charlotte NC, 28216	1:00-2:00
2/15	Keith YMCA 8100 Old Mallard Creek Rd Charlotte NC, 28262	2:00-3:00
2/22	Simmons YMCA 6824 Democracy Dr. Charlotte NC, 28212	1:00-2:00
3/1	Playoffs TBA	TBA

THE LITTLE MERMAID NEEDS YOUR RECYCLABLES! A MESSAGE FROM THE PIONEER PLAYERS



Pioneer Players are hard at work rehearsing for their spring production of *The Little Mermaid*, and PSCS is also working toward an EcoSchools certification. For this theater production, we are continuing to build habits of sustainability within our K-12 population by upcycling materials for this set design.

Take a look through your recycling or the deep dark corners of your garage to see if you have anything that we can reuse to bring our undersea world to life! **Click here for our signup genius.**

Families or students can drop off goods for upcycling at the office starting January 13.

ASTRONOMY STUDENTS EXPLORE EXOPLANETS BY SHANNON O'CONNOR, HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER



On Thursday, high school Astronomy students hosted an online guest speaker, Tim DeLisle, from the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI), who shared his knowledge of exoplanets. What are they? Where are they? How do we even find them?

After his talk, Mr. DeLisle offered follow-up responses to written questions from students. **You can read the questions, and his thought-provoking responses here.**

Want to learn more about astronomy? PARI welcomes guests of all ages with a love of science and space, offering summer space camps, tours and weekend events grounded in the education of STEM principles but also promising adventure and fun in nature. PARI is recognized by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), as only one of two Dark Sky Parks in North Carolina.

Check out their website here! https://www.pari.edu/camps/

TEACHERS EXPLORE WAYS TO NURTURE CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING ON JANUARY 3 WORK DAY



Pioneer Springs is a community of learning not only for our students, but for our staff as well. Last Friday teachers attended a seminar led by Lisa Pagano that focused on how to use Thinking Maps to cultivate critical and creative thinking. Classes across campus use Thinking Maps to help students organize their ideas and to support learning. Thinking Maps support cognitive processes including classifying, sequencing, comparing and contrasting, and seeing analogies. At last Friday's seminar, teachers learned how to combine Thinking Maps, enabling students to think in more complex ways. Ask your student to teach you how to use Thinking Maps. They could be a great tool for planning a meal, organizing a grocery list, or planning a craft project!

PACKING POWER-PACKED LUNCHES: SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT'S SUCCESS BY MARGARET BONDS, LOWER SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



At Pioneer Springs Community School, every student brings their lunch to school, creating an opportunity for students and their families to craft meals that support learning and growth. As educators, we see firsthand how nutritious meals can impact students' focus, energy, and success. This article provides friendly tips to make lunch-packing a positive part of your routine—no judgment, just support.

The Connection Between Nutrition and Learning

Research shows that nutrient-rich foods fuel both brain and body. Including whole foods with vitamins and protein helps students stay energized and focused throughout the school day. While every family has unique dietary needs, we encourage meals that provide lasting energy and nourishment.

Getting Students Involved

Involving your child in lunch preparation can make the process easier and more enjoyable. Allow them to help choose and pack their lunch to ensure they'll eat and enjoy what's included. Simple tasks like washing produce or portioning snacks can build their sense of responsibility and excitement.

Flexibility is Key

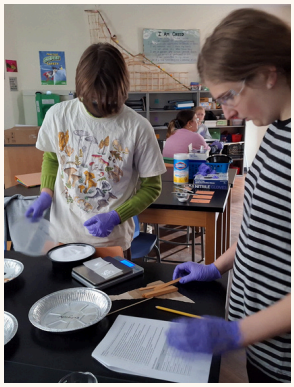
We understand that every family's situation is different. Some days may allow for fresh-cut veggies and homemade meals, while others might require quicker options. The goal is to provide foods that help your student feel their best and ready to learn.

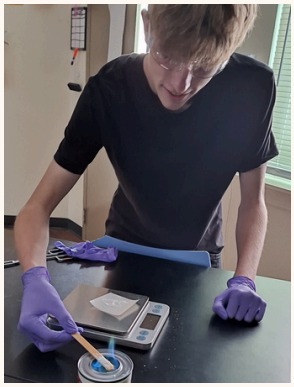
Let's Learn Together

At Pioneer Springs, we're here to partner with you in supporting your student's health and happiness. Thank you for all you do to help your child succeed. Together, we can make lunch a time to refuel, recharge, and enjoy!

What healthful lunch options does your student enjoy? Share on social media, and tag #pioneerspringscommunityschool

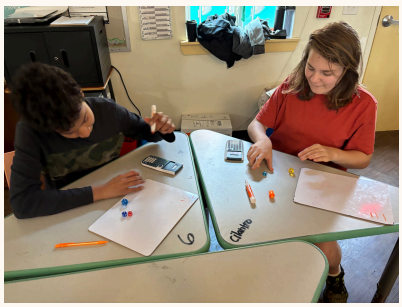
STUDENT SMILES







Before break, high school Chemistry students investigated different metal cations using a qualitative lab technique called flame tests. Certain metal ions respond to the heat of a flame by changing the flame color. These colors are visual representations of the atom's electrons being excited and jumping up to a higher energy state then falling back down again. The excess energy is released as a color of light. Chemistry students observed the colors produced by known ionic compounds in a light blue ethyl alcohol flame, then used what they'd learned to identify thee unknown substances by the metal ion in the chemical formula. In preparation for this lab, students also learned about the fire triangle, the 4 types of fires, and the PASS method for using a fire extinguisher.





8th grade students played dice wars to practice their math fluency before winter break!

STUDENT SMILES



High school Visual Arts is excited to create projects for our Eco Schools certification by researching climate change and using art to teach our community what they learned. The exhibits will be on display during the PSCS celebratory event Cabinet of Curiosities on January 24th!





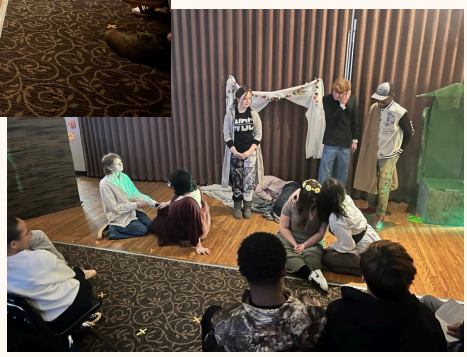
Middle school studentss doing project and processed based learning in Ms. Charissa and Ms. Vicki's classes.

STUDENT SMILES



2nd grade doing Splat Math in Ms. Crystal's class.





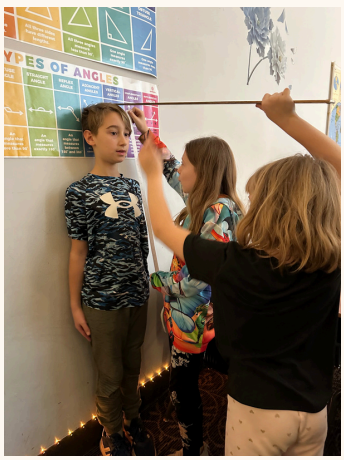
Ms. Allie's high school Theatre class performs *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

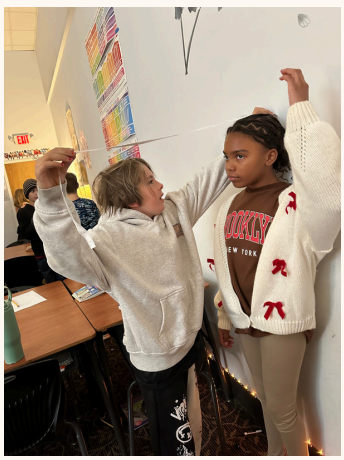


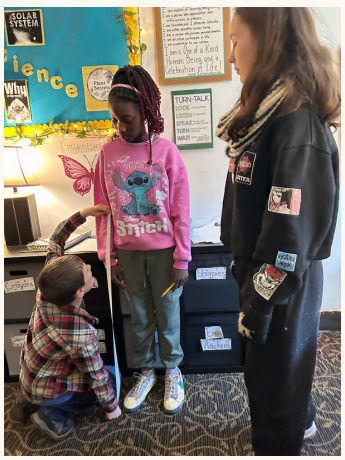




7th grade found sheets of ice and ice crystals during recess at the pond!







5th grade is learning about measurement in math. They measured the heights of their classmates in inches and converted them into feet. Students also plotted the data on a graph to show how it can be represented visually.