10 May 2024

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

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5th grade went on a pond safari, and you can, too!

Ms. Meghan S. took her 5th Grade students on a pond safari during last week's Environmental Literacy class. Students studied a wide variety of macroinvertebrates, as well as bullfrogs, tadpoles, a tiny fish, leeches, spiders and a salamander. This activity activated students' curiosity, and Meghan reported that they were enthralled, engaged and excited by what they discovered.

When adult mentors give children opportunities to experience a sense of wonder in the natural world, not only are they giving children magical childhood experiences, they are also building a life-long love of nature. This love of nature motivates children to want to learn more about the world around them, making them stronger science students and building the capacity to take care of our environment.

We'd like to encourage you to explore pond and stream life with your own family! Visit a local waterway equipped with nets, hand lenses, and buckets. Plastic cups make for great viewing of pond critters. For their safety and your own, avoid handling pond wildlife directly, and be sure to supervise children around water. Share your discoveries on social media, and be sure to tag #pioneersprings! This handout gives detailed directions for a macroinvertebrate investigation, and this handout can help you identify the animals that you find.










IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 11, 18 & 19 May: Alice in Wonderland
- 8-14 May: Authors' Teas
- 15-29 May: EOG/ EOC schedule
- 17-18 May: 1st grade camp out at PSCS
- 21 May: K Step Up celebration, 1pm
- 22 May: 5th grade Step Up celebration, 1pm
- 23 May: 8th grade Step Up celebration, 1pm
- 29 May: Class of 2024 Graduation
- Register here for Summer Camps!
- Academic & Events Calendar

8th grade math - you have options!, by Stacey Stover, 7/8 Math Teacher

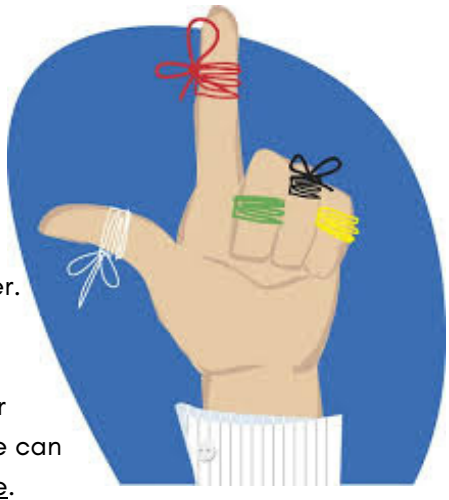




This year, we had our first cohort of students take Math 1 as 8th graders - an exciting new option for PSCS! In Kindergarten through 7th grade, teachers, including me, differentiate within a class according to a student's academic needs. However, we know that as students mature it's important for them to be able to pick classes according to their future plans. Math 1 is the first step in that path of choices - it's a good fit for students who enjoy math, are planning a career in math or science, or want more flexibility in their high school schedule. This week, rising 8th graders and their families are deciding if 8th grade math or Math 1 is the best fit for the student's academic needs and future goals. I wanted to give other PSCS families a preview of what this choice looks like.

Math 1 and 8th grade math are like adjacent steps on a staircase - both cover similar content, just at different depths, and due to the increased complexity of content, Math 1 moves at a faster pace. Both classes will learn to graph lines in a coordinate plane, for example, but 8th grade will only graph linear equations while Math 1 will graph linear, quadratic, and exponential equations. (Has it been a while since you've seen those words? (Click here for a refresher!) Either option keeps a student progressing forward as a mathematician, but I'm thrilled to be able to offer the challenge of Math 1 to students who are ready for it!

Important items to remember...



The best communication is direct communication! If you have a question or concern, and are not sure who you should speak to, consult this list. Still unsure? Contact Melany in the Castle (melanyr@pioneersprings.org)

EOGs, EOCs, and high school final exams are right around the corner. Here is the exam schedule.

Speaking of EOGs and EOCs, we need proctors! Proctors ensure fair exam settings and having plenty of volunteer proctors means that we can keep more instructional staff in non-testing classrooms. Register here.

Get to know the Banana Bros!, by Heidi Magi

If you came to ArtSpring!, you probably visited the Banana Bros pop-up t-shirt stand, run by fifth grade student Cedar Gatlyn. When I saw Cedar's t-shirts, I wanted to know more about his project. I had a chance to talk with him about it this week, and learned that Banana Bros. is a gender-inclusive club that was founded by a group of students last year. The club's code is "You have to be kind, caring, and helpful." Cedar reports that they have 37 members on campus, and over 60 world-wide from as far away as Russia. Any one who subscribes to the code can be a Banana Bro.

Cedar wanted to spread the Banana Bros spirit and support the school during ArtSpring!, so he designed, manufactured and sold Banana Bros shirts at ArtSpring! He created a Banana zombie image for the shirt, then carved it from rubber and stamped the shirts. If you purchased a Banana Bros shirt, I think you'll agree that Cedar made a phenomenal product. His commitment to building a kind, caring community, and his entrepreneurial ambitions reflect his Pioneer Springs spirit!



Thank you PSCS families and WINGS







Pioneer Springs Teachers and Staff felt very appreciated this week! From notes and student art to an ice cream bar and flowers, we are grateful for all of the wonderful things that families and WINGS did for us this week. Our WINGS leaders extraordinaire, Stephanie Costas, Holly Webster, and Erin Scheichl did a fabulous job organizing staff appreciation week.

Middle School students, join us for a dance in our enchanted forest!

Who: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Students
What: Middle School Dance - semi-formal
When: Wednesday, May 22 from 5-7:30 PM
Where: Lunch Island
How: to pay/ chaperone: $5 fee pay **here**, sign up **here** to help
Why: Celebrate a year filled with learning and friendship!

A night of old Hollywood glamor at Prom!

We rolled out the red carpet at Saturday's Prom.









Classroom Happenings

3rd & 5th grade Authors' Tea















Classroom Happenings



Ms. Crystal and Ms. Megan's Busy Bees planted a river birch tree on campus last week! The river birch sapling was given to Pioneer Springs by Trees Charlotte. Mr. Randolphand Mr. Chris picked the perfect spot for our tree to thrive, near the retaining pond by the Hive, so it will be sure to get lots of water. We are so excited for our 2nd graders to be able to watch their tree grow as they grow!



Ms. Leslie's class has been studying insects. Last week they made models.



In Ms. Kristin's dance class, Kindergarten students pretended to be butterflies ready to emerge from their chrysalises by dancing in body sock. Body socks are a fun tool that enable children to explore resistance and movement, as well as to experience different kinds of proprioceptive input. You can find body socks here. Keep in mind, they run small.