COOP SCOOP

14 February 2025

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

BENCHMARK RESULTS ARE IN, AND OUR STUDENTS ARE GROWING ACADEMICALLY! HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR STUDENT REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



In early February we performed RenStar benchmark assessments in all grade levels to check-in on our students' learning and to analyze how well they are growing academically. The winter Kindergarten to 12th grade benchmarks showed that our median student has grown 53% towards a reading goal and 54% towards a math goal. At midyear, students are expected to have grown 50% towards the annual goal, which means that many students are ahead of both their reading and math growth goals for the school year. This is wonderful news!

Teachers and staff are digging into the data to plan instruction for the second half of the school year with the goal of building on this momentum and helping every student meet their full potential.



You can help your student meet academic goals by taking a few simple steps at home:

- In the weekly newsletters teachers are sharing discussion questions and family activities. Set aside time to ask your students these questions and participate in these activities.
- Make reading part of your family routine by setting aside time for reading aloud daily, and by taking time to read a good book yourself. Adults are powerful models!
- Attend the February 24 Pioneer 101: FUNdementals of Reading to learn how to support reading at home.
- Play games that incorporate math.

Another important step to support your student's learning is understanding how academic growth is measured. Be on the lookout for assessment scores, which will be sent to your email in the coming weeks.

We'd like to encourage you to reach out to your teacher to check-in on progress, and to schedule a conference to learn how you can support learning at home. When students, families and teachers work together, students reach their maximum potential!





IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 17 Feb: President's Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- 18 Feb: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL**
- 20 Feb: Volunteer training from 2-2:40pm
- 24 Feb: Pioneer 101: The FUNdamentals of REading, 5:30-6:30pm
- 24 Feb: Board of Trustees meeting
- 28 Feb: Teacher Appreciation Event
- Summer Camp information
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Who to Contact and When
- Board meeting minutes

SAVE THE DATE...

Save the Date: Twilight Among the Azaleas Gallery Opening & Art Auction



The afternoon of Thursday, March 20, All Ages Art Gallery Opening, Silent Auction & Raffle

The evening of Friday, March 21, Adult Only Gala, Silent Auction & Raffle

Celebrate the arts at Pioneer Springs, bid on fabulous projects to take home, and socialize with Pioneer Springs families at Twilight Among the Azaleas Gallery Opening & Art Auction. Proceeds support fine arts education.

ACTIVATE THE POWER OF COMMUNITY BY SHOWING YOUR HEART FOR PIONEER SPRINGS

When your family joined Pioneer Springs Community School, you became an essential member of our community of learning. Your engagement in our community of learning is essential for the success of our school, and for each of our students.

As a public school of choice, PSCS receives significantly less state and local funding than traditional public schools. One of the many ways that PSCS bridges this funding gap is through fundraising. We ask that families support our fundraising efforts by giving what we can, with a goal that **100% of our families make a financial contribution to the mission of PSCS each year**.

One way that your family can meet this responsibility is by asking significant adult's in your child's life, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, and friends of the family, to donate to the PSCS mission. Spreading the word is simple:

- Have your child write a letter about their wonderful experiences at PSCS, and include a link to our donation page
- Post about your experience on social media, with a link to encourage donations
- Share your child's "Why I love Pioneer Springs" art, and encourage family members to support PSCS

When each of our families gives what we can, together we can sustain PSCS's important work!

PIONEER 101: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF READING







Join us from 5:30-6:30 pm on Monday, February 24 to explore the FUNdementals of reading. Reading is one of the most important skills that a child can learn. In this seminar, we will share resources for supporting reading at home. We will start with the basics–how children learn to connect letters to sounds, and will also present strategies to support reading comprehension, as well as how to nurture a love of reading.

Adults and children of all ages are welcome. Attendees are invited to bring a yummy treat to share! **Click here to rsvp, and to share the questions that you have**.

JOIN WINGS & SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR PSCS



A message from WINGS: attention Middle School families...

We have an exciting event coming up on **Friday, February 28th**. Our Middle School families will be hosting the upcoming all staff teacher appreciation event. The theme for this event will be a yogurt and bagel bar.

We are kindly asking for Middle School families to sponsor this all staff appreciation event by donating supplies, food and/or volunteering (the sign up link is below). Thank you so much for helping to make this event a success. We appreciate all that you do!

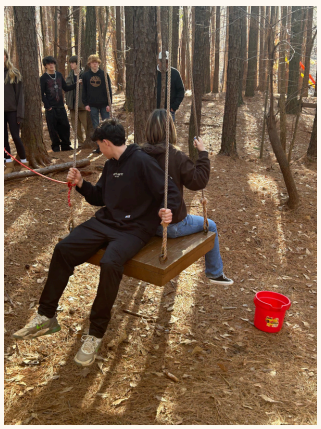
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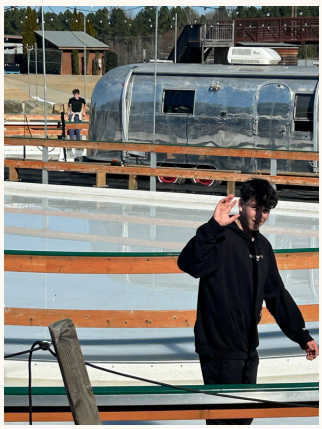
STUDENT SMILES

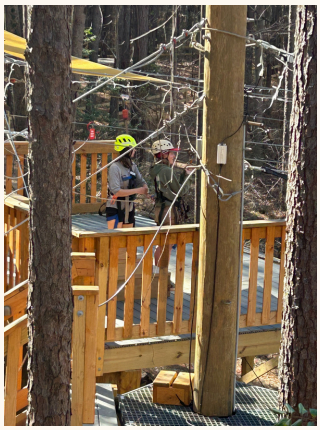
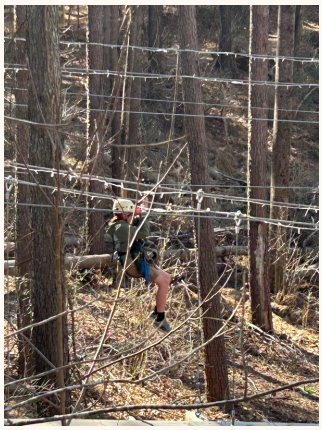
9th & 10th grade field trip to the Whitewater Center








STUDENT SMILES



Ms. Tracy's second grade class picking up litter along Bob Beatty and across campus to beautify our campus.





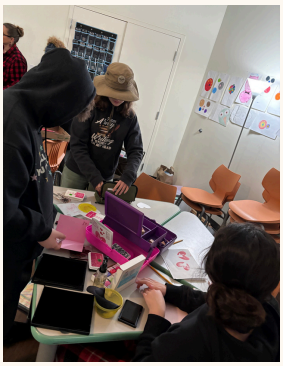



Third grade took advantage of the nice weather and started working on their art auction project!

Families, get ready to connect with nature and make a difference! **Our school is participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count**, a fun and easy way to observe and record local birds while contributing to real scientific research. We are inviting you to join in our efforts. **Between February 14 - February 17th, take 15-30 minutes in your backyard, a park, or any outdoor space to count birds**. It's a great way to engage kids with wildlife, build observation skills, and support bird conservation. **Please fill out this google form with your findings**. Direct any questions you may have to Hillary, hillaryb@pioneersprings.org.

STUDENT SMILES

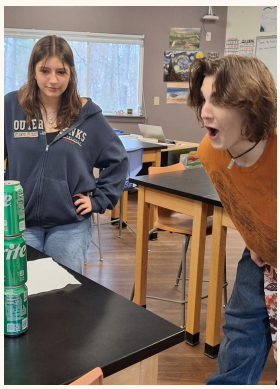


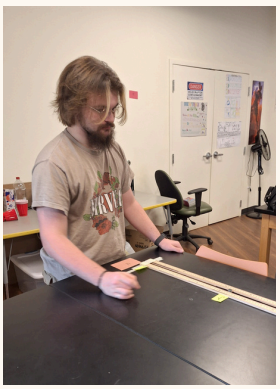







Ms. Stacey's 7th grade class showed their heart this week to a local nursing home by making valentines for the residents!

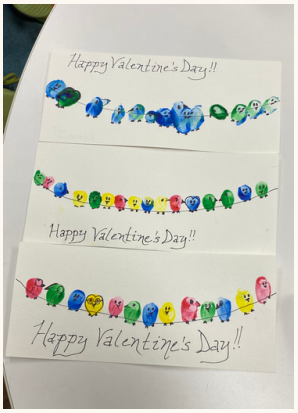






This week, Ms. Shannon's Physical Science students investigated the operation of Newton's Three Laws. They learned how the property of inertia keeps a tower of pop cans standing, or an orange climbing up a skewer, or a stack of books moving - even when some underlying motion changes. They used deflating balloons to watch how force is derived from the mass and acceleration of an object; if the mass is changing, so is the force. They also used a marble track to view the action of equal but opposing forces; thus illustrating all three of Newton's Laws of Motion.

STUDENT SMILES



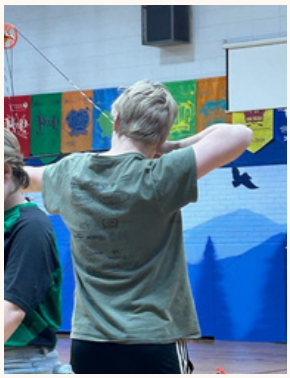
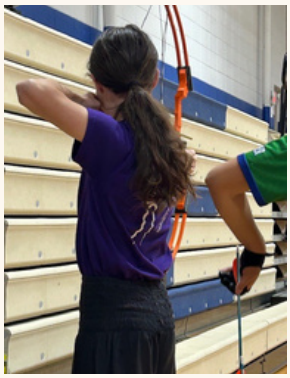



Ms. Leslie's class made nature-themed valentines!








Hellbender Archers competed in a local tournament in early February.