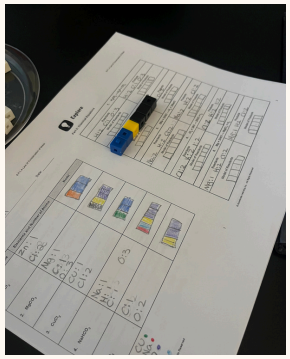
COOP SCOOP
15 November 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

MAKING COMPLEX CHEMISTRY ACCESSIBLE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE


What happens to atoms during chemical reactions? Through their exploration of this question, 8th grade science students are learning about the Law of Conservation of Mass, and about how to balance chemical equations. Because these topics are abstract (atoms and molecules are far too small to see, after all), many middle schoolers find these topics confusing. Fortunately for Pioneer Springs' students, the PSCS school philosophy encourages teachers to use "hands-on, creative exploration of an integrated curriculum." In middle school science students are building models of molecules to explore chemical reactions. By arranging and rearranging "atoms" in molecule models, students are able to see how atoms rearrange themselves during chemical reactions, while also understanding that atoms are not created or destroyed in this process.

You can help deepen your child's understanding of science with hands-on learning at home. Click here for resources for elementary age kids, middle schoolers, and high school students.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 16 Nov: Board of Trustees meeting
- 20 Nov: WINGS meeting, 9am
- 20 Nov: 6th grade field trip
- Nov 18-22: Zero Waste Week
- 27-29 Nov: Thanksgiving Break
- 2-6 Dec: Digital Citizenship Week
- 11 Dec: Blood Drive, 9am - 1pm
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Who to Contact and When

MEET PIONEER SPRINGS FAMILIES AND LEARN ABOUT WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

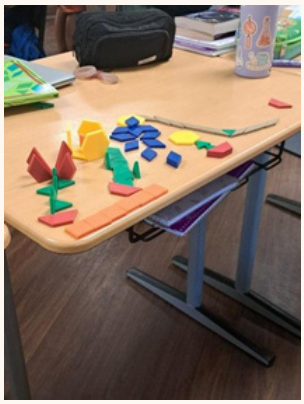


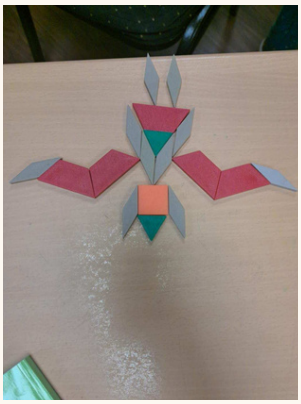

Our homegrown PTO, WINGS, will be meeting at 9 am on Wednesday, November 20. Participating in WINGS is a great way to connect with other PSCS families, show appreciation to our staff, and support our school.

At the November meeting we will be discussing family participation in the EcoSchools, the December Staff Appreciation event, and more. Questions? Email wings@pioneersprings.org.

Everyone is welcome, including parents, grandparents, and siblings. Check-in at the Castle. See you there!

VOLUNTEER CALL FOR BRIDGES MATH PROGRAM ORGANIZATION



Hello Pioneer Springs Families!

We're gearing up to organize our *Bridges Math Intervention Program*, a hands-on curriculum designed to support students with diverse math skills through targeted lessons and engaging activities. This program relies on structured materials, and we could use some helping hands to get everything organized and ready for use!

We're looking for volunteers to help organize binders and materials by volume and then assist in delivering them to our buildings on Friday, November 22nd. It's a great way to lend a hand in supporting our math program!

If you're available to help with this important task, please email margaretannem@pioneersprings.org. Your support makes a difference in helping us provide effective learning tools for our students.

COCOA COTILLION

Winter Semi Formal

Thursday, December 19th
6:30PM- 9:30PM

The Old Town Event Center
19725 Oak Street
Cornelius, NC 28031

The last day to purchase tickets will be Tuesday, December 17th
PSCS Student: $30
Non-PSCS Student: $35
To purchase tickets please visit the link below:
Tickets & Registration




A TEACHER'S REFLECTION ON THE VALUE OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE COURSE BY ALEX SUTTON, HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY TEACHER



From the moment I learned what the Holocaust was, I was fascinated by the topic. Not because it was a horrific atrocity that took place, but rather because of all the important lessons I learned through being educated about the subject. Educating young students about the Holocaust and other genocides has always been a passion of mine, and I really believe that my students who have had me in past school years see and appreciate that.

As the teacher of a Holocaust and Genocide Studies elective, I am continually reminded of the profound impact this subject has on my students. Offering this class is not only about teaching history; it's about fostering empathy, critical thinking, and a deep moral understanding that will shape who my students become. In every lesson, we confront difficult truths—about prejudice, violence, and the fragility of justice—that challenge students to think beyond themselves and understand their role in creating a more compassionate society.

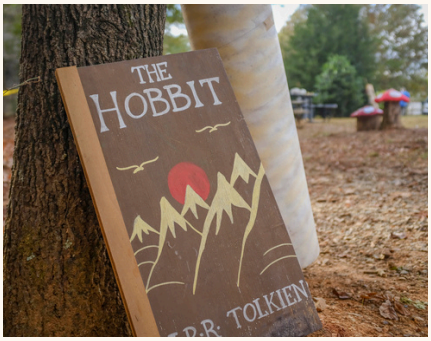
Teaching this course gives me the unique opportunity to guide students as they wrestle with questions about human nature, power, and morality. It is often an eye-opening experience for them, especially when we delve into the personal stories of survivors or the harrowing details of historical events. Through these lessons, students come to see that genocide is not something that happened in a distant past but a recurrent threat that can arise anywhere. By understanding the social, political, and psychological factors that allow such atrocities to happen, they learn to identify and resist the signs of hatred, discrimination, and authoritarianism in our world today.

What I find most rewarding as a teacher is watching my students' sense of responsibility grow. When they leave my classroom, they are not only more informed but more thoughtful, empathetic, and equipped to speak out against injustice. This course empowers them to stand up for what is right and challenges them to be the kind of people who will protect the vulnerable and uphold human dignity. To me, that is what makes this class essential—not just for their academic growth but for the kind of citizens they will become.

STUDENT SMILES

Fairytale & Folklore Festival Edition





























STUDENT SMILES

Fairytale & Folklore Festival Edition















