COOP SCOOP
18 October 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

SUPPORT PIONEER SPRINGS

At Pioneer Springs, we believe in embracing the great outdoors – and sometimes, that means getting a little muddy! With our focus on nature and environmental education (and a dash of good, old-fashioned messy fun), our students dive deep into learning – and the dirt.

You can support our unique, muddy mission by inviting three significant adults in your child's life to contribute to our annual campaign. Encourage your child to write a letter, send an email, or to make a video describing what Pioneer Springs means to them, and sharing the donation link for our Annual Campaign.









IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 1 Oct-31 Oct: Annual Fundraising Campaign
- 14 Oct: 4th grade field trip
- 21 Oct 8:30 am, Folklore & Fairytale Festival planning meeting; check-in at Castle
- 23 Oct: High School CIA info session
- 21 Oct: Board Meeting
- 1 Nov: Raffle Ends
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Who to Contact and When

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the Get Muddy Derby a success...
from Frances Loren, who wrote every single student's name on a run bib, to Erin Scheichl and Stephanie Costas, who coordinated the WINGS volunteer effort, our community joined together to create a memorable day for our students!

UNDERSTANDING REN STAR ASSESSMENTS AT PIONEER SPRINGS COMMUNITY SCHOOL





At Pioneer Springs Community School, we believe in providing the right support to each student, whether they need help catching up or are ready for advanced challenges. An essential part of this commitment is our use of Ren Star assessments—a valuable tool that helps us understand each student's needs and guide their learning journey. Here's an overview of what these assessments are, how they work, and why they matter to your child's education.

Why We Chose Ren Star Assessments

After carefully considering **parent and student feedback** about our previous assessment tool, **iReady**, we made the decision to switch to Ren Star assessments. A key reason for this change is the **shorter length of time** that Ren Star assessments take. While iReady provided useful data, many families and students expressed concerns about the time it required. The Ren Star assessments, taking just **15-30 minutes**(sometimes as long as 45 minutes for older students), allow us to gather the same valuable insights without taking away too much instructional time, nor causing assessment fatigue. This ensures that our focus remains on quality classroom instruction while still gaining the data we need to support your child's learning.

What Are Ren Star Assessments?

Ren Star assessments, developed by **Renaissance Learning**, are **computer-adaptive tests** used to evaluate student skills in **reading** and **math**. The tests adjust in difficulty based on how students respond, making it possible to pinpoint their current level of understanding. For example, if your child answers a question correctly, the next one becomes more challenging. If they miss a question, the next one becomes easier. This adaptive approach helps us find the right starting point for each student's individualized learning.

How Ren Star Assessments Support Student Learning

The **Ren Star assessments** serve several key purposes in our instructional approach at Pioneer Springs:

- **Initial Screening for Intervention Needs**: Ren Star is the **first assessment** we use each school year to determine if students need additional support or intervention. This allows us to identify students who may benefit from extra help right away, ensuring no one falls behind. It also helps us identify those who are ready for enrichment and more advanced challenges.
- **Benchmarking Student Growth**: These assessments are used at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year to set a benchmark for student performance and to measure their progress. By seeing where students are starting and tracking their growth, we can make sure each child is on the path to success.
- **Data-Driven Decisions**: The detailed reports from Ren Star assessments provide a wealth of information for our teachers. This data helps us tailor instruction to meet the needs of each student, making learning more personalized. For instance, if a student struggles with a particular math concept, the teacher can provide targeted instruction or small-group support to help them catch up.

What Do Ren Star Results Tell Us?

The results of the Ren Star assessments provide a variety of scores that help us understand how your child is progressing:

- **Scaled Scores**: These scores reflect your child's overall performance in reading or math, allowing us to track growth over multiple testing periods.
- **Percentile Ranks**: This shows how your child's performance compares to that of students across the nation, helping us see where they stand in relation to their peers.
- **Student Growth Percentile (SGP)**: This measure indicates how much growth a student has made compared to their academic peers with similar initial scores. This is especially helpful in understanding not just where a student is, but how much progress they are making.

How Does This Fit with MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)?

Our **MTSS** framework ensures that every child gets the right level of support. The Ren Star assessments play a crucial role in this process. After each assessment, we use the results to decide whether a student needs extra help through **Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions**.

- **Tier 1** is the high-quality instruction all students receive in their regular classroom setting.
- **Tier 2** provides targeted support for students who need a bit more help, often through small group work.
- **Tier 3** offers even more intensive, individualized support for those who need it most.

By using Ren Star as our starting point, we ensure that we're making **data-driven decisions** right from the beginning, so each student gets the support they need to thrive.

Partnering with Families

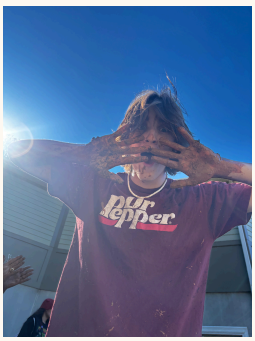
At Pioneer Springs, we value the partnership between families and educators. After each round of Ren Star assessments, we will share your child's results with you and provide guidance on what the scores mean. This way, you can understand their progress and be an active part of their learning journey. Our goal is to work together to help every student succeed, academically and beyond.

We hope this gives you a better understanding of how Ren Star assessments help us support your child's growth at Pioneer Springs Community School. If you have any questions or would like to know more about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to their teacher.





WIN GREAT PRIZES AND SUPPORT PIONEER SPRINGS! ENTER OUR RAFFLE!







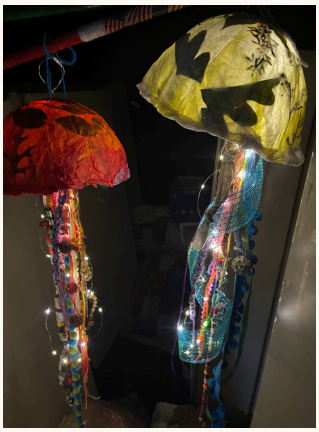




Would you crawl through mud for Panthers tickets? For Renaissance Fair tickets? For cold, hard cash? The good news is that you don't have to get muddy to win any of these things. You just need to enter our raffle. Click here to win!

JOIN MS. JEN'S LANTERN PARADE



All are invited to the 7th Annual Mount Holly Lantern Parade this Saturday, October 19th. The parade starts at 7:00 pm.

Helpers needed: We have about 25 beautifully hand-crafted lanterns to represent our students grades K-12. If you would like your child to participate in the parade, please email me as soon as possible: jenniferm@pioneersprings.org. We still have about 10 lanterns that need a buddy to hold in the parade.

Students who want to help proudly carry the lanterns will meet at 5:30 pm at Ida Rankin Elementary School, 301 W Central Ave, Mount Holly.

It's going to be magical!

STUDENT SMILES





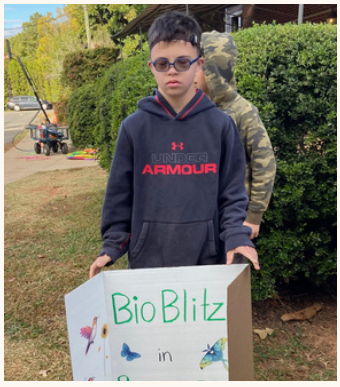




Each of our staff members would do pretty much anything for our students, including army crawling through mud. Support our dedicated educators by contributing to our annual campaign here!







Miss Leslie's Class Bio Blitz with Ms. Sandy

STUDENT SMILES



Centripetal force is a force that acts on an object moving in a circular path, always directed towards the center of the circle. Essentially it is the "center-seeking" force that prevents an object from flying off in a straight line when moving on a curve. Physical Science students recently experimented with this force and calculated how much force it took to keep water in their cups without spilling. Good thing it was a warm day!



Mr. Nick's HS English classes spent the day enjoying their current novels and stories from Edgar Allen Poe by campfire.