pioneersprings.org

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

1 December 2025

GOBBLE, CLUCK, TWEET! TOP TURKEY DELIVERS THE TREATS













Thank you all for making Ms. Vicki's Top Turkey collection drive a smashing success! Due to your spirit and support for the endeavor to feed those in need, Ms. Vicki, Ms. Susan, and Ms. Kara were able to deliver over 1400lbs of food, and more than $400 dollars in cash and gift cards to Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte. We built community through our school and inside our classrooms that led to creating empathy for others in need. Here are the winners of Top Turkey:

Elementary:
1st place: KG
2nd place: 3rd grade
3rd place: 5th grade

Middle School:
Ms. Katie

High School:
Tied for 1st: Ms. Min & Mr. Christian

The Castle

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 26-28 Nov: **Thanksgiving Break**
- 17 Dec: Blood Drive, 9am - 1pm
- 22 Dec - 1 Jan: **Winter Break**
- 2 Jan: Staff Workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 19 Jan: MLK Day
- 20 Jan: Staff Workday
- Fridays at 12pm: Director's Open Office Hours
- Sign up for before/after care
- Academic & Events Calendar

ATTENTION 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADE FAMILIES

On Friday, December 19th, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families will be hosting a Dessert and Cocoa Bar teacher appreciation event for all PSCS staff.

We are kindly asking for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families to sponsor this event by donating supplies, food, and/or donating your time by volunteering (the sign up link is below). We are so thankful for each of you and look forward to spreading some holiday cheer to our wonderful staff.

SIGN UP LINK

Hello PSCS Community!

As we start to bring 2025 to a close, we want to reflect on how grateful we are for the Pioneer Springs teachers and staff. They embody the spirit of Pioneer Springs Community School, and work hard to make it such a special place for our children to learn and grow. WINGS, our school's homegrown PTO, will be collecting contributions for staff gifts for ALL teachers, administrators and support staff to distribute on the last day before winter break. We will pool the money collected to distribute a cash gift evenly amongst our amazing staff! With success at this approach the past few years, we have decided to continue this collective giving for our teacher and staff appreciation during this season of giving. We'd like to share the thinking behind the idea to collect from the community to give to all staff:

1. We simplify your holiday shopping by giving our PSCS staff a cash gift just before winter break so you don't have to add this shopping to your already overfilled to-do list! This shared collection allows your money to go further, especially when you have several staff members you'd like to appreciate.

2. We want to honor staff in a truly PSCS community driven way by making sure that every single staff member is included in the holiday/winter gift. Your child encounters numerous teachers and staff on a daily basis and we are committed to making sure NOBODY gets overlooked this holiday season.

Our hope is that each family can contribute $25 per child (or any amount you are comfortable giving!) to the fund. This would ensure that each staff member receives a meaningful cash gift heading into the winter break! Our goal is to make your holiday shopping less stressful! We know finances can be tight, especially during the holidays, so please don't be stressed if you are unable to participate or if you choose to honor your teachers in your own special way.

Our teachers and staff are why PSCS is such a special place for our students and we want to make sure each and every one of them gets a cash gift to honor their hard work!

Please use the link to make an online donation to the PSCS staff gift collection fund by December 16, 2025. You can also leave a check at the office with a memo saying "Staff Holiday Gift Collection." Let's show this exceptional staff how much we appreciate them as we enter into the holiday season!

Thank you!

WINGS Staff Appreciation Team

WINTER WONDER FAIRE

Step into the season's magic at Pioneer Springs' community celebration hosted by WINGS — a day of cozy wonder, creativity, and connection for all ages.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Pioneer Springs Community School

✧ **Merry Market • Snowman Shoppe • Cozy Eats & Treats • Music • Wonder & Joy** ✧



Join the magic— click to sign up for the Snowman Shoppe or Merry Market!


Save the date for PSCS high school winter semi formal:
Aurora Nights
Friday, December 19th 7PM-9:30PM
Old Town Event Center
19725 Oak Street, Suite 2-3, Cornelius, NC
Tickets are $35/student. Guests 9-12 grade welcome.
Please visit THIS LINK to purchase tickets

STUDENT SMILES










Students in Ms. Stacey's 7th grade math classes put their unit rate skills to the test by making applesauce on Friday in the castle!






Physical Science students recently investigated endothermic and exothermic reactions. An endothermic reaction is one that pulls thermal energy from the environment to power the reaction while an exothermic reaction will release energy in the form of heat. A classic example is a process called hydration energy. Some salts, called hydrates, have water molecules integrated into their crystaline structure. When those hydrates are dried out, they are called anhydrous salts. Physical science students used Epsom salt, aka Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate, in this lab activity. They compared what happened to the temperature when this hydrate was combined with water versus the temperature change that happened when the anhydrous form of the same salt was added to water. Water molecules, when combined with anhydrous salts, bind very strongly to the dry ions (large hydration energy) and releases heat. Both the hydrate and the anhydrous version experienced noticable temperature changes that took the students by surprise. Ask your physical science students what each reaction felt like inside a ziploc bag!