COOP SCOOP

20 September 2024

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

EOG & EOC SCORES SHOW THAT PSCS STUDENTS MADE IMPRESSIVE ACADEMIC GROWTH LAST SCHOOL YEAR BY DR.BECKY FRIEND, PSCS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each year the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction publishes performance data as measured by the previous year's test scores. The measure, known as the NC School Report Card, consists of both achievement data, or the percentage of questions students got right on various tests, and growth data, the amount of positive change between previous years and the testing year. Growth was the name of the game for Pioneer Springs as the school met its expected growth goals set by the state and jumped 7 points on the overall composite score to earn a C. Of particular note was overall student growth with some 80% of tested students meeting or exceeding the expected growth standard and 89% of tested math students doing the same. PSCS students also tested very well in Biology and 5th and 8th grade science resulting in 73% proficiency overall.

As we begin this school year, teachers continue to have a laser focus on individual student growth such that we've committed to the goal of 100% student growth across the school. We'll begin this process with benchmarking for math and reading in grades K-12 in the first week of October and use that data to deliver individualized interventions as part of our Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS). Families play an integral role in this process so we look forward to sharing benchmark results with you in late October and, together, making a plan for growth. #100%!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 24 Sept-18 Oct: Annual Fundraising Campaign
- 26 Sept & 3 Oct: Volunteer Training
- 27 September: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 1 Oct: Pioneer 101, 5-6 pm
- Who to Contact and When
- Academic & Events Calendar

GETTING BACK TO BASICS: A COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER BY MARGARET BONDS, LOWER SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



At Pioneer Springs Community School, we embrace the Basic School philosophy, which fosters a deep sense of community and shared values through the cultivation of core virtues. These virtues—responsibility, respect, honesty, kindness, cooperation, and fairness—serve as guiding principles that shape the character of our students. At Pioneer Springs, we've added a seventh virtue: environmental awareness. This reflects our commitment to nurturing a connection with nature and promoting stewardship of the environment. Through daily actions, academic learning, and school-wide initiatives, we encourage students to live by these virtues, fostering a strong moral compass and a sense of purpose that extends beyond the classroom.

A strong school-home partnership is the foundation for student success. At our first **Pioneer 101** event of the year, we will explore ways to build a strong partnership. We hope you can join us on **Tuesday, October 1 from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Music Room. RSVP here.**

NC DPI is revising the math standards for grades K-12, and is seeking stakeholder input. **Share your thoughts here.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MAKE OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!





Did you know that charter schools receive significantly less funding than traditional public schools? Bridging this funding deficit is essential for providing high quality academics, and a unique educational experience. Pioneer Springs has a commitment to hosting fundraisers that are connected to our mission, and that build community.
Our first fundraiser of the year, the Annual Campaign, will kick off next week. We need volunteers to help gather donations from community businesses, share our mission with others, and to help plan our annual fun-run/ Annual Campaign celebration, the Get Muddy Derby.
If you are interested in helping, please contact Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org).

WINGS NEEDS YOUR HELP!



WINGS volunteers on campus help to organize and offer a Student Pantry available for students for a variety of reasons: for the emergency “a chicken ate my sandwich” moments, the “whoops, did I leave my lunch box in the car” situation, or even the “I'm needing extra fuel to make it through this Monday”.

Our student pantry is 100% donation based from our families. Please consider a donation to keep this tradition alive for our students. Goods can be dropped at the Castle window or shipped directly to the school address attn. Melany.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094DACA62FA0FF2-50806161-pioneer#/

PLACE BASED LEARNING: ADOLESCENTS WANT TO MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITY. HERE'S HOW WE HELP THEM DO JUST THAT





Adolescence is an exciting time. As they develop into adults, teens begin to wonder what their place is in the world, and they begin to explore ways to make a difference in their community. Indeed, teens tend to be compassionate, and deeply concerned with making the world a better place. When schools connect to teens' innate desire to make a difference, they unlock passion for learning. At Pioneer Springs we encourage teens to make see the connection between what they are learning in their classrooms and the capacity to make a positive contribution to the community in several ways. Our middle school ELA classes use the EL curriculum, which has its roots in Outward Bound. Explore, a middle school connect class, gives students the opportunity to explore career options, and high school Communities in Action invites students to solve real world problems. Are you interested in mentoring PSCS teens as they find their path to make a positive difference? Contact Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org).

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WHO ARE ATTENDING 7TH OR 12TH GRADE FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR:

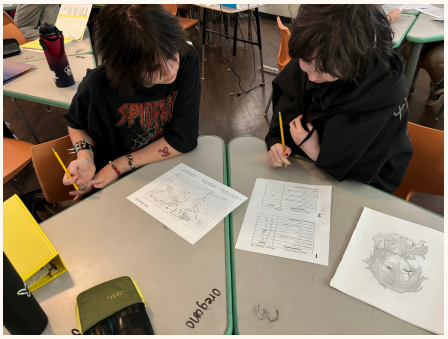
Students entering Kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grades are required to provide updated vaccination records due to additional vaccination requirements at these grades. The preferred way to submit vaccination records is through this **Immunizations Update 2024 Form**. If you are unable to use the form, you may email the records to registrar@pioneersprings.org. Finally, hard copies can be delivered in person to the front office at the Castle.

Please note that these vaccinations, or a religious/medical exemption, are due no later than 30 days from the first day of school. Students who are out of compliance upon reaching this deadline will be unable to attend school at Pioneer Springs until the appropriate documentation is received.

You can visit your child's doctor or the health department for vaccination information and to ensure your child's vaccines are up to date. If you have any questions, you may email me at ArmanC@pioneersprings.org.

Thank you,
Arman Casini, RN

STUDENT SMILES





Ms. Stacey's 8th grade class practiced transformations on a map, and 7th grade found raccoon tracks by the pond!



Ms. Allison's first day of Paper Factory after school club!



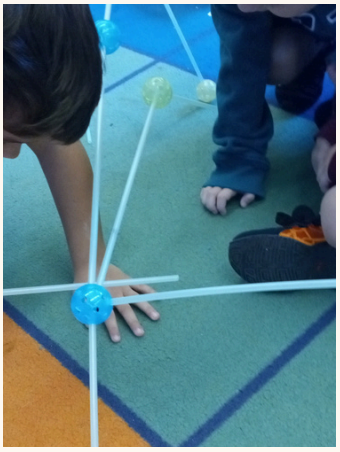






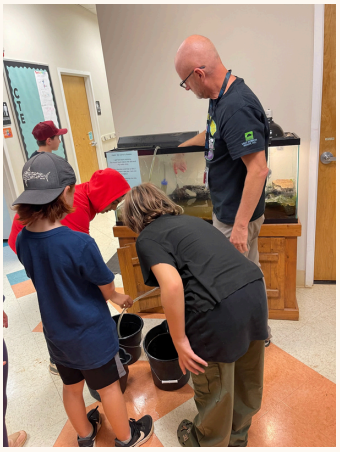
Imagine that you scaled all of time from the beginning of the universe about 13.8 billion years ago up to modern day across the span of one calendar year. We call this the cosmic calendar. Last week, Ms. Shannon's high school Astronomy students worked in groups to research important dates such as the formation of the solar system, the Earth, and the Moon, among others, and attempted to recreate the cosmic calendar. The groups tried to decide based on their research what month the various events in the history of life on Earth occurred. Many students were surprised to realize just how long several billion years take. For example you can fit all of human history on the cosmic calendar on December 31st at 11:59 p.m. and 50 seconds.

STUDENT SMILES



Ms. Karen's Kindergarten class taking time to observe a bug that got caught in their tube building.





Students from Ms. Jess's class helped clean the turtle tank with Mr. Chris.











Ms. Crystal's 2nd grade class spent some time making mud pies and splashing in puddles!