COOP SCOOP
22 November 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

REAPING THE BENEFITS OF GRATITUDE THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON





Did you know that **research shows that regularly practicing gratitude benefits your physical health and emotional well-being**? Practicing gratitude with children helps young people become mindful of the good things that they experience, while also teaching them a valuable life skill. Here are some ideas for creating a gratitude practice in your family:

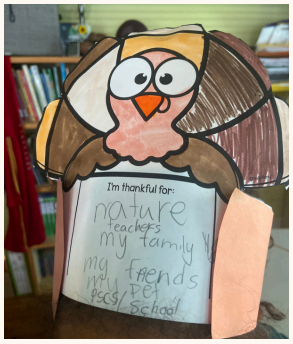
- Share a rose, bud, and thorn from the day at dinner
- Give a family member a Standing O each evening
- Write a letter to a significant person in your child's life sharing your gratitude for the difference they make
- Take time as a family to get into nature every day and express your gratitude for something specific in your environment
- Have a family gratitude journaling time, during which each person writes down three good things from the day

How does your family practice gratitude? Share on social media and tag #pioneersprings.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 27-29 Nov: Thanksgiving Break
- 2-6 Dec: Digital Citizenship Week
- 11 Dec: Blood Drive, 9am - 1pm
- 16 Dec: Board of Trustees meeting
- 20 Dec-2 Jan: Winter Break
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Who to Contact and When

DO YOUR PART FOR THE PSCS COMMUNITY THIS GIVING TUESDAY





Take a moment to think about your child's time at Pioneer Springs. In what ways has your child grown as a student, as a friend, and as a community member because of their time at our school?

As a member of the Pioneer Springs community, you make our community stronger in many ways: by supporting your child in their homework, encouraging them when they encounter a challenge, and sharing your gratitude with teachers and staff.

This Giving Tuesday we are asking that you also do your part to help sustain our community's financial well-being. As a public charter school, Pioneer Springs receives significantly less funding than traditional public schools. Fundraising is one of many ways that we close the funding deficit. **If you have not made a financial contribution to PSCS this year, or if you have more to give, click here to support the amazing work our teachers and staff are doing!**

SPREAD THE WORD, HIGH SCHOOL SECOND SEMESTER ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!








Do you know someone who is looking for an amazing high school experience characterized by a focus on environmental education and connection to community? Let them know that we are now enrolling high school students for the second semester, which starts on January 22, 2025. **Click here for more information about our high school program, click here to enroll, and click here to attend a guided tour on Thursday, December 5.**

SHOW YOUR SALAMANDER SPIRIT!



Are you on the hunt for Pioneer Springs spirit wear? We have you covered! You can buy gear in one of two ways:

- Stop by the office to buy Hellbender and Mudpuppy t-shirts, car magnets, stickers, and more
- **Check-out our online gear store for t-shirts, tote bags, sweatshirts, hats and sweatpants**. The online gear store is a pop-up shop created in partnership with Scarlet & Gold. Scarlet & Gold donates 10% of profits from online purchases to PSCS.
- Shipping is free through Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Are you interested in gear that we do not currently offer? Fill out this form, and we will see what we can do!

Help plan our new event, **the 24 January Cabinet of Curiosities and Winter Wonder Walk!**

Join the **committee meeting at 9 am Wednesday, December 4**. Questions? Email heidim@pioneersprings.org.

BENCHMARK REPORTS COMING SOON!





Keep an eye out for Renaissance Star benchmark reports, which will be emailed before the start of Thanksgiving Break. The benchmark reports include important information about how your student is progressing in reading and math. You can find information about how to read the report by clicking here, or by scanning the QR code in the report.
If you have questions about your student's benchmark report, or if you would like to know more about next steps, please contact your child's teacher(s).

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
Click here to volunteer!




Digital Citizenship Week



What is Digital Citizenship?

Digital Citizenship is the responsible use of technology to learn, create, and participate. It provides guidelines for safe and ethical use of online tools.

ISTE's Five Competencies

Digital Citizenship is the responsible use of technology to learn, create, and participate. It provides guidelines for safe and ethical use of online tools.

Digital Citizenship isn't just about technology.

The five components of Digital Citizenship all relate to interacting with others in a safe and responsible way. This translates to any interaction, not just those online.

It is important to talk with your child about these topics. Below are some Family Discussion prompts to consider.

- What are some ways to show respect for people who think or act differently than we do?
- How do we handle situations where someone is being left out or treated unfairly?
- How do we know if the information someone shares with us is accurate or trustworthy?
- What are some ways we can help make our community a better place?
- What are some ways to make sure you're taking care of your body and mind every day?
- What should you do if you feel uncomfortable or unsure about a situation?
- Why is it important to be cautious when sharing personal information with others?

Family Technology Plans

Start the conversation about technology with these Tech Planners. They help your family think through important questions around tech use like "What devices can I use" and "How much time am I allowed?"

- Ages 5-8
- Ages 9-12
- Ages 13+

For more resources on Digital Citizenship, check out CommonSense.org

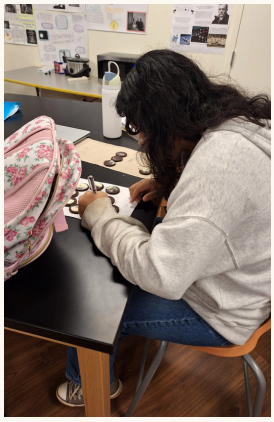
STUDENT SMILES








Ms. Mo's K-6 Spanish students had fun learning all the words you use to make a sandwich. Pan- bread, jamon- ham, queso- cheese, ketchup- salsa de tomate, mayonnaise- mayonesa, mustard- mostaza, lettuce- lechuga, pickles- pepinillos, and alot more!!



Ms. Shannon's Astronomy class learned about the phases of the moon using both an online simulation and a model made from the advanced scientific equipment known as "oreos". Students molded the creme into the shapes of everything from waxing crescent to a third quarter moon.

STUDENT SMILES



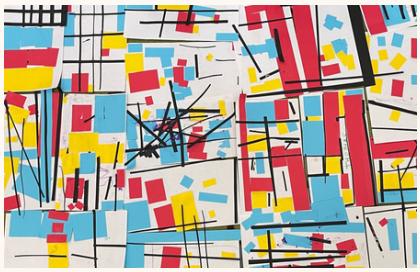
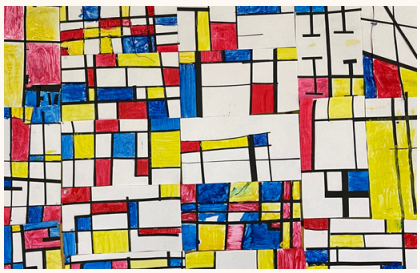



Ms. Min's 9th grade ELA Honors class read *Farewell to Shady Hallow* to members of Ms. Brandi's class.





No, it's not a carnival - it's Ms. Shannon's Physical Science class racing their balloon-powered rocket designs in order to solidify their learning about forces and motion! This engineering challenge helped to teach students the basic design process in a hands-on way. Whether you are making a vehicle powered by the force of expelled air from a balloon, or you are creating an engine that safely runs on hydrogen fuel, the engineering design process is the same: Plan > Create > Test > Improve > (Share if ready) > Ask Questions then start the cycle over again.



Ms. Jen's K-5 students had an exciting week learning about Piet Mondrian and art element: unity. After each student created a variation of the project we created a class collage to show unity.