23 May 2025

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

ZENSORY GARDEN OPENS AT ASBURY

This spring we put the finishing touches on our Zensory Garden, a garden designed to allow visitors to explore all five senses in a mindful space!

Last year middle school students worked with Ms. Vicki, Ms. Sandy, and Mr. Randolph to design the space. Students considered design elements would make the space calming and grounding; they chose to create a gravel river to remind visitor so f water. The water theme is reinforced by a fountain.

Plants that activate the senses include fragrant herbs, grasses that rustle in the wind. and soft moss.

The student's vision is now reality, and classes have been exploring the space!



A BEAVER SPOTTING, BY AILEY, 9TH GRADE EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENT



We were taking a walk around the pond in Ms. Megan's HS Earth and Environmental Science class, documenting different plants and animals when we got a surprise. I heard a splash in the water, and turned around to see a beaver swimming around– I was definitely not expecting that, but was excited. In my 10 years of being at PSCS, I've never actually seen one. We observed the beaver for a while, documenting it and just watching it swim through the pond.

The purpose of us documenting life at the pond is to be able to keep the pond's ecosystem healthy for students in the years to come. My class was posed with the question, "How do you want the pond to look ten to twenty years from now?" We then created projects centered around spreading awareness about the pond's health and what people can do to protect it in the future. My group decided to go into second grade classes to do a science experiment to demonstrate how pollution can affect the pond and how once it's there, it's hard to get out. We feel that it is important for other students at the school to not take the pond for granted, but to be able to appreciate it and keep it healthy for both students and the beaver to enjoy!

EOC and EOG testing is upon us!

Please **click here** for the testing schedule for students in grades 3-12

Make Field Day Memorable!

Elementary students will have Field Day on Thursday, June 5. We need your help to make Field Day fun and memorable! Here's how you can help:

- Sign-up to donate supplies, and drop them off at the Castle by Monday, June 2
- Sign-to to volunteer

Thank you for helping to make Field Day special!!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 26 May: Memorial Day - **No school for students & staff**
- 30 May: Kindergarden campfire
- 30 May: Junior & Senior Prom
- 5 June: Elementary field day
- 5 June: **Last day of school & HS graduation!**
- 6 June: Staff workday - **No school for students**
- 16 June: Board meeting, 6pm
- Summer Camp information
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Board meeting minutes

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY, PIONEER PROCTORS!



State testing provides vital data for the Pioneer Springs community to examine the effectiveness of our academics. This year we have had an enthusiastic and dedicated crew of parents, grandparents, and community members volunteer to help testing run smoothly by proctoring.
Thanks to our amazing group of proctors, we are able to ensure that students have calm, focused testing environments, while also keeping more staff members in classrooms.

Thank you, proctors, for supporting our students and staff!

YOUR OPINION IS NEEDED: FAMILY & PARENT SURVEY



A strong school-home partnership is the foundation of excellent learning. At Pioneer Springs we strive to nurture strong relationships with parents and families. We'd love to hear how we are doing! **Please share your thoughts by completing this survey**. Alternatively, email heidim@pioneersprings.org to schedule a time to talk.

Thank you for helping us make your student's educational experience better!

DANCE, DANCE

High School Prom – The Mad Hatter's Masquerade

Step through the looking glass and into a night of whimsy and wonder at **The Mad Hatter's Masquerade**—this year's unforgettable **Junior/Senior Prom**! Join us on **Friday, May 30th from 7:30–10:30 PM** at the enchanting **Manjal Manor** for an evening filled with magic, mystery, and dancing. Tickets are **$70 per person** and can purchased at this **ticket link** or at the castle.
This event is open to **Juniors and Seniors only**, unless invited by a Junior or Senior.
Each Junior and Senior may invite up to 2 guests.
Click here to help make it magical!

Don your finest attire, add a mask, and don't be late for this very important date!

Yearbook pre-sale is live! **Please follow this link to purchase yours today**. Cost is $35 until 30 May. Orders placed after will go up to $40.
Get your yearbook today!

LEARN ABOUT OUR SUMMER CAMPS AND REGISTER TODAY

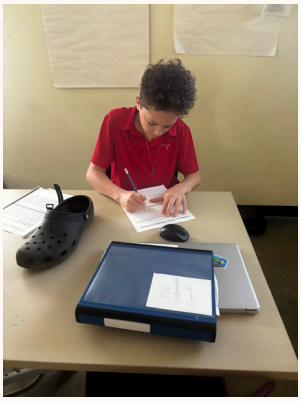
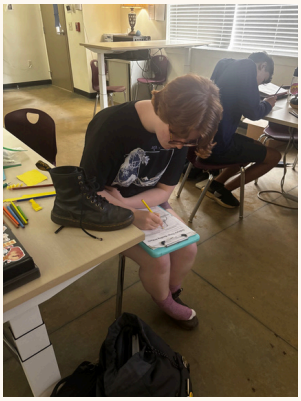


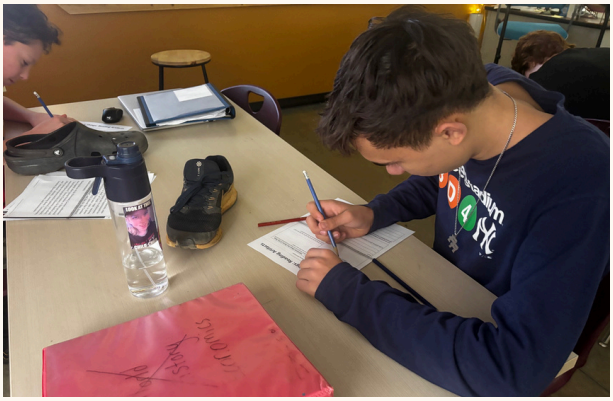
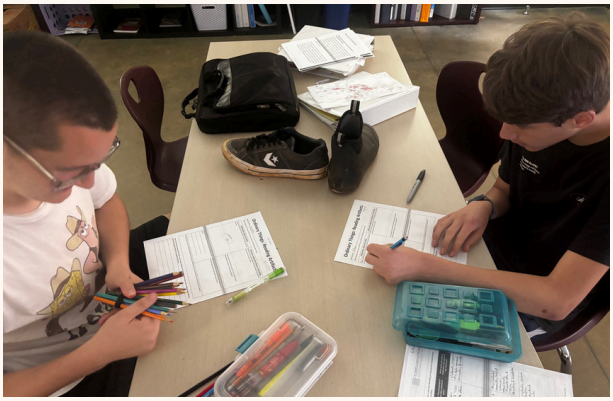
Summer camp registration is now open! Sign-up today to ensure that you have a spot!! From Camp PreOneer for rising Kindergarteners and First Graders to cooking and building camps, as well as camps exploring our National Parks, Milan, Tokyo and more! Our summer offerings are sure to excite wonder for students in preK through Sixth Grade.

****New theatre camps available now!****

Click here for more information and to register.

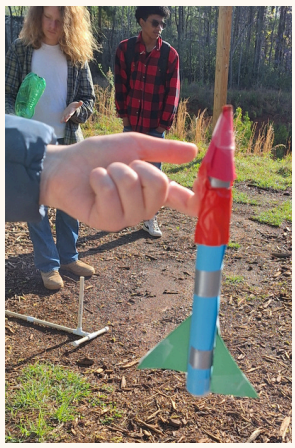
STUDENT SMILES

World History students started learning about the holocaust last week. This activity is called, “Ordinary Things” where students investigate how can things owned by people in the past give us a different way of seeing their lives and times. Students traded shoes and drew inferences about the person based on the shoe.



Prior to Spring Break, Physical Science students finished their Stomp Rocket Project. As described by one student in their final response essay - "The stomp rocket project is a fun experiment used to ... experiment in building aerodynamic items to launch. This project only requires a few items to do: pvc pipes, plastic soda bottles, a simple degree tracker, tape, and cardstock paper." Students formed 3 teams to build paper rockets then collectively launched and calculated the altitudes achieved using a little bit of trigonometry. They then compared the 3 teams' results.

This is project is best summed up by another student's essay intro. "Are you intuitive enough to design a paper rocket that could fly higher than your house? That's what I was tasked with this past unit as a project about forces in motion....Based on my experience, I would like to say this project was a success. Although, it was not an easy success to achieve." Not the least because two of the groups accidentally launched their prototypes on to the top of the high school building...

Pioneer Springs Community School Awarded EcoSchools U.S. Green Flag Award for Exceptional Achievement in Educating for Sustainability

Honor indicates commitment to education for sustainability and youth leadership for environmental change at the school and within the local community

Charlotte, NC, May 20, 2025-Pioneer Springs Community School was recognized with the prestigious Green Flag Award by the National Wildlife Federation's EcoSchools U.S. program for exceptional achievement in educating for sustainability and driving positive environmental change in the school and local community, the Eco-Schools highest honor.

Since 2009, over 6,000 schools in all 50 states have participated in the EcoSchools U.S. program, which is based on the commitment and work of student-driven teams dedicated to issues such as waste reduction, climate change, and biodiversity using action cards and other educational resources to develop environmental action plans for their school.

"The National Wildlife Federation and EcoSchools U.S. are proud of the example set by Pioneer Springs Community School in Charlotte, NC," said Jennifer Hammonds, Director of K-12 Education Programs. "This award demonstrates not only a commitment to sustainability and environmental literacy for students and faculty but an appreciation that the best, most effective education transcends the classroom and offers a place-based, project-based approach to learning". To receive the Green Flag award, Pioneer Springs Community School's students and faculty committed to a number of sustainability actions leading to enough points to earn a Green Flag award. This included engaging the local community, forming an action team, creating an action plan, collecting data, taking solution-based actions, and measuring impact. These steps led to garden development, waste reduction, sustainability art projects, habitat restoration and many more initiatives all designed to provide opportunities for youth leadership, raise environmental awareness, connect students to the natural world, and drive positive environmental change.

National Wildlife Federation was named the stateside host for the international Eco-Schools program in 2008. The International Eco-Schools program (https://www.ecoschools.global) is a network of over 48,000 K-12 schools in 79 countries through Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE) member organizations and in 22 countries through international schools, started in 1994 by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) with support from the European Commission. It was named by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as a model initiative for Education for Sustainable Development in 2003, and in 2022-23 became a supporting member of the UNESCO-led Greening Education partnership – helping to prepare every learner to acquire the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development. Eco-Schools as well is a partner in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration which runs from 2021 to 2030, and calls for the protection and revival of ecosystems worldwide.

Learn more about EcoSchools U.S., nwf.org/eco-schools-us. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

National Wildlife Federation works in collaboration with communities to provide K-12 education that is responsive to and supports student leadership and equitable solutions to collectively build a more ecologically and socially just world.

On May 24th, you and your family are invited to

HEARTS: Let Freedom Spring, at Pioneer Springs

and discover the significance of Freedom Spring and the Meck Dec history related to this special place.



On this preactically unknown yet significant North Mecklenburg historic site, colonial scholars discussed liberty from the King, leading to the Meck Dec, and ultimately the Revolutionary War. **Featured authors and historians Scott Syfert and David Fleming** will share Meck Dec and Freedom Spring stories on land that was once part of Alexandrian the massive plantation estate of John McKnitt Alexander. In addition, learn about the fascinating **natural history of springs** and their inhabitants, and immerse yourself in the **"creatures of the Springs" community art exhibit**. Enjoy captivating 18th-century-inspired **live music by the Carolina folk duo Tom Eure and Amelia Osborne, featuring fiddles, banjos, and enchanting Crankie storytelling!**

It's all happening with **HEARTS (history, ecology, arts, reunion, trails, store)** and presented at Pioneer S**prings Community School** in the Historic Croft District, also home to the historic **Davis General Store**, both of which are on land that was once part of the Alexander plantation. The program highlights the historic Freedom Spring on Alexander's estate, where a group of colonial scholars from Princeton gathered to discuss freedom from British rule, leading to the creation of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775 (a date honored on the NC State flag). Join us to learn more about this incredible American history that happened right here in our own backyard! Saturday, May 24, 2025, 2:00 - 4:00 PM at Pioneer Springs Community School, 9232 Bob Beatty Road, Charlotte, NC 28269, free to the community, tickets are required, and donations are very appreciated. Visit www.HEARTSCircle.org Events for tickets.

As always, ecology and the arts are intertwined with history at HEARTS happenings. Natural springs and the species that live there will be presented by biologist Aaron Kampe. "Creatures of the Spring," a community all-ages art exhibit in partnership with the Cain Center for the Arts will also be on display. The contest is free and open to all ages. Guest judge, Director of Visual Arts and Education for the Cain Center, Simone El Bey, will select the award-winning artworks for both the Adult and Youth Categories, presenting cash prizes of $75-$200 to the award winners at the event. Artwork submission is due by May 16th. Scan the QR code for details and the application.

Live 18th-century-inspired music by the amazing Tom Eure and Amelia Osborne, a Carolina folk duo, offer up a heartfelt fusion of Celtic, Appalachian, and spiritual influences. In concert, Eure and Osborne seamlessly change from one instrument to the next, swirling together fiddles, banjos, bodhrán, mandolins, guitars, and rousing vocal harmonies. In addition to their music, they will also present a Crankie. Crankies are an enchanting form of Folk Art storytelling with roots back to the 1800s.

Down the street from Pioneer Springs Community School, the historic Davis General Store will be open throughout the event, so be sure to plan time for a visit to this lovely landmark, and you'll likely see something you forgot you needed too!

HEARTS happenings are free, place-based gatherings featuring music, visual arts, and lectures exploring local history, nature, and our shared sense of place. HEARTS strives for historic preservation, ecological conservation, and forging community connections in our region. For more information, visit www.HEARTSCircle.org, email info@heartscircle.org, or call (704) 920-9931.

Free to the community, tickets are required and available at www.HEARTSCircle.org ~ Events

ADULT & YOUTH CASH PRIZES - ENTRY DEADLINE 5/16

Calling All Creatives!

Unleash your imagination and celebrate the vibrant life teeming within and around North Carolina's natural springs!



2D or 3D artwork - One entry per person
Submissions due 5.16.25
Juried exhibit 5.24.25 - Cash Prizes
All Ages - Adult and Youth Awards $75-$200

Scan for contest application

Details: www.HEARTSCircle.org

CAIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS!

Lake Norman PUBLICATIONS

Pioneer Springs Community School

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