COOP SCOOP
24 May 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

Ecology students learn bird identification skills to perform advanced population studies

Shannon O'Connor's high school Ecology class has been busy learning how to identify 16 of the many bird species found on our campus by visual appearance and their primary song. Students then visited 20 locations on campus to listen and watch for birds, and recorded data about the birds they found. Students will use the data to create population studies. This requires students to not only be able to identify birds and track data, but also to critically analyze the data they collect and present conclusions about that data. The methodology that the Ecology students are using is the same methodology used by the United States Geological Survey's breeding bird survey.





Shannon O'Connor notes that the students' ability to identify birds is impressive. Not only could they correctly identify the 16 birds they studied even when hearing multiple bird calls at the same time, they were also able to notice when they were hearing birds they had not yet learned to identify. Additionally, students applied the complex data collection protocol consistently, which is an important facet of scientific research. While all of the students demonstrated impressive bird watching skills, Arlowe Hazard and CJ Grubbs were particularly adept birders! Read Arlowe's bird guide here!







IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 27 May: Memorial Day - **NO SCHOOL** for staff & students
- 29 May: **Last day of school**
- 29 May: Class of 2024 Graduation
- 30-31 May: Staff workdays - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- Register here for Summer Camps!
- Academic & Events Calendar
- School start & end times

How'd we do? We'd love your feedback to make our communications, academic events, fundraisers, and WINGS stronger. Share your feedback here by Friday, May 31. Thank you in advance for helping us give your child the best education possible.

Join us for the Salamander Slide this summer!

Summer break is just around the corner, and many Pioneer Springs families are gearing up for a summer filled with time spent outdoors relaxing and connecting with families. Summer is also a great time to encourage your students to pursue their own academic interests. Indeed, keeping up on academics over the summer is an essential component of student success.

Did you know that studies of students in grades 3-5 show that the average student loses 20% of their school-year reading gains over the summer and 27% of their math learning? Studies of older children show similar learning losses, and learning loss among younger students is even more stark.

The good news is that by taking a few simple steps over the summer families can prevent learning loss. We invite you to prevent the summer slide by joining us for the Salamander Summer Stride! In each summer edition of the *Coop Scoop* we'll be sharing simple tips to support learning over break. The ideas are designed to ignite your student's natural curiosity and connect your student with their love of learning!

The first step: knowing where your student stands academically

As you prepare for summer learning, you need to know how your student is doing academically. Here are some steps you can take:

- Review report cards (will be emailed early summer)
- Check-in with your teacher(s)
- Review your student's iReady benchmark scores (see below for more information)
- Review EOG and EOC scores (look for an envelope sent home by teachers)
- The Be a Learning Hero website has lots strategies families can use to support their student's learning, including this math and reading readiness check for grades K-8

Spend time every day relaxing with a good book, graphic novel, magazine, comic book...

Summer days are perfect for diving into a good book! Research shows that the best way to support reading over the summer is to provide access to lots of engaging books on topics that interest your student. Talk with your student, and find out what they love to read, be it mysteries, historical fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, or *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Don't worry about reading levels, sophistication, or academic themes, just follow your child's interests! Just 20 minutes of reading a day is enough to maintain reading skills.

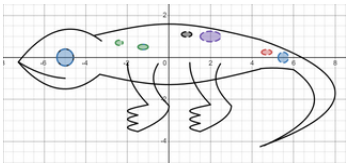


Here are some resources for summer reading:

- The Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and other library systems sponsor several summer reading programs. Visit your local library to learn more.
- Start With a Book is a website that lists a wide range of topics of interest to youngers, suggests books related to that topics, and provides activities connected to the books
- Teens can find book recommendations here, here, and here
- Literacy is more than simply reading, it also involves understanding the structure of stories. Build literacy skills by listening to audiobooks, and telling stories about your childhood to your children

Join us for the Salamander Slide this summer!

Build math skills by focusing on everyday math every day



Math is powerful because it helps us understand and navigate the world. Summer is the perfect time to explore math in our daily lives. Here are some ideas:

- Check out this website for ways to integrate math into your daily routine with youngsters
- Play board games as a family. These games are particularly great at developing mathematical thinking
- Cook together; not only does following recipes require an understanding of fractions, it also supports procedural thinking, which is an important part of mathematical thinking
- This website has lots of great ideas for practicing math outdoors
- Fact fluency is a building block of math success. Take advantage of summer to build fluency
- Have older children and teens help with budgeting and with tracking spending

Nurture your child's inner author

Summer is a great time to practice writing. Here are some ways to nurture the young author in your home:

- Having a writing zone in your home filled with fun paper, pencils, and pens
- Encourage your child to write postcards or letters to friends and family
- Writing is a process-it begins by recording rough ideas, which are refined through revision and finally editing. Encourage your student not to worry about spelling and grammar when they are first recording ideas. Rather, they should simply enjoy recording their thoughts!





Getting into nature

- Children imitate the adults in their life-be sure that you are taking time outdoors on a regular basis
- Explore local parks and nature preserves. Reedy Creek Nature Preserve, Latta Nature Preserve, and Big Rock Nature Preserve are all great destinations
- Get into the garden as a family

Set limits on your child's screen time-doing so not only allows children to engage in the world in different ways, it also gives children the opportunity to experience boredom and boredom often inspires people to get outdoors and get creative







How to contribute to the WINGS end of year staff gift



WINGS, our homegrown PTO, is collecting contributions for staff gifts for ALL teachers, administrators and support staff. We will pool the money collected to distribute a cash gift evenly amongst our amazing staff! With success at this approach previously, we have decided to continue this collective giving for our teacher and staff appreciation during this season of endings and beginnings. 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 summer break. Our goal is to make your last days of school less stressful! We know finances can be tight, 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. To make an online donation to the PSCS staff gift collection fund by May 28, please click here. You can also leave a check at the office with a memo saying "Staff Appreciation Gift Collection." Let's end this year by showing this exceptional staff how much we love them!

Important items to remember...



- The end of the year is here! Please remind your students to bring their mud boots home, and to check lost and found for water bottles, clothing, and any other items that have wandered off. Boots left on campus on June 1 will be sold at the WINGS orientation boot sale. Other left behind items will be donated to a local thrift store.

- EOGs, EOCs, and high school final exams are in progress through the end of the school year. Here is the exam schedule.

- For families of students in grades K-8: to view your child's benchmark results: Go to https://login.i-ready.com/. Your teacher emailed their usernames and passwords at the beginning of the year to each of you. If you need it sent again, please reach out! Your child may also have it memorized if you ask them. Once you are logged in you should see "For Families" in the upper right corner. When you click on that you should see "For Families Report" . Our school code is Y83Z4F. This will give you your child's benchmark results!

4th Grade Author's Tea

Ms. G's Fourth Grade students chose a passion, learned more about their passion through independent research. They then wrote books featuring their research. Our young authors were celebrated at today's Author's Tea.















Ms. Mary and Ms. Jaretta's First Grade students win Soil and Water Conservation District Living Soil Bookmark contest

During Environmental Literacy, Ms. Jaretta led her first grade students in creating bookmarks for the Soil and Water Conservation District's "Living Soil" bookmark contest, and won!
They were presented with their award on Friday afternoon.



Solonah Fisher | Jaselle Horne | **Yukito Loren 2nd Place** | Savannah Manning | Nathan Marta | Elijah Moore | Noralee Nagan | Magnolia Newberry | Avery Payne | Lucy Richardson



Elijah Moore | Noralee Nagan | Magnolia Newberry | Avery Payne | Lucy Richardson | Tristan Rytel | **Mabel Toms 1st Place** | Ari Tervort | Kaniyah Ware | Kehlani Ware



Arrow Williams









Ms. Holly and Ms. Jackie's Second Grade students win Soil and Water Conservation District Living Soil Bookmark contest

During Environmental Literacy, Ms. Jackie led her second grade students in creating bookmarks for the Soil and Water Conservation District's "Living Soil" bookmark contest, and won! They were presented with their award on Friday afternoon.



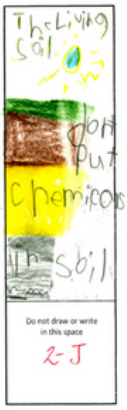
Eloise Coley
3rd Place



Madison Davis



Isaac Gardner



Neco Lewis



Roman McGill



Eden-Rose Bailey



Liv Bledsoe
1st Place



Trey Bostian



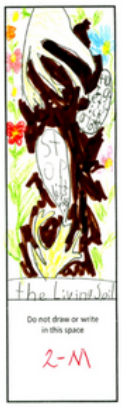
Zoë Cascante
2nd Place



Hannah Cohen



Matthew Meyers



Audrey Newberry



Maxwell Pennycooke



Hank Phillips



Rhys Postle



Daniella Ramos



Lia Robinson



Izzy Rytel



Lex Simpson



Aella Wallace



Greyson Wallace



Declan Weeks



Amaya Woliansky







Classroom Happenings



Middle school found a recently hatched luna moth! Its wings were still too wet to fly.





Second grade did Drop Everything and Read in the trees.







Eric Emerson, Nate Silver's dad, taught Eight Grade a lesson about non-binary numbers.







7th grade plays integer solitaire in class!

Did you forget to order a yearbook? Good news: We are ordering more. The last day to order, with no exceptions, will be May 31, 2024. The yearbook cost is $40. Please **click here** to purchase!