30 August 2024

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

Welcome back to school and back to herpetology!

Students came back to school in true Pioneer Springs style this year. Ms. Jackie and her third graders discovered an Eastern Rat Snake near the Croft playground, and called Dean of Nature Education, Chris Simeral. Mr. Chris and the snake visited classes across campus to discuss animal safety, Eastern Rat Snake morphology, diet, and behavior. What critters has your family encountered in nature? Share your critter discoveries on social media and tag #pioneersprings!













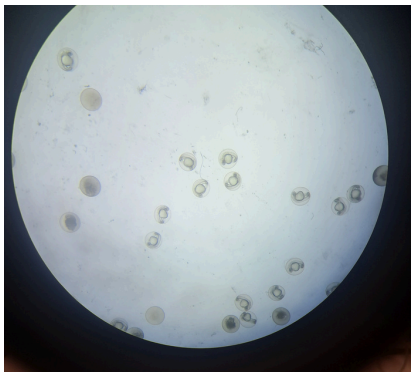
IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 2 Sept: Labor Day - **NO SCHOOL** for students & staff
- 6 Sept: WINGS Welcome Coffee
- Board meeting minutes
- Important HS driver information
- Arrival & Dismissal information
- K-12 supply lists
- Who to Contact and When
- Academic & Events Calendar

Dental screenings will be performed on 12 September for Kindergarten

Bringing real-world data science to middle and high school, by Megan Lenaghan, 6th Grade Math and Social Studies Teacher





Over the summer, I got to go to NC State's campus, courtesy of the Data Science Academy and the North Carolina Center of Human Health and Environment (NC CHHE), as part of a team of teachers developing data science lessons for grades 6-12. NC CHHE works with the Environmental Protection Agency and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to conduct research about environmental issues in North Carolina. We as a cohort of teachers were entrusted to work with real life data sets from these agencies to make relevant lessons for students statewide. I'm actually the furthest west of the group, and one of four middle school teachers!

One of the environmental studies we focused on examines the embryonic development of zebrafish after exposure to PFOAs, which are chemical relatives of Teflon. PFOAs were found in rivers and water sources from the center of the state all the way to Wilmington. A highlight was touring the lab, and taking pictures of zebrafish in development, which you can see above.

The CHHE has also conducted surveys of the public to better understand attitudes towards relevant issues in human health,including the public's perception of the most pressing environmental issues, and where the public gets their information.

Our team of teachers used the zebra fish and human health data sets to develop math and science lessons that will be used in schools across the state, including at Pioneer Springs. These lessons give students the opportunity to work with real data from actual scientific research as they learn data analysis and scientific communication skills.

Understanding the real implications of data, including proper sourcing, will become a required skill as our future races forward to new research, new technology, and an increasing ability to work with larger and larger data sets in a variety of contexts. I'll be back in Raleigh on October 11th and 12th to keep working with my team- I hope I can share some cool pictures then, too!

Attached below are two photos of zebra fish embryos from the lab. These are part of the control group, which means they weren't exposed to PFOA. The first image is a group of day old embryos, and the second image is a group of five day old zebra fish. Zebraf ish embryos are transparent for the first week- no dye necessary!

What is WINGS?

PIONEER W.I.N.G.S

OUR HOMEGROWN PTO!

W.I.N.G.S. is a parent network that Works with Intention to Nurture the Growth of our School

The W.I.N.G.S. mission: We support the mission, students and educators of Pioneer Springs Community School. We work cooperatively with students, educators and families on community development, creative communication, opportunities for gratitude and complimentary learning

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An invitation to volunteer at Pioneer Springs, from Erin Scheichl, WINGS Co-Chair



WINGS needs volunteers for leadership positions. Ready to jump-in? Click here to let us know you are interested in volunteering, or step-up for one of these leadership positions:
Room Parent Coordinator, helps communicate with room parents, and to organize their efforts supporting and appreciating classroom teachers.
Volunteer Coordinator, helps organize volunteers, coordinates volunteers at school-wide events.
Gear Sales Volunteers, help run gear sales at school wide events.

If you are interested in any of these positions, contact WINGS at wings@pioneersprings.org.

Coming soon! Athletics & Pioneer Plus extracurriculars.
Click here for more information!

Substitute Teachers are essential to making things run smoothly when teachers need to be out. If you or someone you know is interested in more information on serving in this paid role, please contact Glenda Cheek at glendac@pioneersprings.org.

This is an important announcement regarding students who will be attending 7th or 12th grade for the 2024-2025 school year:



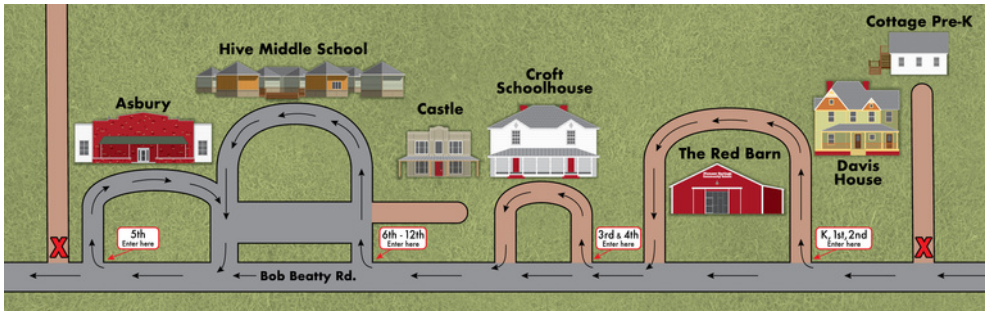
Students coming into Kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grade are required to provide updated vaccination records, as there are additional vaccination requirements that occur at these grades. Please submit vaccination records to registrar@pioneersprings.org. Alternatively, a hard copy can be delivered, in person, to the front office.

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

Important afternoon dismissal information; action needed



PSCS works hard to ensure afternoon pickup runs safely. We need your family's assistance to ensure dismissal runs quickly and efficiently. Showing up early for dismissal blocks traffic flow on Bob Beatty Rd. and slows down the entire process for everyone. Please do not block the entrances and exits to the buildings.

Dismissal for elementary students begins at 3:00pm. Dismissal for middle and high school students begins at 3:30pm. The best time to arrive to reduce your wait in the car line is the last 15 minutes of each dismissal.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we start the new school year.

Student Smiles






High schoolers in Mr. Nick's Banned Books class are reading, researching, and preparing to present on children's books that have been banned from schools over time.








Throughout this week Ms. Stacey 7th & 8th graders rescued Fred the Frog as they strengthened their problem solving skills. They also used pentominoes to strategically fill in a grid and strengthen their geometric thinking. 7th grade also successfully reviewed 6th grade operations using an escape room, while 8th grade played math four corners.



Ms. Crystal's 2nd grade class met their class pet bunny, Taco.



Ms. Karen, Ms. Tanya, Ms. Whitney, & Ms. Jackie sporting their 3rd grade teaching team tees!