30 May 2025

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

PSCS EARNS PRESTIGIOUS GREEN FLAG CERTIFICATION FROM ECOSCHOOLS, BY CHRIS SIMERAL, DEAN OF NATURE EDUCATION













Throughout the 2024-25 school year Pioneer Springs Community School students, teachers, and staff embraced the challenge undertaking EcoSchools Certification through the National Wildlife Federation. EcoSchools is a world wide certification program that recognizes a school's 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 the school.

Schools are recognized at five different levels based on the work completed throughout the year. PSCS set a goal of reaching Gold Level certification during this school year with the vision to reach Green Flag certification, the highest certification, next year. Upon review of our application, the National Wildlife Federation made the decision to award Pioneer Springs Community School the highest certification level. Earlier this week, the school received an EcoSchools Green Flag to proudly display and honor the hard work and dedication of our students and staff! Please enjoy some pictures of our students working on certification projects throughout the year.

EOC and EOG testing is upon us!

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

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 2 June: 8th grade Step-up, 1:30pm
- 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

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-up to volunteer

Thank you for helping to make Field Day special!!

LAST CHANCE!!
Please follow this link to purchase your yearbook by Sunday, 1st June at 10pm.
Cost is $40.

Hello, PSCS Community!

We cannot believe the end of the school year is approaching so quickly! If you are like us, as we reflect on this school year, you may feel extra appreciative of the teachers and staff who have poured into our students all year long. To show appreciation, WINGS, our homegrown PTA, will be 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!

We'd like to share the thinking behind the idea to collect from the community to give to all staff:

1. We simplify your time by giving our PSCS staff a cash gift at the end of the year so you don't have to add this task to your already overfilled May to-do list! This shared collection allows your money to go further!

2. We want to honor staff in a truly PSCS community-driven way by making sure that every single staff member is included in the end-of-year gift. Your child encounters numerous teachers and staff on a daily basis, and we are committed to making sure NOBODY gets overlooked.

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 gift heading into the summer break. Our goal is to make your last days of school less stressful! We know finances are 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 has their hard work honored during this special season of endings and beginnings. **To make an online donation to the PSCS staff gift collection fund, please click here by June 1**. 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!

Thank you!

WINGS Staff Appreciation Team

High School - Please attend our virtual **Central Piedmont Community College Dual Enrollment information session on Tuesday, 3 June at 5:30pm** at pioneerzoom.com



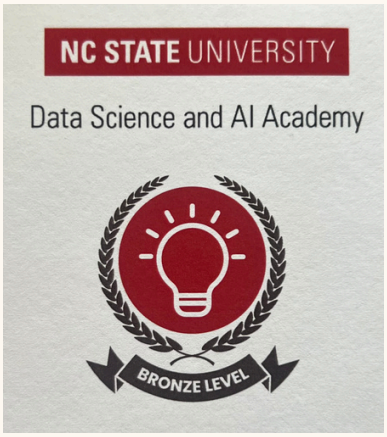
THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY, PIONEER PROCTORS!



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!

MEGAN LENAGHAN EARNS DATA SCIENCE AWARD FOR PSCS



The NC State Data Science and AI Academy (DSA) would like to extend our warmest congratulations to you and your team on achieving Bronze Level recognition in the Data Science and AI Academy Data Science School of Distinction program! This significant accomplishment demonstrates your commitment to advancing data literacy and preparing students for the future workforce.

REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR BOOTS HOME, OR DONATE THEM

Has your student outgrown their mud boots? Consider donating your boots to our annual WINGS mud boot sale. Making your donation is simple--just leave your boots at school. All boots still on campus on Friday, June 6 will be collected and sold in our August Mud Boot Sale, with proceeds going to WINGS.

If you'd like to use your mud boots another year, remember to take them home before the end of school!

Thank you for supporting WINGS!



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



8th grade making a food web on the hive deck.



3rd grade picked their plants from the seeds we've grown from our lunches all year to take them home!



Kindergarten telling stories while learning about shadows.



Chemistry students used a qualitative testing technique, called flame tests, to observe the differences between various metal elements involved in ionic bonds. The color given off by the compounds when placed in the flame is distinct to the metal involved in the ionic bond. Not all metal cations show this property but those that do appear the same color across compounds. The image here shows a potassium compound in the flame turning it from the standard blue of ethyl alcohol to a pinkish lavender color. Students observed several other colors as well. Ask them about it!

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.