COOP SCOOP
4 October 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

A MUD-LOVING CREATURE VISITS PIONEER SPRINGS



On Wednesday morning, Jonah Slimick found an amazing visitor on our athletic field, a mud salamander (Pseudotriton montanus). Mr. Chris used a box filled with mulch to relocate the salamander to a safe area of campus. Salamanders are vulnerable creatures–both because many species of salamanders are threatened, and because salamanders are sensitive to the chemicals and oils found on human hands. If you find a salamander, observe and admire it, but do not handle it.

Mud salamanders live in muddy habitats, including swamps and pond edges, in lowland areas of North Carolina.

October is Get Outside & Get Muddy month at Pioneer Springs. Be sure to join the movement to get into nature, and to share your awesome discoveries on social media, and to tag #PSCSgetoutside&muddy.

PARENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS INFORMATION

In August, 2023 the NC State Legislature passed Senate Bill 49, generally known as the Parents' Bill of Rights. The purpose of this bill was to expand parents' access to information relative to their children's education and health records. Features of the bill were first covered in the January 26th edition of the Coop Scoop which detailed how Pioneer Springs is meeting the mandates of the law. The bill also includes a requirement to disseminate an annual guide to student achievement to promote parents' education about and participation in the learning process. Pioneer Springs' Families' Guide to Student Achievement is available on the school's Parents' Bill of Rights web page under Family Resources and provides information about promotion and graduation, courses of study, programming and services, and opportunities for parent involvement. If you have questions about the PBR at Pioneer Springs please contact Becky Friend at beckyf@pioneersprings.org.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 1 Oct-31 Oct: Annual Fundraising Campaign
- 7-11 Oct: Benchmarking window
- 9 Oct: Kindergarten field trip
- 16 Oct: WINGS meeting, 9 am
- 18 Oct: Get Muddy Derby
- 18 Oct: Blood Drive, 9 am-1 pm
- 21 Oct: Board Meeting
- Who to Contact and When

Families are invited to fill out the annual **Student Information and Permission Form** which collects approvals for including students in pictures, delivering health services, and other items

MAKING A SUSTAINABLE DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Hurricane Helene brought unimaginable devastation to Western North Carolina. Our hearts are with everyone affected by the storm, and particularly to Pioneer Springs families whose loved ones are rooted in Western North Carolina. This week several groups of Pioneer Springs students asked about opportunities to help with recovery efforts. That desire to help aligns with Pioneer Springs' mission to educate and empower students to be engaged community members.

When disasters strike, many people feel moved to take immediate action to support those in need. Because early recovery efforts require expertise and advanced technical skills, they are best supported by monetary donations to organizations that have that specialized expertise.

Recovery and rebuilding in Western North Carolina will take years, if not decades, which means that efforts to support the recovery are also long-term endeavors. This means that PSCS can best serve Western North Carolina communities, and our own students, by putting together an intentional plan for sustainable support of recovery efforts.

This week, we took the initial steps towards building that long-term plan. Eighth Grade students met with Mr. Chris, who has a background in rescue and disaster recovery, to discuss the different phases of disaster recovery, and the most effective kind of volunteer work in each phase. High School Green Humanities students began to envision a project in which they work with members of affected communities to record oral histories memorializing what was lost. Those students decided that an important starting point would be researching the recovery from Hurricane Katrina in order to gain an understanding of best practices. Our school community is in the initial phases of planning a sustainable response to Hurricane Helene, and will update families as our plans take shape.

GETTING BACK TO BASIC: CREATING A CLIMATE FOR LEARNING





The Basic School philosophy emphasizes creating a Climate for Learning—a supportive, nurturing environment where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to engage in their education. This climate fosters respect, collaboration, and a sense of belonging, key elements in students' academic and social-emotional growth. At Pioneer Springs Community School, this philosophy is deeply intertwined with our mission. We focus on creating a learning atmosphere that nurtures curiosity, creativity, and a connection to nature. By fostering this environment, students not only develop holistically as individuals but also grow with a strong sense of responsibility to their community and the world around them. This dual focus on personal growth and collective care ensures that our students become thoughtful, engaged citizens who actively contribute to the well-being of others.

PIONEER SPRINGS PARTNERS WITH TREES CHARLOTTE TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARLOTTE'S TREE CANOPY, BY SANDY DIXON, PSCS NATURALIST



Charlotte is losing its iconic tree canopy and TreesCharlotte is reaching out for help in spreading the word. At Pioneer Springs Community School we appreciate and understand the value of trees and have joined TreesCharlotte in their efforts. We are doing our part by placing their signs on some of our favorite trees on campus to help spread the word. Take a look around campus, appreciate some of our favorite trees and read the slogans-'Just looking at trees lowers stress. Feel better? ' and 'Why buy an air purifier when you can plant one?' are just a couple of the clever slogans. Share this important information with others and learn how you can help by taking the pledge at Charlotte Without Trees? - TreesCharlotte.

GET MUDDY AND GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE ON OCTOBER 18



Pioneer Springs is excited to announce that we are partnering with One Blood to host a blood drive during the Get Muddy Derby on Friday, 18 October. You can sign-up to donate **here**. Blood donations save lives.
OneBlood will make a contribution to Pioneer Springs on behalf of blood donors.
High School Students who are 16 years old or older can donate with parents' consent and must bring a consent form to the bus on the day of the blood drive. All donors and prospects must have a picture ID showing date of birth. For students, OneBlood will accept a print out form from PSCS administration with their date of birth or if they can be identified by a teacher or staff member. **Click for Eligibility and Consent Forms.**

STUDENT SMILES





Ms. Susan's Culinary Arts and Food/Nutrition classes kicked off their labs with some scrumptious soups this past week. They practiced knife skills, recipe interpretation, measurement skills, and kitchen math skills as they scaled the recipes to the appropriate servings.




A 5th grader from Ms. Jess's class found a Luna moth needing care at home and brought it to school. They consulted with Mr. Corey and learned it was at the end of its life. We are giving it insect hospice care until it passes naturally and then Mr. Corey will help us pin it for display and study. Ms. Karen and Ms. Shannon both have lent us habitats to care for it, and Ms. Shannon helped us with the care it would need.





In Ms. Stephanie's high school Earth & Environmental Science class, students took a soil sample at the rain garden and are doing a series of tests (nitrogen, pH, phosphorus, and potash) to determine the soil type, and whether or not this soil is conducive to growing sunflowers.

STUDENT SMILES







Ms. Jess & Ms. Meghan's class had "take learning outside day"! They spent the day learning outside the walls of the classroom. It was a huge success that was enjoyed by all.





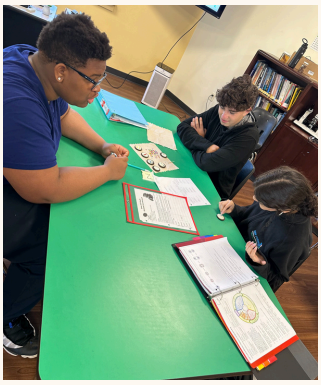
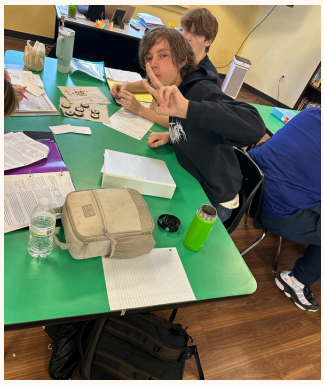


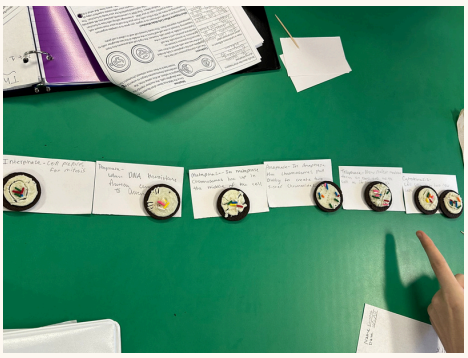




Ms. Brandi and Ms. Leslie's class went on a field trip to B and B Pumpkin Patch. We learnt about the life cycle of a pumpkin, fire safety, all about farm animals, and, of course, picked pumpkins!

STUDENT SMILES



Ms. Stephanie's Biology class modelled the steps of the cell cycle with Oreos and sprinkles! They are showing how cells divide via Mitosis to create two identical daughter cells. The end result, shown in the last photo, of the Oreo cell cycle lab with student explanations for each stage of the cycle.






Ms. Sandy spent last week sprucing up the cactus and vegetable gardens with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade.