8 September 2025

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

SAVE THE DATE: REACH FOR THE TREES IS BACK!



It's time for us to go back to our roots as the school's largest annual fundraiser and community building experience IS BACK!

On October 16 (K-8) & 17 (HS), all grade levels will participate in this incredible community event, which will not only raise money, but also unite PSCS through the passion and enthusiasm that landed us here to begin with. Students will run laps on a campus trail run during specific times throughout the day … and YES, we want our families to come cheer them on!

More information will be sent home with your students very soon, but let's get "Back to Our Roots!"

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 17 Sep: 5th grade field trip
- 26 Sep: Staff workday
- 1 Oct: 4th grade field trip
- 3 Oct: 6th grade field trip
- 15 Oct: Blood drive
- 16-17 Oct: Reach for the Trees!
- Fridays at 12pm: Director's Open Office Hour
- Carpool Information
- Sign up for before/after care
- Academic & Events Calendar



100% GROWTH: GETTING STARTED



This is the third year that Pioneer Springs has committed to the instructional goal of 100% student growth and the process begins with assessing each student's starting point. One way we collect data is to administer a benchmark test, a relatively brief assessment that determines what grade-level skills students already have and where the opportunity for growth lies.

Throughout September PSCS will use Dibels (K-2) and MAPS (3-12) to assess student skills in reading and math. Teaching teams will then use that data to design individualized interventions for each student that will be delivered during learning lab time. In addition to reserving daily time for this work, the school added additional personnel this year in service to this effort including an MTSS data consultant for the upper school and a K-8 Accelerated Intervention Specialist. You should expect that your student's teachers will share benchmarking results with you upon completion of the process and invite you to talk about ways in which you can support growth at home.

ATHLETICS & PIONEER PLUS






Pioneer Springs is pleased to offer many exciting opportunities for our scholars this school year! Designed to build individual as well as collaborative skills and to culminate in competitive engagements, the Pioneer Plus & Athletics program support the mission of Pioneer Springs by developing individual student interests toward keeping the "desire to learn burning bright."

Families can expect an email with more information after they sign their student up. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Tosha at latoshac@pioneersprings.org.

To view **Athletics offerings, click here**.

To view options for **Pioneer Plus, click here**.

VISION TO LEARN IS RETURNING

Vision To Learn
Focus on the Future

We are partnering with Vision to Learn again this year! This program provides vision screenings, eye exams, and glasses to students, free of charge. Even if your child already has glasses, they will get new ones! Screenings will be on October 7th and 8th. Attached is an OPT OUT form for people who do not want to participate in the program. Please print out **this form** and send it to school by September 25th to your child's homeroom teacher if you do not want your child to participate in this program. I highly encourage all students to participate in this program, and would love to see 100% participation! Please let me know if you have any questions.

REMINDER: IMMUNIZATION UPDATES DUE FOR K, 7TH, AND 12TH GRADE STUDENTS



This is a reminder that **immunization records must be updated by 23 September for students entering Kindergarten, 7th grade, and 12th grade**. These updates are required by the state of North Carolina to ensure all students are protected and in compliance with public health guidelines. P
You can find a full list of required vaccines by grade level at the following link:
NC Immunization Requirements

Once your student's immunizations are up to date, please upload documentation here:
Submit Immunization Records

Thank you for helping us keep our school community healthy!

STUDENT SMILES




5th grade went bird watching on the deck. Our eco theme this year is “The Canopy and Birds” We found a nest and were able to hear baby birds chirping.



Upper School Science Teacher, Mr. Christian joined our 6th grade PE class for a game of soccer.



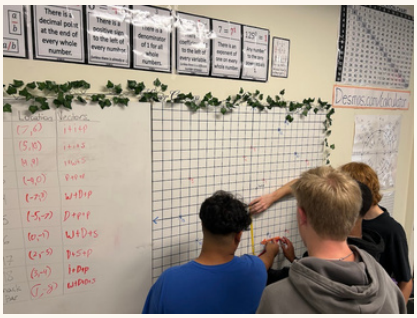
Ms. Leslie class uses a sound phone to help with reading skills.




Ms. Stacey’s Learning Lab used a Crew lesson to get to know each other. We played Bingo Mingle and found things we have in common!




Ms. Jena and Ms. Diane's class played nature bingo and found wiggly worms!



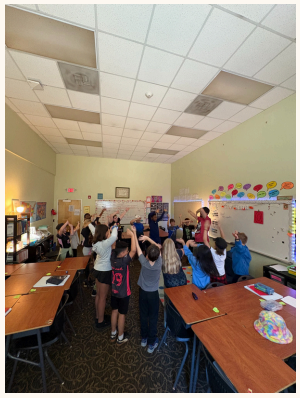
Math 4 students Kyle P., Jack W., Wade K., Victor W., and Penelope Q. play Vector Golf! They're practicing adding vectors to figure out what "clubs" to use in order to get par on each of the 18 holes. (Bonus: They figured out that by using the wood, driver, driver, and sand wedge, they can hit the ball into the snack bar!)




Sidewalk chalk positive messages at the hive!

STUDENT SMILES





Ms. Jess and Ms. Meghan's fifth grade class had a blast during their first ever music class with Mr. Aleksei.



Student's in Ms. Hannah's eighth grade class finding their Zen (and a few giggles) in the woods during morning mindfulness!













Banned books class nature journaling, following a reading of the historically banned children's book "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss. The book was banned/challenged in multiple states because of concerns about impacts on the logging industry. The students also read the children's book "The Truax," which was the logging industry's parody book, meant to fight back against fallout over the Seuss book.

During their nature journaling session students were asked to reflect through writing and drawing on the two books and why both books, regardless of bias, had a place in nature education and even enjoyed a visit from a beautiful blue heron.