

Around the world in one school day

Classes celebrated our first annual World Heritage Day on Friday! Students across campus have been studying global cultures, and their influence on Charlotte's culture, in their social studies, world language, and dance classes. To show off what they learned students presented posters, performed dances, prepared food, and gave speeches for audiences that included students from other classes, as well as families who visited campus. Ask your student to share the passport that they completed as they visited presentations, and inquire about what they noticed and wondered as they engaged with global culture.



IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 15 Jan: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL for students & staff
- 16–31 Jan: Mid year benchmark window for K-12
- Week of 22 Jan: HS report cards emailed
- 25 Jan: HS Semester 2 Academic Open House
- 31 Jan: Math night from 5pm–6:15pm
- 13 Feb: WINGS Staff Appreciation
- 23 Feb: Art Auction and Cocktail Party 7pm–9pm
- Fridays at 10 AM: Admin Open Office Hours

Join athletics and Pioneer Plus now!

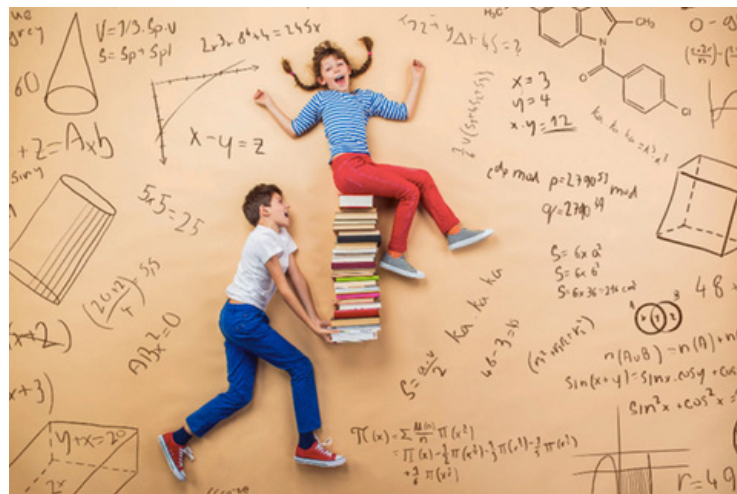
Springs Pioneer Plus and athletic offerings are now open for registration! Students of all ages can find something of interest in the many club and sport offerings this season. Pioneer Plus programming, which meets once a week on Wednesdays beginning the week of January 24th, includes Lego Masters, arts and crafts, a book club, crochet, and the very popular theatre program. Spring athletics include disc golf, pickleball, cornhole, and fencing (that's right, we're giving student pointy objects) and teams meet on Tuesday and Thursdays for practice beginning January 25th. Both Pioneer Plus and the athletics program are intended to augment the school's mission to keep the desire to learn new things "burning bright" in our students. All participants are welcome and any questions should be directed to micheler@pioneersprings.org (Pioneer Plus) or latoahac@pioneersprings.org (athletics). For more information or to register, check out the following links:



[PSCS Spring Athletics](#)

[Pioneer Plus](#)

Family education Holistic Tea: Learning math through play & WINGS (PTO) meeting Wednesday, January 31 at 5 pm



A strong understanding of math is essential to success. When we were growing up, most of us were taught math through drills and rote memorization. The good news is that we now know that children learn math best through real-world, hands-on engagement and play!

Join us for our first evening Holistic Tea of the school year as Margaret Bonds, long time Pioneer Springs teacher, Instructional Data Analyst, and math education expert, shares ideas for how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician through fun, engaging activities. Play with other Pioneer Springs families as we explore games, activities, and more! Tea and hot cocoa will be provided, so bring your own mug and a pastry to share. This is a child-friendly event.

5:00-5:45, Holistic Tea; WINGS (our homegrown PTO meeting) from 5:45-6:15.

Save the Date: fundraiser art auction and cocktail party

You are cordially invited to our first annual **“Spring Under the Snow Moon” fundraiser on Friday, February 23 from 7-9 pm.**

This adult-only event will take place at Cedar Grove, a monumental historic home in Huntersville that was built in 1831, and was only recently open to the public. The evening will include a selection of local wine and beer, along with hors d’oeuvres and desserts. We’ll be auctioning class art projects featuring a garden theme, and getting to know other Pioneer Springs families. Limited tickets are available, and will go on sale next week. We hope to see you there!

Contact Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org) if you are interested in volunteering, or donating food, wine, or beer for the event.



Food pantry request from WINGS



Help stock our student food pantry! Thanks to so many generous families, the pantry was well stocked in September, but it’s time to stock it back up now through the end of the school year. This pantry gets used daily as an option for students who forget their lunch or don’t have enough food to sustain them through their active day. Donations can be brought to the Castle and labeled “student food pantry.” Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to this effort previously... we see you and appreciate you!
Please sign up [here!](#)

Sandy Dixon’s Nature Notes, Discovering winter trees

We sure had some interesting weather this week! Any leaves that were left on deciduous trees are sure to be off now! We are in the perfect time of year to look at the shape of trees. Observing tree shapes can help you identify tree species. It can also give you clues about the role that a particular species of tree plays in its ecosystem. Most importantly, taking the time to really observe tree shapes can help you slow down and really enjoy nature!



Spend some time as a family noticing tree shapes, and nature journaling about your observations. Try your hand at winter tree identification. Winter Tree Finder is a great guide book. You can also check out some ideas from Jake below at his blog post, Winter Tree Identification Made Easy For Beginners.

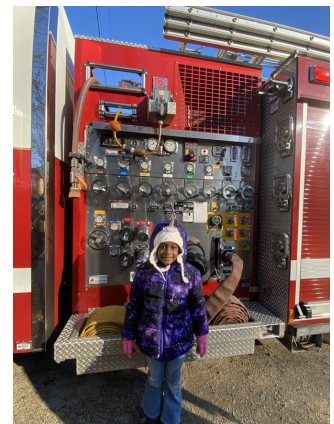
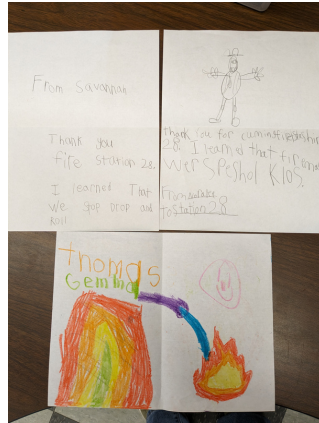
Let’s take advantage of the opportunities nature provides and spend some time outside and looking up in the next couple of weeks. This will begin to prepare us for the Great Backyard Bird Count which is in February.

Share your discoveries on social media and tag #pioneersprings. Have a wonderful week!

Kindergarten and first grade met community heroes!

The fire department visited Kindergarten and first grade last week. They shared information about fire safety and emergency services. Students learned all about the tools that firefighters carry on fire engines, about the clothing that firefighters wear to stay safe in burning buildings, what to do should an emergency arise, and how to make family fire safety plans.

Does your family have a fire safety plan that includes a reunification point?



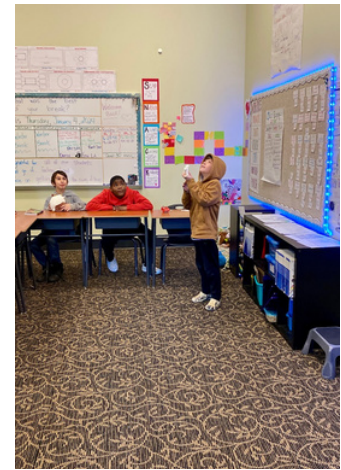
Classroom Happenings



Mr. John taught 8th grade PRIDE students how to use the t-shirt press to embellish aprons for employees of Espresso Express, the student coffee shop they are founding.



Teachers and staff were treated to coffee on Monday.



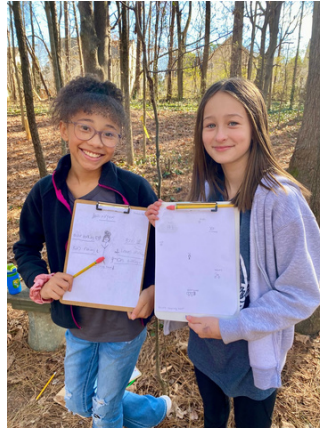
5th grade testing the catapults they built for the Mallow-Mallow Challenge.



Connor celebrated his birthday by making masks for his Birthday Craft in Kindergarten. Birthday Crafts are a long standing tradition at Pioneer Springs. If you'd like to lead a craft or activity to celebrate your student's birthday, please contact their teacher.

Happy 6th birthday, Connor!

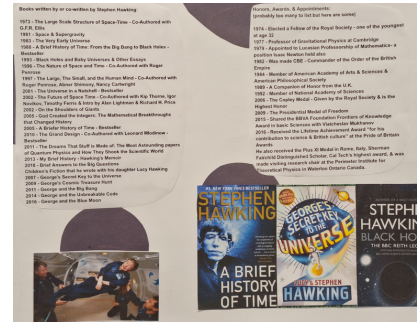
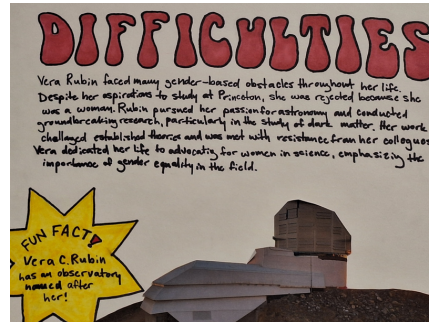
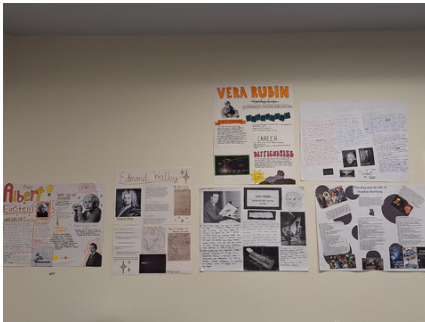
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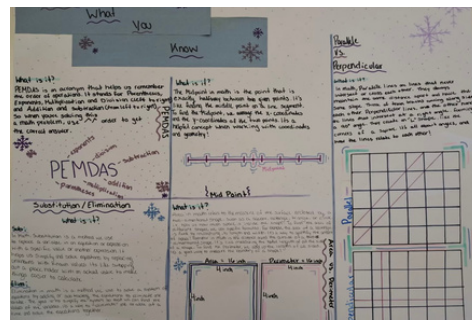
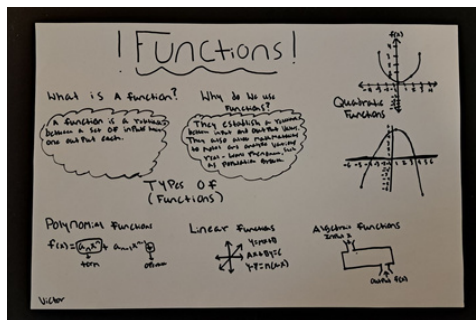
Ms. Megan S. led her 5th grade students in sound mapping during Environmental Literacy.



Ms. Deepti and Ms. Kim's class loves engaging in natural play at Davis during recess.



Shannon O'Connor's high school Astronomy students studied famous astronomers and created posters highlighting their contributions to science.



Students in Megan Lenaghan's Foundations of Math II course made posters describing math concepts they studied this semester. Students will use the information in the poster to support their learning in Math II during the Spring Semester.

Bits and bobs for your attention!

Did you win the 50/50 Raffle?

Cameron Johnson from Ms. Kara and Ms. Shelli's third grade class drew our winning 50/50 raffle ticket on Thursday, January 4! If you have ticket number 1396430 please email Ava Alexander (avaa@pioneersprings.org) and Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org) by Wednesday, January 17. If no one steps forward to claim the prize, a new winner will be drawn on Thursday, January 18.

Mallow-Mallow Challenge Winners

Congratulations to Ms. Karen's Kindergarten class, Mr. Jeremy's 8th Grade class, and Mr. John's high school art class for winning the Winter Break Mallow-Mallow Challenge. Many families reported that their students read more, and played more math games thanks to the challenge. They also shared that their students enjoyed discovering just how much reading and math are already doing as a part of their daily lives! Keep reading and engaging in math. Be sure to share your reading and math adventures on Social Media, and tag @pioneersprings!

Mr. Randolph featured in *Davidson Journal Magazine*

The Davidson College alumni magazine recently ran an article featuring Mr. Randolph's passion for place-based and nature-integrated learning. [Check the article out](#) to learn more about how his passion for education that fosters independence and connection to community led Mr. Randolph to become a co-founder of Pioneer Springs, and to start other community initiatives including [Hearts Circle](#).

8th benchmark testing schedule

K-8th benchmark testing:

Kindergarten: January 16th--20th in small group administrations in class using the devices in the barn.

1st and 2nd grades: January 16th-19th using all Croft and Davis House devices

3rd and 4th grades: January 22nd-25th using all Croft and Davis House devices

5th and 6th grades: January 23rd and 24th using classroom devices supplemented by student-owned devices

7th and 8th grades: January 25th and 26th using middle school devices supplemented by student-owned devices

29th-31st: Make up assessments for all grades with classroom devices

Share your career passion with high school students

Pioneer Springs high school students participate in a career development course called Communities in Action (CIA) each year. We are looking for guest speakers who are passionate about their career to share their experiences with our high school students. Are you in a field that excites you? Where you make a meaningful difference in your community? Where you are challenged to think about the world in a new way? We'd love to have you share your experience and wisdom with a CIA class. If this is you, please contact Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org) to set-up a time to join a class in person or over Zoom.