



20 Dec 2023

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

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## Introducing the Winter Break Mallow-Mallow Challenge: a fun way to integrate reading and mathematical thinking into your break

Winter Break is a great opportunity to read and play together as a family! Pioneer Springs' students have been working hard all school year, and their work has paid-off with awesome growth in reading and math. We are proud to introduce our Winter Break Mallow-Mallow Challenge, which is designed to encourage students to engage in reading and math in a joyful and playful way while keeping-up their learning momentum.

Today your student either brought home a Squish Mallow, or a bag with supplies to build a catapult. They'll use either their Squish Mallow or the catapult materials to complete the Winter Break Mallow-Mallow challenge. Classes that win the challenge will have a bonfire celebration in January.

Read more about the challenge [here](#). Track your time on paper using [this tracker](#) (which you will keep at home), and [report your time here no later than Wednesday, January 3](#).

Need ideas for fun reading or math activities? [Click here to read our blog post with reading ideas](#) and [here to explore ideas to support mathematical thinking](#). Questions? Email Heidi Magi ([heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org))



**We hope you can join us on Friday, January 12, 2024 for our first annual World Heritage Day!** Students have been studying cultures from around the world in their social studies classes. They have learned about the languages that people speak, their traditions, the foods they eat, the songs they sing, the dances they dance, and the stories that they tell. Students have also examined the ways in which global cultures have shaped our local culture. At the World Heritage Day celebration, students will show-off what they've learned! [Click here](#) for World Heritage Day information. Questions? Email Heidi Magi ([heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org))

### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 21 Dec-2 Jan: Winter Break
- 3 Jan: Staff Development - NO SCHOOL for students
- 9-10 Jan: HS Final Exams
- 10 Jan: End of Semester 1, HS
- 11 Jan: [HS Whitewater Center Trip](#)
- 12 Jan: K-12 [World Heritage Day](#)
- [Academic & Events Calendar](#)
- Fridays at 10 AM: [Admin Open Office Hours](#)

At Pioneer Springs, we value effective communication. Please help us make the *Coop Scoop* more useful for you by completing [this survey](#).

## PSCS partnership with Vision to Learn fills students' vision needs

This year we formed a partnership with Vision to Learn, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that children in school have the visual acuity necessary to be able to learn effectively in the classroom setting. We did 570 vision screenings, had a mobile clinic come in with an ophthalmologist who did 130 eye exams for the children who did not pass the initial screening, and then those who needed glasses were able to pick their own frames from a selection provided by VTL. On 12/19 we finished this process for the year with the delivery of 112 sets of glasses, all provided free of charge! VTL has said this service is available to the school every other year! Pioneer Springs is grateful to Arman Casini, our school nurse, for coordinating this effort, and for all of his hard work advocating for the health and well-being of our students!



## Thank you, WINGS, for the Staff Appreciation Cookie Exchange and for the Winter Break Gift



The entire staff is grateful to WINGS for organizing a beautiful and yummy cookie exchange, hosted by the second and third grade families! We are also grateful to WINGS for coordinating the collection of money for the Winter Break staff gift. We are grateful to all of the generous families for taking such good care of us, and to Davis Lake Starbucks for donating coffee!

Holly Webster coordinated the cookie exchange, while Stephanie Costas and Erin Scheichl organized the staff gift. Thank you for your leadership!

Photos by Emily Winfield, freshman photography student.

## HS winter semi-formal a blast

Last Friday we had the most wonderful time at our high school winter formal. Everything came together beautifully at the Ivory Barn, which would not have been possible without the help of Ms. Alex, Ms. Glenda, Ms. Becky, and our own high school student government. A very special thank you to all the parents and teachers who volunteered their time and efforts to make the dance a seamless success.



## Happy Winter Solstice

Thursday, December 21 marks Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. Cultures throughout the Northern Hemisphere welcome the start of winter, and the return of longer days, with celebrations that include light and special food. You can read more about the astronomy behind the solstice [here](#). [Click here](#) if you'd like to read more about solstice festivities around the world.

How does your family celebrate the arrival of winter, and the return of longer days? Share on social media and tag #pioneersprings.

If your family would like to share your family traditions at World Heritage Day, [click here](#) or email Heidi Magi at [heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org).



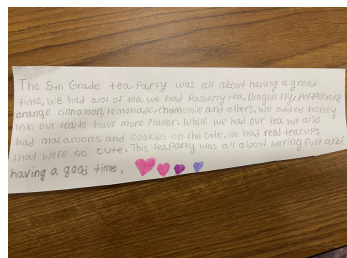
# Classroom Happenings



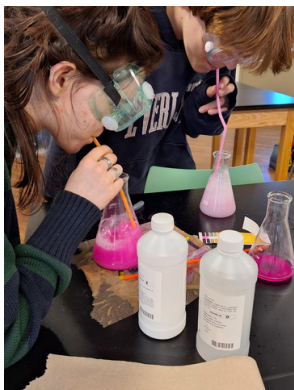
Ira Painter and Lucia Little, high school Art students, spread joy to the teachers by making stars to brighten up their rooms!



A hawk was spotted at Croft.



Ms. Jess and Ms. Meghan hosted a tea party in 5th grade. Many thanks to the family volunteers who helped make it possible!



Shannon O'Connor's high school Chemistry students performed a lab examining the acidifying effects of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>. In these photos, students are blowing exhaled air into a flask of an alkaline solution. It has a pH sensitive indicator solution added to it. The indicator turns pink in a base and colorless in an acid or water (neutral) condition. Students tested the pH of their solutions before and after blowing into the solutions for 3 minutes. What is happening is that exhaled air has CO<sub>2</sub>. When dissolved in water, some CO<sub>2</sub> converts into H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (carbonic acid). This is a normal equilibrium reaction that occurs in nature all the time. The carbonic acid from the exhaled air slowly neutralizes the base and the indicator shows this neutralization point by turning colorless.