

## Exploring STEM: Trimester Celebrations

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM) is a vital part of Pioneer Spring's curriculum not only because it develops math and science knowledge in students, but also because it empowers students to expand their curiosity through hands-on exploration of learning. STEM also helps students understand how the concepts they are learning connect to the real world. At the end of each trimester, we celebrate K-5 STEM learning at Trimester Celebrations. Check out the projects students shared this week:



### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 24 Feb: [Fairy House Festival at Latta Nature Preserve](#)
- 26 Feb: [Board meeting, 6pm](#)
- 26-28 Feb: 8th grade Barrier Islands field trip
- 29 Feb: [Holistic Tea: Hands-On Math & WINGS \(PTO\) Meeting, 5pm-6:15pm](#)
- 1 March: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 4 & 5 March: School photos
- [Register here for Summer Camps!](#)
- [Fridays at 10 AM: Admin Open Office Hours](#)



## Staff Spotlight



Ms. Tosha, PE teacher and Athletics Coordinator extraordinaire, balances enthusiasm with a calm, nurturing presence. Tosha worked as a Registered Nurse before joining the Pioneer Springs community. Tosha was first drawn to teaching PE at Pioneer Springs because of our commitment to integrating nature into the curriculum, and our focus on teaching students how to be kind, little humans who take care of our planet.

Tosha writes that the transition from nursing to PE was a natural slide, and particularly enjoys integrating information about health and nutrition into PE. Tosha finds rainy days to be particularly conducive to focusing on health and nutrition, since she has to teach indoors on those days. She writes, "I don't feel like I was ever really taught how to take care of my body as a kid, so I really love that I get to teach kids how to do that, and why it's important. I also used to play softball, so it's a lot of fun for me to connect with students over sports, and to see them get better with practice."

We are grateful that Tosha is a part of the Pioneer Springs community, and that she shares her many gifts with students and staff alike!

## Pioneer Springs' Archers are On Target

On Friday, February 16 Pioneer Springs' Upper School Archery team competed in the NC State Archery Tournament in Winston-Salem. Archers shot at 10 and 15 meters at international style targets. Chris Simeral and Corey Sperling coach the team.



## Senior spotlight



### **Eddie McCarn**

Written by Emma Youngs, 12th grade Journalism student

Eddie McCarn has been attending PSCS since 8th grade. Outside of Pioneer Springs, he is a night manager at Dunkin Donuts, where he enjoys the regular customer interaction and the free food that comes with the job. He enjoys designing and drawing characters and spending time with his friends when he has free time. A special memory Eddie has with his friends at PSCS is going to the White Water Center. The high school celebratory trip is his favorite memory because he let go of all the stress from school, and hung out with his friends and one of his favorite former teachers, Nick Kaylor, while ice skating.

After graduation, Eddie plans to move to New York and take a gap year to get a job and save money. Then, he will attend Long Island Beauty School to learn how to do hair and nails. This way, he can achieve his dream of someday opening his own salon/speakeasy.

Eddie advises, "Physical and mental well-being are the most important things, so prioritize yourself and stay silly."

### **Jada Valle-Davis**

Written by Emma Youngs, 12th grade Journalism student

Jada Valle-Davis has been attending PSCS for six years. She has gained a deep appreciation for the vibrant community on campus. Among Jada's memories here at PSCS, her favorite has to be all the school dances because she gets to dance with friends all night and talk to peers she wouldn't typically get the chance to. Outside her time at PSCS, she partakes in many extracurricular activities such as working at Yogurt Mountain, horseback riding, archery with Mr. Chris, and anything to which she can apply her creativity. Jada's plans are to attend Pembroke College with the hopes of getting a zoology degree. Jada's ultimate goal is to retire early and open an animal rescue, which she hopes will also become a non-profit organization.

Jada advises, "Learn to regroup when upset instead of taking it out on people. Lack of communication is how you lose all kinds of relationships." She is a fantastic example of how combining academics, extracurricular activities, and compassion can lead to personal growth and a positive impact. Her story shows the importance of balancing different aspects of life and striving to help others, which can motivate others to do the same.





## PSCS Greenhouse Construction, by Eli Heubel, 12th grade Journalism student



Mr. Corey, Mr. Chris, and the horticulture students at PSCS are working on something new! A greenhouse is being added to our school campus so that we can teach our students about growing food. Mr. Corey is excited about the opportunity to share the food we grow with our community. The greenhouse should be completed this spring. Come by the high school lunch area behind Asbury and check out this week's progress!

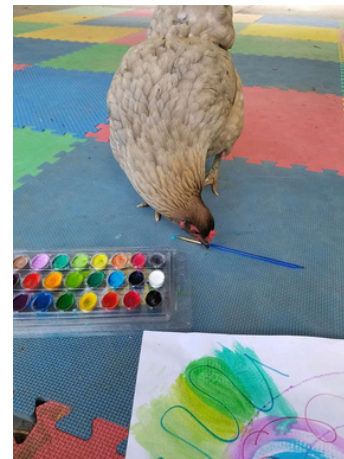
### You're Invited to Holistic Tea: Learning Math Through Play and WINGS (PTO) Meeting



Join us from 5-6:15 pm on Thursday, February 29 for hands-on ideas for how your family can learn math through play! A WINGS (PTO) meeting will follow this family education event. Bring a mug--tea will be provided for grown-ups, and hot cocoa for the young & young at heart--and a healthy dessert to share. **RSVP here.**

We will email you no later than February 26 with a campus location.

### Who do I contact when...?



Strong communication is the cornerstone of a healthy community. At Pioneer Springs we strive for clear, direct communication. If you have a question or concern, the best practice is to speak directly with the other person, or people, involved. If you are unsure who to contact, **check here.** If you're still unsure, check in with the office in person, or by phone at 704-494-0777 and we'll help connect you!

# Classroom Happenings



The 4th grade Math Garden is growing! Kale and garlic have both sprouted. Have you started your seeds yet? Share your garden preparations on social media and tag #pioneersprings.



In Explore! class, middle school students do hands-on projects that are connected to their interests. Here 8th grade students are working on a wide variety of projects—from repairing the 3D printer, to making crafts to sell at ArtSpring.



High school juniors write a research paper as a part of their Capstone Graduation Project. This week students engaged in peer review.