

## Spooky SZN. success! A message from Mr. Nick, HS photography teacher, and his students...

**We'd like to thank the hundreds of members** of our Pioneer Springs community for coming out to our first ever, open to the public, photo gallery. It was great to see all of the smiling faces enjoying the event. It was also a great way to honor the hard work of our high school photographers, as they put together a remarkable gallery of more than 100 spooky images for the creepy Halloween season. We look forward to hosting more like it in the future. Thanks again!

### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 30 Oct: [2024-2025 lottery registration begins](#)
- 1 Nov: Staff Development - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 3 Nov: [Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival schedule](#)
- 16 November, Kinder, 2nd & 3rd Trimester Celebration
- 17 November, 1st, 3rd & 5th Trimester Celebration
- [Academic & Events Calendar](#)



# You're invited to the Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival, Friday November 3



**The Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival** is Pioneer Springs' celebration of folk tales, fables, myths, fairy tales, and classical literature. Students read these archetypal stories, and create performances that explore how the characters, themes, and settings have sparked wonder in generations of readers. Then classes used what they have discovered to turn these stories into plays, art pieces, and presentations.

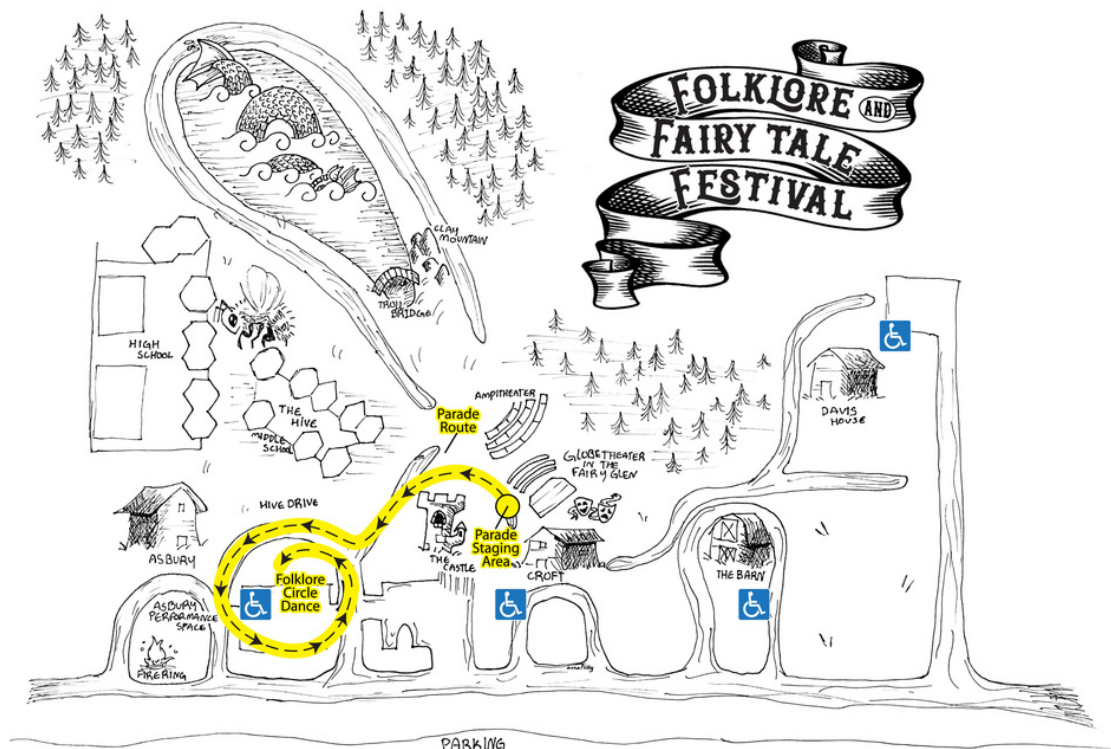
Each student wears a costumes for their class's performance, so be on the look-out for information from teachers about your student's costume. Families get into the action by wearing home-made costumes inspired by folk tales, fairy tales, and myths.

The Festival schedule, parking information, and other important details are [here](#).

To donate materials and/or volunteer for this magical event, please sign up [here](#).

To learn more about our celebrations and traditions, go to <https://www.pioneersprings.org/our-traditions.html>

## Festival map created by Anna Petty, 10th grade art student



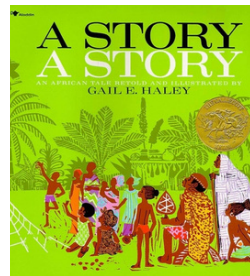
# Books to set the mood for the Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival...

## Books for elementary age readers

A Story a Story, by Gail E. Haley

Raccoon's Last Race: a traditional Abenaki story,  
by Joseph Bruchac

Dragon Prince: a Chinese Beauty & the Beast tale,  
by Laurence Yep



## Books for middle school age readers

The Iliad, retold by Gareth Hinds

Charlie Hernández and the League of Shadows,  
by Ryan Calejo

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky,  
by Kwame Mbalia



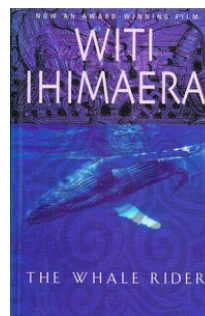
## Books for high school age readers

The Whale Rider, by Witi Ihimaera

(this book has been adapted into an excellent movie)

Norse Mythology, by Neil Gaimon

Children of Blood and Bone, by Tomi Adeyemi



## Books for grown-ups

The Bear and the Nightingale, A Novel,

by Katherine Arden

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel, by Louise Murphy

The Wolf in the Whale, by Jordanna Max Brodsky





# Help WINGS celebrate Pioneer Springs' teachers and staff!

**WINGS plans several teacher and staff appreciation events** throughout the year to celebrate Pioneer Springs' excellent educators, and to show gratitude for everything that they do to support and nurture our students' growth.

Our first appreciation event of the year was this Thursday. Kindergarten and first grade families hosted "All the Fall Things," which included morning coffee and a lunchtime soup and chili bar. Please mark the following events on your calendars so you can help show teachers and staff how much we value them!

Date	Event	Hosted By
mid-December	Monetary collection for Winter Staff Appreciation Gifts	All families invited to participate
December 19	Winter Cookie Exchange: homemade baked goods in festive tins	2nd & 3rd grade families
February 13	Share the Love: yogurt bar and fresh flowers	4th & 5th grade families
April 16	Fresh Start to Spring: salad bar and plants	Middle School families
May 7	Teacher Appreciation Week: coffee bar in the morning, and salad bar at lunch	High School families
mid-May	Monetary collection for End of Year Staff Appreciation Gifts	All families invited to participate

## Thank you to WINGS

A huge thank you to the Kindergarten and 1st Grade families , led by Holly Webster, for putting together a wonderful staff appreciation event on Thursday! You all created an incredible spread of coffee, soups and chilies, and made everyone feel appreciated and celebrated!!



# Charlotte Museum of History

Jennifer Williams, public history enthusiast and parent volunteer, organized a behind the scenes tour of the The Charlotte Museum of History for the 10th grade Green Humanities students. Students learned how objects are acquired, cataloged, and preserved. They also learned about the decisions that curators make when creating exhibits. The Green Humanities students will put their learning to work by creating new interpretive signs at Alexandria Park, a local historic site.



The beginning of fall is an exciting time. The start of the new season brings with it cooler temperatures, seasonal flavors, and the promise of holidays. More exciting than any of that is the knowledge that soon the trees will begin to shed their typical vert, instead adopting brilliant shades of yellow and red.

This beautiful change is one of nature's many wonders. However, in this case, wonder no more about why it happens! The reason for this occurrence is quite simple: as winter approaches, the days shorten and the sunlight lessens. This means that the chlorophyll responsible for both photosynthesis and for leaves' typical green shade begins to deteriorate, breaking down in the leaf and revealing the brilliant yellow or orange hues previously masked.

If you see a tree with darker red leaves, that's a result of a separate chemical reaction. Excess sugars trapped in the leaves produce the chemical Anthocyanin, which is responsible for the red coloration in not only leaves but cherries, strawberries, and apples. Not all trees will experience this reaction, but if you're seeking out red leaves, species like maples, dogwoods, or oaks will be your best bet.

Not just the species of the tree determines the colors it will wear. Weather conditions also have a large impact on this change. The ideal conditions for vibrant leaves appear to be warm clear days and cool crisp nights in the time of lessening chlorophyll. If you're hoping to see colorful leaves this weekend, check out App State's Fall Color Map to see where autumn is at its peak!



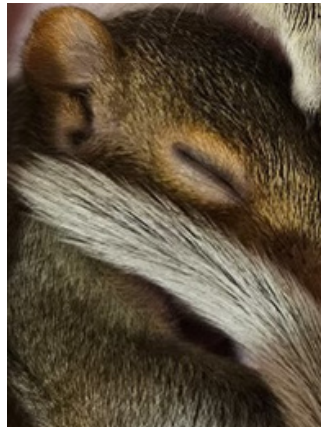
## Squirrel rehabilitation pre-release cage is up and in use by the pond!

Have you noticed the wood and wire cage as you've walked around the pond, and wondered what it was? It's a pre-release cage that will be used by squirrel rehabilitators to prepare baby squirrels who have been displaced from their woodland homes for release into the wild.

The pre-release cage project was spearheaded by Ms. Michele, the middle school Explore! teacher, and her students. Ms. Michele is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who recently started New Leaf Wildlife Rehab, a non-profit dedicated to helping animals displaced by urbanization and to educating the public about urban wildlife. You can read more about how the pre-release cage was built here.

If you visit the squirrel pre-release cage, here are few things to remember:

- Please stay several feet away from the cage so as not to disturb the squirrels. You may observe QUIETLY and from a distance!
- Please do not try to feed the squirrels.
- Most of all, remember they are wild animals, and not pets! They will bite!
- Allow them the time and space to become a part of PSCS natural habitat!





# Classroom Happenings

Students carved pumpkins with Ms. Lydia this week!



Sixth grade Explore! students wrote sci-fi books about the planets and shared them with Kindergarten.

Ms. Tosha and Ms. Jackie practiced the Folklore Circle Dance with 2nd grade students.



Googly eye fun was had at After School.



Practicing the Folklore Circle Dance in anticipation of next Friday!