

The power of parents: attendance leads to academic and social success at school

Did you know that one of the biggest predictors of academic success is regular school attendance? Students who attend regularly tend to be stronger readers, report feeling more confident, and feel connected to their school community. Chronic absenteeism, which is defined as missing more than 10% or 17 total days, puts students at a disadvantage. Not only is being at school essential for receiving instruction—particularly at a school like Pioneer Springs that focuses on hands-on, project-based learning—it also helps students feel connected to learning routines and to their peers. In order for your student to have the best holistic learning experience possible, consider supporting your student in daily and timely attendance.



You can help ensure that your student is prompt and has regular attendance through a few simple practices: Establish a nightly routine that includes packing backpacks and setting out clothes for the morning, and combine it with a streamlined morning routine. Schedule non-emergency appointments for after school whenever possible and save special trips for school breaks. Ensuring your student is staying on top of school work, understands how to follow expectations at school, and knows how to connect with peers can reduce anxiety and make getting to school easier. Of course, illness, anxiety, and other factors sometimes impact attendance. Per the [school's wellness policy](#), students should stay home when ill; parents can access [this resource](#) for additional helpful information about when to keep students home. Students also miss school due to anxiety—[here are some strategies to help students with anxiety](#). Click for additional information for [elementary and middle & high school families](#). If regular attendance is a concern for your family, please contact Mr. Jose, Dean of Students, to problem-solve. (josem@pioneersprings.org).



Save the date, World Heritage Day, Friday, January 12

On Friday, January 12 the Pioneer Springs community will celebrate the diversity of the Pioneer Springs community, and will give students the opportunity to explore the connections between local and global communities.

We'd love your help and support to plan World Heritage Day! Do you have a connection to a particular culture? Are you part of an international organization, or an ethnic or cultural heritage group? Do you do folk dancing, speak a language other than English at home, or have other expertise you'd like to share? If you have these gifts to share, or just want to lend a hand, [please fill-out this form](#).

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 13 Nov: Staff Development – NO SCHOOL for students
- 14 Nov: 3rd grade field trip to the Schiele Museum
- 16–17 Nov: K–5th [End of Trimester Celebrations](#)
- 17 Nov: PACT
- 22–24 Nov: Thanksgiving Break
- 27 Nov: Staff Development – NO SCHOOL for students
- 28 November, [UNC Charlotte campus visit](#)
- 8 Dec: *The Wizard of Oz* at 6pm
- Fridays at 10am: [Administrative Open Office Hours](#)

K-5 End of Trimester Celebrations

It is hard to believe we have nearly completed the first trimester of the school year. At the end of each trimester, we celebrate our students' hard work and achievements. On Thursday, November 16 and Friday the 17th, we will host our K-5 End of Trimester Celebrations.

The End of Trimester celebration is a chance for students to share their favorite experiences and lessons with parents. Past celebrations have included creative demonstrations of learning through interactive plays, wax museums, games, student designed lessons, and artistic displays. Parents are invited to be an active participant during your child's grade level celebration.

Celebrations have a staggered start time so parents with children in multiple grade levels may participate in each child's activities.

[Click here for the Trimester Celebration Schedule and for more information.](#)

Make sure to read your weekly grade level newsletter for more information about their celebration. We hope to see you at the End of Trimester Celebration and appreciate your support of our students and community.



Creating music at Pioneer Springs



If you walk into the Music Room at Pioneer Springs, you are likely to hear students strumming on ukuleles, plunking on pianos, humming a tune as they write their own songs, or grappling with music theory. Gwen Postle teaches music to middle school students weekly, and also teaches high school Music Theory and Songwriting. Music classes at PSCS address grade specific essential standards often through collaborative, project-based experiences (think creating a musical performance based off of a newly invented notation system). Gwen hopes her students will develop a lasting love, understanding and appreciation of music, as well as benefit from important life skills that a comprehensive music education can help foster, including cooperation, creativity, self-esteem, critical-thinking, self-discipline and self-motivation. When asked about Ms. Gwen, a past student said "Music is one of my greatest joys in life. When I had her classes, her projects were always really really fun, challenging, and let me think about music in all sorts of new ways. It is really really clear that she loves what she's doing and loves music."

Who do I contact when...?

A guide to communication at Pioneer Springs
"Direct communication is the foundation of trust." - Anonymous



[Click here](#) for a handy chart that helps you figure out who to contact when you have a question.

Important PowerSchool information for parents/ guardians of students taking high school courses:



On Thursday, November 9 parents/guardians of students taking high school courses received an email with information about how to log into the PowerSchool Parent Portal. The PowerSchool Parent Portal is a powerful tool for supporting your student's learning because it allows you to see due dates for upcoming assignments, grades, and missing work. You can also email teachers directly from within the Portal. If you have questions about how to log into the portal, please email studentrecords@pioneersprings.org.

Say "Hello" to your High School and Middle School Family Committee



WINGS is proud to introduce the Middle School Parent Committee and High School Parent Committee. These committees will help coordinate staff birthday/ half birthday celebrations, organize a teacher appreciation event, and will help teachers coordinate volunteers and classroom donations.

If you have a student in middle school, please share your contact information with Katlynn Boillat (kmboillat@gmail.com) so that the committee can reach out to you about ways that you can appreciate, support, and celebrate our incredible middle school team! Additionally, Katlynn has also set up a Slack channel for middle school families. Here is the [link to Slack](#).

If you have a student in high school, please share your contact information and your student's grade level with Johanna Armendariz (Jarmendariz06@yahoo.com) so that the committee can reach out to you about ways that you can appreciate, support, and celebrate our incredible high school team!

High School students invited on South Korea and Japan trip

Hello High School Pioneer Families! Ms. Mel (our 7th and 8th grade ELA teacher) is taking a group of high school students to South Korea and Japan in July 2025! If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, join us via Zoom on Tuesday, November 14 at 6:00 PM.



Get more information and RSVP for the meeting here:
<https://rsvp.eftours.com/yhpsusf>

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Come watch our PSCS Thespians (grades 2-12) as they perform the Musical, *The Wizard of Oz!*

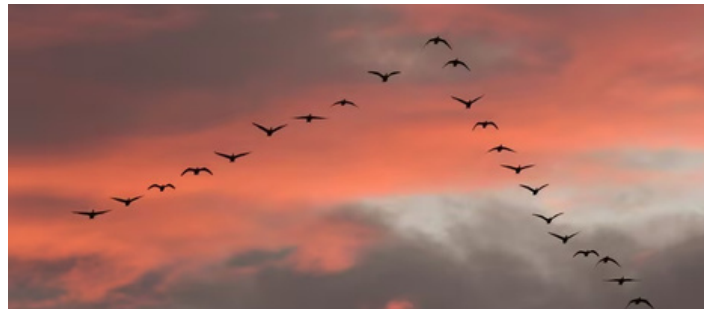


When: Friday, December 8th, 2023
at 6:00 PM

Where: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
in Cornelius.

More information about ticket sales to follow soon!

Canada Geese are becoming permanent residents of the Piedmont



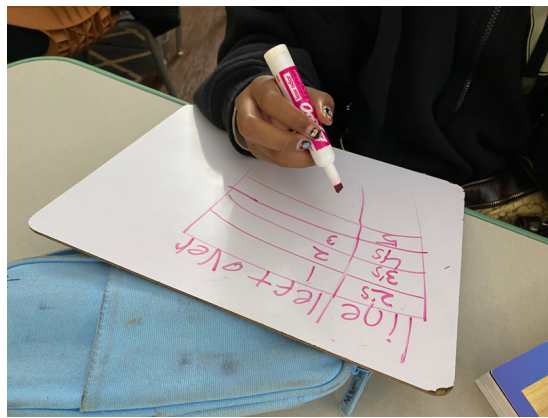
Leaves changing color, crisp nights, and the honking of geese flying in a V formation are all signs of fall. Interestingly, some of the Canada geese that fly over the Piedmont this time of year are migrating to warmer climates, but are permanent residents. Over the past 60 years milder winters and changes in farming practices have led to a decline in migratory geese. To offset the loss of migratory geese, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources commission released *Branta Canadensis*, a subspecies of Canada geese that tend not to migrate.

Canada geese are renowned for flying in a V formation. They do this to save energy. Geese take turns flying at the front of the V, which reduces the air resistance for their fellow birds and enables the flock to fly further before they need rest. The V formation also allows geese to keep track of every bird in the flock. Learn more about Canada geese [here](#), and V formations [here](#). Share your bird observations on social media and tag #pioneersprings.

Classroom Happenings



Autumn is the perfect season for outdoor yoga!



Middle School mathematicians solve open-middle problems in their thinking classroom.



The Eastern black snake visited middle school.



Middle school and elementary tudents doing stewardship duties and taking care of our campus.