

## Reach for the Trees celebration

Pioneer Families – thank you for joining us for Reach for the Trees. We enjoyed celebrating Pioneer Springs with you! Our community does remarkable things when we work together: we spent well over 20,000 hours outside during the Annual Campaign, collected over 10 units of blood products during our blood drive – benefiting 30 lives – and are well on our way to our \$75,000 fundraising goal. We are extending the deadline for Annual Campaign contributions to 11:59pm on Tuesday, October 17. If you reach the Mudpuppy/Hellbender challenge by then, we will thank you with a t-shirt. [Click here](#) for more information.



### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 17 Oct: 1st grade field trip to Carolina Raptor Centre
- 18 October, Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival Meeting 9 am
- 19 Oct: Kindergarten field trip to Discovery Place Kids
- 20 Oct: Staff Development – **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 25 Oct: 2nd grade field trip to Quest Nature Centre
- 26 Oct: WINGS Staff Appreciation
- 26 Oct: HS Spooky SZN. photo gallery, 7-9pm – see below for more information

## Spooky SZN. photo gallery coming soon



**They're coming! It's "Spooky SZN."**, a Pioneer Springs photo gallery, featuring the newest, most terrifying artwork from Mr. Nick's photography students. The gallery will take place on **Thursday, October 26 from 7-9pm** in the dimly lit hallways of our high school campus. This free gallery is unlike any you will ever see and is open to anyone over 13, but due to the creeptastic content, parental guidance is advised. **Those 13+ and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.** The gallery will also be featuring eerie performances by the HS dance class at 7:30pm and 8:30pm. We look forward to seeing you all there. It's bound to be a scream!

## Save the Date for the Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival



**The Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival** is Pioneer Springs' celebration of traditional stories that cultures pass from generation to generation.

Classes take inspiration from folk stories, fables, myths, fairy tales and even the writings of Shakespeare, and create performances ranging from plays, to improv, to trading card wax museums. They will share what they've learned with families at the Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival on **November 3**. The event will also include dancing and a costume parade.

Families get into the action by wearing home-made costumes inspired by folk tales, fairy tales, and myths. Be on the look-out for more information from teachers, for volunteer opportunities, and for a schedule of events!

We can't wait to see you there!

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

## 7th grade students learned about life on the Piedmont frontier



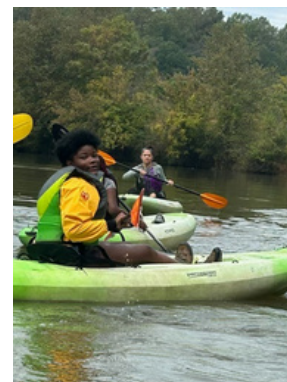
On Tuesday our 7th graders visited the Hugh Torance House & Store, where they explored what life was like for pioneers living on the Piedmont frontier in the 18th century. Students cooked gingerbread, bannock, and stewed apples over an open fire, toured a frontier house and store, explored colonial artifacts, and did a service learning project to remove Autumn Olive, an invasive shrub.



History came alive and students had a blast! One student shared that he plans to cook the recipes with his family at home, and another student made plans to return to the High Torance House & Store with his family.

The Hugh Torance House & Store is open for tours on Sundays, and hosts special events with HEARTS Circle on select Saturdays. On November 18 you are welcome to join HEARTS for HEARTS Harvest, a celebration of local farmers which will include music and art.

## 8th grade river adventure



The 8th grade went kayaking with the Catawba River Keepers. They did a service learning project in which they helped test the water quality of the river.



# What is World Migratory Bird Day? by the 10th grade Green Humanities Communities in Action class



World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on May 13th and October 14th, and was created to call attention to the needs of migrating birds. This year's theme is "Water, Sustaining Bird Life", and people are encouraged to protect the waterways, including streams, lakes, rivers and marshlands, that are important to migratory birds.

Every autumn over 500 species of birds, including Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and Prothonotary warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*) migrate through North Carolina. Some species of birds travel more than 5,000 miles before they arrive in our area! You can track bird migration using Cornell University's BirdCast tool, or you can simply step into your backyard or local natural area to see what birds you can discover.

Migrating birds need food, shelter, and water to make a safe journey. Planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees provides shelter and food. Provide water in birdbaths, or by protecting local streams, rivers, ponds, and wetlands.

Spend some time birding this weekend, and share your discoveries. Be sure to tag #pioneersprings on social media!

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## A message from WINGS...



**Help stock our food pantry!** The school's food pantry is located in the Castle and is stocked with healthy food options as well as allergy-friendly options, and is available for staff to access for students who forget their lunch, have a sandwich fall in the dirt, have a chicken steal their food, etc. Donations can be dropped off at the front office during school hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094DACA62FA0FF2-44468608-pioneer>

# Classroom Happenings



Ms. Deepti and Ms. Jess's 5th grade visited the McDowell Nature Center where they learned about decomposers in an FBI (fungus, bacteria, and insects) class.



Professional basketball player and father to Nova and Amera, Johnny O'Bryant, stopped by to show 2nd grade PE some basketball skills.

Our phenomenal Room Parents met last week, and are excited about coordinating efforts to support our teachers and show them how much we appreciate everything they do for our children! Be on the look-out for an email from your classroom teacher(s) with contact information for your Room Parents, and for information about how to opt-in to communication from Room Parents.



High School Earth and Environmental Science students are studying the geosphere. Last week they did a soil testing lab to learn about the health of soils.