

## Pioneer Players in the Wizard of Oz

Last Friday the Pioneer Players, under the direction of Allie Cesena, with the assistance of Shannon O'Connor and Jess Newberry, presented their inaugural musical, The Wizard of Oz to an audience of over 200 attendees! The performance was a smashing success, our young thespians had a blast and the audience enjoyed the show! We are grateful to everyone who supported the performance by shuttling performers to rehearsals, running lines at home, and volunteering their time and talents to make the magic happen. We are also grateful to everyone who took the time to join us in the audience. Most importantly, we are looking forward to more amazing performances in the future!



### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 18-20 Dec: Selling 50/50 raffle tickets
- 18 Dec: Board Meeting
- 20 Dec: Read in your PJs Day
- 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
- Fridays at 10 AM: Admin Open Office Hours

## MTSS in action

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is, in short, simply good teaching. MTSS supports all students as they move throughout their school day. All students are a part of MTSS because all students participate in core academic instruction delivered by their math or reading teacher, are involved in social-emotional practices during the school day, and are a part of behavioral expectations set forth by the teachers and our school as a whole. This participation is called **Tier 1 Core Instruction**. Additionally, all students work in small groups throughout the week. These groups are designed to offer tailored instruction to students.



If a student's work shows that they need additional support, then we add in supplemental support, called **Tier 2 Supplemental Instruction**, during small-group time. Students receive Tier 2 interventions in the classroom within a small group. This instruction is designed by a team of educators that includes the classroom teachers and support staff. In other words, Tier 2 instruction is skill-focused, collaborative support. This collaborative approach involves educators working together to monitor and enhance the students' success. These students rotate through small groups just like their peers during this instructional time, but their data is reviewed and monitored more frequently by the MTSS Team. If a student demonstrates that they need even more support than is offered on Tier 2, we then add in **Tier 3 Intensive Instruction**. When a student is receiving Tier 3 interventions, their interventions are intensified. Every public school in North Carolina has a plan to support students through MTSS. We are proud of the progress our school has made towards putting an effective system in place to support all students throughout their academic journey.

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## Nurturing independence develops self confidence in young people



In [last week's Coop Scoop](#) we explored the ways in which independent play fosters a sense of wellbeing in children and teens. Like play, independently managing age-appropriate responsibilities also develops children's and teen's self confidence. Want to know more about how to help your child develop age-appropriate independence in managing their schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and household chores? Visit the following links:

[Ideas for early elementary children](#)

[Ideas for older elementary children](#)

[Ideas for middle schoolers & more ideas for middle schoolers](#)

[Ideas for high schoolers](#)

## Pioneer 101



A huge thank you to all of the families who came to Wednesday night's Pioneer 101. We had 27 attendees, and very much appreciated the opportunity to connect in person.

We are especially grateful to WINGS representatives Stephanie Costas and Erin Scheichl for their help organizing the event. Stephanie and two 8th grade students provided childcare, enabling families with young children to attend, and we are thankful to them for sharing their time and energy!

[Here is a recap of the presentation.](#)

## Wanted: Bottle Caps



Ms. Kristin will be making castanets with 4th Grade for World Heritage Day. We need metal bottle caps for this craft. Please drop your bottle caps off at the office. (If you are looking for a metal cap source, The Davis General Store has old-timey soda with metal caps). Thank you! Questions? Email Heidi ([heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org)).

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

## Feeding winter birds



The weather is turning colder, and the winter birds are arriving in the Piedmont. Invite feathered friends into your yard by providing food for them. Growing native plants, and leaving seed heads in place, provides food and shelter for birds. Making bird feeders from fruit, pinecones, seeds, and upcycled materials is a fun family craft.

Try backyard birding with your family, and share your discoveries with the Pioneer Springs community on our social media sites, @pioneersprings and #pioneerspringscommunityschool.

## 'Tis the season to show your gratitude



We cannot believe how quickly 2023 is coming to a close and how the holiday season will be upon us before we know it! WINGS, our homegrown PTA, will be collecting contributions for staff gifts for ALL teachers, administrators and support staff. We will pool the money collected to distribute a cash gift evenly amongst our amazing staff! You can [make your contribution on-line](#), or stop by the office with cash or a check.

On Tuesday, December 19th the Second and Third Grade families will show our support and appreciation for our wonderful staff with a Winter Cookie exchange. If you'd like to donate cookies, cocoa or decor, or to volunteer [sign-up here](#).

Jen Nourse made an excellent venison chili for our fall staff appreciation event. [Here's the recipe](#).

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## 50/50 Raffle Tickets for Sale



Play our 50/50 raffle! Tickets are \$1 each and the winner will split the proceeds with the school. Tickets will be sold in the car line on 12/18 & 12/20 on and at the front office (cash or check--save time by writing your check ahead of time, and making it payable to Pioneer Springs Community School). When you buy your ticket, hang on to the portion that says "KEEP THIS COUPON". The winning ticket will be drawn on January 4 and announced in the Coop Scoop. You will need to turn in your ticket with the winning number to collect your prize. Good luck, everyone! For questions, email [heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org).

# Our 10th grade Sustainable Business students are proud to announce...



**Announcement:** Hellbenders Horde Snack Stand at Pioneer Springs Community School!!!!

**Location:** Pioneer Springs Community School

**Opening Date:** Next week (Between December 18th–20th 2023)

**Overview:** Pioneer Springs Community School is proud to introduce the Hellbenders Horde Snack Stand, a new addition designed to enhance the high school experience for our students. This snack stand aims to provide a convenient and diverse range of snack options, promoting a positive and engaging atmosphere within our school community.

**Snack Selection:** Explore a curated selection of snacks, including popcorn, pretzels, chips and a variety of beverages. The Hellbenders Horde Snack Stand is committed to offering options that cater to different preferences, ensuring there's something for everyone. We also make sure that our snacks have no artificial colors, flavors, sugars, and caffeine. Our products are already wrapped by nature or by a factory always.

**Accessible Hub:** Located strategically within the school premises, the snack stand serves as a centralized hub for students to grab a quick bite during 1st and 3rd lunch. The goal is to provide a convenient and welcoming space for students during their busy school day.

**Rotating Specials:** Hellbenders Horde Snack Stand will feature rotating specials, introducing new items and limited-time offers to keep the snack experience fresh and exciting for students. As the season changes, watch out for announcements to discover the latest additions to the menu.

**Community Engagement:** As part of our commitment to fostering a sense of community, the snack stand encourages social interactions among students. The shared space aims to become a hub for casual conversations, creating a positive and inclusive environment within the school.

**We Look Forward to Serving You:** The Hellbenders Horde Snack Stand is a project driven by the desire to enhance the overall high school experience for our students. We look forward to serving the Pioneer Springs Community School and creating a positive, inclusive space for all.

# Classroom Happenings



K is for Ms. Karen's Kinders with kazoos!

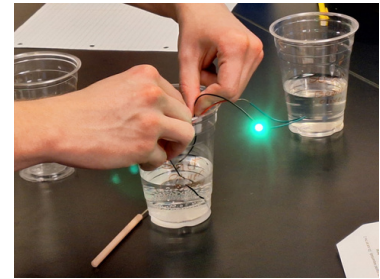


Ms. Crystal's third grade class is researching Egypt for World Heritage Day.



Kindergarten is studying how the Catawba have shaped our history and culture for World Heritage Day. Here is some of the work that they are doing in preparation for the event.

# Classroom Happenings



Shannon O'Connor shared these photos of the electrolysis of water lab that her students performed last week. She writes, " Students first tested the ability of different solutions to conduct electricity. They found that ionic compounds dissolved in water conduct better (and thus produced brighter, more consistent green light) than covalent compounds. They then used a 9v charge to chemically break apart water (aka electrolysis) into its components - hydrogen and oxygen gas. They tested for the presence of H<sub>2</sub> gas collected in their test tube using an ignited wooden splint. They listened for a loud pop, which indicates the H<sub>2</sub> gas ignited then burned itself out, thus showing that the correct product was present in their collecting test tube. Normal air doesn't ignite or cause that popping sound. If they had collected O<sub>2</sub> in their test tube instead it would not pop either, as oxygen is not flammable in and of itself."



Stephanie Menendez played "Oh, Deer" with her Earth and Environmental Science students this week to explore the carrying capacity of ecosystems. Some students represented deer searching for resources (food, water, shelter) in their environment, while other students represented the resources. Through several rounds of the game, students learned about how resources cycle through ecosystems, and about how this cycle impacts carrying capacity.