

Place-based learning in high school Ceramics class

Pioneer Springs' Upper School focuses on Place-Based Education. Place-Based Education grounds learning in the local environment, history and culture and emphasizes hands-on, real world learning. This approach helps students understand their connection to their community, as well as how they can make meaningful contributions to their community. Randolph Lewis, our high school Ceramics teacher, is currently teaching a Place-Based unit focused on Catawba ceramics. Students have studied traditional Catawba ceramics shapes and uses, and are trying their hand at building Catawba inspired vessels. Techniques they are practicing include coil-building, burnishing, and pit firing.



Learn about transitioning to upper elementary, middle school, high school, and college at Pioneer Springs! Thursday, March 28, 5-6 pm.

You are cordially invited to join us for Pioneer 101: What Comes Next?

Do you have a student preparing for the transition to upper elementary, middle school, high school or college? Are you wondering what upper elementary, middle school, high school, and college preparations look like at Pioneer Springs? Join us on Thursday, March 28 from 5-6 pm to learn what comes next!

Students are welcome at this event.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 18 March: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 19 March: **11th grade take the ACT at 9 AM**
- 27-29 March: 6th & 7th grade field trip
- 1-5 April: **SPRING BREAK**
- 8 April: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 13 April: Toss 'n Sauce
- 27 April: ArtSpring!
- [Register here for Summer Camps!](#)
- [Academic & Events Calendar](#)
- [Fridays at 10 AM: Admin Open Office Hours](#)

School photo information



School photo season is underway! If your student was on campus last Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5, their school photos are complete and ready to view at stjohnphotography.com. You can use the school password PSCC to access the photos. Students in grades K-3 and 6-12 had make-up photos on Thursday, and their photos will be posted to the St. John's website once they are processed. Students in grades 4 and 5 will have make-up photos next Thursday, March 21.

Whether or not you plan to buy photos, **you will need to select the photo that you would like to have published in the yearbook no later than Friday, March 22.** To make your selection, simply click on the photo you like, and then choose the yearbook option.

PSCS passes Cross - Program Consolidated Monitoring Review

Did you know Pioneer Springs qualifies as a Title I school? In fact, PSCS qualifies for several federal programming funds including Title I, Title II, and Title IV as well as IDEA which helps to fund our exceptional children's program. As a recipient of these funds, the school was recently visited by the NC Department of Public Instruction to ensure that our fiscal practices are compliant with federal guidelines and that we use these monies in an intentional and effective way. [Click here](#) to see the final report from the state (we passed!) or see more information about our Title I program [here](#).



Thursday, March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day. Show your support for people with Down Syndrome by wearing mismatched socks.

High school Sustainable Business students visit The Percantile and Creamery to learn about entrepreneurship



On Wednesday The Percantile and Creamery owners Cassandra Wood and Sean Colas-parents of two Pioneer Springs students- hosted the 10th grade Community in Action: Sustainable Business and Entrepreneurship students. Cassandra and Sean shared insights about managing a small business, including tips on navigating supply chain issues, building relationships with customers, and most importantly, creating a business that becomes a community hub. Additionally, they challenged the students to think about the ways in which owning a business can build happiness, satisfaction, and connection with family. We're grateful to Cassandra and Sean for taking the time to mentor Pioneer Springs' entrepreneurs, and hope that you visit the Percantile and Creamery soon! If you do, be sure to tag @pioneersprings and @thepercantile.

Come play with us!!



You are invited to join us from 11-3 on Saturday, April 13 for the Toss 'n Sauce Family Cornhole Tournament- a wacky, shenanigans filled take on cornhole. The tournament will include three age brackets: 6th grade and under, 7th grade and over (includes adults), and mixed-age (one adult and one student/ team). Toss 'n Sauce guests can also participate in yard games, face painting, fairy hair, and general fun! Watch this space for more details.

We would like to feature businesses owned by Pioneer Springs families in our Raffle. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, email Heidi (heidim@pioneersprings.org).

We need LOTS of cornhole boards for the tournament. If you have boards you can lend us, please email Heidi at (heidim@pioneersprings.org)

Student spotlight

Carter Konawalik

Written by Jade Colburn, edited by Sophie Slimick, high school Journalism students

“Life’s happening when you’re busy making other plans.”
- John Lennon

Carter Konawalik is a passionate and hardworking student with a musical talent. Because nothing is better than being surrounded by people who understand one another, he enjoys getting outside with friends and riding his skateboard. He especially enjoys building connections and being with friends. This is why The Whitewater Center Trip has become one of his favorite memories from his time at Pioneer Springs. Carter plans on pursuing a music career, which is something he enjoys dearly, especially when it includes jamming on the guitar. He believes being present in the moment is key to a healthy future, so John Lennon's quote resonates with him, “If you do your work, all your classes will become much easier.” Getting your work out of the way is much more rewarding and productive than leaving it to the last minute and holding onto that stress.



Jacob Anstine-Ramirez

Written by Jade Colburn, edited by Sophie Slimick, high school Journalism students

“They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.” - 1 Peter 3:11

“Stay focused, it will make your time at school much easier. Focus on yourself, not other people’s problems.” This is the saying that keeps Jacob Anstine-Ramirez doing the things he enjoys, including reading and skateboarding. For him, it is essential to avoid letting negative feedback get to your head and not to let it stop you from reaching your full potential. He encourages surrounding yourself with positive people, which is why Jacob remembers the first week of last year so well. Jacob remembers organizing a teacher's classroom and untangling yarn; he met new people and lifelong friends while engaged in this tedious task. After graduating high school, Jacob plans to attend CPCC and have a stable job to provide for a family someday.

2nd & 3rd grade field trip to Camp Weaver

Ms. Gwen brought her ukulele and led campers in a campfire sing-a-long.
See the Coop Scoop email for the video!





White Clover (*Trifolium Repens*) has a fascinating history, with much lore behind it.

White Clover comes in many varieties and is native to Europe and Asia. It has been cultivated for many years as a source of ground cover, a natural source of animal food, and a source of nutrition and various medicines.

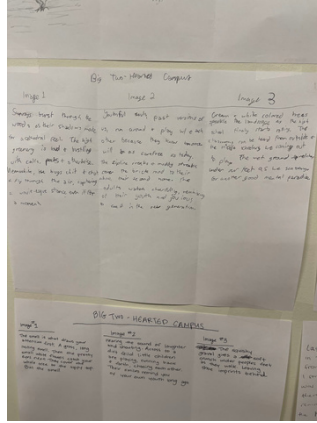
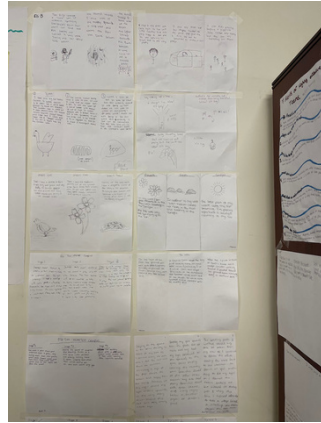
The lore of the clover begins at the time of the Druids and the Celts, as early as 10,000 BCE. The lore is primarily focused on the four-leaf clover, which is quite rare. The Druids thought it was good luck and was believed to protect against demons. The Druids also used it for medicinal purposes. The most well-known association of the shamrock is connected to St. Patrick, who used it to teach non-Christians about the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Ghost).

Today, shamrocks are associated with St. Patrick's Day celebrations all over the world.

So find yourself a rare four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day to get your share of good luck!

To learn more about the significance of the White Clover, please [click here](#).

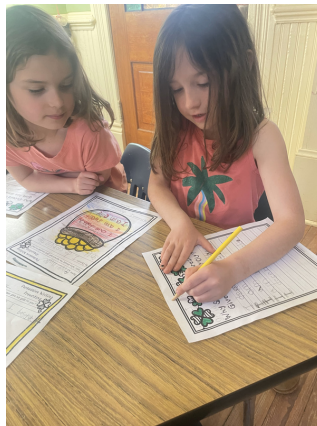
Classroom Happenings



Jennifer Marsh's English IV students have been integrating nature into their studies of English literature. They are currently reading short stories by Ernest Hemingway, and focusing on the vital role that nature plays in his stories. As Jennifer Marsh describes it, 'in many ways nature is, itself, the story that Hemingway tells.' Inspired by Hemingway, the English IV students took a nature walk around our campus, and discovered narratives in Pioneer Spring's nature. Additionally, the students are revitalizing the sensory garden located near the Kindergarten Barn.



Ms. Crystal and Ms. Megan's second grade students are creating pottery in art class this month. Did you know that Mr. Randolph joins Ms. Susan to teach a pottery unit for each elementary grade?



Ms. Sarah and Ms. Alley's first grade students are enjoying the arrival of spring! In math, students found ladybugs and added how many spots they have. In ELA, students wrote letters to a leprechaun to convince him to leave the class some gold. We'll update you if the leprechaun gifts the class a pot of gold!

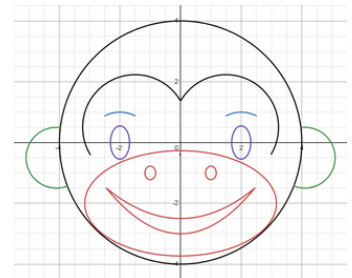
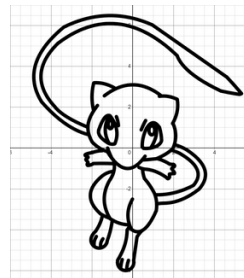
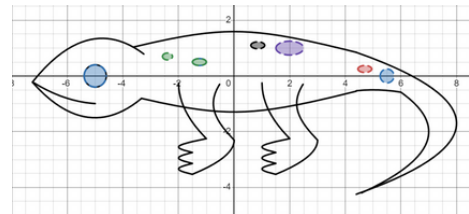
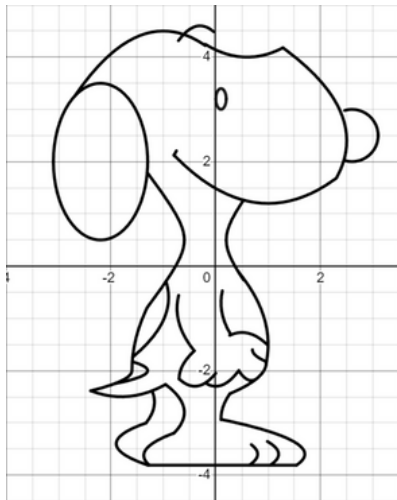
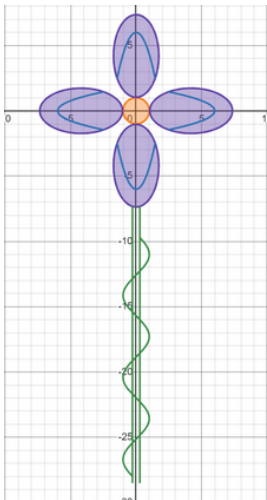
Classroom Happenings



A gecko has made himself at home in a birdhouse by the Hives!



En garde! Our after school fencing program is really taking off. Last week students practiced with foam swords, and our official equipment arrived this week.



Patience Alley's precalculus students recently completed their Conic Sections Art project in which they used a tool called desmos to create equations of circles, ellipses, parabolas, and other functions that, when put together, create pictures of animals. This project beautifully illustrates the ways in which math enables creative thinking!



8th grade Explore students learned about business and entrepreneurship by opening a student-run coffee shop, Espresso Express, for their PRIDE project. The shop opened this Thursday and was a rousing success!