



19 April 2024

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

Come celebrate the arts with us at ArtSpring!



On Saturday, April 27 Pioneer Springs will host our ArtSpring! Arts Showcase on campus from 11-2.

ArtSpring will feature some of the fabulous things students have learned in their arts classes this year.

ArtSpring! events include:

- Dance, Drama, and Music Performances by students in grades K-8, as well as high school students enrolled in fine arts classes this semester
- Visual Arts Exhibits
- A Performance Art Piece
- Middle School Entrepreneurship Projects
- Pop-Up Art Projects
- Refreshments for sale



Here is a preview of some of the performances:

Calling all second grade families! The Second Grade calls themselves "The Busy Bees". Inspired by Rick Chrustowski's Bee Dance, the Busy Bees will present a bee dance of their own, which includes the waggle!

Attention 6th grade families! Please join us at Artspring! on Saturday, April 27. Your 6th grader has a music performance at noon on the Hive deck featuring drums, xylophones, ukuleles and singing! We will be performing international folk songs and our performance will also feature the world premiere of the Pioneer Springs school song (written by PSCS students). I hope to see you all there!

We hope you can join us! [Click here](#) for the performance schedule. [Click here](#) to volunteer or to donate supplies. Park along Bob Beatty facing the railroad tracks and check-in at the Castle. Admission is free.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 21 April: HS progress reports emailed
- 22 April: Earth Day
- 24-26 April: 10th & 11th grade field trip
- 27 April: ArtSpring!
- 3 May: Junior & Senior Prom
- 7 May: WINGS staff appreciation
- 8-14 May: Author's Tea window
- 17-18 May: 1st grade camp out at PSCS
- [Register here for Summer Camps!](#)
- [Academic & Events Calendar](#)

Why is fine arts education a priority at Pioneer Springs?

Participating in the fine arts is a joyful activity. Dancing with others, contemplating a beautiful painting, listening to an interesting song, or creating a ceramic object are wonder-filled experiences that enrich our lives. Arts education is important because it provides students with the opportunity to engage in the sense of awe and connection to community that draws humans to the arts.

The arts have a particularly important place in the curriculum at Pioneer Springs. Pioneer Springs is a Basic School. One of the tenants of the Basic School philosophy is that the fine arts are an essential part of an integrated curriculum. The fine arts, including dance, music, drama, and the visual arts allow students to explore connections between the academic disciplines. Learning about the fine arts, and developing artistic skills and techniques also connects students to their own culture, as well as global cultures, and invites students to understand the world through different perspectives. Additionally, the arts help students develop creative problem solving skills, which serve them in their artistic and academic endeavors. Finally, research shows that when students participate in a robust arts curriculum, they have better academic and social-emotional outcomes, as well as increased school engagement.

Pioneer Spring's fine arts teachers have been working hard all year to nurture a love of the arts in our students. Our students, in turn, have been working hard to develop their artistic talents. We hope you can join us at ArtSpring to celebrate the arts, and our fabulous teachers who bring them to life on our campus!



Students building campus Zen Garden, by Sandy Dixon, PSCS Naturalist



Did you know we are creating a Zen garden on campus? We received a \$1,000 grant from Keep North Carolina Beautiful called the Window of Opportunity grant. I have been working with Miss Vickie and the seventh graders on getting the Zen garden planned. It will be located to the left of the front doors of Asbury in a little secluded space for some quiet time outdoors. We are in the clearing stages currently as the space had several trees that needed to be taken down and lots and lots of invasive English Ivy, along with some poison ivy. Big thanks to Corey Sperling and his high school Horticulture crew for the hard work in the tree removal!

Here is a little background information on a Zen garden. Do you have a favorite quiet space in nature? What elements of a Zen garden can you find in your quiet space?

Bid on a fabulous gift basket and support Pioneer Springs

Last week, the Pioneer Springs community received a wonderful surprise. Cohen and Elliott Slonneger's grandparents put together nine beautiful gift baskets, and generously donated them to the school! We are offering the baskets in a silent auction. They would make fabulous gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, an upcoming baby shower, or a just-because gift! The auction is now open, and will close 2 pm on Saturday, April 27.

Here is a preview:

Organic Garden Therapy

Gardening gloves, knee pad, organic flower and vegetable seeds, garden hand tools, an outdoor thermometer, potting cups, gardening hat, organic seeds, spray nozzle, and a hummingbird feeder all presented in a beautiful glazed terra-cotta pot.



Staycation

Sparetime \$50 gift card, pizza \$40 gift card, Regal theater \$50 gift card, Master Mind game, bocce ball, water soaker blasters, a puzzle, chalk, championship frisbee, Poppy Popcorn from NC and a "Just add to ice cream" ice cream topper box, which includes:

a \$25 Publix gift card for ice cream, Resse's minis, gummies, M & M s, organic sprinkles, waffle bowls, caramel sauce, chocolate sauce, cherries, and an ice cream scoop all presented a lovely wicker basket.

Funshine Basket (All things yellow-great gift idea for someone!)

Candle, tin of organic tea, insulated thermos with handle and straw, outdoor solar table lantern, car coaster, four pack of lemon tree coasters, lemon pod to preserve lemons, corn scrubber, kitchen towels, frame, liquid soap, word puzzle, EOC lip moisturizer, gummy bear eraser, Lemonhead candy, golden Oreo cookies, pineapple licorice, Lay's potato chips, lemon press, lemon scented sachets, OPI nail polish, carbonated beverage, Trident gum, Sunbum spray, Daddy scrubbie, one box of lemon energy bars, floral pot, and non-gmo lemonade packets presented in a beautiful wicker basket.



Thank you for supporting our PE and Athletics program at Toss 'n Sauce



We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Toss 'n Sauce FUNdraiser. From our volunteers, to folks who came out to play, and people who donated money through our auction and raffles, our community united to make the fundraiser a success. Together we raised over \$4,000 to support improvements to our athletic fields! This brings our annual fundraising total to over \$77,000!! As a community, we can do great things.



An extra-special thank you goes out to Tosha Casini and Josh Perdue who organized the Cornhole Tournament, planned yard games, and worked hard to make the day amazing!

And congratulations to our tournament winners, Elliott, a third grader, and her brother Dylan Slonneger!!

Pioneer Springs second grade student competes in national Ninja Warrior competition

Everlee Reeves, a student in Ms. Crystal and Ms. Megan's second grade class showed her commitment to Pioneer Spring's core virtues of perseverance and self-discipline when she competed in the Kids World Ninja League Championships in Texas last weekend. Everlee worked hard to prepare for the competition. Here is what her mom shared about Everlee's journey:



Everlee discovered her passion for Ninja Warrior after joining a last minute one day camp last summer at Ninja Nation. She decided right away she wanted to take classes. Later when tryouts were announced she decided to take a chance and try out for the club team. She was very nervous but it was fun and everyone was encouraging. She was selected to participate but had a scheduling conflict. The next few months she continued with recreational classes to start honing her ninja skills. In November she was finally able to join the competitive club team. While she got a late start to her first season she didn't let that get her down, she just worked harder. While there are lots of things that are challenging and sometimes scary, she continues to push forward, with the support and encouragement of her family, her teammates and her coach, Jenna. Her season came to an end this past weekend when she competed at the World Ninja League "World's Competition" in Austin Texas. She also used her time in Texas to check out their wonderful zoo and the botanical gardens!

We are proud of Everlee for her hard work and dedication!

Staff Appreciation Thank You!



On Tuesday our middle school families and WINGS showered staff with appreciation at their "Spring Salad Bar" event! The middle school families and WINGS, led by Holly Webster, set-up a yummy salad bar. They also greeted staff with smiles and words of appreciation. Pioneer Spring's Staff is grateful to our amazing families for sharing their appreciation! It's an honor to spend our days with your children, and gratifying to hear about the differences we make in our students' lives.

PSCS's Class Pets, by Arlowe Hazard, 9th grade Journalism student



One of the great things about Pioneer Springs Community School is the inclusion of nature in lessons for any subject. One way we bring the natural world into our classroom is by having pets. Classroom pets are popular at Pioneer Springs especially in middle school and elementary school classrooms.

In Davis House lives Taco, a cute Lionhead Rabbit who has a big mane-like fluff around his neck which makes him look like a lion. He is three years old and has black and white spots. Taco also does something that other bunnies do called "binking." When he's really happy, he kicks his feet and jumps in the air and does a little twirl.

Croft House has two class pets upstairs. Bugs is a Dutch rabbit who was rescued and is 2-3 years old. In a different classroom lives Winston, another rabbit, who likes to be in her cage a lot. She is very energetic and likes to run around when she is let out. Winston is also very social and will let you hold her in your lap.

In Asbury, we have Guinea pigs named Gadget and Gizmo who were born during the Fairytale Ball. Their previous family thought their parents were both boys but they were wrong. Gadget and Gizmo are two-and-a-half year-old males and are very active. If you want to feed them some time, green bell peppers are their favorite, and when they're happy they like to jump around.

Living in The Hive, where the middle school classrooms are, lives Humphrey, a Holland Lop Rabbit, who was born on June 17th 2022. Ms. Michelle rehabilitated him after his mom died at that time. Humphrey is very energetic and gets to run around the classroom a lot. His favorite spot in the classroom is under the teacher's desk.

Attention Juniors and Seniors, Prom tickets are on sale now!!



PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE

or at the front office through April 26th.

3rd May, 6-9 PM
Sweet Magnolia Estate
10101 Bailey Rd,
Cornelius, NC 28031

Get your yearbooks - the pre-sale has officially begun!



The last day of the yearbook pre-sale will be 21st April, standing at \$35. Designed and perfected by the high school Journalism class. Don't miss it! Use the QR code or [click here](#) to order your yearbook.

Senior spotlight



Jayden Urbina

Written by Emmett Brzozowski, edited by Sophie Slimick

“Stay gold!” - Johnny Cade

Jayden Urbina is a very involved senior at Pioneer Springs. When Jayden isn't attending school, he is usually doing things he enjoys such as going to the gym, or playing sports, and video games. After high school, he will attend CPCC and aspires to pursue a career in cyber security. Afterwards, he plans to pursue a four-year college program, and will eventually pursue a master's degree. Within 10 years, Jayden sees himself working for a great company, and living with either a roommate or partner.

Lindsey Bolster

Written by Eli Heubel, edited by Sophie Slimick

“The road is long, we carry on, try to have fun while in the meantime.” - Lana Del Rey

Lindsey Bolster has been a student at Pioneer Springs Community School for two years. Her fondest memories are of PSCS dances and Junior Prom. Outside of school, Lindsey's hobbies include theater, dance, and singing. She will be performing in Pioneer Springs' production of Little Women, and will play the titular role of Jo March. After graduation, Lindsey will be attending Appalachian State University, and will major in Theater Performance. She sees herself teaching theater or being a musical therapist. Some advice Lindsey has for her peers of PSCS is: “People are going to dislike you no matter what, so be true to yourself.”



9th grade field trip



Classroom Happenings



5th grade hatched chicks!

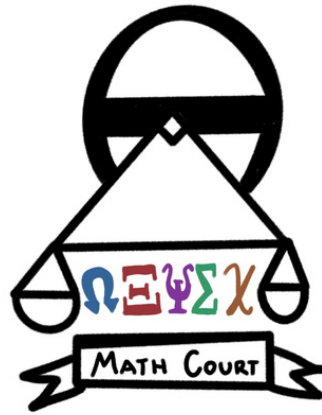


Jennifer Marsh's English III Honors has started a new unit on the influences of the American author, Henry David Thoreau. Their journey began with a hands-on exploration of Walden Pond and the profound significance of Thoreau's cabin, which he wrote about in *Walden*. Our students took the lead, researching and meticulously drawing maps of Walden Pond, including a detailed floor plan of the cabin. Next week, while students analyze excerpts from *Walden*, they will design and create models of their dream cabins to place around campus for student-created short films. The project is inspired by the film *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*, directed by Dean Fleischer Camp, an American independent film/documentary director. The students will participate in several writing exercises to show Thoreau's influence on contemporary film-making. Stay tuned for updates!

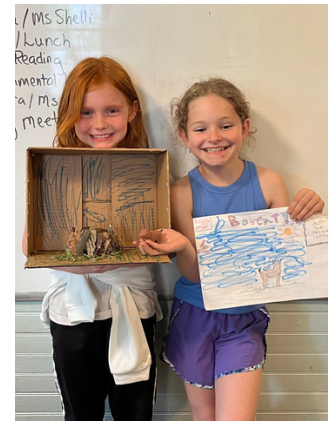
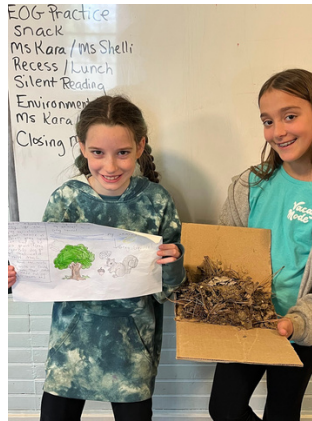


Ms. Brandi's class modeled rain clouds.

Classroom Happenings



Megan Lenaghan's Math II students completed a Math Court project to model critical thinking and reasoning using principles of geometry. A proof in geometry requires many of the same skills as law, hence the project name. Students had to use the properties of special triangles, trig ratios, and general background knowledge of triangles, angles, and lines to prove their case successfully. After each legal team presented their cases, the rest of the class used their own logic to determine if the other groups sufficiently proved their cases, and it went to an anonymous vote.



In Environmental Literacy, Ms. Tanya's third grade students recently completed a project focused on animal habitats. First they studied habitat features, focusing on the features that are essential for animals, humans, and pets to survive. After narrowing their focus to four features, food, water, shelter, and space, students chose an animal to research. They focused on the kind of shelter that their chosen animal uses and/or builds. They then created a poster and a model of their shelter using materials they found around campus. After spending several weeks on the projects, students shared their work with their classmates!