



## Spring Athletics and Pioneer Plus registration now open!



### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 16-31 Jan: Mid year benchmark window for K-12
- Week of 22 Jan: HS report cards emailed
- 22 Jan: [Board Meeting](#)
- 25 Jan: HS Semester 2 Academic Open House
- 31 Jan: Math night from 5pm-6:15pm
- 13 Feb: WINGS Staff Appreciation
- 23 Feb: K-5 End of trimester celebration
- 23 Feb: Under the Snow Moon
- Fridays at 10 AM: [Admin Open Office Hours](#)

Spring Pioneer Plus and athletic offerings are now open for registration! Students of all ages can find something of interest in the many club and sport offerings this season. Pioneer Plus programming, which meets once a week on Wednesdays beginning the week of January 24th, includes Lego Masters, arts and crafts, a book club, crochet, and the very popular theatre program. Spring athletics include disc golf, pickleball, cornhole, and fencing (that's right, we're giving students pointy objects) and teams meet on Tuesday and Thursdays for practice beginning January 25th. Both Pioneer Plus and the athletics program are intended to augment the school's mission to keep the desire to learn new things "burning bright" in our students. All participants are welcome and any questions should be directed to [micheler@pioneersprings.org](mailto:micheler@pioneersprings.org) (Pioneer Plus) or [latoshac@pioneersprings.org](mailto:latoshac@pioneersprings.org) (athletics).

For more information or to register, check out the following links:

### [PSCS Spring Athletics](#)

### [Pioneer Plus](#)

#### **Snow, and ice, and wind, oh my!: Inclement weather plans**

'Tis the season for inclement weather. In the event that weather conditions make travel to school unsafe, we will run remote instructional days. Families will be notified as soon as possible of remote instructional days via phone and email, and teachers will send links for synchronous Google Meet class meetings. Remote instructional days will start at 9 am and wrap-up by noon. Likewise, should a delayed start be prudent, families will be notified by phone and email.

## Introducing Show Your Heart Day

**Experiencing and showing gratitude is a powerful mindfulness practice for children and adults alike.** On Wednesday, February 14 Pioneer Springs will be celebrating the power of gratitude during our campus Show Your Heart Day. Classes will show appreciation for our campus community through acts of service. Students will also recognize the ways that everyone in their classroom community enriches their lives through a variety of activities. Keep an eye on classroom newsletters for more information on how your student's class will observe Show Your Heart Day.



**Families can help make Show Your Heart Day meaningful and authentic for students by:**

- Encouraging your student to write notes of appreciation for teachers and staff, and let your students see you writing notes expressing gratitude yourself
- Refrain from sending food or treats to classrooms—this will keep our celebrations allergen aware and focused on the value of actions and words for expressing gratitude
- Refrain from sending in gifts or trinkets to share with classmates—while gifts are an important means of showing appreciation, it's important for children to experience non-material expressions of gratitude, as well.

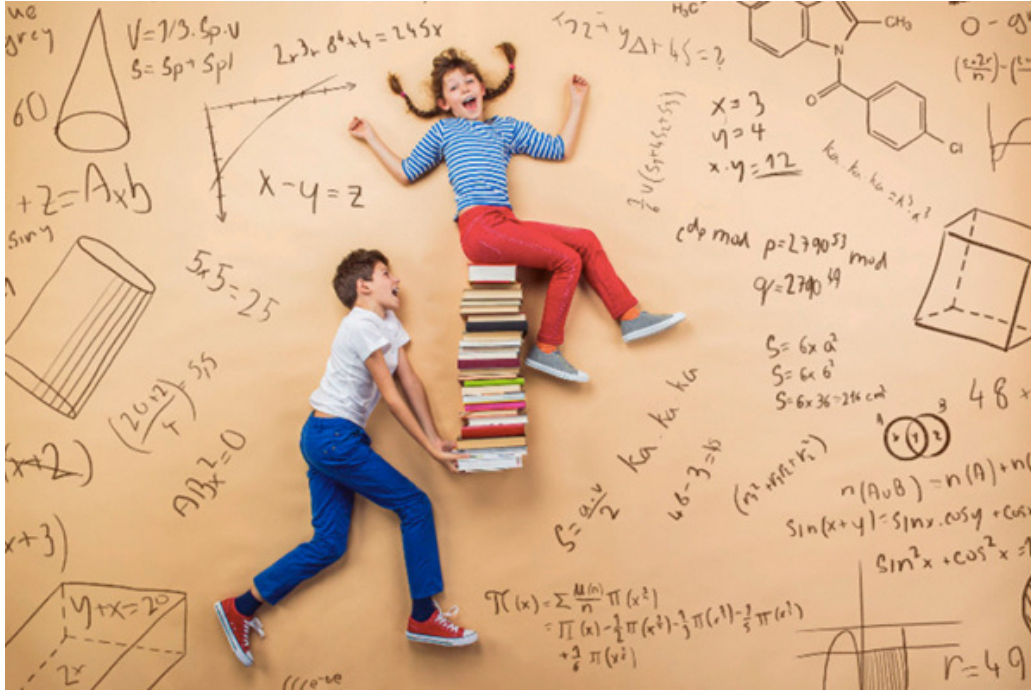
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## Cultivate gratitude to cultivate well-being



**One powerful mindfulness practice is experiencing and expressing gratitude.** Scientific studies show that people who cultivate a regular gratitude practice, such as keeping a gratitude journal or spending time praying or meditating on gratitude experience many benefits ranging from an increased sense of well-being, better sleep, lower blood pressure, and improved attentiveness. Over the coming weeks we will be sharing ideas in the Coop Scoop about how adults can start a gratitude practice, as well as strategies you can use with your children. How do you practice gratitude? How has gratitude changed your life? Share on social media and tag #pioneersprings.

# Family education Holistic Tea: Learning math through play & WINGS (PTO) meeting Wednesday, January 31 at 5 pm



A strong understanding of math is essential to success. When we were growing up, most of us were taught math through drills and rote memorization. The good news is that we now know that children learn math best through real-world, hands-on engagement and play!

Join us for our first evening Holistic Tea of the school year as Margaret Bonds, long time Pioneer Springs teacher, Instructional Data Analyst, and math education expert, shares ideas for how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician through fun, engaging activities. Play with other Pioneer Springs families as we explore games, activities, and more! Tea and hot cocoa will be provided, so bring your own mug and a pastry to share. This is a child-friendly event.

5:00-5:45, Holistic Tea; WINGS (our homegrown PTO meeting) from 5:45-6:15.

## Spotted online...



This isn't a Pioneer Springs family. Nope! No kindergartners handled crocodiles at school this week.



## We have a winner!



Congratulations to Susan Messerschmidt, mom of 7th grade student Eli Smith, who won our 50/50 raffle!

## Share your career passion with high school students

Pioneer Springs high school students participate in a career development course called Communities in Action (CIA) each year. We are looking for guest speakers who are passionate about their career to share their experiences with our high school students. Are you in a field that excites you? Where you make a meaningful difference in your community? Where you are challenged to think about the world in a new way? We'd love to have you share your experience and wisdom with a CIA class.

If this is you, please contact Heidi Magi ([heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org)) to set-up a time to join a class in person or over Zoom.

## Listening for signs of spring



This week we experienced remarkably cold weather, yet spring is just around the corner. One of the first signs of spring in the Piedmont is the call of Upland Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris feriarum*), which sounds like a finger strumming the teeth of a comb. Upland Chorus Frogs lay their eggs in flooded fields and temporary wetlands, and make their distinctive mating calls after late winter rains. When you hear their calls, you may be tempted to look for them. They are shy creatures, and will dive under water when humans approach. Frogs and other amphibians are an essential part of our ecosystem. Consider building habitats for them in your yard. Learn more about Upland Chorus Frogs here and here. After the next rain storm, take a walk in a local nature preserve and listen for the frogs. Reedy Creek Nature Preserve is home to a large population of them! Share your family's nature discoveries on social media and tag #pioneersprings.



# A student's perspective, photographs by Emma Youngs, 12th grade





# Classroom Happenings



Kindergarten has been studying Native American cultures this Winter. At World Heritage Day they shared what they learned about the Catawba people, and taught their families how to make Catawba style pinch pots.



Kristin Chiperfield, our Dance teacher, taught 2nd grade the Egyptian Tahtib Dance as part of their Egyptian culture unit. Students performed the dance at World Heritage Day.



In ELA, Ms. G's fifth grade students read about a girl who figured out a way to remove lead from water. On Wednesday, Ms. Sandy shared an activity exploring how to clean polluted water.



Ms. Michele's middle school Explore students presented their PRIDE projects on Wednesday. PRIDE gives students an opportunity to do service learning. This year projects ranged from collecting donations for local animal shelters to starting a school coffee shop.