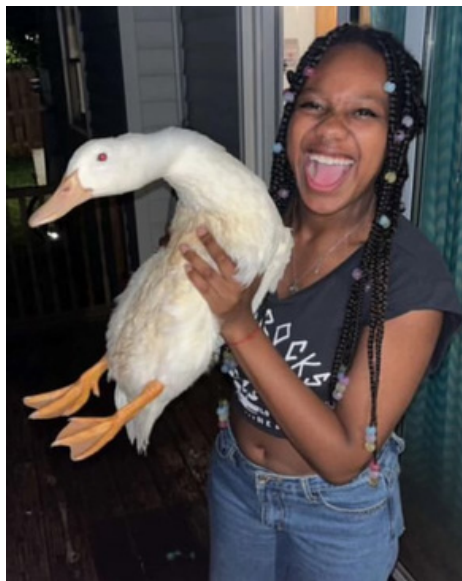


Our community raised \$7,312 in Under the Snow Moon! We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made Under the Snow Moon a success. This event was truly a community effort—teachers and room parents worked together to help students create amazing art, parent volunteers and staff poured their hearts into making the night magical, Food Lion generously donated food, and many members of the community made generous donations. Our community does amazing things when we work together—and our students benefit!!

What sets high school at Pioneer Springs apart?

You likely know that Pioneer Spring's elementary school follows Ernest Boyer's Basic School model. Did you know that our high school program is also guided by Boyer's educational philosophy? Boyer envisioned high school as a place where students share clear goals with parents and staff, focus on proficiency in the course subjects, and give back to their community through authentic work. At Pioneer Springs our Communities in Action (CIA) program gives students the opportunity to explore the connections between academics, serving their community, and authentic work. Students choose from among five communities, ranging from the Natural Sciences, to Sustainable Business and Industry, and Teacher Apprentice. Over the course of their high school education, students explore what work and community service look like within their CIA. They complete group projects, a capstone graduation project, on campus work experiences and off campus internships. This February and March our high school seniors are getting a glimpse into their chosen career fields by performing their off campus internships. Internship placements include working at a graphic design firm, shadowing at a veterinary office, working with an auto mechanic, and more.



Jada Valle-Davis, Natural Sciences CIA student, is performing an internship at Good Vets clinic in preparation for a career as a Veterinarian. Jada has observed surgeries, patient examinations, and client consultations. The experience has been so enriching for Jada, that she has chosen to put in additional hours at her internship.

School photo day, March 4 & March 5

School portrait season is upon us! St. John Photography will be on campus to take photos on March 4 & March 5. Check teacher newsletters for specific dates. In keeping with our identity as a nature school, Pioneer Springs' school portraits are taken outdoors in a natural setting. On Tuesday, March 12 photos will be posted to stjohnphotography.com for purchase. The password for St. John's photo portal is PSCS.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- Week of 4 March: K-8 report cards emailed
- 4 & 5 March: School photos
- 6 March: Family Volunteer Training. **Info & RSVP**
- 7 & 8 March: 2nd & 3rd grade field trip to Camp Weaver
- 13-15 March: 5th & 5th grade field trip to Camp Caraway
- 18 March: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 13 April: Toss 'n Sauce
- 27 April: ArtSpring!
- Register here for Summer Camps!

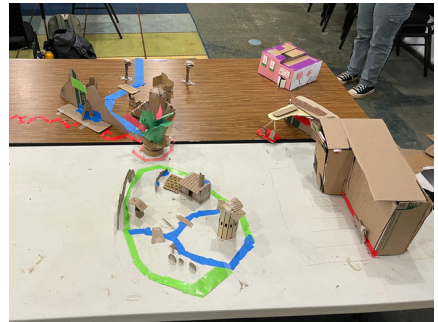
8th Grade Springs into Adventure on Barrier Islands field trip

Our first Spring into Adventure field trip of the year took place this week. Eighth grade students visited Seabrook Island, a barrier island in South Carolina. Students studied wetland ecology, salt water marshes, maritime forests, estuaries, and did team building activities. Camp staff continually expressed how impressed they were with our students' engagement in activities, knowledge of the natural world and their willingness to work together.

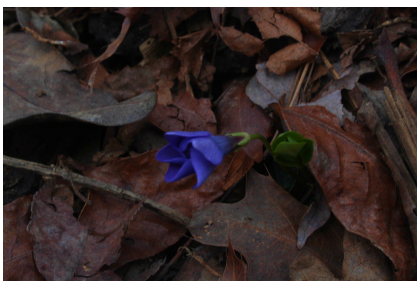


Songtown character perspective project in high school Songwriting, by Carter Konawalik, senior Songwriting student

In Gwen Postle's songwriting class we are doing a great project to understand the importance of perspective in songwriting, explore the influence of other's work and analyze the ideas portrayed through our own work. We began our project by creating a little town called Songtown. We chose a backstory for the town—a radioactive meteor caused a time warp. Then we spent time designing and building it out of cardboard, made little stories for our own section, and listened to gain an understanding of each other's contribution to the town. Next, we had to choose a classmate's part of town to write a song about. **My song** is written from the perspective of the ruler of an ancient civilization. He is content and happy with his life even living amongst warfare and ruins. Songtown is a great project!



A Student's Eye View, photographs by Fionn Holt, high school freshman photography student



The campus is Blooming! by Aiyanna Houston, 11th grade Journalism Student



Ah yes, spring will soon be at our doorstep. It's safe to say one of the wondrous things that come with the arrival of spring is flowers. There are so many different kinds of flowers in hundreds of lovely shades. Some of these bright and colorful plants are pretty "early birds" for spreading their gorgeous petals. Perfect examples are the crocus and daffodil.

The crocus is one of the very first flowers to bloom in spring. This flower most commonly comes in purple, lavender, cream, and white. When it comes to what they symbolize, their meaning can vary depending on the color. But crocuses generally mean cheerfulness and youthfulness—a beautiful bloom to greet the new spring.

Another early bloomer is the daffodil. Daffodils usually come in the colors yellow and white. However, some daffodils are pink in the middle. Regarding their meaning, daffodils generally symbolize rebirth and new beginnings. Yup, they sprout in early spring as well. Quite fitting, don't you think?

There are some around this area, too! Have you seen any on campus? Check out the flowers our Journalism class found on campus. Share your early spring blooms on social media, and tag #pioneersprings.

Introducing Take it Outside!



Did you know that Pioneer Springs hosts a conference about outdoor education, called Take it Outside!, which is organized by Sandy Dixon, our school Naturalist extraordinaire? We need your help spreading the word about outdoor education, and this amazing conference. If you know any educators, informal educators, or homeschooling families, please share Take it Outside! with them.

Senior spotlight

Laci Cummings

Written by Emma Youngs, 12th grade Journalism student

Laci Cummings is a determined and resilient high school student who is inspired by the quote, "Get up, no one's gonna save you." Fueled by a deep sense of responsibility, her future plans reflect a commitment to becoming her younger sister's guardian. Her future includes earning a license in cosmetology and public speaking classes at CPCC to share her insights with high school students and help those who are struggling with mental health issues.

When she isn't at PSCS, she enjoys taking long drives to immerse herself in music. She relaxes by keeping her home organized.

One of her favorite memories at PSCS was when she went on the high school camping trip. Mr. Chris had made the class hike a mile and they ended up getting lost.

Laci Cummings exemplifies determination, compassion, and a commitment to personal growth, setting a shining example for her peers at Pioneer Springs High School and beyond.



Evan Cox

Written by Christian Mayer, 12th grade Journalism student

Evan is a musically talented student at PSCS. He has a deep love for playing bass. One of his most cherished memories in high school was when his friends formed their first band. This experience ignited his passion for expressing emotions through music. He has also expressed interest in welding as a profession.

He advises his peers, "Don't conform to others and do your work," a mantra that guides him in both his creative pursuits and personal growth.

Classroom Happenings

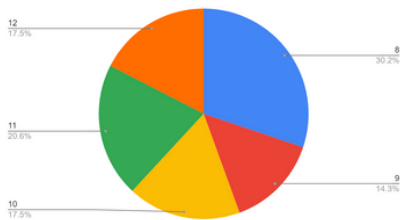


Kindergarten engineers shared everything they have been learning about forces and motion at their trimester celebration.

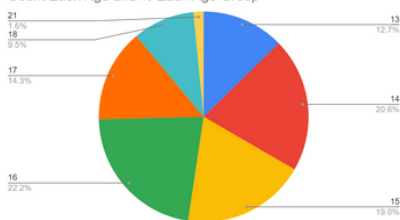
Corey Spreling's high school Horticulture students are working with Second Grade to redesign the pollinator garden near Davis. This week, the students spent time selecting plants and starting seeds.



Count Each Grade and % Each Grade



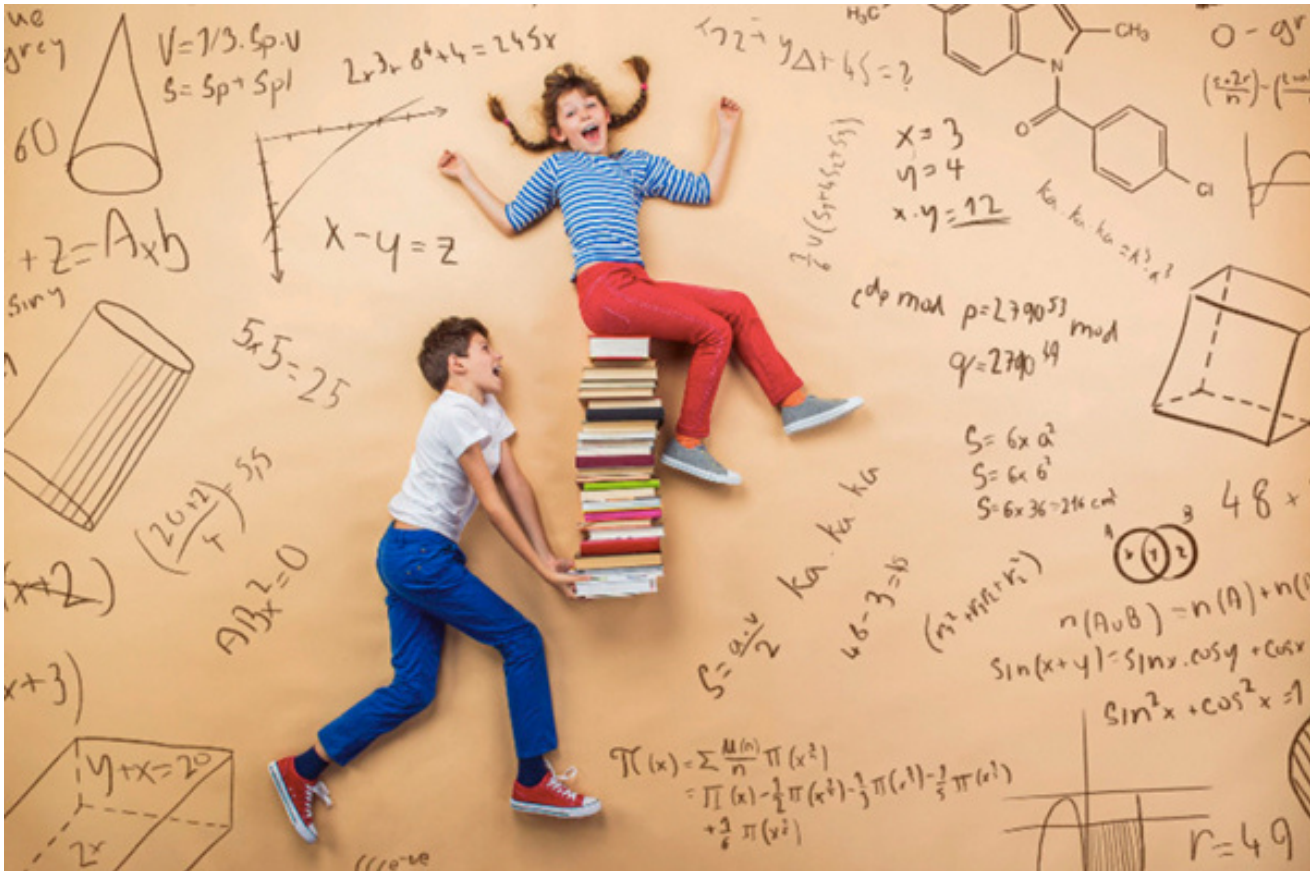
Count Each Age and % Each Age Group



Shannon O'Connor's Ecology class recently did a project on body proportions. They were split into 2 groups. Group Yellow had to answer the question - Do taller people have larger body proportions overall? while Group Red investigated - Do older people have larger body proportions overall? We collected the following data from 63 PSCS middle and high schoolers - age, grade, shoe size (standardized to mens), arm span, hand span and height. Students graphed their independent variable (age or height depending on their assigned research question) against the other measures on a scatterplot. Attached are the results of their analysis and their conclusions. Group Yellow = Zahir, Victor and Kyle Group Red = Jayden, Arlowe, Fatima and CJ.

Pie Charts below are from Jayden Urbina showing the distribution of each age and each grade level within our 63 student sample.

Reminder: how to track your student's academic progress



You can best support your student's academic growth when you understand their progress. In addition to checking-in with teachers, here are two helpful tools for gaining insight into your student's academic growth:

If you have a high school student, check PowerSchool.

For families with elementary and/or middle school students, check their math and reading growth in iReady.

If your student is in grades 2-5, we are using Fluency Flight, a fun and powerful tool to help students learn their math facts. Automatic knowledge of math facts not only helps students complete math problems accurately and efficiently, it also builds their math sense. Please support your student in completing four Fluency Flight sessions each week. Each session should take 8-10 minutes to complete.

For families experiencing housing insecurity

If your family is experiencing housing insecurity contact Jose Martinez (josem@pioneersprings.org) to be connected to resources.