

FAMILY involvement in schools benefits students and families

Parents and families as partners in education is a core tenant of the Basic School philosophy that guides our practices at Pioneer Springs. Research shows that when parents and families volunteer at school, their children experience numerous benefits including higher levels of math and reading achievement, and increased social skills. Parents and families who volunteer, furthermore, report feeling more comfortable helping their students with academics.



Erin Scheichl, an active volunteer at Pioneer Springs encourages others to give their time, sharing "One of the best bonuses of volunteering on campus is getting to know my kids classmates better! I love nothing more than a group of kids running up to wave and yelling, 'hi Jak's Mom!'" She adds that volunteering has connected her with other families, "It's hard to get to know anyone in a carpool line, but crafting behind the Castle? ...Wrapping ribbon around hoops, decorating for Snowman shoppe, pressing iron-on T-shirts, stringing up pendants for Race day routes, varnishing Cornhole boards...these create a bond that can NEVER be broken." Interested in getting involved? Learn more at our first WINGS meeting at 8:30 am on Thursday, September 14 or fill out a volunteer interest form. **Family volunteer training will be on September 6th at 6 pm and September 7th at 9 am, please [click here](#) to pre-register.**

Show your school spirit the week of 18th September! [Click here](#) for themes!



IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 4 Sept:
Labor Day
- 6 & 7 Sept:
Volunteer Training
- 12-14 Sept:
Academic Open House
- 14 Sept:
First WINGS meeting
- For school start and end times, [click here](#)
- Academic & Events Calendar [click here](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

COVID-19 new variant and general wellness information.

As has been reported in the news, the most recent variant of COVID-19 is hitting schools and workplaces particularly hard. The CDC recommends testing if COVID symptoms are present. Pioneer Springs has a surplus of test kits available to families which can be requested at the office. At PSCS, we continue to practice preventative measures to ensure optimum conditions for learning as well as follow the current CDC guidelines regarding isolation and masking. Should your student get Covid please contact the school nurse and keep your student home for at least five days after the **onset of symptoms** and mask for 10 days after **onset of symptoms/ upon return to school in that 10 day window**. PSCS will continue to notify parents via email when positive cases have been identified in a class (no names will ever be shared). Additionally, regardless of what the cause may be, any student with a fever or other symptoms of contagious disease needs to stay home per the school's Health and Wellness Policy. If you have questions about the policy or need to report a positive Covid case, please contact Arman Casini, the school nurse, at armanc@pioneersprings.org.

AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY is in season...



If you pass by the Kindergarten barn, look for a native shrub filled with striking purple berries called American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana* L.). American Beautyberries make an excellent addition to gardens because they attract native pollinators, including bees and over forty varieties of songbirds! Additionally, the berries stay on the branches long after the plant has dropped its leaves in the autumn-making it a beautiful ornament in winter gardens. The fruit, however, is not just ornamental. Some people use it to make jelly, while others use the fruit for dyeing. Do you have American Beautyberry in your yard? Have you tried making the berries into jelly or dyes? Share your American Beautyberry discoveries by tagging our social media accounts. Learn more about American Beautyberry [here](#). As always, when consuming wild foods, be sure to educate yourself, and that you know what you are eating.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION (CIA)...

A course challenging high school students to leverage their academic passions to make a difference in their community.

Last fall our high school freshmen performed a green audit of our campus as part of their CIA course, led by Shannon O'Connor. Students analyzed a variety of environmental practices at our school. While performing the audit, students noticed that our lunch areas had a great deal of litter caused by trash blowing out of open receptacles and by animals dumpster-diving for meals. Not only was the litter unsightly, it also attracted pets and presented a hazard to wildlife. Students designed and built a solution-wooden huts to house the trash bins. These bins have now been placed at our lunch spaces, and we are happy to report that our campus is now a bit clearer.



Classroom Happenings



"We found a frog! He's fast and great at hiding!" -Neco



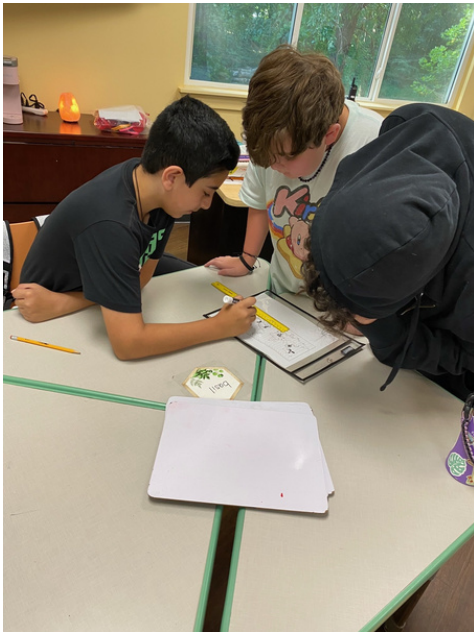
6th grade students seeing how far they can make a piece of paper stretch.



8th grade students completing a team building and engineering challenge.



High School Music Theory 1 students using xylophone to practice identifying notes on a staff.



7th grade math challenge.



1st grade nature bracelets.



High school Astronomy students made a scale timeframe of the formation of the universe all the way to modern day into 1 calendar year. The students researched the timing of notable events like the Big Bang, the oxygenation of Earth's atmosphere, the first fishes, the rise of agriculture and others. They then worked as teams to decide where these events would fit on the cosmic calendar. Students were amazed to learn that all of human history would fit into the last 6 seconds of December 31st, 11:59 pm.