

Earth Week at Pioneer Springs

Because of our nature education mission, Earth Week is exceptionally important to Pioneer Springs. The 2024 Earth Week theme is Planet vs Plastics. This week students explored the impact of plastics on our global environment, as well as on our local school environment.

Students across campus participated in a lunch box plastics-reduction campaign. On Monday, students collected all of the single-use plastics in their lunch. On Friday students collected single use plastics again to see if they could reduce their plastic use. Ask your student about what happened in their class!

Additionally, students participated in a STEM challenge to upcycle plastics for cleaning the "Great Pioneer Garbage Patch" in our campus "ocean."



Kindergarten and Fourth Grade students testing their Great Pacific Garbage Patch clean-up designs.

Finally, students participated in our first annual Spring Into Action campus clean-up initiative on Wednesday.



High School senior, Laci Cummings, reminding our campus about the clean up day during morning announcements.



Middle School students Pioneer Springing into Action!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 3 May: Junior & Senior Prom
- 7 May: WINGS staff appreciation
- 8-24 May: Authors' Teas
- 10 May: K-8 Field day/ HS Questival
- 15-29 May: EOG/ EOC schedule
- 17-18 May: 1st grade camp out at PSCS
- 29 May: Class of 2024 Graduation
- Register here for Summer Camps!
- Academic & Events Calendar

Our community is AMAZING! We are pleased to report that we have blown-past our annual fundraising goal of \$75,000!! Our current fundraising total for the year is \$78,527.20!! Want to help make PSCS even stronger? **Bid in our gift basket silent auction.**

We are excited to celebrate the arts with you at ArtSpring! this Saturday 11-2



Our fine arts educators have been working hard all year to cultivate our students' creative talents and love of the arts. On Saturday, April 27 we will showcase their efforts at ArtSpring! The day will be filled with student performances, pop-up art projects, and our Middle School Entrepreneurship showcase.

[This program lists all of the events.](#)

When you arrive, please park in the school parking lots. If the lots are full, please park along the railroad track side of Bob Beatty Road facing the track.

Come to the Castle (9232 Bob Beatty Road) first, and we can direct you to the performances, marketplace, and art exhibits from there.

Bring blankets to sit on.

The Hellbender's Hoard, our high school student created and managed snack bar, will be open! They will be selling popsicles, drinks, sandwiches and snacks.

[Click here](#) to volunteer at the event!

Thanks to generous donations from our families, we are able to offer a Gift Basket Bonanza Silent option. The gift baskets are phenomenal, and would make incredible gifts.

[Check them out here!](#)

High school students make a difference in our school community through Communities in Action

One of the things that sets Pioneer Springs's high school apart from other schools is our Communities in Action (CIA) program, which students participate in all four years of high school. CIA is designed to help students explore the question "How can I leverage my talents, passions, and academic interests to make a difference in my community?" In CIA students choose an area of academic focus, ranging from the Natural Sciences, to Sustainable Business and Industry, to Design the Future: Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, and beyond. Students take electives aligned with their chosen Community, which allows them to engage in their area of academic interest in a deep way. Additionally, students complete a group project with their fellow CIA students in their sophomore year, as well as an individual Capstone Graduation Project in their junior and senior years. Some of our CIA projects came to fruition this week!

Four sophomores students in the Teacher Apprentice community worked in Ms. G's fourth grade class this school year. The Apprentices began the school year observing the class, then helped in the classroom. This past week, the apprentices developed and taught a lesson of their very own! Who knows, maybe in a few years the teacher apprentices will become lead teachers at Pioneer Springs!

When reflecting on hosting the apprentices, Ms. G shared, "Having the teacher apprentices in our classroom this year has been a huge benefit to our 4th graders. It has allowed them to see our upper school students as role-models and leaders. The growth in the apprentices has been incredible! The lesson they planned and delivered to our 4th graders related directly to literacy standards and was done in an engaging manner. We are thankful for this opportunity."



Our sophomore Design the Future student designed easy-to-assemble raised garden beds, with the hopes of encouraging our community to take up gardening at home. [Learn more about the project, and order your bed here!](#)

For her Capstone Graduation Project, Jada Valle-Davis assisted Mr. Chris in planning our Ocean Debris CleanUp STEM design challenge. Jada designed the challenge, and shared challenge materials with staff. Laci Cummings also contributed to Earth week by creating a Spring Into Action campus clean-up day. Our community picked up more than 2,000 piece of litter from campus and Bob Beatty Road!

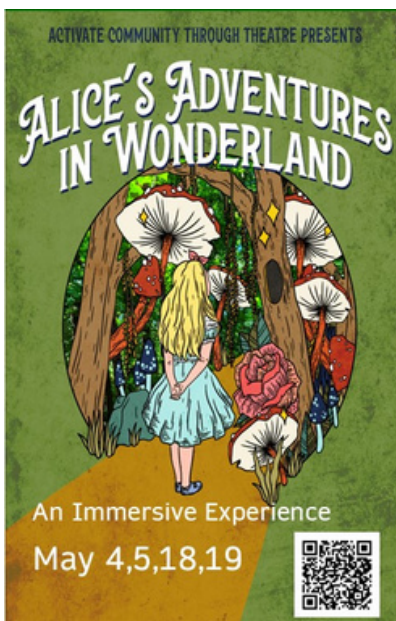


Save the Date: Pioneer Players present Little Women May 9, 10, and 11



Pioneer Players, our school Thespian Club, is proud to present the musical Little Women on May 9, 10, and 11. Tickets go on sale soon! Watch this space for more information.

Activate Community Through Theater presents Alice's Adventures in Wonderland on the PSCS campus, May 4, 5, 18 & 19



Pioneer Springs is proud to host Activate Community Through Theater's immersive performance of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. During this immersive experience, audience members travel across campus, meeting the characters and engaging with the story. Active Community Theater hopes you can attend! **[Click here for more information and to buy tickets.](#)**

Show our staff your gratitude!

Staff Appreciation Week is coming May 6-10. We would like to use this week to show appreciation to all our amazing staff at PSCS. See the schedule below and participate as your family is able:

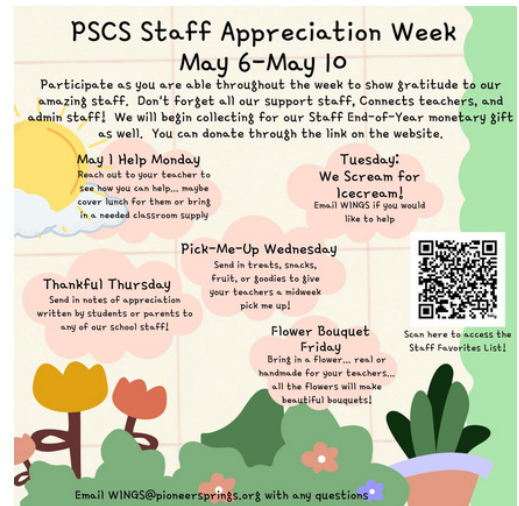
May 1 Help Monday: Reach out to your teacher to see how you can help... maybe cover lunch for them or bring in a needed classroom supply

Ice Cream Tuesday: Ice cream bar sponsored by WINGS and the HS families... email WINGS if you would like to help!

Pick Me Up Wednesday: Send in treats, snacks, fruit, or goodies to give your teachers a midweek pick me up!

Thankful Thursday: Send in notes of appreciation written by students or parents to any of our school staff!

Flower Bouquet Friday: Bring in a flower... real or handmade for each of your teachers... all the flowers will make beautiful bouquets!



In late May WINGS will collect donations for our end-of-the-year staff gift.

Click here to view our staff appreciation list!

Field Day is coming up--we need your help!



K-8 Field Day is right around the corner! Tosha and Josh are planning a dynamic day filled with fun activities for our students! We want students to have the chance to spend lots of time outside engaging in physical challenges, so classes will participate in events throughout the day.

We need volunteers to make this day safe and fun! **Sign-up here** to join us!

Questions, email Tosha (latoshac@pioneersprings.org).

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



PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE

or at the front office through April 26th.

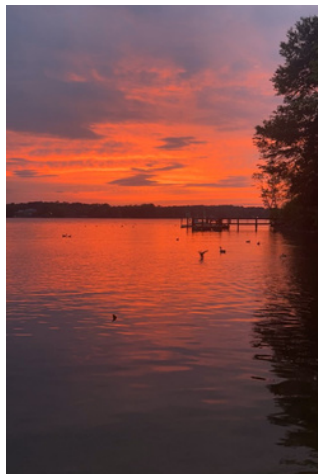
3rd May, 6-9 PM
Sweet Magnolia Estate
10101 Bailey Rd,
Cornelius, NC 28031

Get your yearbooks!



Designed and perfected by the high school Journalism class. Don't miss it!
Use the QR code or **click here** to order your yearbook for \$35. Questions?
Ask Jen Marsh at jennifer.m@pioneersprings.org

12th grade field trip



Classroom Happenings



Second grade had a busy week making a difference on our campus by doing some stewardship at the Croft playfield, and preparing the garden beds for our pollinator garden.

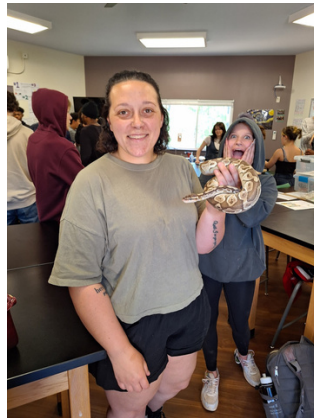


In their World History course, Alex Sutton's high school students are studying WWI, and simulated trench warfare last week.

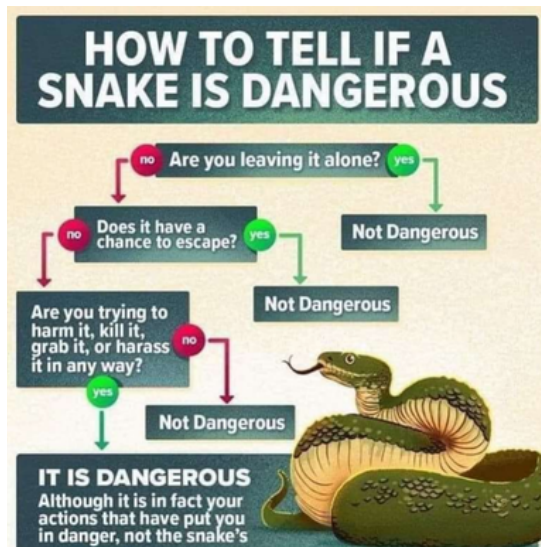


Our Fencing team continues to grow in their skills and abilities!

Classroom Happenings



Shannon O'Connor's Ecology class and Stephanie Menendez's Biology class recently hosted a guest speaker, Jennifer Coleman. Coleman is a passionate advocate for snakes. She's also a class 1 venomous snake handler, snake relocater, and snake fosterer. She spoke on everything from native snake niches, snake natural history, snake conservation, snake husbandry and even a few stories about snake personality! Word got out amongst the high school that there were live snakes coming to my class and several other teachers, including Alex Sutton, Gwen Postel and Dolly Glass brought their classes by to get a glimpse of everything from an Okeetee Corn Snake, South Carolina native, to a Yellow Anaconda, which is native to Brazil. Coleman asked that we share the following infographic about snakes safety and welfare:



Classroom Happenings



Shannon O'Connor's high school Ecology class raised painter lady butterflies, and shared this project across campus! Ecology students raised enough larva for each class to study, and classes from various grade levels visited the larva, chrysalises, and butterflies and learned about metamorphosis along the way! Ask your student what they observed. Interested in raising butterflies of your own? [Learn more about raising painter ladies here](#), share your adventures on social media, and tag #pioneersprings.



Second grade authors are hard at work on their Bare Books!