

High School Journalism students pioneer school newspaper: Introducing *Pioneer Pages*

"Our mission is to build community through student-written articles that encourage their peers to become more engaged with the school." - Emma Youngs, Director of *Pioneer Pages*

The PSCS Journalism class, guided by Jen Marsh and Min Johnson, proudly introduces a weekly student-run newspaper, *Pioneer Pages*. The newspaper's mission is to keep high school students updated on important information while keeping it fun, engaging, and informative. Students can find a link to *Pioneer Pages* in the *Coop Scoop* each week beginning February 9th, 2024.

The Journalism class is also excited to collaborate with staff to write articles for the *Coop Scoop*.

Meet the Press:

Directors

- Eddie McCarn
- Emma Youngs

Digital Production Manager

- Grey Lewis

Photographers/ Writers

- Emmett Brzozowski
- Nile Johnson
- Brandon Phillips- Monez

Executive Writers

- Jade Colburn
- Sophie Slimick
- Aiyanna Houston
- Christian Mayer

Investigative Squad

- Nick Marsh
- Arlowe Hazard
- Elijah Heubel

Affirmations

- Laci Cummings



IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 6 Feb: Blood Drive, 9am-2 pm
- 13 Feb: WINGS Staff Appreciation
- 14 Feb: Show Your Heart Day
- 19 Feb: President's Day - **NO SCHOOL** for staff & students
- 20 Feb: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 23 Feb: K-5 End of Trimester Celebration
- 23 Feb: Under the Snow Moon, 7pm-9pm
- Register for Summer Camps!
- Fridays at 10 AM: Admin Open Office Hours

Practicing gratitude with your child at home



The Pioneer Springs campus is buzzing with gratitude as classes prepare to share our appreciation for our community on Show Your Heart Day. Research shows that practicing gratitude benefits childrens' mental health, and helps build stronger family relationships. Are you interested in starting or deepening a gratitude practice with your child? Try these ideas:

- Create a Gratitude Gift
- Craft a Gratitude Tree
- Try a gratitude meditation
- Go around the table at dinner, and share a part of the day you are grateful for
- Share gratitude at bedtime, perhaps as a part of a spiritual practice
- Model your gratitude practice by writing a Standing O for your child's teacher

How does your family practice gratitude? Share on social media, and tag #pioneersprings

Join us in person or virtually for our art auction fundraiser on February 23

Support Pioneer Springs at our first annual art social and auction, Under the Snow Moon. Funds raised will advance the improvement of our athletic fields. The evening will include live music, socializing, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a selection of local wines and beers, and an exhibit of student art. You will have a chance to bid on the art works, and to enter raffles for fabulous prizes. This over 21 event is exclusive to Pioneer Springs families, and will be hosted at Cedar Grove, a historic house in Huntersville. Space is limited, so reserve your space today by buying tickets here. Unable to make it to the event? You can still bid on art (coming soon) and enter the raffles! Entries for our 50/50 Raffle tickets, a Scotch tasting experience, and \$500 Amazon gift card are available now.



If you have questions, or are interested in volunteering for the event, contact Heidi (heidm@pioneerpsrings.org). We hope to see you there!

Please note, when you purchase event tickets, raffle tickets, or bid on auction items RallyUp, the website that is hosting the fundraiser, will ask you to leave a "tip" for the website. This tip is optional, and goes directly to RallyUp. Pioneer Springs does not receive money from the tip, nor is Pioneer Springs charged money if you choose not to leave a tip. To avoid paying the tip, choose the "Enter custom tip" option, and then enter \$0.00.

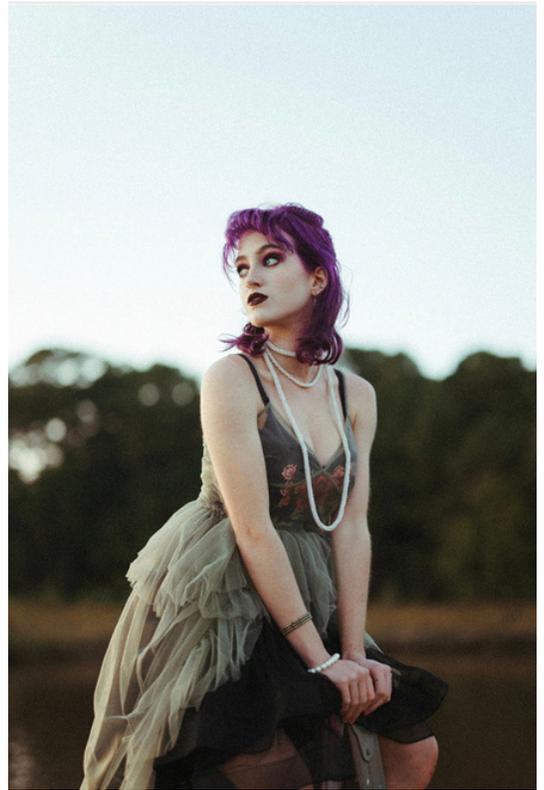
Senior Spotlight

Emma Youngs

Interviewed by Sophie Slimick, 11th grade Journalism student

“It costs a lot of money to look this cheap” -Dolly Parton

Emma Youngs has been a student of Pioneer Springs for a total of 2 years. Looking back on her experiences at PSCS, she says all her memories have been ‘special.’ After graduation, she will be attending Aveda Trade School for cosmetology. In five years, she sees herself hopefully engaged and living on a farm, complete with chickens, fluffy cows, and a garden where she can grow fresh vegetables to feed to her tortoise, Tortellini. In addition, she hopes to have two cute kids, both of whom she would dress head to toe in sparkly, pink Sanrio onesies shipped to her from Eddie (a fellow PSCS senior), from New York. Emma enjoys musical theater, and some of her hobbies include making jewelry and painting. Lastly, if she had any advice to give her underclassmen, it would have to be, “Sometimes it's good to keep your mouth shut; sometimes you just have to not to say anything.”



Misha Painter

Interviewed by Sophie Slimick, 11th grade Journalism student

“If you pray for rain, you have to deal with mud too.”
-Misha Painter

Misha Painter has attended Pioneer Springs for three years and has especially enjoyed the camping trips that PSCS offers. Five years from now, he sees himself living somewhere in Europe. He enjoys deer hunting, archery, skiing, and soccer. His advice to the other students of Pioneer Springs would be: “Do your work.” (Like him).

Great Backyard Bird Count - February 16-19 by Jade Colburn, 10th grade Journalism student



If you love the outdoors, don't miss out on the Great Backyard Bird Count! Cornell Labs, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada calls forth all adventures to participate in their global online event from February 16-19. This bonding experience is free of charge for bird lovers of all ages. For as little as 15 minutes over 4 days, members from all around the world will document the birds they observe. Contributors will report their backyard discoveries to be seen worldwide. It's the perfect way to connect and share the delight of birdwatching! It doesn't end here, not only does the occasion encourage birdwatching and nature-observing but it also serves as an online science project for the world's largest biodiversity-related science project, eBird. Yes, partakers will connect with their community while providing real, usable data for scientists, researchers, bird experts, and naturalists. This data will help scientists better understand bird populations and migration patterns.

This February, Pioneer Springs challenges students to participate in the Bird Count. The school is encouraging scholars to take part in the count to assist in the protection of our flying friends and in the preservation of the lively environment where they nest. So, what are you waiting for? Take a seat inside, up the street, in your backyard, or at your favorite sightseeing spot. Don't squawk it till you try it!

Some birds we were able to identify include the Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Fox Sparrow, White-Throated Sparrow, and the Red-Bellied Woodpecker.

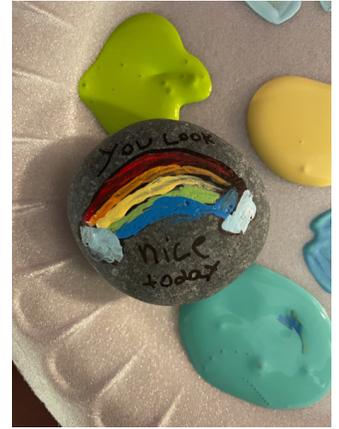
Use the link below to register and learn more:

<https://www.birdcount.org/>

Beginners can use the Merlin Bird ID app to help identify birds they hear and see. To record the list of birds sighted, members can use the eBird Mobile app or the eBird website (desktop/laptop).

<https://ebird.org/home>

Classroom Happenings



Under the leadership of Ms. Sarah, 4th grade students are creating a rock garden for the area surrounding Croff's Little Free Library. In preparation for the project, students have been painting Kindness Rocks. 4th grade would love to invite our community to participate in this project. Students, staff and families are encouraged to paint rocks of their own and add them to the rock garden!



The Hellbender's Hoard is open for business! 10th grade students enrolled in the Sustainable Business and Industry Community in Action have started their own small business, a snack bar called Hellbender's Hoard. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch Hellbender's Hoard sells snacks to high school students, and will expand to serve students across the campus for special events by the end of the school year.



9th grade Communities in Action students are also studying entrepreneurship. Our freshmen entrepreneurs have been hard at work designing t-shirts for the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027. This week they hosted Monique Burney, owner of Epic Dream Media Group. Monique shared her experiences as a female, minority, veteran entrepreneur. She also helped students understand the ins-and-outs of retail marketing, pricing, and customer relations.



Hello PSCS Students and Families,

This week we're introducing a new column in the *Coop Scoop*. This column will be titled "Vocabulary Voyage". The mission of "Vocabulary Voyage" is to encourage your student to expand their vocabulary. One of our high school students, Grey Lewis, will choose a word every week for "Vocabulary Voyage", define it, and talk about how you or your student can use that word in their everyday life to help them expand their vocabulary, and look forward on new horizon's, on their vocabulary journey.

Com·mit·ted

From the Oxford Dictionary:

feeling dedication and loyalty to a cause, activity, or job; wholeheartedly dedicated

How can we keep our students committed to their work? We're going into the new semester for the High School and our middle and elementary students are working hard in the second trimester. We're all experiencing the mid year slump, that lack of energy we all feel as we're returning to school after the winter break. We need to be committed to our work, so we can finish this year strong. Ways we can help our students stay committed to their work include:

- Lead by example:

- Students are naturally independent thinkers, because they are developing children, especially younger children, they model the parent. If the parent grumbles about how bad the weather is, or how they don't want to go to work this morning, chances are, your child will mirror those emotions. So fake it, hide it, it's impossible to have every morning be perfect, so on those days where they're not feeling it, or you're not, pretend you are, so then they'll mirror those emotions.

- Change-up the Routine:

- Studies have shown that with a repetitive routine, children just kind of get tired of the routine after a few months. Which brings me to my next point: change the routine up! Wake up earlier and do something fun with your student before you are set to leave. Be that changing up breakfast or going out and identifying bird calls. Creating a new routine can be a simple thing you can do to breathe new life into the routine, making it fun again.

- Use small, simple things to brighten their week, and give them something to look forward to:

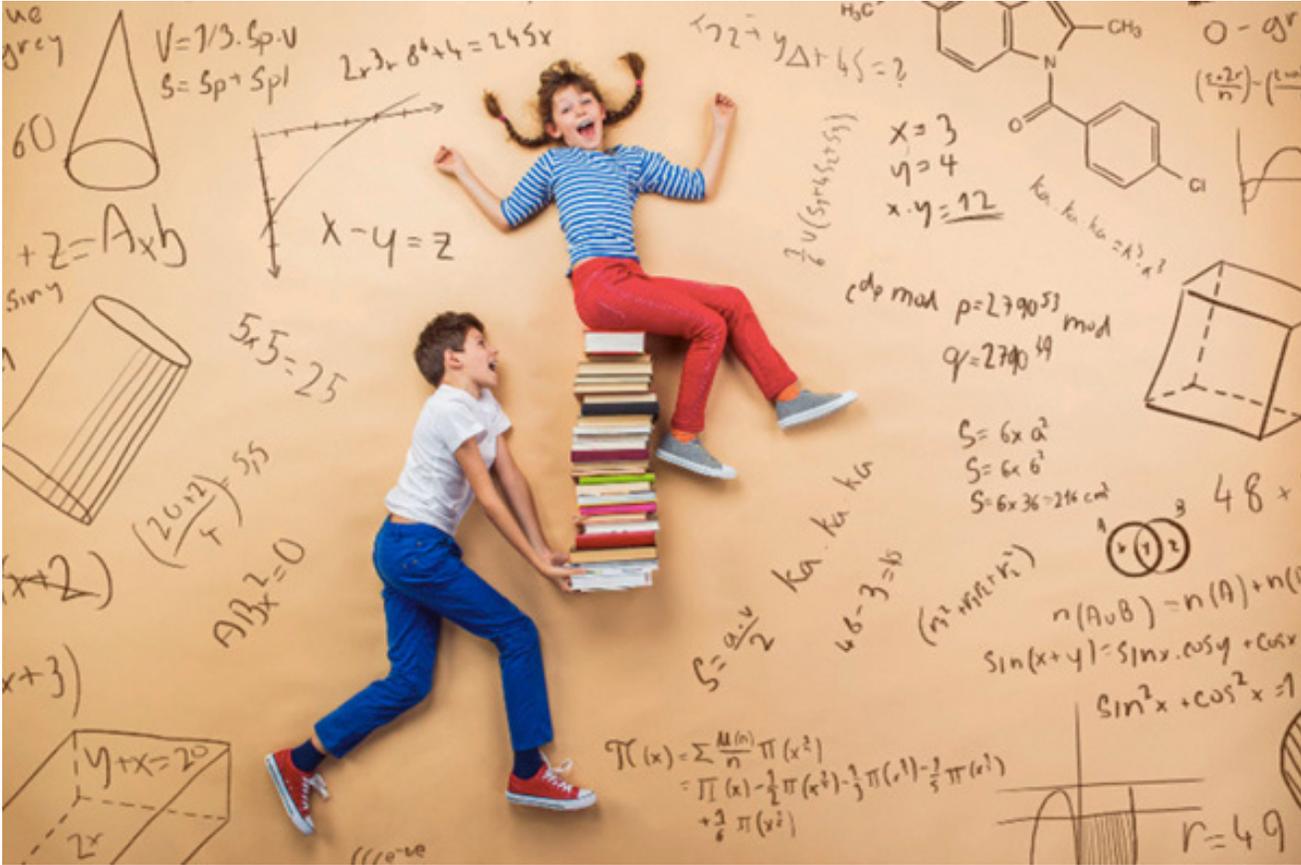
- Whether that's scheduling a weekend nature walk, or having a late night hangout session with their friends, it helps the student have something to focus on to get them through the week.

- Remember that as the parent, your job is to get your student through the challenging time.

- Help them to get through the year strong, with whatever means necessary, remember that it's a team effort.

- If all else fails though, always remember to tell your student that you love them unconditionally, and that you're here to help them on whatever they need to help get through this Mid Year Slump.

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.