

## Thank you for participating in our Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival!

Friday's Folklore and Fairy Tale Festival was a success! Thank you to all of the families who spent so much time decorating our campus, and to those who donated materials for the event—your hard work and generosity transformed our campus into a magical space! Thank you as well to our teachers and staff who worked hard to create skits, dances, and performances with our students. You gave them the opportunity to shine!



### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 13 Nov: Staff Development – **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 14 Nov: 3rd grade field trip to the Schiele Museum
- 16–17 Nov: K–5th End of Trimester Celebrations
- 22–24 Nov: Thanksgiving Break

## November parent-family education series: nurturing holistic academic growth



We'd like to invite you to take a moment to imagine your child at age 25—what kind of contribution do you envision your child making to the world? What kinds of things will your child enjoy doing with their free time? What kinds of relationships do you imagine your child will cultivate with the important people in their life?

As you envision your child's future, take some time to think about the cognitive capacities your child will need to make that dream a reality. What will they need to know? What kinds of personality traits will your child need?

Now take a moment to think about your hopes and dreams for your child's childhood. Do you dream of a childhood marked by curiosity, discovery, cultivation of special talents and interests, trying new things, connecting with peers, and discovering that they can do anything if they put their minds to it? What kinds of personality traits does your child need to have the kind of enriching and adventurous childhood you envision?

Chances are, the personality traits that support a joyful childhood are the same traits that will enable your child to pursue their dreams in adulthood—curiosity, courage, perseverance, the ability to express themselves to others, and the ability to understand and connect.

At Pioneer Springs, we believe that our mission is to partner with families to cultivate these important traits in our students. In the month of November we will share strategies with families that support the learning and development of the whole child. Do you have a particular topic you are interested in learning more about (for example, exposing your child to real word math, fostering curiosity, or supporting children when academics are frustrating)? If so, please email Heidi Magi ([heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org)), and we will address your interest.

## Dance at Pioneer Springs



Kristin Chiperfield teaches dance daily to a High School class and once a week for students grades K-5. Kristin believes dance enhances students' physical, emotional, and social well-being by providing a method of physical awareness and fitness, an outlet for creativity and personal expression, and a means to develop social-emotional skills. Dancers explore and create movement based on the elements of dance and connect dance to science, math, music, literature, art and history.

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## Turkeys visit campus on weekends



While Pioneer Spring's campus is filled with the sounds of children playing on weekdays, on the weekends our campus transforms into a wonderful refuge for wildlife. We frequently see evidence of animal visitors, including raccoon and deer tracks, on Monday mornings. If you ever happen to drive by campus on an autumn weekend morning (perhaps your family wants to drop by the Davis General Store), keep an eye out for a flock of turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) strolling down Bob Beatty.

Before European settlers arrived, turkeys were abundant in the Piedmont, but by the mid-20th their population was decimated by habitat loss. Thanks to a restoration campaign, these majestic birds roam the Piedmont once more.

Have you spotted any turkeys in your neck of the woods? Share your nature discoveries on social media and tag #pioneersprings.

# Classroom Happenings



One of Mr. Randolph's many talents is song writing. He recently visited Gwen Postle's High School Songwriting class to share information about his process with students.



Ms. Jill and Ms. Susan's third grade students learned about radiant heat by building solar ovens to cook s'mores. Yum!



6th grade students got into the spirit of the season by composing spooky songs on xylophones and ukuleles in music class.



Fifth grade students recently built shelters by the pond. Shelter building is an essential part of childhood play. When building shelters children practice problem-solving skills, cooperation, and engineering. When using shelters children engage in imaginative play which, in addition to being important because of the joy and wonder it brings, develops teamwork and literacy skills. Create opportunities for your children to build shelters, and observe their process and how they play in them—doing so will give you a window into their world!



Pre-Oneers discovered an Eastern rat snake (*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*) near the Davis gardens. Mr. Chris captured the snake, and introduced it to classes across campus. He discussed the importance of rat snakes to our ecosystem, and how to safely observe wildlife. Here is 5th grade meeting the snake.