

6 October 2023

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

It's time to show your support for Pioneer Springs by donating to our Reach for the Trees Annual Campaign!! [Click here!](#)

Welcome to WINGS! A message from your WINGS co-chairs, **Stephanie Costas and Erin Scheichl**

With a student at PSCS comes automatic membership in our homegrown PTA, aptly named WINGS (Working with Intention to Nurture and Grow our School). Our hope for this school year is that each of you will strive to be an active participant in our WINGS community that supports our students and staff on campus. There are lots of ways to show up and show off your talents and skill sets, both on campus and from home!



WINGS will be focusing our volunteer time and efforts into a few essential areas:

- *appreciating and supporting our teachers and staff
- *creating a sense of community between families with opportunities to socialize
- *supporting campus wide events by helping to recruit day-of volunteers, with a commitment to creating a magical atmosphere to showcase our students during these events.

WINGS will be partnering up in a support role with Heidi Magi for campus events and fundraising. Heidi will be finalizing the logistics and WINGS (that's YOU!) will be bringing the spirit and hands-on help that no one does better than us adults of PSCS students!!

This means there are lots of ways to lend your time and talents to your WINGS community!

- *If your time allows for BEHIND THE SCENES OFF CAMPUS assists, be on the lookout for: Room Parents asks for help/supplies, any calls for envelope stuffing, craft kit assembling, requests for drop off food for staff appreciation events, cultivating plants for our annual plant sale, restocking items in Student Pantry as needed, etc.
- *If your time allows for ON CAMPUS assists, be on the lookout for: event helpers (set up prep before, during, and tear down after), random crafting meet-ups (sewing, cutting, painting), in classroom support requests from your teachers, campus clean up and weeding, Spring Field trip chaperone, etc.

These are just a few, and not limited too, the many ways we can show up for our students, staff and community of fellow families! It's hard to make connections with other Adults in carpool, right? Well, come join in on the fun, we can't wait to get to know you better!

Sign-up here to volunteer for Reach for the Trees!

Our Pioneer Springs Community has spent 15,324 hours outside since mid September for our 20,000 Hours Outside Challenge! Additionally, we've raised \$17,847 towards our \$75,000 goal!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 15 Sept-13 Oct: [Annual Campaign](#)
- 9-13 Oct: School Spirit Week! [Click here](#) for themes!
- 9 Oct: Blood Drive, [click here](#)
- 10 Oct: 7th grade field trip to Hugh Torrance House and Store
- 11 Oct: Folklore & Fairy Tale Spellcaster meeting, 9-10 am
- 12 Oct: 8th grade field trip to Catawba River Keepers, McAdenville
- 13 Oct: Reach for the Trees, [click here](#) for schedule
- 20 Oct: Staff Development - NO SCHOOL for students

2023 Reach for the Trees Schedule, October 13 2023

We are excited to invite families to join us on campus for the Reach for the Trees!

Schedule and Parking Information

- Please plan to arrive no more than 10 minutes before the start time for your student's class.
- When you arrive on campus, please look for your designated parking attendant. They will guide you to park on Bob Beatty with your car facing the railroad tracks. If you need handicap parking, let the attendant know.
- All events start at the Amphitheater behind the Castle. There are three spectator zones: the Amphitheater Area (all events), the Croft Playfield (Fun Run), and the Archery Range (Obstacle Course & Environmental Literacy Challenge). The Croft Playfield and Archery Range are accessible for families using strollers and mobility aids.

Start Time Schedule

Grade	Start Time	Event	Parking Zone
2nd Grade	9:00	Fun Run	look for attendant in the yellow vest
4th Grade	9:30	Fun Run	look for the attendant in the blue vest
1st Grade	10:30	Fun Run	look for attendant in the yellow vest
6th Grade	10:30	Obstacle Course & Environmental Literacy Challenge	look for the attendant in the blue vest
5th Grade	11:00	Fun Run	look for attendant in the yellow vest
7th Grade	11:00	Obstacle Course & Environmental Literacy Challenge	look for the attendant in the blue vest
8th Grade	11:30	Obstacle Course & Environmental Literacy Challenge	look for attendant in the yellow vest
Kindergarten	1:00	Fun Run	look for the attendant in the blue vest
High School	Start times range from 1:00 to 2:00	Obstacle Course & Environmental Literacy Challenge	look for the attendant in the yellow vest
3rd Grade	1:30	Fun Run	look for the attendant in the blue vest

Student Supervision and Check-Out

- Students are to remain with their classes and under the supervision of their teachers for the entire Reach for the Trees. If you come to see your student, please join their class at the Amphitheater, or watch from one of the designated spectator zones.
- We strongly encourage students to stay at school after Reach for the Trees. Teachers will be reflecting on the event with their students, and will be teaching the rest of the day.
- We are implementing a new special events check-out procedure this year. This procedure is designed to promote safety, and to ensure that teachers are able to focus their energy on supervising and educating students.
 - If you would like to check your student out after the event, please leave your student with their class, and go to the Castle to check them out.
 - The Castle will then call the class to let them know that the student is being checked out.
 - To maintain clarity of expectations and supervision, once you have checked your student out, please leave campus.

Are you a business owner who would like to sponsor Pioneer Springs with a tax deductible donation? [Read about our sponsor benefits & give here.](#)

Student voices...5th grade calculated velocity, by Tiffany in Ms. Deepti and Ms. Kim's class

Fifth graders learned that speed, distance and time are variables that refer to the motion of an object and if any two of these variables are known, the third can be calculated. They tested this using toy cars which they rolled on ramps around our campus, observing the distance traveled and time taken. They calculated the speed of the toy car using this information. It was very exciting to see them in action!



Here's Tiffany's report on the project:

Hello, today we are talking about Ms. Deepti's and Ms. Kim's fifth grade class, and about our speed finding experiment. Before anything else we had to find a place to work. We asked some of the people in our class to bring ramps, but none of the ramps were long enough! So, we went to the big ramp in the woods. It was now time to start our experiment. First, we timed the cars. Then, we measured the distance of the ramp. After that, we solved the equation to find the speed. We knew distance divided by time equals speed; for example, imagine a car traveled ten feet in two seconds. We would turn this into an equation of ten divided by two equals five ($10 \div 2 = 5$), so the car would be going five feet every second.



Discover a butterfly garden at Davis, by Crystal Carney and Holly Martin, 2nd grade teachers



Our 2nd grade students have been busy working on our adopted Pollinator Garden! Did you know that our pollinator garden is on the [Butterfly Highway](#) route? We are excited to revamp the garden into something magical for our pollinators. We have a vision of creating a butterfly shaped garden. In the garden there is already a hummingbird feeder, water dishes, a bug house and memorial stone. Animals we are hoping to attract include butterflies, ladybugs, bees, and hummingbirds. Our goal is to have all North Carolina native plants in the garden.

Want to help? Here are some of our wishlist items to make the dream come true:

NC native plants (Milkweed, purple cone flowers, black-eyed susans, mums, phlox, etc.)

Hummingbird feeders (we make our own sugar water for the feeders)

Give the gift of life on October 9

Pioneer Springs is excited to announce that we are partnering with One Blood to host a blood drive on Monday, October 9. [You can sign-up to donate here.](#) The blood supply has fallen by 25% since early August. Blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations. We need your help! Pioneer Springs families and friends are welcome to donate. All donors receive a glow in the dark Halloween t-shirt, and OneBlood will make a contribution to Pioneer Springs on behalf of blood donors. High School Students who are 16 years old or older can donate with parents' consent and must bring a consent form to the donation bus on the day of the blood drive. All donors and prospects must have a picture ID showing date of birth. For students, OneBlood will accept a print out form from PSCS administration with their date of birth or if they can be identified by a teacher or staff member. Click for [Eligibility](#) and [Consent](#) Forms.



Bats, crucial members of the Piedmont ecosystem



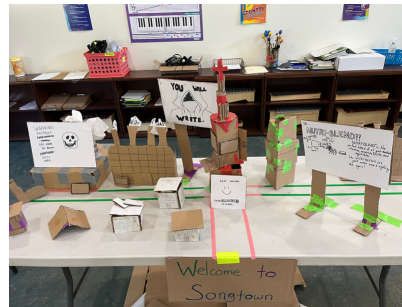
It's spooky season, and lots of us are decorating our homes with bats. Bats, however, do not deserve their spooky reputation. In our region bats are essential for pest control—in fact, they eat so many insects that they save the corn growers over \$1 billion in pest control costs annually. When bat colonies are near houses, they control mosquito populations. Additionally, bats pollinate plants, particularly plants that bloom at night.

[Consider attracting bats to your yard](#) to protect these important animals, and to reap the benefits of their ability to control insect populations. Plant native plants, particularly those whose blooms are open at night, avoid using insecticides and herbicides, and build a [bat box](#) so they have a home of their own. [Learn more about bats here.](#) If you see any bats, or build a bat box, be sure to share on social media and to tag us, #pioneersprings.

Classroom Happenings



Ms. G and Ms. C's 4th graders visited Reedy Creek Nature Preserve where they did a service learning project. Students removed over 130 pounds of Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), an invasive species that crowds-out native species.



Gwen Postle's Song Writing students have been busy! They created a dystopian factory town that served as inspiration for student created songs. Gwen's Music Theory students are working on a Theme and Variations project for bass and ukulele.



10th grade Natural Sciences Communities in Action (CIA) students, mentored by Corey Sperling, are building a winter vegetable garden, and an herbal tea garden in the high school complex. Over the past couple of weeks they've selected their plants, mixed soil from leaf litter, mulch, and sand, and planted their gardens. This week 9th grade CIA students lent a hand with mixing soil and moving it to the garden beds.

Classroom Happenings



Folklore dance practice with Ms. Becky, Ms. Kristin and Mr. Nick!



Shannon O'Connor's Physical Science students are seen here running their single stage balloon powered rockets along a fishing line track about 12.5 m long. Groups had to construct a rocket that is propelled exclusively with air and only 1 balloon and then they will calculate their average velocity and acceleration for their 5 trials. Coming up soon they will be constructing a multistage rocket to see if they can increase their velocity and acceleration with the added thrust and reduced weight a multistage rocket provides.



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