



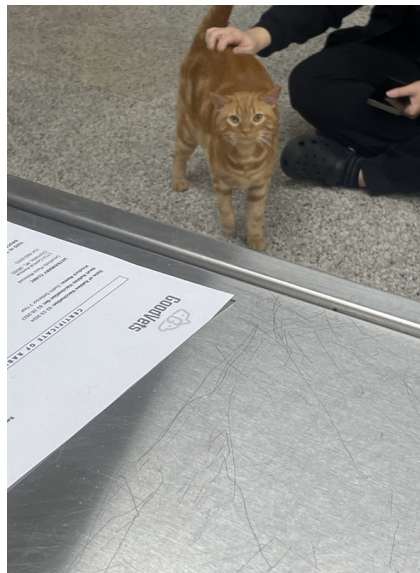
Senior internships: a student's perspective, by Jada Valle-Davis, a senior Natural Sciences student

My name is Jada. I'm a 17 year old high school senior, and am dual-enrolled at Pioneer Springs and Central Piedmont Community College. From a young age I have always loved helping animals, and have wanted to pursue a career in zoology. For my Capstone Graduation Project I did an internship at a Charlotte vet clinic called Goodvets. The internship helped pave the way towards entering a career where I help and care for animals in need.

I spent about 10 hours at Goodvets watching the spectacular work of each vet technician and surgeon. I particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to shadow Dr.Higgins, which helped reaffirm my interest in working with animals. Dr. Higgins taught me everything from the behaviors of animals, to different sutures, how to read an x-ray, and the dental work requirements of certain animals. I got to see the ins-and-outs of the vet clinic, which made me excited to go back to the clinic, as well as going to college so I can enter the profession of zoology.

Everything I witnessed and got to learn was truly magnificent. I have been there three times, learning a vast amount of new information I never knew. The first day Dr. Higgins showed me a dental surgery where I learned how to remove teeth and polish the plaque. The second day she focused on showing me the check up rooms letting me know the importance of treating each owner and patient with care. On top of that I got to learn about giving shots to certain pets. The last day was probably the best. I got to watch everyone have a great time laughing and fun with a cat that the vet clinic owns. I learned the most that day, including about removing bladder stones, and the different types of stones. I also saw where cats get blood drawn legs and necks, anesthesia, different layers of skin, muscles, and fat, how to take ear swaps and how to use a microscope.

Being able to see the behind the scenes of a vet clinic was so amazing. Having this opportunity reaffirmed my dream to work with animals and I'm grateful to have gotten this internship.



IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 13-15 March: 5th & 5th grade field trip to Camp Caraway
- 14 March: Make up picture day
- 14-15 March: Volunteer training
- 18 March: Staff workday
- 27-29 March: 6th & 7th grade field trip to Mountain Trail Outdoor School
- 1-5 April: SPRING BREAK
- 13 April: [Toss 'n Sauce Family Cornhole Tournament](#)
- 27 April: ArtSpring!
- [Register here for Summer Camps!](#)

UPDATE: Make up picture day will take place on Thursday, 14th March

The 2024-2025 Calendar can be found [here!](#)

Reading for pleasure has wellness and academic benefits. Here's how to nurture reading for fun in your child.

We all know that reading is essential for academic success. Research shows that reading for pleasure also has mental health benefits. Yet, over the past forty years, there has been a marked decline in the amount of time that children, teens and young adults spend reading for pleasure. In light of the importance of reading, and the decline in reading for pleasure, how can families promote a culture of reading at home? Here are some simple steps you can take for children of all ages:



Nurturing reading in elementary age children

- Set aside time for reading aloud every day
- Create a cozy reading space in your home
- Make reading fun-use silly voices, stop to discuss the story, invite your child to make their own illustrations, or to write an alternative ending
- Visit your local library, ask librarians to make book recommendations, and participate in special events
- Encourage your child to read any book, magazine, graphic novel or comic book that interests them. Children are more likely to read when reading is fun!
- Find more ideas here and here

Encouraging reading in middle school age children

- Read books and graphic novels in front of your child-you are still their most important role model
- Listen to audiobooks together
- Encourage your child to read series that they enjoy
- Talk to your child about the reading you do for work, including reports, doing research, reading instruction manuals)
- Help your child find books related to their interests
- Find more ideas here and here

Encouraging reading in high schoolers

- Any reading is great reading-support reading by helping teens find books, graphic novels and magazines that they enjoy
- Take your teen to teen events at your local library
- Notice when your teen reads, and ask them questions about what they are reading that show you want
- Even older teens look to their significant adults as role models-read in front of them, and talk about your own love of reading
- Avoid forcing or pushing your teen to read; know that teens often lose interest in reading, and then return to reading as they mature
- Find more ideas here and here

Save the Date for the Toss 'n Sauce Family Cornhole Tournament

Come play with us! You are invited to join us from 11-3 on Saturday, April 13 for the Toss 'n Sauce Family Cornhole Tournament- a wacky, shenanigans filled take on cornhole. The tournament will include three age brackets: 6th grade and under, 7th grade and over (includes adults), and mixed-age (one adult and one student/ team). Toss 'n Sauce guests can also participate in yard games, face painting, fairy hair, and general fun! Watch this space for more details.

We would like to feature businesses owned by Pioneer Springs families in our Raffle. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, email Heidi (heidim@pioneersprings.org).



Interested in chaperoning a field trip, or helping out in a classroom?
Join us for Volunteer Training next week.

Meet us in the Castle at 10:45 next Wednesday, or via Zoom at 5 pm on Thursday
for Volunteer Training. **RSVP here.**

Senior spotlight

Grey Lewis

Interviewed by Arlowe Hazard, 9th grade Journalism student

“Always choose to make the best out of a situation.” – Grey Lewis

Grey Lewis, a veteran Pioneer Springs Community School student, is a person of many passions. From rock climbing to first aid, education to classroom engagement, Grey’s interests are as diverse as they are intriguing. Grey’s aspirations include studying Computer Science and acquiring business skills, hoping to hold certifications in areas they are passionate about. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), West Virginia University, and Western Carolina are among the schools Grey is considering for their higher education.

Grey is so passionate about what they enjoy, which includes rock climbing and first aid— Grey’s also super interested in education and classroom engagement. Grey’s love of classroom engagement has motivated them to learn all they can about the classroom environment.

In addition, through The Boy Scouts Of America, Grey holds a position as a seasonal summer camp staff member who helps young scouts find their passion and place in the world. A sentence that Grey chooses to live by is “Perception=Reality,” and with this statement, Grey strives to work it into their daily life. Grey is an enthusiastic member of the community who won’t take no for an answer and continually perseveres to make the best out of every situation.



What’s that smell? Written by Jade Colburn & Sophie Slimick, high school Journalism students



The invasive Callery Pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) is notorious for its signature stench. Despite its eye-catching white lenticels, this tree packs a foul punch straight to the nostrils! Not only does the Callery release an awful stench, but birds love to distribute and share the pears that are produced, encouraging the spread of the invasive species.

Additionally, don't be deceived by the Callery (more commonly known as the Bradford Pear) tree’s appealing nature; it is genetically modified. Throughout the '60s and '90s, the Callery was harvested by the gazillion as an ornamental landscape piece. Due to the tree's mass production and hardiness, it spread very quickly. This prompted Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina to ban the tree from their respective states.

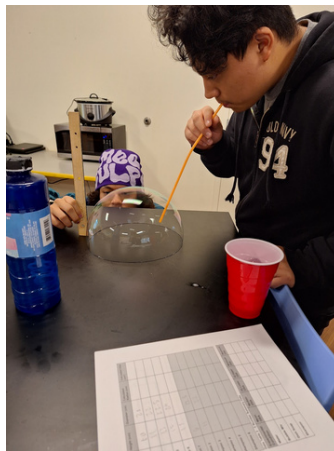
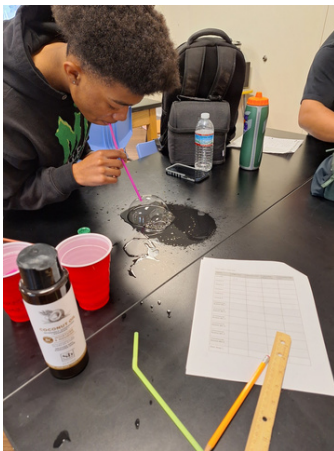
Although they have their downside, the Callery Pear also provides some benefits. Along with being a visual reminder of Spring, the Bradford Pear tree reduces heat and cooling costs, improves stormwater functions, and provides shelter for wildlife. Furthermore, the tree captures carbon and particulate matter.

Come smell one of our famous Callery Pear trees next to the Hives!

Classroom Happenings



Some special visitors toured the roof of the high school science buildings on Friday's teacher workday.



Shannon O'Connor's high school Ecology class performed a lab last week to practice collecting and representing data. In the lab, students investigated which of 3 solutions (dish soap, shampoo and commercial bubble mix) would produce the biggest bubbles. They measured multiple bubbles for their height and width in order to calculate the dome surface area. They then used the dome surface area data to create comparative box plots for all 3 bubble solutions to learn how to display data with internal variance. This lab also gave them real data to practice calculating measures of central tendency including mean, median, mode, lower and upper quartiles.



Stephanie Menendez's high school Biology students modeled the cell cycle using oreos.

Classroom Happenings



Ms. G's fourth grade class continued their exploration of paleontology in ELA. If you will remember, a couple of weeks ago they simulated a paleontological dig. This past week, they used sparkling to cast molds of fossils.



Ms. Holly and Ms. Jackie's second grade students made a see-saw and did some rockhounding.