



Pioneer Elementary School

Bear Cub Bulletin: October 2023

A Message From Mr. Lang

Dear Pioneer families,

Welcome back to another amazing year at Pioneer! The year is off to a great start, and we are looking forward to many days of joyful learning ahead of us! This year, we are focused on making sure all students feel a sense of belonging at Pioneer. Though our recent survey data shows that most students express a sense of connectedness, we feel there is room for improvement. Classroom instructional practices and school-wide community events will be thoughtfully planned to bolster our sense of community, as we know that when we feel that we belong we are more likely to succeed.

Fall conferences are rapidly approaching, and will take place Oct 23 - 27. These will be half days for students. "Grab and go" lunches will be served, and students are dismissed at 11:35 each day. Please be on the lookout for conference-related information from your child's teacher soon.

Take care,
Mr. Lang



Cub Counselor Corner

Welcome back Pioneer families!

I am Lisa Perry, the School Counselor. I am starting my 13th year at PES, and 9th year as the school counselor. I will be in the building typically Monday - Thursday doing such activities as classroom Social Emotional lessons, group therapy/support for students with a variety of needs (divorce, anxiety, self-regulation, friendship skills etc.), brief individual work with students in need and general support or a private person to talk with about friendships. I also support teachers/paraeducators and parents as needed. Please look for a flier that was sent home if you might be interested in having your student attend a group. I can't guarantee I will do them all but I will try my best. My office is considered confidential - unless a student expresses that they or someone else is getting or going to be hurt or they give me permission to share with others, I will hold their words in confidence. The best way to contact me is through my email lperry@osd.wednet.edu.

Also, here are some tips from the creator of Mindfulmazing to help curb that "After School Meltdown" that might occur as our kids adjust to returning to the school schedule.

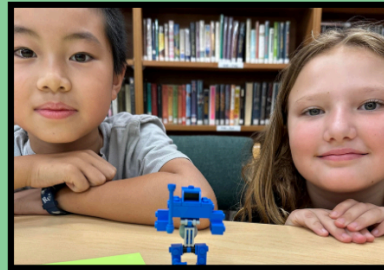
1. Create an awesome morning routine - include a healthy breakfast, keep it low stress and phrase your goodbye in a positive way - "I'll see you after school!" "Have a great day!" "We'll go to the park after I pick you up."
2. Send yourself with them to school - such as in the form of a note in their lunch box, a special picture to keep in their pencil box, or a note or object to touch for their pocket.
3. Don't talk or ask questions right when they get home. Keep it simple with a hug, smile and hello. Give them time to decompress.
4. Feed your child! A healthy snack helps a bunch.
5. Connection - assure them you are there with a smile, calm presence and quiet listening. Do something calm together like a puzzle or quiet game.
6. Quiet play - have a calm corner or a place they can quietly play for 10 minutes. Activities might be puzzles, coloring, small toy play, painting.
7. Get outside - go for a walk or a bike ride. Give them time to blow off steam.
8. Routines - consider creating an after school routine such as say hello, snack time, quiet play time, dinner, walk, homework, bath, reading etc.
9. Stay calm - if they are having a meltdown it is because they are exhausted and just navigated a day without your presence. Just sit with them and use encouraging words - "We've got this." "I know it's been a tough day, I'm here when you need me."

PIONEER LIBRARY

SEPT. 2023 NEWSLETTER

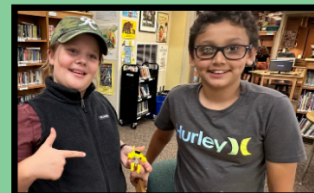
Kinders-2nd and DLC

As we read *The Creature of Habit*, we speculated about who that person or pet is in our own home. *Chester Van Chime Forgot How to rhyme*, had us rhyming & laughing.



4th and 5th graders!

Lots of excitement with our partnership with the Washington State Library STEM lego sets! We engineered some marvelous creations while following the directions independently.

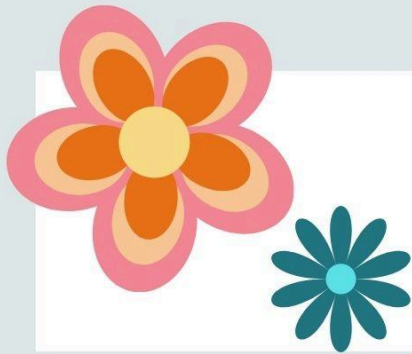


3rd grade

Story time, checkout and lots of stations to choose from: electric typewriter, talking globe, art, read with a friend, and puzzles.



What's Happening in Art



WELCOME TO THE ART ROOM



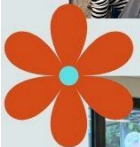
Mrs. Hougan and
Finney



Welcome to the Art Room! I am so excited to be teaching art this year at Pioneer. I will miss teaching with my awesome 2nd-grade team, but I can't wait to teach all of the students at Pioneer.

We started out the year celebrating International Dot Day on September 15th by filling up the walls in the art room with all kinds of dots. We read The Dot by Peter Reynolds and then experimented with all types of materials to make our dot. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." During week 2 we each designed a monochromatic self-portrait to add to the wall outside the art room. We found that looking in handheld mirrors helps us to see all of our unique features AND can catch the sunlight to make light dance on all of the walls. Fun times!

DONATIONS NEEDED: BROWN PAPER BAGS WITH HANDLES TO MAKE PORTFOLIOS. THANKS!



If you are interested in volunteering in the art room, please complete a volunteer application found on the PES website and contact me at khougan@osd.wednet.edu
Thank you.



What's Happening in Music

MUSIC NEWS



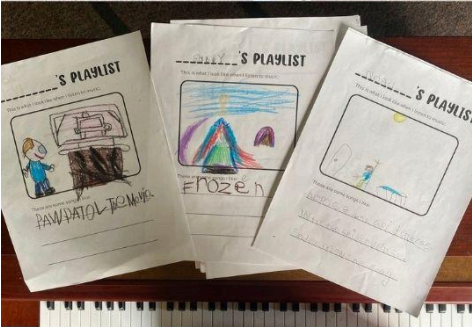
A note from your music teacher:



Hello Pioneer Families!

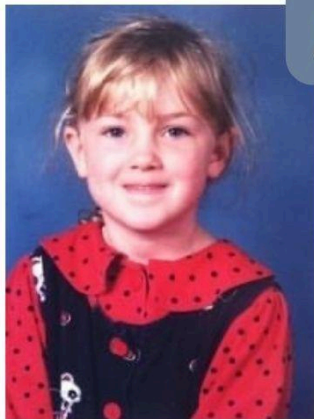
My name is Mary Sperline and I am the new music teacher at Pioneer! This is my seventh year in the Olympia School District as a music teacher. I am so excited to be at Pioneer this year because Pioneer was my elementary school from 1997-2002!! It has always been my dream to teach here. I can already tell it's going to be an awesome year working with your kids.

In September, we began a school-wide xylophone unit and are working on getting to know one another. One of my favorite ways to learn about my students is to have each child create a "personal playlist". I take a song or two from each of their playlists and create a Spotify playlist for the whole class. If you would like a link to listen to your child's class playlist, feel free to send an email with the name of your student's classroom teacher to msperline@osd.wednet.edu.



Can't wait to get to know all of you!

About Mrs. Sperline:



Mrs. Sperline in 1st Grade at Pioneer

Mrs. Sperline was born and raised in Olympia, attending Garfield Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, WMS, and OHS! She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Pacific Lutheran University and a Master of Science in Performance Science from the Royal College of Music, London. She lives with her husband (Chris), baby daughter (Tilly), dog (Dipper), and cats (Lyla and Jack). She loves to hike, bake, teach music, and spend time with her family!

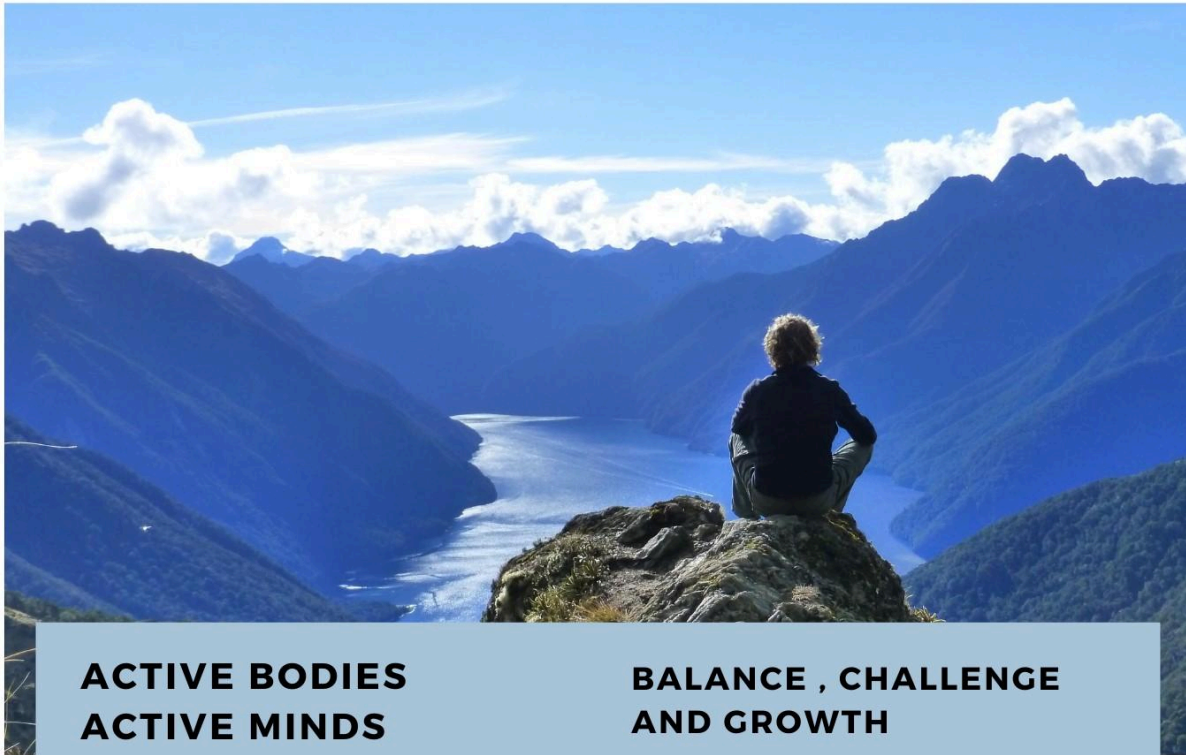


Mrs. Sperline and her baby!

What's Happening in Physical Education

PIONEER PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Learning through movement



ACTIVE BODIES ACTIVE MINDS

Welcome to another year of Pioneer Elementary Physical education. This is my 3rd year teaching at Pioneer and my 13th year of teaching PE. I greatly enjoy teaching Pioneer students, this is a wonderful award winning school with an incredible community. Pioneer students are very enthusiastic about physical activity and we strongly believe that translates to strong student outcomes in academics and community, - Mr. Stewart

BALANCE , CHALLENGE AND GROWTH

We have started the school year learning some basic playground games and striking skills. We since moved onto balance and foot skills. Ask your child about performing soccer activities while balancing something on their head. At first many students expressed this activity to be very difficult, however through practice and discussion we have learned that growth and learning often takes challenge.

Helpful Tips and News

- Help us keep our lost and found to a minimum by writing your student's name in jackets and sweatshirts and lunchboxes.
- Please send your student to school in weather appropriate clothing as we do enjoy recess outside regardless of weather conditions.
- You still have time to order your student's school photo using [Clintworth Photography Online Order Form](#).
- We have specific areas to meet your student at the end of the day depending on whether you drive up or walk up for pick up. If you do drive thru pick up we ask you to stay in your vehicle at all times. If you park and walk up, please park in designated areas only. Please review our [Dismissal Video](#) for a refresher of our procedures.
- Conference week is coming soon at the end of October. Be on the lookout for a communication from your student's teacher for scheduling your conference.
- The Panorama Fall Survey is now open. Watch for an email to families from the district which will contain the survey link. For more information about the Panorama Survey click here. [OSD Panorama Survey Information](#)
- Pioneer kids are invited to participate in OHS Athletic Youth Nights at Olympia High School. Kids are invited to wear their school spirit wear and are able to get in free to OHS games on the Youth Nights. During intermission kids are invited to the field/court to play. Youth Nights are the following dates: Soccer - September 28 @ 7 PM, Football - October 6 @ 7 PM, and Volleyball - October 10 @ 7 PM.
- Watch for information about Pioneer's Dia De Los Muertos celebration to come home in late October. Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Latin American custom mostly celebrated in Mexico on November 1 and 2. During Día de los Muertos, family and friends gather to remember and celebrate loved ones who have died. Pioneer will celebrate by having an ofrenda and we invite families to decorate it with pictures of their loved ones who have died.
- We are collecting pictures for our Pioneer Veteran's Day tribute. Please send in pictures of your Veterans, before Friday November 3rd, using the link [Submit Veteran Information Here](#). If you need assistance please contact Ms. Kristi at krutledge@osd.wednet.edu.

Upcoming Dates

- **September 29** - School Picture Day
- **September 30** - PTA Spirit Wear Orders Due
- **October 11** - PTA Walk-N-Roll
- **October 13** - No School - Teacher In Service Day
- **October 19** - PTA Board Meeting at 6:00 PM
- **October 20** - PTA Movie Night at 5:30 PM
- **October 23 - 27** - Conference Week school dismisses at 11:35 AM
- **October 23 - 27** - PTA Scholastic Book Fair

Pioneer Bear Cubs - You Belong Here!