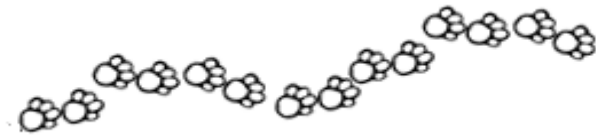


# MARCH 2017



## PIONEER PAW PRINTS



### PIONEER SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE POSITIONS OPEN

There will be one 3 year term on the Pioneer School Board. There is also one 1 year term and one 2 year term open. You may pick up a nomination petition in the school Office. You must reside and be registered to vote in Pioneer School District to run for the School Board. Nomination petitions must be turned in by March 23 by 5:00 pm. The election will be held May 2nd. School Board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 pm – the public is always welcome.

### Upcoming Events

March 8 & 22  
HOT LUNCHES

March 10  
REEF Family Night 4:00-9:00 pm

March 17  
Jump Rope for Heart

March 23  
Science Fair/Dessert Social

April 7  
CARNIVAL

April 11  
Kindergarten Roundup 3:30-4:30

April 13 – 17  
No School - Easter break

April 24 – 28  
Smarter Balance Testing for  
Grades 3 – 6

### KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

If you are the parent of a 2017-2018 Kindergarten Student, please mark your calendar for April 11th!

This is the day that we will be holding Kindergarten Roundup!

Please plan to visit the classroom from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

If you know someone in our district that has a Kindergarten student for next year, please have them contact Mrs. Michael.

As always, we will also accept out of district students if room is available.

Out of district students must complete the application process.

Please call Mrs. Michael for more information.

### CARNIVAL

Pioneer School Carnival will be held Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

There will be food, games & lots of raffles.

Each classroom will be putting together a basket that will be in the raffle.

The themes of the baskets are:

**Kindergarten** – Family Fun

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** – Art

**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grades** – Gardening Basket

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades** – Baking/Cooking

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Movie Night

We are asking all families to help fill these baskets with great items!

Thank you for your support!!

Also if you know of a business that might donate, please contact the school.

## **Kindergarten - Mrs. Burns**

Kindergarten Happenings:

### **Reading:**

Understanding the excitement they feel when they are big enough to try new things –

- Verbs
- Letters Bb and Nn
- Compare and contrast

Understanding that an adventure doesn't need to happen far away from home and can teach what is really important –

- Letter Hh
- Naming parts of sentences

Understanding that a lucky adventure may bring exciting experiences and introduce us to exciting new people –

- Letter Ll
- Action parts of sentences
- Compare and contrast
- Cause and effect

Understanding that animals are curious, like adventures, and try new things –

- Consonants blends
- Sequence

### **Math:**

- Stories about separating
- Stories about take away
- Stories about comparing
- Using the minus sign
- Finding differences



### **Science:**

- Ground hogs
- Snow
- Sink or float



### **Social Studies:**

- U.S symbols – Bald eagle and Statue of Liberty
- Rosa Parks

A big thank you to Mrs. Russell, Kevin Maddox and Mr. Seavy and Pioneer PTA for holding the annual Pancake Breakfast!

**Mrs. Burns**

**First Grade – Miss Gordon**

Hello everyone!

Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Black History Month projects have kept us very busy in first grade. Despite all the festivities, our kiddos have done a great job of working hard and being very respectful learners. We can't wait to see what kind of mischief the leprechauns bring to our classroom this month!

March also brings the birthday of a well-known author and illustrator, Theodor Geisel. In honor of his work, the first graders made guesses as to who this famous person might be.

"I think Theodor Geisel is..."

Holden- someone who was in the war against the king, the one so we could have presidents.

Camdon- I think he was a good president. But I'm not sure what number he was.

Paxton- Dr. Seuss because Miss Gordon told us about Dr. Seuss.

Piper- an army guy who is still alive today.

Jared- Dr. Seuss because Miss Gordon told us about all those books, like the Lorax.

Carson- Miss Gordon's dog because Theodor is a good dog name.

Elijah- Dr. Seuss because Miss Gordon asked us about his books this morning.

Chevelle- Dr. Seuss because he wrote a lot of books.

Colton - an illustrator.

Ayden- Dr. Seuss, the famous guy who writes books.

Jacob- someone who died in a battle.

Sarah- Dr. Seuss because Miss Gordon talked about The Lorax.

...apparently I shouldn't have given such good hints! It IS Dr. Seuss!! His full name is Theodor Seuss Geisel. He adopted the pen name "Dr. Seuss" in college. Our class can't wait to celebrate his birthday on the 2nd, learn more about his life, and read some of his books this month.



As a last reminder, please continue to send your fabulous first grader with their warm layers. The weather is getting nicer, but the wind can be fierce and make recess pretty chilly! Have a great March!

## Miss Gordon

### 10 Ways To Help Your Child Do Well In School

1. Show you care. Your child needs hugs and words of support. Ask your child about school each day.
2. Read, read, read. Read with your child or have him or her read every day. Make it fun – talk about what you've read.
3. Make home a place for learning. Help your child practice reading, writing, math and science skills. Stimulate your child's creativity.
4. Promote healthy habits. Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and exercise and eats balanced meals. Schedule regular checkups.
5. Be a role model. Your child learns from you. Be positive about education and show you enjoy learning.
6. Encourage independence. Allow your child to make mistakes and learn to accept their consequences. Give your child responsibilities, such as household chores.
7. Create a study routine. Set a time and quiet place for your child to work every day. Go over homework together.
8. Get involved. Meet with your child's teacher, attend school events and help out at school if you can.
9. Build success. Help raise your child's self-esteem by setting reachable goals and praising your child's efforts, not just results.
10. Make school important.



Mrs. Fanus - 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

March 2nd is Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our class will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and our love for reading. We are also working on opinion writing. To link both topics, each student would like to share their favorite book.

My favorite book that I have recently read is...

Carson- Calvin and Hobbes: Weirdos From Another Planet

Wesely- The Berenstain Bears

Kara- Judy Moody M.D. The Doctor Is In!

Kylan- Magic Treehouse: Afternoon of the Amazon

Jacoby- Calvin and Hobbes

Izak- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

Jozie- Koala Hospital

Dylan- Baby Kangaroos

Rylee- The Book of Narnia

Tanner- Big Nate

Audie- Magic Treehouse: Dingoes at Dinnertime

Roni- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone



**This month's focuses:**

**Math:** (second grade) Starting a unit on place value to 1,000 where we will work on building, showing, and writing numbers to 1,000 as well as skip counting by 5, 10, and 100 to 1,000.

**Reading:** Selecting different genre of stories as well as finding evidence to support reasoning when answering questions about the text.

**Writing:** Working on a variety of narrative, informative, and opinion writings.

**Reminder:**

Book It: March is the last month for the Book It Program. Please return your log sheet at the end of the month with the goal sheets to earn a Pizza Hut free pizza coupon.

Mrs. Fanus :) )



## MATH

In math, the fourth grade has been busy working with fractions. We are soaring through adding and subtracting fractions and will soon be learning to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. If you are assisting your child at home with math homework, please remind them to simplify.

## READING

We have just finished reading The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Students have also finished their reading group books and have begun a new book, picked by their group. Students are learning how to speak critically about the text in their small groups.

## SCIENCE

With the science fair just around the corner, our class is conducting an experiment. Using the scientific method, we are answering the question: "Which soil will germinate the tallest sprout?" Students in fourth and fifth grade will all complete a science fair project. They are encouraged to enter the science fair, but it is not required.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Our class is wrapping up our unit on the Midwest states. Students have explored the states, landforms, culture, and industries. We also had a visit from the Yellowstone County Weed District to teach us about invasive species and noxious weeds.

## ART

After finishing The Chronicles of Narnia, students created shields. Students enjoyed Turkish delight and tea and created their own coat of arms to protect themselves. We have also been incorporating American Indian storytelling into our art. Students created watercolor masterpieces depicting the story of "The Seven Brothers."



Miss Ticknor



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Perfect Attendance

### Kindergarten

Camden Kelly  
Ryder Sott

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Carson Kelly  
Camdon Olmstead  
Chevelle Goddard

### 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

Dylan Krieger

### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Ryan Comstock  
Brylenn Olstad  
Jordan Berg

## 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Perfect Attendance

### Kindergarten

Ryder Sott

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Carson Kelly

### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Brylenn Olstad



Congratulations to all these kids for avoiding all of the bugs that have been going around!!

Mrs. Russell – Library/Resource/Title I



March brings breezes loud and shrill, □Stirs the dancing daffodil. □

~Sara Coleridge (1802–1852),

March is here with whispered promises of spring soon to be followed by the glory days of summer! Yay! This year seems to be picking up speed as we race for the finish line in May. Our days are full and our hearts are becoming lighter with the approach of spring! I am anticipating more mountain road trips, the smell of campfires, and the cool mountain breezes this summer.

We've had two big events this past month, our spring Barnes & Noble Book Fair and the Annual Pancake Breakfast! They were both very well attended and a great success!

We raffled off a Samsung Nook Tablet and 3 Ozobot kits at the Book Fair. Madyson S won the Nook Tablet, while Ayden D, Elijah B, and Colton Z won the Ozobot kits. What a great raffle!

Ms. Gordon, Ms. Ticknor and their classes presented cool Ozobot demonstrations, which had an entire herd, 'the nerd herd' in attendance; but then the Lego Creation Station kicked into gear and the herd shifted. There were some absolutely fabulous creations from our students! I loved seeing samples of their ingenuity and imagination! Wonderful!

The Pioneer PTA provided Barnes & Noble gift cards and giant candy bars for prizes! It was awesome!

The Pancake Breakfast was another standing room only event with the entire Pioneer community turning out to support this event. The weather may have been cold and wet but inside was warm and cozy with smiles for miles! Thank you Mr. Seavy and Mr. Maddox for your continued help in putting on this event. They flipped hundreds of pancakes while Abby M and Kelcey F served orange juice, milk and smiles! Thank you also, to Mrs. Wehrman for her help cleaning up afterwards. This is our 15th year and it is truly a school favorite. Thank you to the PTA for purchasing the necessary ingredients and supplies!

As always, read daily with your students, it is truly the 'GIFT OF A LIFETIME' that you will be sharing with your children!

**Mrs. Russell**



## **PTA NEWS!!**

Hello. Greetings from the PTA. Thank you to all who attended our recent events including the Barnes and Noble Book Fair back on February 13th and the annual Pancake Breakfast on the 24th. Both of these are great ways to bring our community together in support of our students. Pioneer's annual Science Fair will be held in conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair this year in Pioneer's Old Building on March 23rd. The Science Fair will take place upstairs in the multi-purpose room while the book fair will be held downstairs in the lunchroom. We encourage all family members to come out and see what those young minds have been up to and maybe pick up a book at the same time. Refreshments will be served in the lunchroom as well.

Also coming up is our Reef Fundraiser on March 10th. This is a great opportunity to bring the family out for some fun at the water park while simultaneously supporting Pioneer. It will be held from 4:00 – 9:00 at the REEF at the Bighorn Resort, 1801 Majestic Lane. Cost will be \$10 for swimmers and \$5.00 for non-swimmers. 40% of the proceeds come back to Pioneer PTA!

Our next meeting is on March 2nd at 6:00pm in the 4th/5th Grade classroom in the main building. Those unable to attend physically can contact Skelly Adkins([skellyadkins@gmail.com](mailto:skellyadkins@gmail.com)) to access the interactive livestream to attend digitally or to obtain a digital copy of the meeting agenda/notes. With the departure of Mr. Wallace, PTA is also seeking a new Vice President. Anyone interested can contact our current President, Jody Goddard at ([jodygoddard1963@gmail.com](mailto:jodygoddard1963@gmail.com)) Thank you for your continued support of Pioneer's learning community. We look forward to more collaboration between parents, students and staff in the future.

**Ike Wallace (PTA VP)**







### **Mr. Wallace – 3<sup>rd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math/PE/GT**

Hello. Here we are in March. I know I say this every time, but I really can't believe we're into this month already. Time sure does fly.. Especially when you have an end set in your sights.

I'm sure you've heard this from your children already, and I apologize for this news coming somewhat belated from my end. I needed to let the other members of this learning community know accordingly. The board found out first, then teachers, students were next in my book and last (certainly not least) are the parents. Once again, I apologize that you're the last to know.

I'll be leaving Pioneer and Billings at the end of March, as I have accepted a position working for Ecology Project International, a non-profit organization based in Missoula that offers Adventure Education courses for Middle and High School students in various program locations around the world. While I was originally asked to begin in January, fortunately, I was able to compromise and will be starting with this organization in April. Working at Pioneer has been an incredible learning experience for me as an educator and I appreciate the opportunity to develop my skills and impact the lives of our amazing students, families, teachers and staff that encompass our learning community. It has been a privilege working with these students in the capacity that I have and I hope that they have learned even a fraction from working with me of what I have learned from teaching them. Thank you all for welcoming me into your community.

Speaking of teaching and learning, 6th grade wrapped up talking integers a couple weeks ago. This worked out well as integers consist of negative and positive counting numbers, and the weather outside switched from negative to positive, sometimes in the same day. It made for a math lesson that truly went beyond the walls of our classroom. We're currently learning about properties of two-dimensional figures. 3rd Grade has also been talking Geometry. I'm a square, according to my math students. But I think they're only viewing me from one angle.

Alright, enough math jokes. This weather is continuing to fool around from hot to cold to hot again. Please send your students to school dressed accordingly. P.E. classes will hopefully be outside more often than not. We're covering Baseball as a reintroduction to team sport skills. Major leagues start again in less than a month. If you've been following my posts in the newsletter, you might be able to sense my excitement. Maybe this is our year.

Gifted and Talented is gearing up for the Science Fair, taking place in the third week of March. We're beginning to put together our projects, so be on the lookout for more information as we progress into the month.

One last thing, March 17th, coincidentally my last day at Pioneer is also the date of our Jump Rope for Heart event. This wonderful tradition has been a special fundraiser at Pioneer for years and we look forward to raising more money for the American Heart Association this year and having a blast doing it. Students should know everything they need to by now as far as fundraising is concerned. If you have any questions, shoot them my way. Parents are very welcome to come watch/participate in the activities. The festivities will start at 1pm.

That's it for now. I'll allow my successor Jennifer Painter to make her own introductions. I ask that you welcome her with warmth, as you did for me, and I'm sure she'll fall in love with Pioneer much as I did. Thanks again for everything.

Yours Truly,  
**Mr. Wallace**



## Dear Parent/Guardian:

### 7 Kitchen Staples for Healthy Snacks and Meals

If you have children, you've heard it before: "There's nothing to eat in this house!" Sure, you can do your part by buying lots of healthy foods. But your child can get involved too, by helping to prepare some of those foods. Why? "When kids learn cooking skills at home, they'll be less likely to eat unhealthy fast food or unbalanced meals when they become responsible for their own food choices after they leave home," says Academy spokesperson Sonya Angelone, MS, RDN, CLT.

To help your child get cooking, stock your kitchen with these easy-to-prepare staples.



**Popcorn:** What child doesn't crave crunchy snacks? Skip the chips and pretzels and invest in a popcorn popper. Popcorn is a whole grain, plus it's loaded with fiber for a healthy digestive system. Three air-popped cups deliver nearly four grams of fiber.

**Canned Beans:** "When it comes to making a quick meal, it doesn't get much easier than canned beans," says Angelone. "Just rinse, drain and heat!" They're perfect for burritos, mashed on a tortilla, or added to canned soup for extra protein.

**Nut Butters:** Even if teens have no clue how to cook, that doesn't mean they can't whip up a simple meal or snack. Nut and seed butters — such as peanut, almond or sunflower butter — all are perfect no-fuss foods for the novice cook. They're a cinch to spread on French toast with sliced bananas or make a tasty dip for apples, celery or bell pepper strips.



**Eggs:** Whether fried, scrambled or hard-boiled, eggs are an ideal food. With a prep and cook time of less than five minutes, eggs are an easy addition to any meal. They are a great source of protein, vitamin D, vitamin B 12, choline, and phosphorus — all essential nutrients.

**Prepped Vegetables:** It doesn't matter whether they're fresh, frozen or canned, the more pre-prepped vegetables you have on hand; the more likely your teen will eat them. Think pre-cut baby carrots and grape tomatoes for snacks, frozen edamame and peas to add to pasta and diced tomatoes for chili.

**Grains:** Busy families don't have a lot of time to spend in the kitchen, but that doesn't mean dinner has to be a sandwich. Quick-cooking whole grains such as quinoa, instant brown rice and whole-wheat couscous take less than 15 minutes from start to finish. For a speedy meal, kids can toss cooked whole grains with microwaved frozen vegetables and season them with reduced-sodium soy sauce.

**Lean Protein:** When you teach kids basic cooking techniques you'll be amazed by how quickly they catch on. Start by showing them how to grill, bake or broil marinated chicken, fish or beef. Or, demonstrate how to sauté ground chicken or turkey to add to spaghetti sauce, chili or tacos.

**Before you know it, your child will be telling *you* what's for dinner.**

Riley, MSU senior nursing student, will be assisting me with nutrition education in the classrooms in the month of March.

**Karen Graf MSN, RN-BC, APHN**  
**Pioneer School Nurse**







# SCHOOL NEWS!!



## REEF FAMILY NIGHT

PTA will be hosting a family night at the REEF water park on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 9:00 pm.

Please plan to join us for a fun evening! The cost will be \$10 for swimmers and \$5 for non-swimmers to hang out. 40% of the proceeds will go to Pioneer's PTA.

The REEF is at the Bighorn Resort, 1801 Majestic Lane.



## Science Fair/Dessert Social/Book Fair

Our Annual Science Fair will be held Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Entry forms will be going home soon. All 6<sup>th</sup> Graders are required to enter. In conjunction with the Science Fair, PTA will hold a Scholastic Book Fair and refreshments will also be served.

Both of these will be held in the lunchroom.



## PIONEER SCHOOL COOKBOOKS!

Are you looking for a great original gift? The Pioneer School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks are still available!!

The price is \$15.00

They are available in the school office, or send the money with your student and we will send your cookbook home with them.

(For our out of town friends – please add \$3.00 for shipping.)



## INDIVIDUAL PICTURE INFO

Spring individual portraits were taken Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

These were sent home with students on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Please look the pictures over and make your selection as soon as possible. If you are not going purchase any of the pictures, please return them to the school right away. Prices will be in the packets, you may purchase as many of the sheets in the packets as you would like.

Please make your choice and return the money and any pictures you are not purchasing as soon as possible.

Please contact Mrs. Michael if you have any questions.



## BOX TOPS & CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS!!

Please remember to collect Box Tops & Campbell's Soup labels throughout the school year!

We appreciate all of your help in turning these in to get extra money and supplies for our school!

Thank you!!