



Home of the Eagles

PIONEER SCHOOL DISTRICT

112 E. Spencer Lake Road Shelton, WA 98584

360-426-9115 | www.psd402.org

School Board: Rebecca Bechtolt | Robert Clark | Rick Lee | Ellory Rowe | Dr. Susan Day

February 2024 Superintendent Message

I want to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and hope that 2024 is off to a great start for you and your families. Whether you have children in our schools or you live in our community, each year brings a renewed hope that this year will be better than the last.

The Pioneer School District is committed to continuous growth and improvement in everything we do. Our focus continues to be finding ways to reach each and every student so that they can experience academic growth and success. This is and has been our commitment to our community. We continue to set goals, look for innovative methods of delivering our standards-based curriculum, and provide our staff with the support they need to be successful when working with our students. Each new year brings hope for a brighter and better future for the students and families we serve.

I want to thank all of you for your patience during our recent weather events. Winter is always a difficult time when the weather changes and we are faced with making decisions about whether to delay or cancel school. When making the decision, we look at different areas of our district where our students live and our buses travel. Different staff are contacted who live in those areas to report road conditions. We also look at weather forecasts by the hour to see what might be happening during the remainder of the day. Our number one priority is the safety of our students and our staff. We never want to put our students or staff in danger due to travel conditions, both with our buses and with our parents/guardians and staff who have to drive in this weather. Whenever possible, we will work to delay school a couple of hours so at least our bus drivers can drive when it is light. If roads become impassable, we then will make the decision to close schools for the day and make up that day(s) at the end of the year. We also try to make the decision early enough in the morning to allow our families to make decisions

on what to do when their children are not in school. Again, our top priority is the safety of our students, staff, and families.

The Legislature is now in session for their 60-day "short" session. There are a number of bills that have been introduced pertaining to education. Our Superintendents in ESD 113 meet weekly to get updates from our legislative lobbyist, who represents the 44 schools that comprise our ESD. We get up-to-the minute progress on bills and discuss what impact they may have on our school districts. As a group of educational leaders, we continue to support fully funding special education, increasing transportation allocations to cover the true cost of transporting students to and from school, and providing continuing professional development for all staff who work with our students. The session is scheduled to end in March, so it will be interesting to see what bills pass that may impact our work in our schools.

Last year, we adopted a new reading curriculum for grades K-5, with training and implementation this current school year. This year, we have a committee looking at our math curriculum for grades K-8. The committee is currently reviewing these options and will make a recommendation to the Board for adoption for next school year. We will make every effort to have parental input once the recommendation has been made and invite anyone who wants to review the math curriculum a chance to come in and take a look.

As we continue to look for ways to improve our school district, I am always looking for community and parental input on programs that benefit our students. If you have ideas, please feel free to visit with me to share your thoughts. My door is always open and welcome ideas from all stakeholders.



Jeff Davis
Superintendent

Teacher Feature

Brenda Roth



Mrs. Roth has been teaching at Pioneer Middle School for seven years. Prior to coming to the Eagle Family, she taught middle school science and computer science in Las Vegas. She has also taught in Montana and Wyoming. While

teaching in Vegas, Mrs. Roth also served on numerous academic and leadership committees in her school district, as well as heading the technology committee and coordinating the Science Fair.

When asked what brought her to Pioneer, she stated that she promised she would get her husband to a place with “trees and water”. After living in Montana, her husband hated the desert, so the move was made to the Northwest. Pioneer was the first interview Mrs. Roth was given, and she accepted the position.

Mrs. Roth graduated with High Honors in 2005 from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, earning a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Secondary Education. Ten years later, Mrs. Roth graduated from UNLV again, this time earning her Master’s Degree in Curriculum & Instruction with an emphasis in Educational Technology.

Mrs. Roth became a teacher so she could provide students with opportunities she did not experience when she was in school. These opportunities included “consistent encouragement, individual consideration, and a safe place to be yourself, make mistakes and grow into your authentic self!”

When asked who influenced her to become an educator, Mrs. Roth replied, “A

conversation about school experiences I was having with my college advisor was overheard by a passing professor, who happened to be a former high school principal. I was rethinking my major when he popped his head through the door and suggested a career in education. He said, “with your school experiences...think of the positive impact you could have on thousands of kids just like you...” The next day, after some deep talks and careful consideration, I officially applied to become part of the UNLV’s College of Education and never looked back!”

Mrs. Roth’s favorite sports are playing pickleball and watching figure skating. Her favorite team is the Las Vegas Raiders, with the Seahawks a close second. When asked what she thought a colleague might say about her, she replied, “I would likely be described as energetic, loud, opinionated and competitive”.

Her favorite activity when not educating students is to be at home with her family, relishing her morning yoga workouts and listening to music. When the weather is cooperating, you can find her in the mountains or at the beach with her husband and her dog, Finlay.

Mrs. Roth’s dream vacation would be exploring the history, and gothic architecture of England as well as other royal locations prominent during both King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I reign. Her “perfect day” would include exploring Hampton Court in England with her family and staying at an authentic historical 15th century castle.

When asked what her favorite food is, Mrs. Roth said wild salmon with glazed brussels sprouts. She is also a big fan of lobster and the occasional dark chocolate or salted caramel. Her favorite movies as a kid were Splash and Grease 2. As a teenager it was Heathers and Pump Up the Volume, as a parent all the Twilight Movies, with her all-time favorite movie as Titanic.

Her favorite quote is from Carl Sagan: “We

are made of star stuff”. Her best attribute is Authenticity!

Mrs. Roth’s advice to parents/guardians is: “Middle School is a period of tremendous emotional and academic growth for students. With everything in and around them changing, continuing to have consistent routines at home will provide both security and a healthy foundation for their future. Focusing on good sleep, hygiene, eating whole unprocessed foods whenever possible and limiting screen time during the week are all excellent ways to support your middle school student so they are physically and mentally ready to learn when they arrive”.

Pioneer School District and Pioneer Middle School are both fortunate to have such a dedicated, loyal, and committed educator as Mrs. Roth working with our students.

Classified Staff Feature

Darla Hylton

Mrs. Hylton has been employed by the Pioneer School District for over 30 years. Before coming to Pioneer, she was a stay at home mom. She did some volunteering in her children’s classrooms. Mrs. Hylton and her husband also were foster parents for about 12 years.



Currently, Mrs. Hylton works in the middle school Options program, supporting students who need additional support

in the classroom and the school. What she likes best about working at Pioneer is that she loves working with the students. She likes helping them when they need it. Mrs. Hylton also mentioned that she enjoys working with co-workers. She feels like she has the best job ever!

Mrs. Hylton’s favorite color is purple because it was also her grandmother’s favorite color. Her favorite meal is the chicken strip basket at Dairy Queen, followed up with a hot fudge sundae.

When she is away from school, she enjoys camping at the beach. She and her husband enjoy riding the scooter on the beach during these trips. She also enjoys working in her garden. Mrs. Hylton also mentioned that her husband is a truck driver for Taylor Shellfish and she enjoys riding with him when she can on the weekends. Mrs. Hylton’s best part of the day is visiting with her husband when he gets home from work.

Her favorite movies are Christmas movies. She says she could watch them all year long. Of those movies, her favorite is National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation. She enjoys listening to rock and classic rock music. Mrs. Hylton says she enjoys going to concerts with her family.

Mrs. Hylton grew up in Agate. She went to Pioneer in grades K-6. Back then, Pioneer only served those grades. They were known then as the “Pioneer Spartans”. Her parents also attended Pioneer School. Mrs. Hylton’s children, nieces, nephews, cousins, and now her grandchildren all attend or did attend school at Pioneer. Quite the family legacy!

When asked if she could go anywhere in the world and where that might be, she responded, “I really don’t care as long as it is with my husband”. Pioneer Schools are fortunate to have such a caring, loyal, and committed staff member in Mrs. Darla Hylton. She is making a difference in the lives of our students!



SALMON IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- Sierra Mickael, 3rd Grade Teacher

Third grade chose to participate in the Salmon in the Schools program this year. This means that we are hosting salmon in a fish tank within our school, and we will be watching their growth from egg to adult. Near the end of March, we will travel to Kennedy Creek to release them into the natural habitat they belong in.

We started out with a field trip to Kennedy Creek in December to watch the spawning salmon. While we were there, we learned about their life cycle and habitat. We were able to view salmon and even dissect them at the end. On January 8th, we received our salmon eggs for our tank. It was very exciting to see them in egg form, but what was even more exciting was the fact that they were hatching as she was putting them in the tank! Now we have many alevin that have moved on from the egg stage of life. We will be closely observing them as they continue their life cycle until it is time to say goodbye in March.”



Pioneer School District Historic Orchard



In September, the grant request sent to Western Cascade Fruit Society was funded to start the project off. More funding sources are being explored to cover other costs.

In order to give our new trees, the best possible start in life, soil samples were taken from the orchard area, garden area, and a control area as samples to base any improvements on. The soil samples were taken to Thurston County Conservation District for analysis. The soil in the orchard turned out to be extremely acidic and lacking in some nutrients and needs to be amended. The project will improve the orchard's soil for two years with cover crops and other amendments to give the trees the best possible start.

The soil was tilled in October, and dolomite lime was added to the soil per the recommendations for the first year from the soil analysis and then the cover crops were seeded and have since emerged. We hope to till the cover crop in April and apply Crimson Clover for the summer. The cover crop seeds bought for the project are Austrian winter peas, cereal rye/vetch, coated crimson clover seed. There is a fine crop of rocks as well!



PIONEER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

- April Hansen, Pioneer Food Bank Coordinator

Pioneer Food Bank Celebrates 10 years of running as a Community Partnership to serve those in our Pioneer Community!

We are excited to be celebrating by strengthening our partnership with Pioneer Schools with our For the Love of the Children Project to be announced this February, called "COMMUNITY FEEDING PIONEER KIDS"!

This as we continue our focus to identify our "Treasured Elders" in need (they don't often hear our info and neighbors can help connect them to us - this is where all of you can help) to help offset food insecurity, usually do to their declining incomes from the loss of a spouse or buying power of their long lived fixed incomes.

Pioneer Food Bank dispenses food at 6pm on the last Tuesday of each month at Bridge Community Church. You are invited to join the community partnership to help us succeed in meeting the communities needs through these projects.

Please follow us on Facebook Pioneer Food Bank or web pioneerfoodbank.org to get our updates. If you, your business, club or organization would like to help, please contact pioneerfoodbank@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger.



ELEMENTARY STEM UPDATE

- Heidi Hauge, Elementary STEM Teacher

The last few months have been very busy in Elementary STEM. Students have learned basic coding skills, including directional, binary, if-then, and coordinate coding. Kindergarten students have been using Code and Go Mice and the classroom kit to build mazes following a blueprint and then program their mice to go through the maze. This activity has presented many opportunities for students to work on their perseverance, communication, and collaboration skills as they have been working in teams of four to complete each design. 3rd - 5th grade students would like to thank Pickering Community Club for their generous donation! Our Ozobots have arrived and we will be starting color and block coding with them at the end of January.

While waiting for their robots to arrive, we have completed a virtual tour of Amazon Fulfillment Centers across the United States. Students were able to see coding in the software, hardware such as robots and sensors, and systems including people, hardware, and software in action as they witnessed the fulfillment process from the time customers pressed buy, to the time orders arrived at the delivery site. In addition, students were able to hear three different Amazon engineers explain what it is that they do in their jobs, and how the technology involved affects everyday life.

GO EAGLES!

In the coming weeks and months ahead, our STEM focus will change and become more garden-oriented. We will be starting seeds indoors in February to give away at our annual Plant GIG, garden pathways will be freshened with wood chips donated by Brady Trucking, and square-foot beds will be redesigned and cleaned out for planting in March. If you would like to volunteer in the garden with or without students, or in any capacity (building beds, providing supplies, transporting materials, etc.) we would love your help. Please contact Melissa Kerrigan at mkerrigan@psd402.org.



PIONEER EAGLES GARDEN

- Melissa Kerrigan, Paraeducator

I cannot overstate the importance of the support of our community in our STEM program. With your partnership, we can provide authentic learning opportunities for our students. Thank you to everyone who has donated materials, time, and funds for our program. You are very appreciated!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

- Joel Williams, Director of Technology

Pioneer staff and students recently updated and upgraded our Google Workspace account security settings. Students are now expected to maintain a complex password/passphrase while staff are required to use 2-factor authentication. The younger students are using a fantastic system offered by Clever, our school single-sign-on, that allows them to log in using a QR code. This keeps our passwords complex but takes away the frustration of trying to log in when students are just learning to read and write. We will continue to evolve the system and train students and staff on how to stay safe while using technology.

The Eagles Garden is doing a lot of background work and connecting with our community supporters as we gear up for another thriving garden season with our students. We are so thankful that we have such a wonderful opportunity for our kids to engage with nature and extend their learning outside of the classroom. We rely on community supporters for a lot and could not accomplish everything without them. We are so thankful for our most recent donations from community partners such as Brady Trucking and Sierra Pacific Industries who have both donated wood chips along with Creation Organics and BCP who have both donated composts.

We are looking for individuals and organizations that would like to volunteer in our garden, either helping support student learning, general garden care, or being able to help deliver supplies to our garden from local businesses. If you would like to be part of our garden program this year, please email me at mkerrigan@psd402.org Thank you for your continued support of our Pioneer Garden. Check out our school website (www.psd402.org) for garden videos.

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL ASB/LEADERSHIP

- *Megan Thurston, ELA and ASB Advisor*

Greetings, earthlings! The Middle School ASB/Leadership class has several exciting projects for February. First, we have our Pennies for Patients fundraiser. This long-standing tradition is a penny fundraiser that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In addition to collecting change and currency during the day and drop-off/pick-up, we will have a school dance on February 23 from 3:30-5:30 pm. The proceeds are part of the fundraiser. We also will help run the Family Literacy Night.

In the world of 8th ELA classes, we started January with a research project about students' favorite musicians. After researching their musician/band, students write a business letter, create a slideshow, and share with their classmates why their choices are in the Hall of Fame or should be in the Hall of Fame. Students work on reading stamina as well with purposeful reading each week while focusing on a skill. Currently, the skill we practice is finding key details in their fiction or nonfiction choices.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NURSING TEAM

- *Courtney Summers, Health Room Assistant*

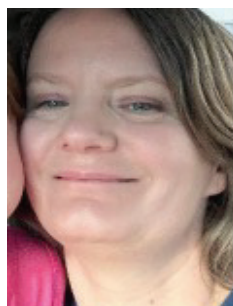
Through bumps and bruises, fevers and coughs, and the many other things that may pop up from time to time - we have a dedicated team who believe in continuity of care and continuous learning and improvement. There are many duties that are handled by our nursing team, such as writing care plans and coordinating with other school staff, as well as ensuring they are educated on

the many life-threatening situations that can occur with some of our students. The Health Room communicates with other healthcare professionals to ensure quality care is provided and finding resources for parents regarding healthcare and immunizations. They also handle the vision and hearing screening for our students to catch any problems that may interfere with their learning.

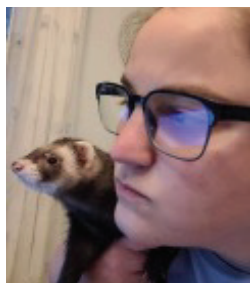


Drew Hrcir, BSN is our District Nurse. Drew received her degree from the Oklahoma City School of Nursing. She previously worked in a NICU at Hillcrest Hospital for over three years.

She is on site four days a week rotating between the elementary and the middle school. In her off time, she enjoys volleyball, crocheting, and hiking. A fun fact about Drew is that she has ten nieces and nephews!



Andee Finch graduated from Grays Harbor College and this is her sixth year enjoying school nursing. She says she just fell in love with it and it shows in her kindness and compassion. She is our ESD nurse who is with us on site on Fridays and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. In her off time Andee enjoys spending time with her kids and pot belly pig, and takes a line dancing class.

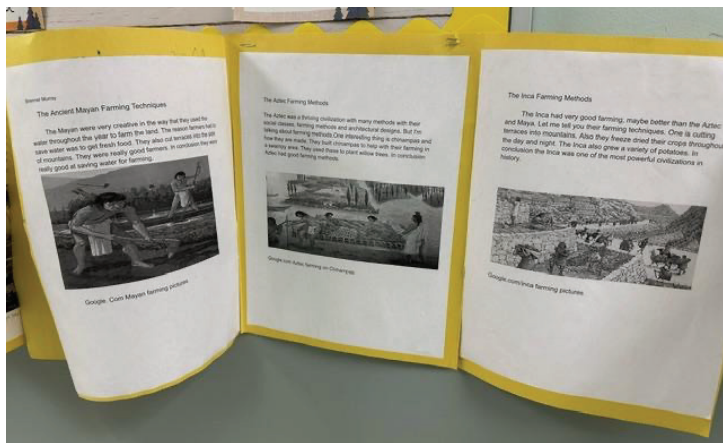


Courtney Summers is nearly finished in pursuit of her Bachelor of Science through WSU. Courtney is on site five days a week, rotating between the elementary and middle school. Her experience includes ten years of skilled nursing and direct support for human services. In her off time, you can find her doing homework, rockhounding, or spending time with her family.

5TH GRADE WRITING PROJECT

- *Irving Smith, Elementary 5th Grade Teacher*

Shout out to Pioneer Elementary 5th grade students! They recently completed their Codex Writing Project about the Ancient Mayan, Aztec and Inca Civilizations. The students are using the new CKLA (Core, Knowledge, Language Arts) curriculum which supports reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and listening skills in the classroom. In Unit 2, students learned about these Early American Civilizations. The term "CODEX" refers to the Mayan codices or folding books written by the Maya in hieroglyphic script on bark paper. Students were given a choice of researching and writing an informative paragraph about a cultural aspect of each civilization including architecture, social class, farming and more! All four 5th grade classes did a fantastic job!



ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- *Kevin Kelley, Elementary PE Teacher*



The Elementary Pioneer Eagles are so thankful for our new Elementary PE equipment that has allowed us to do so much more. Check out Mrs. Farrell's class playing Scooter Tag!

K-2 Pioneer Eagles have focused heavily on balancing, rock wall climbing, hula hoop and jump rope skills. In the upcoming weeks, we will be focusing on throwing and catching activities. We usually conclude with a brief tag game.

In the past few weeks, the 3rd-5th grade Elementary Physical Education classes have been working on skills for hockey and soccer while progressing to games with 4 vs 4. In the upcoming months, we will be working on badminton and volleyball skills for 3rd-5th grade.

Above is a photo of one of our fourth-grade students using the newly purchased peg board to help build upper body strength.

Food Service Program 2023-2024 School Year

**Breakfast and Lunch Free to
all Students**

Pioneer School District is participating in the federal program Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). In a CEP school, all students receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, regardless of family income.

Milk is available to students who bring a lunch from home

GO EAGLES!

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL 8th GRADE US HISTORY CLASS

- *Kimberlee Tallman, 8th Grade History Teacher*

Mrs. Tallman's 8th-grade US History class would like to send you a warm hello during these cold winter days! Middle school students are now six weeks into Trimester 2, and our 8th-grade history class just completed a summative assessment on the original Thirteen Colonies. For the next few weeks, 8th-grade History students will be learning about the American Revolution. This formidable war led to the creation of our great nation and is a crucial step in understanding the founding of American ideals and the United States Constitution. This unit synchronizes with our goal of high standards for learning and responsible citizenship.

Although it is not uncommon for students to run short on pencils by this time, I keep the class stocked with a fresh supply. If you walked into our History class you would commonly see students using interactive online maps, analyzing text through document-based questions, and practicing historical vocabulary. Pioneer Middle School provides each student with a personal Chromebook, which has been an incredible technological resource for student learning.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the following 8th-grade students for showing exemplary study habits and receiving 99%+ on the Thirteen Colonies Unit.

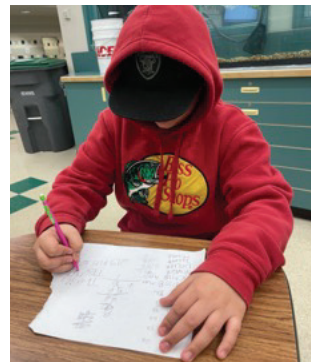
<i>Alyvia W.</i>	<i>Cody S.</i>	<i>Dylan R.</i>	<i>Cadence J.</i>
<i>Jacob S.</i>	<i>Rogelio M.</i>	<i>Lilly Tn.</i>	<i>Zyler H.</i>
<i>Jack A.</i>	<i>Maya M.</i>	<i>Matthew P.</i>	<i>Everett W.</i>
<i>Ashlei B.</i>	<i>Alexander B.</i>	<i>Olivia S.</i>	<i>Lillian K.</i>

GO EAGLES!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS & GROWTH AT PIONEER ELEMENTARY!

- *Donna Squires, Academic Achievement Specialist & students, Anna, David & Savhanna*

Students at Pioneer Elementary are doing an amazing job in school, and they're working hard to learn and improve every day. With the help of our wonderful teachers and support from families, students are figuring out what they're good at and what they need to work on. By identifying growth areas, students are setting and achieving goals in visible and meaningful ways.



4th grader, David shares, "It was hard to pronounce hard words in the beginning of the year. I started doing reading groups. We would find out vowels (some letters make different sounds and sometimes they say their name) and sound out letters to get the words right. I know I'm pretty good at reading and I need to get better at reading by sounding out bigger words. I can read more often to be a better reader. My teacher helps me and encourages me and we celebrate when we achieve our things (goals). I like doing the dance for that. My family helps me by telling me to read and reads with me. I'm working hard to achieve my goals. I know what I need to do now and like how many words I will read next month."

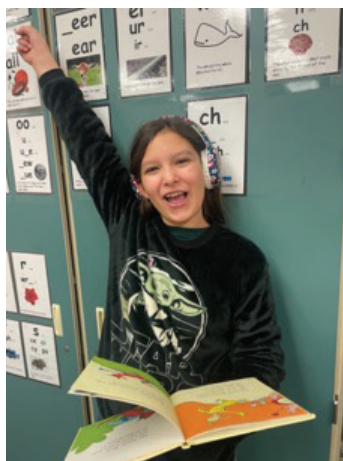
Students are actively participating in their learning and it shows! Overall, more students than ever are approaching and meeting benchmark reading goals this school year. Third, fourth, and fifth graders report they enjoy reading as a free time activity and appreciate access to a wide range of books in the school library.

5th grader, Anna says, "School is going well. I love it here! I have lots of friends I can help

and they help me too. We can help each other when we have problems. We can always talk things out. When it comes to learning, I'm a better reader now. Reading is really easy for me now. I learned things at school and practiced them at home. My family helps me too. I can see how I am getting better."

Students feel so much pride when they set a goal, create and execute a plan, and then see the results of their hard work. 4th grader Savhanna says it best, "I just keep smiling because I did it!" after working hard to make significant progress on goals she has set for herself.

At Pioneer Elementary, students are doing well in school and helping each other grow. They set goals, work hard, and celebrate when they achieve them. Students have improved their reading skills by getting support from their teachers and families and practicing at school and home. We're a community of learners, and together, we're making our school a great place to learn and grow!



PIONEER EAGLES SPORTS

**- Aaron Leth & Mike Moore,
Boys Middle School Basketball Coaches**

For the past three months, the Pioneer Eagles Boys Basketball team has been pounding the hardwood in Pioneer's gym. We had a total of 16 Varsity players and 16 JV players, ranging from 6th-8th grade. The Varsity team was coming off of a tough year last season and were looking to have a more successful season. Six of the players put in a lot of time over the summer playing with the Shelton High School's spring program.

Along with the six players we added, nine newcomers joined who were hard workers and helped out the program. The Eagles finished their season 5-3 with a big win over Cornerstone Christian School with a score of 40-17. Coach Leth and Moore would like to thank the guys for a great season and look forward to working with you this summer at the high school.



The Pioneer JV basketball team had only two returning 7th graders and 14 6th graders. The boys worked really hard all year and had multiple games that were decided by four or less points. The JV finished their season 4-4. The Girls season is starting on January 22 and will run through March 7th.



UKULELES & XYLOPHONES /METALLOPHONES IN 5TH AND 4TH GRADE MUSIC AT PIONEER ELEMENTARY

- Deanna Horn, Elementary Music Teacher

Students are gaining music reading skills and music creating skills by learning chord patterns and standard music notation in 5th and 4th grade music. A new set of mallets were purchased through the Mason County Retirees Association and a class set of ukuleles and books were purchased thanks to Music Aid Northwest grants in 2023.



TOOLS OF THE MIND, NEW PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

- Elizabeth Derrick, Elementary Preschool Teacher



Preschool has implemented a new curriculum this year-Tools of the Mind. This has helped our students not only improve their executive functioning skills, but also develop early writing skills, math

skills, and more advanced play skills based on Lev Vygotsky's theoretical framework of socio-dramatic play. Tools of the Mind is not only helping our students to learn, but also experience joy and excitement in their learning experiences. Some of the tools we are using to help students to learn include graphics practice (foundational writing for letter formation which embed executive functioning skills), freeze dance (executive functioning skills), and play planning (verbalizing a plan for play time, writing, and drawing to express their thoughts).



GO EAGLES!

GO EAGLES!

ALL KINDS OF ACTIVITIES HAPPEN IN THE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

- Fran Driedger, Paraeducator

The elementary library gets used for so many different activities. We even had one of our Kinder classes use the library as their classroom for a few days. At any time, someone can request an hour for special classes. On January 24th, the 3rd grade will have a session with a group called "Whale Tales" introducing them to information about whales! It is used for workshops for the paras and the teachers.

We had some major changes in the elementary library at the beginning of this school year. I was encouraged to reach out to a friend, who is a teacher and the librarian, at Bordeaux Elementary School, Autumn Omdahl. She had so many great ideas and I was able to implement some of them with great enthusiasm! The students still have a reading activity when they enter the library, 5-10 minutes usually, of someone reading an interesting book to them. There are numerous choices of things to do while other students are checking out books. Here is a list of things students can do: art with crayons, markers, colored pencils; Harry Potter; Trivial Pursuit; magnets of various kinds; Pictionary; puzzles; cards; UNO; Yoga

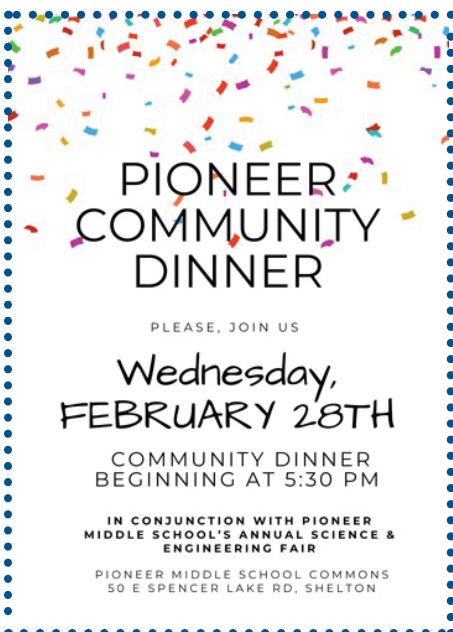
Goats (ask them about this); Scrabble and Yahtzee. They get to choose the activity. Some are for a group and some are for individuals. The feedback from the students about this change has been positive. The change from a very structured time to a less structured atmosphere has been wonderful even though the chatting level is way up!

Conference time will bring another Scholastic Book Fair! Be ready, this is always a great experience for everyone. The Book Fair will be held March 6th through the 15th.

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

- Caroline Davenport, Middle School Literacy Coach

Join us for a heartwarming evening of literacy and family fun at our Winter Cozy/ Valentine's Day-themed Family Literacy Night on February 15th, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Embrace the spirit of love and warmth as we come together to celebrate the joy of reading with enchanting stories and engaging activities. Don't miss the chance to participate in our exciting raffle drawing, where beautiful basket prizes await lucky winners. The event will be enriched with the enthusiasm of our ASB and Leadership students who will be running a variety of entertaining games and activities for all ages. We look forward to creating memories with you and your family. See you there!



**PIONEER
COMMUNITY
DINNER**

PLEASE, JOIN US

**Wednesday,
FEBRUARY 28TH**

COMMUNITY DINNER
BEGINNING AT 5:30 PM

IN CONJUNCTION WITH PIONEER
MIDDLE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING FAIR

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS
50 E SPENCER LAKE RD, SHELTON



**Pioneer Middle School's Annual
Science & Engineering Fair**

Wednesday February 28th

Community Dinner 5:30-6:30

"Meet the Scientist" 6:00-6:30

Awards Ceremony 6:30-7:00

Winners at each grade level will advance to compete at
both the Discovery Regional and State ISEF!

See you at the Fair!



W.I.N. PROGRAM AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- *Deneen Phelan, Academic Achievement Specialist*

This year students are reading, writing, or doing science at home to become winners!! They are all winners because they are **W**orking their brain, **I**ncubating their future and **N**urturing their minds!! Research says the more a student reads the better they will get at reading so our W.I.N. program encourages students to do just that!

Besides growing their brains, those who participate in the W.I.N. program also have opportunities to win in other ways! Each day a



student reads, writes, or learns about science at home, they earn a W.I.N ticket! At the end of the month, we collect the tickets and draw out 10 monthly winners! So far, 30 kids have been drawn! Celena, Kendall, Timmy, Henry, Hazel, Dylann, Raleigh, Kip, and Ezra have won cool Christmas stockings filled with goodies. Isabell, Torben, Massie, Amanda, Henry, Cheyenne, Saphira, Gabby, and Brody got cool fall mugs filled with hot cocoa or hot cider! Sheryl, Fischer, Dylann, Torben, Amanda, Saphira, Barbara, Marissa, Isaiah, and Kendell won pumpkins that we decorated with some fun bling!

Not only do we have fun monthly prizes, but we also will have a drawing at the end of the year for our grand prizes! Ten lucky winners can choose from a new bike, tablet, scooter, or tickets to a trampoline park, thanks to support from the Pioneer Kiwanis! Even if you don't win a big prize, all students are acknowledged with a mini prize from our wonderful PTO.

At the end of January, students can win a snowflake art project; in February, it will be a sweet treat; and in March, the prize is pizza with the principal! So, I encourage students to bring home their W.I.N. forms and go above and beyond to increase their brain power by reading, writing, or choosing to learn something new in science at home!

NINE 4.0 STUDENTS AT PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL!

- *Tricia Van Marter, Middle School Principal*



Nine middle school students ended their first trimester in the 2023-2024 school year with a perfect 4.0. All students attend seven classes each day. These classes include ELA, Math (Advanced Math in 7th and 8th Grade), Science, History, an Elective, Advisory, PE/Health, and a choice of Music or STEM. To achieve a 4.0 GPA, students must maintain a 94% or higher-grade percentage in each of their classes. Students also have multiple opportunities to get additional assistance during and after school to maintain academic excellence.

Students receiving Highest Honors are: Jacob S, Olivia S, Alyssa S, Emma W, Gabe W., Lyla F., Lunara R., Dylan S., and Everett E.

Several students also received High Honors and Honors. High Honors is a gpa of 3.75-3.99 and Honors is 3.5-3.74.

Students receiving High Honors are: Jack A., Allison B., Meiyla C-T., Zoie G., Jadyne S., Isaac G., Hayden B., Braxton M., Brody T-M., Rogelio M., Raegan D., Peyton W., Ariel H., Annabelle L., Uriah P., Aiden O., Henry M., Milo M., Sam S., Gavin S., Alicel J., Logan S., Shaidyn W., Luella K., Yana L., Ramsey P., and Gabriel R.

Students receiving Honors are: Dominik B., Kai B., Ashlei B., Alex B., Zuliya C, Allee G., Zylar H., Jalynn G., Lillyin J., Hadley W., Cadence J., Dylan R., Maya M., Everet W., Sawyer M., Ryan M., Aarica O., Brooklyn P., Kaylynn R., Cody S., Lilly T., Tayleigh G., Jayda P., Ta'Lessa S., Hannah C., Elijah D., Scarlett D., Zoie D., Henry G-B., Hunter H., Kyla H., Joel M., Evan M., Carter P., William R., Ben R., Abigayle S., Tristan S., and Allycin S.

Pioneer School District
112 E. Spencer Lake Road
Shelton, WA 98584



IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

February 2024

- 15 - Family Literacy Night
- 16 - No School
- 19 - No School - President's Day
- 28 - Pioneer Middle School Science Fair
- 28 - Free Community Dinner

March 2024

- 11-15 - Early Release / Parent Teacher Conferences
- 15 - 2nd Trimester Ends
- 23 - Pioneer Kiwanis Seafood Dinner & Auction

April 2024

- 1-5 - Spring Break



The Pioneer School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with disabilities. The following employees are designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator, Jeff Davis, jdavis@psd402.org; Title IX Coordinator, Amy Koster, akoster@psd402.org; and Section 504 Coordinator, Amy Dahlberg, adahberg@psd402.org.