

The *news* you **want**.

The *news* you **need**.



The PHS Newsletter

October 26, 2023

Newsletter Editor

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School begins and the Quarter ends

It feels like yesterday school started and here we are at the quarter mark. Soon the Thanksgiving holiday will be upon us and shortly after that the end of the first semester. Quarter grades will soon be reported, so this is a good time to review progress, set goals and get caught up in classes that may have missing work. All the teachers will help students identify missing assignments and give any additional help if needed.



Week of Respect

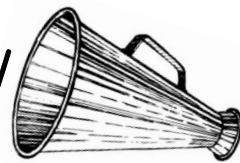
Each year during the first week in October, schools and districts across the state of Nevada engage in activities and learning opportunities that highlight the importance of safe and respectful learning environments called the Week of Respect. Due to scheduling issues the ninth grade class participated in a leadership and respect day activity at Project Discovery on October 17th. The event was designed to help students develop leadership skills and increase awareness of respect and empathy to help improve school culture on the Pioneer campus.

Junior Tayla Krehbiel attended as a student leader and earned a Project Discovery t-shirt award for going above and beyond in helping the freshmen.





Let's go to school



Counselors Corner

One of the characteristics that the pandemic taught us is the importance of in person social engagement. When students were not able to interact face to face with one another it had an impact on their ability to engage affectively within their community groups. Social norms broke down creating stress and anxiety that eroded the confidence of many students. At Pioneer Academy, we recognize that social involvement is a critical factor in the success of our students. The school social engagement is not limited to the students, it also includes parents, guardians, extended family and friends to participate in the daily school life of a student. As stated in the article above "How parents can help student success" parental educational involvement has a major influence on students' school success.

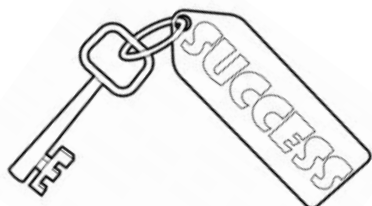
Numerous studies show students whose parents stay involved in school have better attendance and behavior, get better grades, demonstrate better social skills and adapt better to school. Parental involvement also sets students up to develop a lifelong love of learning, which researchers say is key to long-term success.

In order to give parents opportunity to become more involved at Pioneer, many of the teachers are creating activities that include parents. As these activities occur, I encourage you to talk with your student about their school life and consider attending an extracurricular activity with them. The potential rewards are infinite.

How parents can help student success

Engaged parents are a key factor in helping students and schools succeed. In fact, parents are the number one influence on student success. They are a child's first teacher and a key resource in shaping a child's learning, social emotional and physical development so that he or she can thrive in school and beyond.

Supporting student success starts with a shared agreement among families, schools and the community to work together and it involves committed actions to make it happen. Here are a few tips for parents to reinforce this important family-school partnership and help prepare their children stay on track and expand their learning opportunities:



- Set up a daily family routine, including healthy eating and sleeping habits
- Provide a place and time at home for homework or practice work
- Check on assignments, homework and projects
- Talk each day with your child about his/her activities
- Promote literacy by reading to your child and by reading yourself
- Limit and monitor TV watching, gaming, social media and computer time
- Express high expectations and standards for your child's learning
- Attend parent-teacher conferences, Open House and other school events
- Participate in decisions that affect your child's education
- Tap into community resources with visits to a library, museum, zoo or theater and encourage participation in after-school clubs, sports and art activities

Senior Spotlight - September

When walking around the halls of Pioneer and seeing smiling and laughing students, you are probably near Sadie Fullerton or more commonly known on campus as Sid. Her infectious smile and positive attitude towards others is felt when she is at school. This wasn't always the case. Sid, like many students, struggled being around other people. She decided to tackle that challenge by getting a job that required her to talk to people for hours. Sid stated getting a job was one of the best decisions to help overcome social anxiety. With her new found social confidence, Sid is now the captain of the Pioneer Speech and Debate team.

As a student who loves to help others, Sid knows the importance of managing stress. To help her conquer daily stress, Sid takes to music. Her passion for music started in the fifth grade, her parents encouraged her to join orchestra where she learned how to play the cello, then continued to master the guitar, bass, ukulele and piano. Sid currently uses her bass and keyboards skills in the band Feel Funky Fresh.



Switching to Pioneer Academy in the middle of tenth grade was another pivotal change that Sid feels set her up for success and finding her desire for school. Sid says the smaller setting and classes has helped her get the assistance she needs and gives students more opportunity to connect with one another. Along her journey Sid stated that a few teachers were paramount in turning her attitude around. She said "Mrs. Strom was the first teacher to see me for who I am. Mrs. Steinkraus helped me find my love for science, and Mrs. Allen is the epitome of positivity and sunshine, having a bad day? Go have a conversation with Mrs. Allen and I guarantee by the end you'll be smiling. And Mrs. Shu's (Shufelt) determination to help students is incredibly inspiring, I hope to be like her."

Sid also says her family has played a major role in helping her succeed, they've taught her to work hard and persevere regardless of how hard things get. They helped her learn that no matter what issues confront her, she will always have the strength inside to do anything she puts her mind to. Sid's friends have also contributed in helping her succeed by always being there by her side to pick her back up and cheer her on and encouraging her to be truly, unapologetically herself.

After graduation, Sid is planning to attend WNC then transfer to a university to major in Psychology and minor in Philosophy or ASL. She then wants to continue her education in law school to become a prosecutor. With her friends, family and everyone at Pioneer behind her, we are confident Sid will carve a path to success.



Senior Spotlight - October

It's not every day that a student will make a decision that will change the course of their life, but that is exactly what happened when senior Mason Dey decided to attend Pioneer Academy. Mason is the Pioneer Academy student of the month.

Two years ago Mason Dey decided he had had enough of his current situation with his friends and the school he was attending. Mason realized that his school wasn't meeting his needs and he was just going with the flow by staying where he was. He no longer felt like he was seen as an individual. After his sophomore year he knew he needed a change or he was going to go downhill quickly academically and emotionally.

When Mason learned about Pioneer he decided to give it a try and when he walked up to the small campus for the first time, he knew he made the right decision. It didn't take long for Mason to feel at home and he says the change was a "breath of fresh air". Mason said he was going through a tough time during this transition and his teachers at Pioneer, particularly Mrs. Walker saw through the facade he put up and helped him discover his true self and bring out his potential. By discovering his own imperfections and realizing he is surrounded by what he called other "not perfect people" gave Mason a desire to push himself academically and socially in a new direction. While taking WNC dual credit courses Mason maintains straight A's, however he says the grades aren't as important as the process to get there. He doesn't want to be defined by the outcomes of his grades but he understands the importance of achieving at his best so he says he has to give his best.

Mason's friends and teachers have been very important to help him find his new path. His mother has also been a major influence of Mason's success by showing him how to overcome difficult times and continuing to be a constant person in his life.

Mason is undecided about his future after high school but he is planning to attend the University of Nevada Reno next fall. He says he is interested in becoming a teacher and wants to be a beacon of light for others like his teachers have been for him.

As a member of the speech and debate team and the National Honor Society and working a short time with student leadership, Mason has developed an appreciation to give back to his school. Before he graduates in June he would like to do something to give back to Pioneer. We are proud of the dedicated work Mason has given and we look forward to his future success.

CCSD Winter Coat Drive



Carson City School District is hosting a winter coat and sweatshirt drive for Carson City students in need. Adequate winter clothing can significantly impact a student's ability to focus and thrive in the classroom. To address this essential need, the district is inviting community members, parents and local businesses to come together and support this worthy cause.

The drive will run from October 2 through November 17, 2023. Donations may be dropped off at the McKinney-Vento Office, 618 West Musser Street, Carson City, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (excluding Nevada Day and Veteran's Day).

Students visit Construction Career Fair in Reno

Science and Engineering teacher Kristin Steinkraus took students to the Northern Nevada Construction Career Fair at the Reno convention center on October 13th to allow students to explore a variety of career opportunities related to construction. While there, students were able to talk with representatives of various occupation options and speak to industry experts in the areas of general contracting, electricians, plumbing, roofing, painting, masonry, glazers, energy efficiency companies, cement workers, and architects and designers.



Pioneer club Announcements



The speech and debate team competed at Spanish Springs on October 13th and 14th and sophomore Maggie Uzzell took third place in novice storytelling. Congratulations Maggie!

Greenhouse club is growing strong! Each meeting has had an increase in attendance from 9 students at the first one to 14 at last week's meeting. Deb Uzzell brought in some lavender plants from home and has been checking every morning to make sure everything is watered and taken care of.



On Thursday, November 2, the Spanish Club at Pioneer will host a Dia de los Muertos Family Night from 6pm to 8pm to honor those who have passed and share in the culture and traditions of honoring our loved ones for Day of the Dead.

Pioneer's first Spirit Week will be the week of Halloween. The themes are: Monday, Monster Mash. Dress up as your favorite classic monster. Tuesday, Halloween Costumes. No masks, full face paint, or weapons (real or fake) allowed. Wednesday, Twin Day. Find a buddy to match outfits. Thursday, Dia de los Muertos. Catrines and Catrinas, skeletons on parade. Friday, Decades Day. Recreate the style of your favorite decade. All outfits must follow the Pioneer dress code.



On Nevada Day, Pioneer Leadership and National Honor Society will host a fundraiser that consists of a concession stand and paid parking for the parade. Stop by between 7 and 10 am!

Leadership is coordinating the FISH canned food drive. Students can bring non-perishable or canned food items to their 2B class until October 30th. The class with the most cans collected will win an ice cream party.

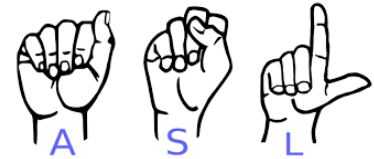


On Tuesday, November 7, Leadership and the Art Club will host a fundraiser of Panther Painting, Pizza, and Punch.



Theater club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch in Mrs. Allen's room A3. If you are interested in joining or just getting information you can contact Syd Fullerton who can show you the Google Classroom link.

ASL club meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during lunch and after school from 2:30 to 3:30 and the same days.



Having Tech Issues?

If you are having Chromebook issues or other tech issues contact Mrs. Strom at astrom@carson.k12.nv.us or stop by the office and explain the issue.



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