

# DE&I Committee Update

Our DEI Committee is a collaborative effort that includes Parents, Teachers and Parents' Club Board Members. We've been very busy throughout the first half of the school year and we are incredibly proud of our work. The first goal of our DE&I Committee was to define what DE&I means and how it should look and feel at Pioneer. We began this work by revisiting how the Parents' Club has traditionally defined our work and purpose as a group by revisiting the previous values statements. After a series of revisions and brainstorming sessions, we are proud to share new language that communicates our vision of what the Parents' Club aspires to be with DEI at the core of our work. We invite you to check out our website ([www.pioneerparentsclub.com](http://www.pioneerparentsclub.com)) for our revised statements about our purpose, beliefs, work, team, and values. We hope they resonate with you too!

## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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## Pioneer Parents' Club Values

**Inclusion** We commit to putting diversity into action to ensure everyone feels welcomed, respected, supported and valued-- and can fully participate with an equal voice and right to be heard.

**Collaboration** We believe in listening and learning from others to creatively achieve common goals.

**Integrity** We act on our personal and shared values especially when faced with challenges.

**Love** We humanize our relationships by fostering joy, kinship and good will towards others.

## DE&I Community Events

As a recap of 2022 engagements, our DE&I committee has played a key part in planning our identity celebration months. It's been wonderful to see how our students light up when they have a chance to share and celebrate their traditions and culture. To highlight a few:

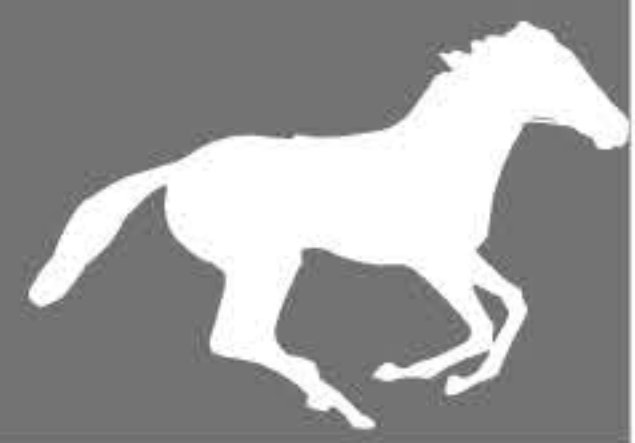
- the Lunchtime Diwali Celebration where students, Parents, and staff showcased traditional attire and dance.
- the Student Research and Reflect Activity invited all students to researched significant Latin/X pioneers celebrating not only their wonderful works of art yet the contributions of their selected Latin/X person during Latino/X Heritage Month.
- During Ability Awareness month in October, our DE&I Co-Chairs Yanira Canizales Wandera and Twila Long coordinated with Ms. Jen Schwartz to facilitate our first SPED (Special Education) Night to better create a sense of community, help, and support among our families with children who are in Pioneer's SDC or on IEPs.

## Join Us!

Our DE&I committee continues to build upon these efforts. If you are interested in the work our DE&I committee is doing or would like to be a part of planning future community celebration months, including Black History Month, Women's History, Arab America, Asian American Pacific Islanders and Pride, please reach out to our DE&I team at [pioneerpcdei@gmail.com](mailto:pioneerpcdei@gmail.com)







Pictured from left to right: Rabia Raheem (ELAC Secretary), Twila Long (Parents' Club DEI Co-Chair), Julia Kronrod (ELAC Chairperson), Deanna Lengyel (Pioneer Vice Principal), Miriam Diaz (District ELAC Representative), Not pictured Inez Diaz (Vice Chairperson)

## English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)

Our English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) Board Members invite you to join us for our first meeting of families of English Learners! This is your opportunity to get to know each other and find out more about useful programs at Pioneer Elementary, a place where everyone belongs.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 12th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. See the attached flyer for more information. We hope to see you there! It will be a great event!

## What We're Looking Forward to in 2023

Parents' Club is so grateful for our Pioneer Community and all that we have accomplished together in 2022 and we are excited for all we will do in 2023!

We are looking forward to continuing to make new connections and nurture existing ones within our Community, through our events, like our upcoming Gratitude for Grownups in January and volunteer opportunities, like spring book fair and picture day. We'll be continuing to show our appreciation for our staff with our monthly coffee cart and as we start to think about teacher appreciation week in May. We'll also be holding our annual Raise Craze fundraiser in February and our continued monthly dine-out nights.

If you're thinking about being more involved with Parents' Club in the new year, please go to our website where you can review the latest meeting minutes, learn more about the board positions through our bylaws, and stay updated on Parents' Club happenings. If you have time, talents and enthusiasm to share, Parents' club always has a need!

## Important Dates

**12/23-1/6** Winter Break

**1/9** Back to School

**1/12** ELAC Meet & Greet 6pm in MPR

**1/16** No School in Honor of MLK Day

**1/17** Dine-In & Take-Out @ Chipolte

**1/19** Art Program Meeting 8:30am in Staff Lounge

**1/20** Gratitude for Grown Ups

## Art at Pioneer

Our Pioneer Colts have been making some amazing artwork with our volunteer Art Docents. We love seeing each child's personality and creativity shine through in the art they create.

There will be a general meeting for the art program on January 19th at 8:30am to discuss spring events, such as our fundraiser and Open House Art Show.



Oil pastel & water color penguins by Mrs. Mulholland's third graders