

Keeping up with the Colts

NEWSLETTER



Issue #1 - August 2023

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year, Colt families! We are so excited for the promise of another great school year and hope that you and your students are settling in well to the new routines. This newsletter is from your Pioneer Parents' Club board and we hope it helps you stay informed about what's happening this month!

August Celebration - Identity and Belonging

Pioneer is a place where everyone belongs! Each month, we follow the School District Calendar of Community Celebrations. August's Celebration is all about Identity and Belonging. In that spirit, we hope you'll join us on 8/18 at 5pm in the MPR for an ice cream social with Sip n' Scoop Brentwood. It will be a fun way to get to know Colt families and beat the heat!

Take the Parent Survey!

We are so excited to get your quick thoughts on our work as a Parents' Club this year. Please take a few minutes to click on the link below and take our brief survey - telling us the best way to communicate with you, how you might want to be optionally involved, and more! The survey is at <https://bit.ly/PioneerParentSurvey23>.

Spirit Wear

Students are encouraged to show school spirit every Friday by wearing the school colors of maroon and silver or gray. Spirit wear is also available for purchase online at pioneer-colts-spiritwear.com.

Calling All August & September Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays at Pioneer and would be delighted to wish your child a happy birthday on the Pioneer marquee. Visit our website at pioneerparentsclub.com where you will find a link to a google form to request your message. Each message costs \$25 and can be paid online or by dropping off cash or check in the Parents' Club box in the office. We request at least 2 weeks notice to ensure we can plan and meet your request and if possible, will accommodate last minute requests (not guaranteed).

Stay updated on social media!

We have two social media spaces to keep you informed. Our private Facebook group, [Pioneer Colt's Round Up](#) and our Instagram page [@pioneerparentsclub](#). Not on social media? You can visit our website www.pioneerparentsclub.com for the same info!

DEI Committee

Are you interested in joining our DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee? You can reach out to Yanira and Twila (pioneerpcdei@gmail.com), our DEI Parents Club co-chairs, for more information if you like! Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, August 31st at 6pm.

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August Events

- **Art Program Volunteer Information Meeting** - Wednesday, August 16th at 8:30am in the Staff Lounge (near the main office) - come learn about getting involved as a volunteer in your child's classroom with art! If you cannot make the meeting, let us know of your interest at <https://bit.ly/PioneerArtProgram>.
- **Picture Days** - Thursday, August 17th and Friday, August 18th - see information from your teacher for which day your student's class will be taking pictures.
- **Ice Cream Social Hour** with ice cream available for purchase from Sip n' Scoop for all families and students - Friday, August 18, 5pm - 6:30pm
- **Pioneer Elementary Dine In and Take Out Night at Aloha Ice** - Wednesday, August 23 from 12pm - 7pm

Upcoming September Events

- **No School** on Monday, September 4th
- **Parents' Club General Meeting for all families** - Thursday, September 7 at 7pm
- **Pioneer Elementary Dine In and Take Out Night at Panda Express** on Balfour - Tuesday, September 12, 10am - 10pm
- **Liberty High School Student Mariachi Performance to Celebrate Latino/x Heritage Month** - Friday, September 15th at lunchtime
- **Scholastic Book Fair** - September 18th - 22
- **Fall Pictures Retake** - Thursday, September 28

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Meet the PC Board Members!

Leisa Waldron (President) This will be my 3rd year with the Parents Club. I have been a Brentwood resident for 10 years and my husband Josh and I have four awesome children. Our oldest, Kadie, is a junior in college! Laney is a Senior at Heritage, Crew is in 9th grade at Heritage and Leo is finishing up his career at Pioneer as a 5th grader. I love creativity and have ADHD which means I have a lot of ideas but succeed when I have people to help me implement them. Our Parent's Club is an amazing place for volunteers and we would love to have you!

Morgan Mundy (Co-VP) This is my third year on Parents Club board and first as Co-VP but this will be my 10th year as an art docent at Pioneer! My husband, Todd and I have five kids, a daughter at Heritage, two girls at Adams, a son in second grade here at Pioneer, and a 4 year old daughter. I'm so excited for this school year and for the opportunity to work in this role. Can't wait to get started!

Kacy Torres (Co-VP) This is my third year on the Parents' Club board and first as Co-VP. I'm excited to jump into this new role! My husband and I have twin sons in second grade and a four year old daughter. I love being involved with the school, helping out and getting to know our awesome Pioneer Community!

Bhavna Marwaha (Treasury) This is my third year as Parents' Club Treasurer. My son, Parth is in second grade at Pioneer and I also have a daughter in middle school. I work for Cisco in finance. During my spare time I love painting and spending time with my family.

Yanira Wandera (Co DE&I Chair) This is our 3rd year as a Pioneer family. We have a 5th grader at Pioneer and two 7th graders at Adams. Our family enjoys board games, hosting friends and cooking. My professional work is focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging efforts. I look forward to working with the Pioneer community to ensure our school is a place where everyone belongs.

Twila Long (Co DE&I Chair) I'm an East-Oakland native and mom of 4 (including my youngest "colt" Nadean). I am passionate about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for all. My pronouns are She/Her/Hers. I lead Product Management at Workday Inc. (A System Software Co.) supporting the design and delivery of recruiting functionality. I also co-lead two employee-empowered groups that are directly centered on equitable people-management practices, as well as an employee resource group that celebrates, uplifts, and advocates for the development and belonging of Black employees and allies. Proud to be a part of the Pioneer Community helping to heighten belonging for our young future leaders!

Lindsay Cunnie (Secretary) This is my third year serving as secretary for the Pioneer Parents' Club. My daughter is in third grade and my son will start Kinder here this fall. Pioneer has been such an amazing home for my daughter. By being a part of the Parents' Club I am hoping to give back to the community in any way that I can!

Brandi Somers (Co- Volunteer Coordinator) This will be my third year on the Parents' Club Board. Being on the board has been a great way to be involved in events at the school and to meet other Pioneer parents. I have a third grader and a fifth grader this year. I look forward to meeting you!

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Tammie Macdonald (Co-Volunteer Coordinator) This is my 2nd year on the board and I am Co-Volunteer Coordinator. I have always volunteered for school events when I could because it helped me meet other parents and feel more part of the Pioneer Community. I have a 4th grader and a 6th grader.

Dari Sylvester Tran (Co-Fundraising) As I enter my second year on the Parents' Club Board as Fundraising co-chair, I am reminded of how proud I am to be part of the Pioneer family. I have learned so much about the events and people at the school and it is satisfying to give back to the community. I have a first grader who is as excited as I am to start an incredible 2023-24 academic year.

Stephanie Morris (Co-Fundraising) This will be my first year on the Parents Club Board and I am so excited to support our wonderful students and our amazing teachers and staff! I have a first grader who goes to Pioneer. I have always loved volunteering, and I am looking forward to getting involved with our Pioneer community!

Audrey Gomez (Co-Staff Appreciation) Hi! This will be my first year on the Parents' Club Board and I'm excited to be Co-Chair of the Staff Appreciation Team. I'm looking forward to showing our love and appreciation for all of the wonderful Pioneer staff! My husband and I have 3 boys; a 2nd grader, a kindergartner and a 7 month old. They definitely keep us busy. I can't wait to get more involved this school year though. We love Pioneer and this school community!

Jennifer Beckstrand (Co-Staff Appreciation) Hello! This is my second year on the Pioneer Parent's Club board and my first year being co-chair on our Staff Appreciation team. I am so excited to give our Pioneer Staff all the love and support! I love spending time with my family, game nights, camping, and learning new things. I am married to my best friend and we have 4 daughters. 11 year old 6th grader at Bristow, 5 year old kindergartner here (go Colts!), 4 year old in preschool, and a sweet almost 2 year old. I am so excited for this 2023-2024 school year!

Becca Frey (Art Program Chair) Hello, everyone! I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new co-chair of the art department and proud new member of the Pioneer Parents Club! My name is Becca Frey. I'm a mom of two girls, Scarlett (6) and Charlyze (3). A few of my favorite things include exploring nature, animals, music, and artistic expressions of all kinds. This will be our second year attending pioneer. My husband Chris and I have lived in Brentwood for 7 years now. Last year, I had the absolute pleasure of working closely with Ms Friedman as art docent for my daughters' class, and it was beyond a blast! The bonds I formed with those wonderful students were truly heartwarming and very fulfilling. I'm eagerly looking forward to enriching even more young lives, and creating magical moments together! Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Serena Yu (Co-Public Relations) I am excited to be part of the parents club as a co public relations first year here at Pioneer. This gives me a great opportunity to connect with other parents and contribute to the school community. I have a second and fourth grader at Pioneer. We love bike riding, skateboarding, and bowling together as a family. I also have a passion for teaching kids chess!

Jessica Eastman Stewart (Co-Public Relations) This is my 2nd year as a Pioneer family - we moved earlier this year to Brentwood from Oakland. I have a daughter in 4th grade and son in 2nd grade. We love hosting people at our home and doing lots of family adventures and travel. My professional work is supporting people to be more organized at work and home, and so you can always make my day by chatting about home routines and healthy productivity ideas.