



# PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

April 8, 2021

## Spring is almost here!

Our lower school has been learning all about spring! They planted some beans, and they have finally sprouted! You can see pictures of their sprouts on social media!



## Inclement Weather Policy

Keeping you informed is always our priority. We will notify you about school closure due to inclement weather via Remind 101 on or before 7 a.m. on the morning of closure.

## Follow us on social media!

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube!

You will be able to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Pinnacle Prep!

**REMIND 101** is our preferred method of communication for everyday activities and reminders.

- If you have quick questions, feel free to send a remind message.

# Ms. Laura's Brilliant Stars

## *Giraffes & Pandas*

Mrs. Laura's class has been enjoying all the happenings this spring. Students have been enjoying reading fun stories that focus on rhyming and imagination. Our friends are having fun playing clapping games of Miss Mary Mack and singing Skinamarinky Dinky Dink. Hopefully, they have been singing these tunes when they go home. We continue learning the sight words: look, of, the, need, do, be, and lots more. We're having fun learning how to spell new words and adding new words to our vocabulary. In April we will continue learning about the water cycle and learning the colors that make up our rainbow. We also planted some "magic" beans and are now awaiting their sprouting!

In math, we are working on adding single digits to 26. We are also learning our doubles like  $8+8=16$ . I have introduced subtraction by teaching them that we go to the left of the number line to get the correct amount. We will continue to move forward with our math curriculum. I am looking forward to all the new discoveries in play and work.

Thanks for sharing your treasures,  
Mrs. Laura



# Mrs. Hill

## *Pandas and Zebras*

### Pandas:

Students have just picked the animal they would like to learn more about and have picked three independent sources to begin our Animal Research Projects. We will spend the month of April gathering information, creating a comprehensive poster, and writing a formal research report. The unit on nonfiction text features that we completed this month will serve as scaffolding to demonstrate their understanding of how to use nonfiction text features to enhance their learning.

### Zebras:

In March, we have been working on Statistics, Probability, Graphs & Charts. After the unit test, we will end the month with two exciting activities: Probability Escape Room, and a Probability Spinner Experiment. During the month of April, we will complete a unit on Geometry, then head directly into Measurement.



# Lower English

## *Ms. Jessica*

The themes for April include: Easter, a Culture Pizza project, National Pet Day, plants and space. It's going to be a fun month with lots of crafts and projects. For our Culture Pizza project, students will learn about their family's traditions, religion, and how they use technology as well as other aspects of their family's culture. For Pet Day, students will be doing several activities related to the theme. Some include: ABC order, an introduction to hyperbole, crosswords and writing a persuasive essay. For our plant unit, students will be watching videos and taking notes as they learn about plant parts, their life cycle, and their needs. We will also be planting seeds and observing them in class for a couple of weeks.

Our space unit will also involve great videos and note-taking, creating a solar system mobile, planet research and report, and learning about the parts of the earth.



# Lower Math/Spanish

*Ms. Alma*

**Pandas** have been doing an excellent job with their place value. We have been focusing on learning our numbers up to 1,000. We have been learning how to model numbers in standard form, word form and expanded form.

**Zebbras** continue to work on their multiplication facts and problem solving. We will continue to review multiplication and move on to division in April!

In Spanish we continue to learn new vocabulary and verbs. During March, I introduced prepositions of place. We also began our piñata project! We will continue to practice our vocabulary, verbs, and learn new adjectives!



# Upper Math

## *Ms. Anu and Ms. Jaya*

Wolves are working on multiplying fractions with whole numbers, mixed numbers, and also using G.C.F. and then they will move on to dividing fractions. Some of the wolves successfully completed working with decimals on the number line and performing basic operations (adding & subtracting) numbers with and without estimation. They are now working on multiplying and dividing decimals with and without estimation after which they will learn estimating money and writing number sentences.

Tigers are working on data and statistics in which they learned about different types of surveys, bias in surveys, mean, median, mode and range, single. They also worked on double-line graphs, single and double bar graphs, histograms, stem and leaf plots, box and whisker plots and circle graphs. Upon completion they will start learning more concepts in algebra. Some of the Tigers will work on finding surface area and volume of prisms, cylinder, and pyramids. Once completed they will start working on Integers.

## Black Panthers

**Pre-Algebra:** Black Panthers learned angle relationships, angles and parallel lines, angles, and polygons. They are now working on different types of transformations like translation, reflection, rotation, and symmetry. Some of the black panthers are worked on solving trigonometric ratios (Sine, Cosine and Tangent), solving problems involving measurement, area, perimeter and volume of different polygon, area and circumference of circles, surface area and volume of prism, pyramid, cylinder, and cones.

**Algebra 1:** We will be working on Rational Functions and Equations. We will start with Inverse Variation. Students will work on Rational Functions, Simplifying Rational Expressions, mathematical operations on Rational Expressions (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing). Black Panthers will be learning dividing polynomials and solving Rational Equations. Trigonometric Ratios will also be introduced.

Some of the Black Panthers will be working on multi step Inequalities. We will be starting with Factors, Fractions and Exponents. Students will be working on Factors, GCF, LCM of monomials. We will also cover Negative and Zero Exponents and Scientific Notation.

# Upper English

## *Mr. Troxel*

We are heading towards the final stretch of what has been an incredible year. It is always true that we don't really know our capabilities until the waters get rough, when adversity teaches us more than had been bargained for. This year has certainly been one for the record books on numerous accounts. One of the strengths of Pinnacle is its ability to shift quickly when needs arise. I hope your children have also found strength in flexibility as we have all adapted to unexpected change. This is the foundation of great self-confidence—dealing with the surprises and overcoming difficulty.

**Wolves:** We have traveled the roads of ancient history together all semester. We have just finished the foundation of Democracy and the great philosophical ideas of Greece. We are just starting the great empire of Rome and will be examining the mark on science, art, architecture, and government that still lives in the world today. The Roman path will lead to the Middle Ages. When you ask them about what they are learning, ask a few questions about the similarities between ancient cultures that never knew the other existed. We have paid close attention to the commonalities of human culture, from Europe to the Middle East and Japan. The lesson is that we share much more in common with others than space and even time would divide. That is the big takeaway from history studies.

**Tigers:** We have continued to hit Texas history hard this semester. As I've written before, no matter where your child continues school in Texas, this component will be important. The birth of Texas is a perfect look at how the entire nation came to exist, with stories of bravery, standing up to wrongs, tenacity, misguided justice, and outright injustice serving as the backdrop to any nation's rise.

The similarities of heroic traits people share are matched by those that feed our darker ambitions. Greed, racism, and battles over valuable resources all provide painful lessons that will threaten our present if we don't learn from our travels long past. Currently we are studying Texas in early statehood, the Mexican American War, and soon to the Civil War. All this is bringing us towards the cumulative review for a final exam on Texas history at the end of the school year.

**Black Panthers:** We read about history to try to understand the dynamics that drove citizens of the time. Lessons take on a different dynamic when learners can walk in their shoes and work to solve similar problems. After writing original constitutions for the ideal government, the Panthers have just finished their constitutional convention where we exercised Parliamentary procedure to debate and unify the different plans into one ideal system to run government. There were some remarkably interesting conversations, and I believe a better understanding of how ideas are tested by reasoning and principle to produce the greatest possible benefit. Moving forward we will continue to examine the challenges posed by growth, immigration, the industrial revolution, and the threats posed by fascism in Europe.

What an amazing year it has been so far. I want to thank all the parents for your support and blessing me with the opportunity to walk beside your children for a short while on their amazing journey in life. This year will be over sooner than we might notice.

# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

Even though it has been a short month for learning hours, every class continues to exceed expectations.

The Panthers finished their Force, Motion, and Energy Unit and are now focused on Biogeochemical cycles, specifically the hydrologic cycle, the carbon cycle, and the nitrogen cycle.

Our Tigers completed their Invertebrates Unit and “marched” through Chordates and Vertebrates.

Wolves also completed a force and motion and studied the electromagnetic spectrum, the different properties of transparent/translucent/opaque objects, refraction, and color, and finished the month with soundwaves.

Zebras focused in March on Types of Forces, Motion, and Simple Machines. They are finishing the month with the States of Matter and the water cycle.

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