



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

November 5, 2021

School Spirit Week!

Our students brought so much school spirit during Spirit Week! Their creativity shone through! Be sure to check social media for some photos.



November:

Thanksgiving Break: November 19th to 26th



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

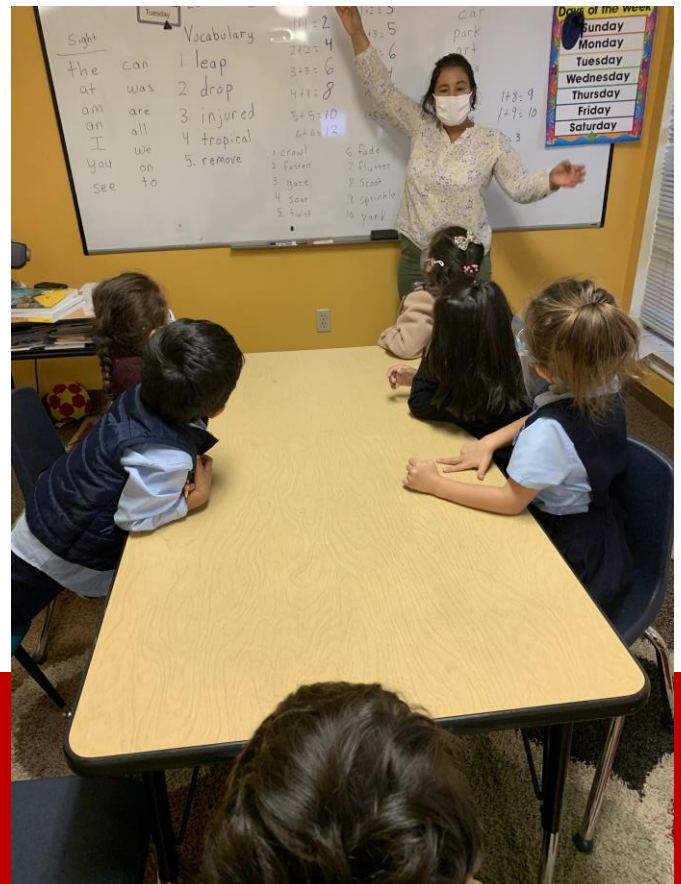
Penguins

Mrs. Laura's Rockets are having a great job learning our letters and sounds to achieve our learning goals. We're adding fun songs and stories to continue our language building with nursery rhymes like "Hey Diddle Diddle". We continue to improve vocabulary, comprehension, prediction, and other story element skills by reading books both old and new.. Please continue to read to your child at home. Remember repetitive reading of the same book increases many of your child's important skills including memory, sentence structure, predictive language and more.

Penguins are working on general topics like opposites, comparisons, numerical correspondence when counting, and phonics. I'm very excited to see several of the students spontaneously reading and sounding out words. Each student has individual or very small group time to grow their reading skills. Feel free to practice CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words at home- sit, can, top, sun, net.

In social studies we have learned about farming in North America, specifically pumpkins and gourds. We reviewed how the Native Americans used it as food, tools, and decoration.

In November, our class will continue to learn about deciduous trees autumn and why some trees lose their leaves and others don't. We'll be creating some great art with leaves. I look forward to all the different interpretations of what a deciduous tree should look like. It will be an adventure to continue our math facts to learn order, calendar, and simple adding with the help of our number line. Keep all your kids active and reading adventures at night to spark that thirst for knowledge.



ELA- Writing

Mrs. Chavez

Hello there, Pinnacle Parents!

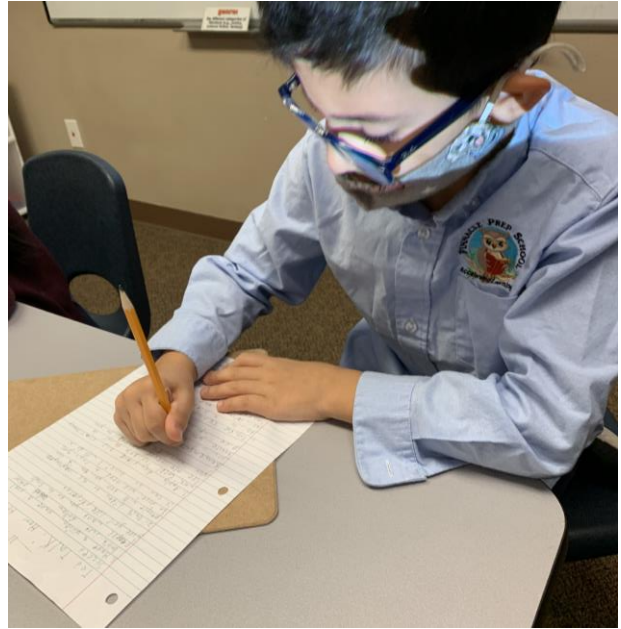
In the blink of an eye, October has come and gone. Ms. Suzy's little ghosts and goblins seemed to have cast a spell over her. As she brewed p assignments night after night, her spooky little phantoms "A"ced them "spooktacularly"!

Some short stories we have covered in this past month include "Afternoon Art", "New York City's Gem", "Paul Bunyan: A New Story", and "Best Friend". We focused on details with such assignments as "Giving and Kindness", "A Day in the Life", and "Fairy Tale Riddles". We finished the month with an all class selected writing prompt, "October Blast". (And no worries, these papers won't "haunt" you! LOL)

Until next time, here's a chuckle for your thoughts: "We are all here on earth to help others. What on earth the others are here for, I don't know.: - W.H. Auden


Quote for October:

"Yesterday is a cancelled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; today is the only cash you have- so spend it Wiseley" – Kay Lyons



ELA & Math

Mrs. Hill

 Pandas: Our Pandas are rolling right along! Our plan for November will follow the same routine that is in place...Please remember:

- Reading Log (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initiated by an adult
- Spelling Tests are Fridays along with completed packets. Please help your child with learning how to study and be prepared for tests
- Abeka Language—2 pages daily (M-Th)...I check randomly and choose pages to grade!
- Our novel study, *The One and Only Ivan*, is progressing beautifully! Occasionally, I have the kiddos bring home their books to read to you so that you are able to assess their progress. We either read or do a corresponding activity each day.

I am very pleased with the hard work and positive attitudes of my precious Pandas!

 Lions (ELA):


My lovely Lions continue to shine! Our plan for November will follow the same routine that we have established.

- Reading Log (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initiated by an adult
- Spelling Tests are Fridays along with completed packets. Please help your child with learning how to study and be prepared for tests
- Abeka Language A workbooks—2 pages daily (M-Th)...I check randomly and choose pages to grade!

*****Please remember that I give the students 20 minutes of independent work time that they may choose in the way that is best for them; however, any work that is unfinished will be considered homework.

- Our novel study, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, is progressing beautifully, but slowly, because we have several components that we work on during each section. For example, writing in a travel journal, vocabulary enrichment, reading comprehension chapter checks, and literary elements. We will be doing all reading and related assignments during class, but if you'd like to reinforce your child's reading fluency and comprehension, they are welcome to bring home their books!

Keep up the marvelous work, my majestic and mighty Lions!

 Giraffes: The Giraffes are improving everyday with their reading, writing, spelling, and sight words... Thank you for your support at home to reinforce what we are doing in school!

- Just a gentle reminder...For those kiddos who do Spelling, packets MUST be turned in on Friday mornings. Since we have tests on Fridays, I strongly encourage each student to practice his/her words at home during the week...
- Each student is required to read 20 minutes daily, and record on their reading logs inside their purple folders. PARENTS, PLEASE INITIAL EACH ENTRY!
- Finally, half of our class time is spent reading, writing, and doing literary activities— We just finished a beautiful writing piece on “My Favorite Things” that are proudly displayed in the hall.
- The week of Halloween was fun and spooky, with great books such as Click, Clack, Boo! The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything, Room on the Broom, and I Need My Monster...
- In November, we will tackle another writing project where each student gets to pick from several prompts that are Thanksgiving/Fall centered. Keep up the great job, Giraffes!

 Lions (Math):

We have completed chapter 2 & 3 which covered addition and subtraction skills, properties, estimation, and mental math. I work 1:1 with each student to make sure each Lion is progressing at a pace to ensure understanding and mastery. We had some fun escape rooms and digital activities for my Lions to do during October to celebrate the fall season and Halloween! In November, we'll move to chapter 4: Multiplication. Please be sure that your child is fluent with their multiplication facts 0-12 and practice as needed at home. A gentle reminder....all Lions are responsible for completing 2 pages daily in their Abeka Math workbook. I check these randomly! This is important because this is a spiral review to ensure that all concepts are thoroughly mastered and any gaps from previously taught lessons are discovered, retaught, and reassessed before moving forward. Thank you for your help in encouraging good study habits!

Math

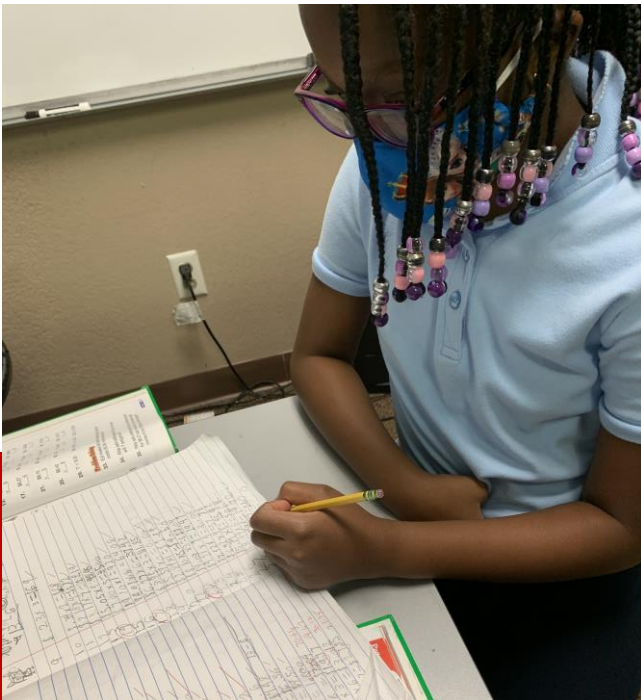
Ms. Jaya

Giraffes: Giraffes worked hard and learnt to tell time to the nearest hour, half hour and relate time to given events. They also worked on learning different types of 2D and 3D shapes and relating it to real life. They are now learning to take different surveys and record the results using tally marks. We will move on to record the survey results using different types of graphs(like Bar graphs, pictographs, line graphs..) and answer related questions by reading the graphs. We will continue to work on math facts.

Pandas: Pandas did a wonderful job, working with money. Pandas also learnt telling time to the nearest, hour, half hour, and minutes. They also learnt elapsed time in which they learnt to calculate duration of an event using the given start and end time. They are now learning to take different surveys and record the results using tally marks. We will move on to record the survey results using different types of graphs (like Bar graphs, pictographs, line graphs) and answer related questions by reading the graphs. We will continue to work on math facts.

Lions: Lions did a wonderful job with dividing numbers and order of operations, mean, median, mode and range of given numbers. They are now working on fractions in which they will learn to write and estimate fractions, and will move on to learn equivalent fractions, finding the L.C.M and G.C.F. Some of the lions worked on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators, improper fractions, multiples, they will continue to learn finding part of number, and probability. Some of the lions worked on probability and statistics in which they learnt to draw tree diagram, find independent and dependent variables. They will continue to learn making different types of graphs (line graphs, bar graphs, histogram).

Tigers: Tigers started with solving multistep equations and inequalities and then moved on to fractions, decimals, and percentages in which they are learning to solve problems using different operations of fractions (add/subtract/multiply and divide) and solve equations and inequalities using fractions. Some of the tigers worked on fractions in which they learnt to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and solve equations and expressions using fractions. They will continue to work on probability, compound events, permutation, and combinations. Some of the tigers worked on finding the maximum and minimum values in each graph, after which they will learn exponential growth - decay and sequences. They are now working on sequences, in which they are learning to find the net terms of the sequence using either arithmetic or geometric sequence.



Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

Seasons change, bringing all the hope and wonder of the holidays. In Humanities we have definitely been changing as the year progresses. It's been very nice to see some of our online children return to the classroom.

Our learning targets continue focus on connecting the ideas explored in history and literature studies to students' lives. We write about what we've read not to simply review what happened in the story, but to find links to emotions, ideas, people, and events mirrored in the world around us every day. You might have some interesting conversations with your child if you ask about the novel they're reading and what they have written lately in essays and their ISN. Also, in both classes we are moving into preparation for our play productions debuting this December. Both classes are excited to get started, and we will shift more to drama as the next month progresses. You will be getting further information in an email soon on our Fall plays.

We recently completed some diagnostic testing for Reading, and I am collating the data by instructional standards to provide specific improvement targets for each student. I will continue reading comprehension drills for better grasp of standardized testing. We don't teach to the test, but unfamiliarity with the testing process may lead to assessment data which does not accurately reflect the learner's true skill level.

Lions:

We are finishing our study of Ancient Egypt and will soon be moving on to the foundations of societies in Kush and India. Students are learning of some important consistencies that all emerging societies share. These patterns led to the development of sophisticated civilizations, advancements in science and engineering, and allow analysis for the world we have today. We continually explore how humans are very much the same today as we were 5000 years past. Our goal is how this understanding will help to better a build the world in front of us.

Tigers:

A big focus for the Panthers is to reinforce the writing process. As I've gotten to know your child's writing I'm noting trends common to most young writers. I'm backing up a bit to teach the tools every good writer should master, from prewriting to revision. The students themselves will be their best critics and cheerleaders as we analyze our work product and provide meaningful feedback for revision. Working the process with fidelity provides the desired outcome. I'm excited to see each writer grow in this approach. We are finishing the novel *Johnny Tremain* and this will flow directly into the American Revolution before us in History. Students are already making connections between our novel and the aspects of colonial America learned of in class. They are making personal connections as young people living in the age rather than looking at events from a sterile distance.

Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep. Together we will blaze a path for success for every child.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

Giraffes and Pandas finished a unit on properties and changes matter can undergo. We covered physical properties and physical changes along with chemical properties and chemical changes. Now we are transitioning into a unit on Forces and Motion. We discussed the definition of force. Next, we will emphasize there is always a force acting when an object's motion changes. We will soon transition into the Amusement Park Physics Engineering Challenge.

Lions have been studying classification systems. Classifying is one of the skills of science that is especially important to the study of living things. Early scientists recognized the need to develop a uniform classification system to describe living things. Students became proficient in using dichotomous keys to identify organisms. We finished the unit by tying in alleles, genes, heredity, and Punnett squares. We touched on adaptations before doing a review chapter. We will be transitioning into the Amusement Park Physics Engineering Challenge next.

Tigers have been very busy learning about crystal structures, chemical reactions, and acid-base reactions. We will pick up balancing equations after the Amusement Park Physics Engineering Challenge.

Our Amusement Park Physics Engineering Challenge is not just a S.T.E.M. unit; it is a S.T.R.E.A.M. unit: Science, Technology, Research (Reading), Engineering, Art, and Math. The Amusement Park Physics Engineering Challenge is a substantial cross-curricular unit that will take up the next six weeks. The unit covers motion, energy transfer, circuits/electricity, as well as simple and complex machines. All science classes will participate to varying degrees depending on their ability. The culmination for the upper grades will be a model amusement park ride and a report detailing its motion and energy changes.



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