



# PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

October 5, 2021

*Hello October!*

We are almost done with our first quarter of the school year! Our students have learned and grown so much in the past nine weeks! We have some fun activities planned for this month. Our first report card will be available through Sycamore on Friday, October 8, 2021.

**PINNACLE  
PREP SCHOOL**  
Accelerated Learning

**SPIRIT  
WEEK**  
OCT 25-29TH

**MONDAY:** Hat Day  
**TUESDAY:** Mismatch Day  
**WEDNESDAY:** Professional Day  
**THURSDAY:** Pajama Day  
**FRIDAY:** Costume Day



## 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.

**PINNACLE  
PREP SCHOOL**  
Accelerated Learning

*Fall  
Break*

**Oct. 15-18**

# Ms. Laura

## Penguins

Mrs. Laura's Rockets have been soaring high with knowledge. The students are exploring all the changes around them, especially the new autumn season.

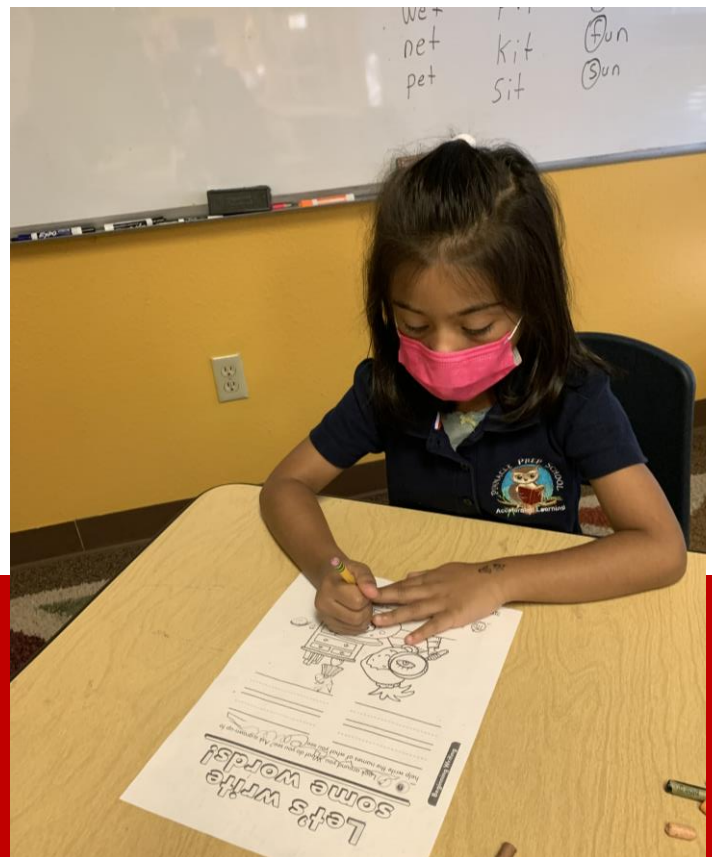
Our morning class explores the calendar, alphabet and its sounds, weather, and shapes. The students are quickly learning and remembering both old and new songs. All of our songs involve body movement to practice balance, coordination, and crossing our midlines. Each day we share news, read a story or two, and have play time to boost imaginations, relationships, and manners.

In math, we have been working on the number line for recognizing the numbers from 1-20. We will continue to work on figuring out how to represent quantity with the number that is being presented along with recognizing the before and after numbers from 0-20. Our students have been enjoying all the learning stations that reinforce our topics of quantity with numbers from painting to sorting blocks and markers (with fun colors).

In our phonics class, we are starting to explore motor skills, numbers, phonics, sight words, and the joy of reading. Please read to your child every night. Ask them open ended questions and have them answer in complete sentences. Our students have been sounding out our alphabet to fun tunes that express phonic sounds with our important letter of the day. We will continue to expose the students to five vocabulary words and reinforce understanding of their meaning and function in the world around them. Stay tuned to all the happenings as our Rockets continue to soar in their knowledge and understanding.

Enjoy the cuddles and giggles,

Mrs. Laura



# ELA- Writing

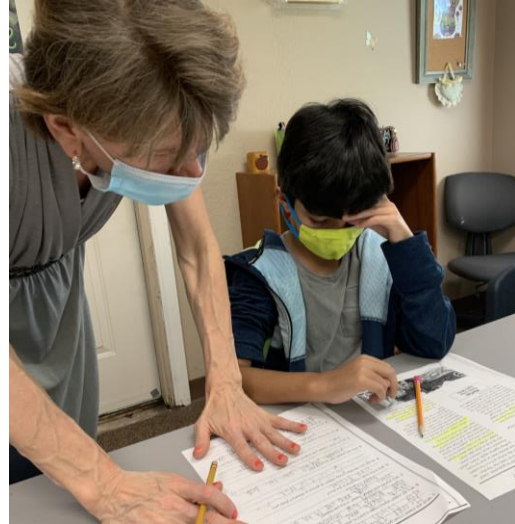
## Mrs. Chavez

Hello there, Pinnacle Parents!

As usual, time flies. The month of September has proven no different. Ms. Suzy's busy little "bees" have been reading, reading, reading, and writing, writing, writing. Some short stories we have covered include "Moving Out & Moving In", "Rice is Nice", and "Smokey the Bear." We focused on details with such assignments as "Dear Aunt Susy", "A Shoe is Born", "Ocean Park", "Cam's Birthday Party", "Dear Zachary", and "Where the Wild Things Are". We are finishing up the month with an all-class selected writing prompt, "All About Sharks". (And no worries, these papers will not "bite"? LOL)


Quote for September: "Aerodynamically the bumblebee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumblebee doesn't know that, so it goes on flying anyway."

– Mary Kay Ash



# ELA & Math

## Mrs. Hill

 Lions (Math):

We have completed chapter 1, PLACE VALUE, and are moving into 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.

In October, I will assess each student and address any gaps/weaknesses that I find. I have some fun escape rooms and digital activities for my Lions to do during October to celebrate the fall season and Halloween!

## Pandas:

Our Pandas continue to impress me! Just a gentle reminder...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...Purple homework folders should come home daily, Mon.-Thurs. Additionally, students are expected to complete one page of language practice in the Abeka books daily....For this grading period, students should have completed pages 1-20. (Please remember that I give the students ten minutes for each of these subjects during class time, but any work that is unfinished will be considered homework). Our novel study, *The One and Only Ivan*, is progressing beautifully! We will continue to do 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! I am very pleased with the hard work and positive attitudes of my precious Pandas!

## Lions (ELA):

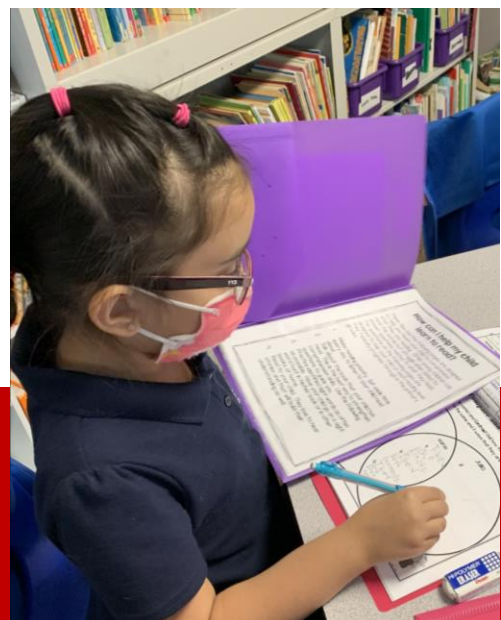
My lovely Lions continue to shine! Just a gentle reminder...Spelling packets MUST be turned in on Friday mornings. Since we have tests on Fridays, I strongly encourage each student to practice his/her words at home during the week...Purple homework folders will go home daily, Mon.—Thurs. Additionally, starting Oct. 1, students are required to complete two pages of language practice in the Abeka books.... (Please remember that I give the students ten minutes for each of these subjects during class time, but 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...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. Finally, we will spend half of our class time reading and doing literary activities— We just completed *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, by Kevin Henkes, and will move on next to *Julius, Baby of the World*. Keep up the great job, Giraffes!



# Math

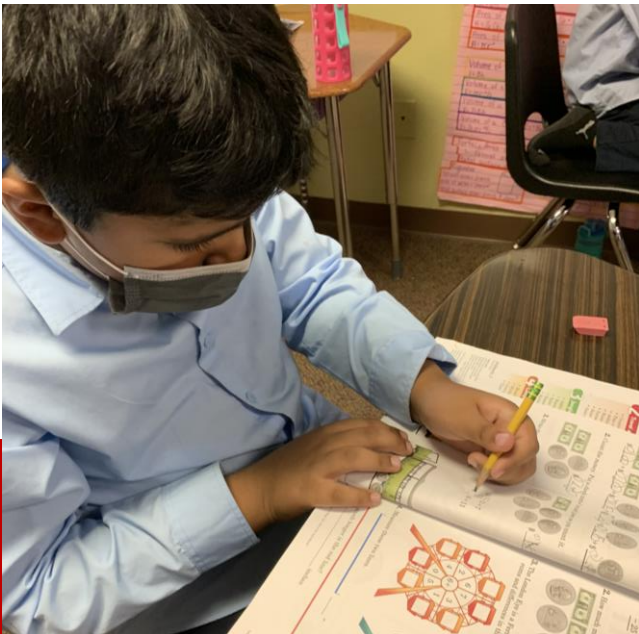
*Ms. Jaya*

**Giraffes:** Giraffes did a wonderful job on figuring out even and odd numbers. They also learnt to recognize place value (ones and tens), and writing a given number in standard, expanded and word form. Giraffes are now working on Money, in which they will learn to identify the value of coins and count and add money. On completion they will start learning how to tell time. They will learn to tell time to the nearest hour, half hour and relate time to given events. We will continue to practice math facts on a regular basis.

**Pandas:** Pandas were amazing in learning to add numbers with three addends, add and subtract numbers with and without regrouping. They also worked on problem solving skills with adding and subtracting numbers. Pandas are now working on money in which they will learn to recognize different coins, find its value and to add them. They will also learn to add money with dollar bills. They will start learning to compare, add, subtract and solve problems using money.

**Lions:** Lions worked on multiplying 2 digit by 2 digit and 3 digit by 2 digit numbers. Some of the lions did a wonderful job with dividing numbers and are now working on order of operations, after which they we will start learning mean, median, mode and range of given numbers. Some of the lions worked on learning prime factorization, in which they learnt finding out the L.C.D and G.C.F of given numbers. They are now working on fractions, in which they will learn to add/ subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators and learn to multiply and divide fractions.

**Tigers:** Tigers started with integers, and then moved on to coordinate planes, simplifying variable expressions, and solving equations using adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. Some of the tigers are working on Number theory and fractions, in which they are learning prime factorization using tree diagrams, finding out L.C.D & G.C.F. and will then move on to learn fractions. Some of the tigers are working on solving polynomial equations using various operations. They are now learning quadratic equations in which they are working on graphing parabola, finding the maximum and minimum values in a given graph, after which they will learn exponential growth - decay and sequences.



# Upper Humanities

## Mr. Troxel

It has been a fun start to the year and we have been busy learning together. My goal is to facilitate each student to be the spearhead of their own learning, and this has never been more critical as we tackle integrating online students with in-person learners. The challenges of this new learning model continue to stretch us all, but it is also a perfect example of building success in life as our plans are tested and revised to match an ever-changing environment. My class leaders have been powerful in guiding their peers towards success. As we get deeper into the fall season, we will continue to set a class environment that develops self-aware learners who evaluate and adjust efforts to build effective skill sets.

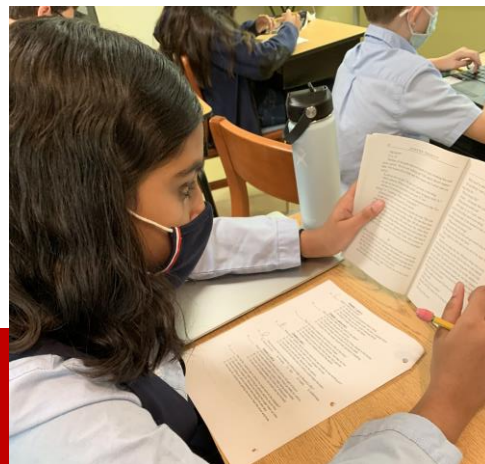
**Lions:** We are coming off a project inspired by our studies of the earliest human societies in the Stone Age. After looking at the ways historians determine what happened in cultures before the time of written language, the students themselves have become the archeologists and are applying what has been learned in a symposium of fellow scientists. They have been doing great work and apply amazing critical thinking and analytical skills. From here we will launch into studies of the foundational civilizations of the world, starting with Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent.

**Tigers:** We are continuing our current novel, *Johnny Tremain*. The book is historical fiction that will dovetail into our History studies in the next few weeks. We read to share the enjoyment of the story together, as well as provide key moments to evaluate the text, devices of literature, and author's purpose. It is important to note how writers make purposeful choices, which in turn inform learners of their own decision-making process in writing.

Amid our novel study, students continue weekly vocabulary lessons to expand out tools for expressing specific concepts and emotions. We write daily in our interactive student notebooks (ISN) and are continuing essays to further develop our communication skills. Opportunities to review and critique other students' writing product (Writers' Circle) will remain a powerful tool for exploring effective use of language and organization of ideas. Lastly, students will be required to read a book at home of their choosing. Parent support to ensure at least 30 minutes of independent reading is critical to strengthen skills and reinforce the important value of reading independently as a critical strategy for self-reliance.

In History we are looking at the beginnings of American History and the collision of 3 cultures that formed our nation. There were political and economic stresses that brought the Native American societies into direct conflict with Europeans, who had in turn been influenced by Africa and Asia. That interplay of political, ideological, and economic needs still drives our choices in the world today, which is the very reason we study History.

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



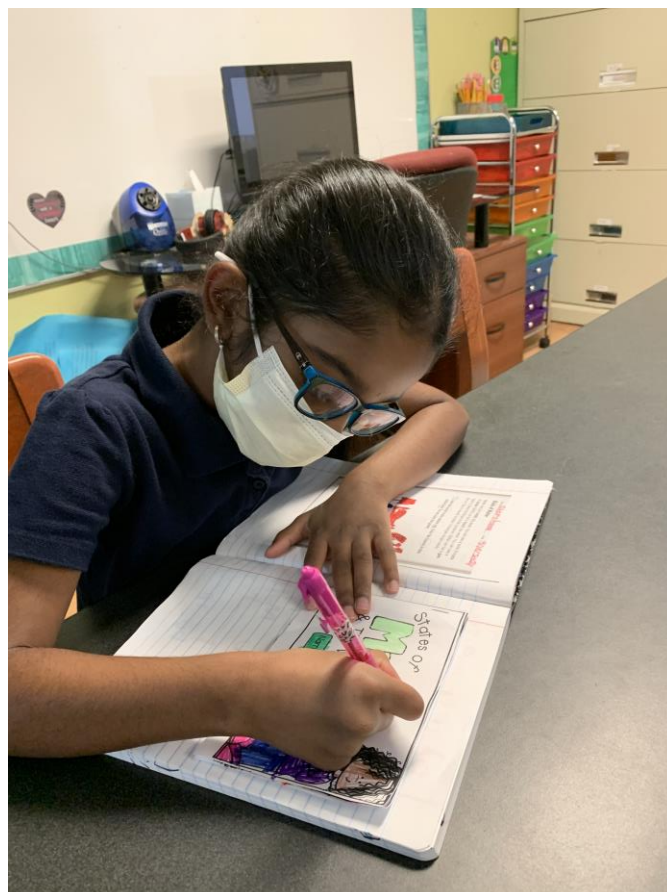
# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

Our Giraffes and Pandas are transitioning from states of matter into physical and chemical changes. First, we will learn about physical properties and physical changes. Chemical properties and changes will be explained as well as ways of avoiding unwanted chemical changes such as rusting. Finally, we will incorporate this new knowledge into what we already know about mixtures and solutions.

The Lions are finishing up a unit on cell-reproduction and how traits are inherited. We will transition into the classification of living and nonliving things as well as adaptations. Students will learn about how plants grow and respond to their environment.

Tigers have finished up atoms, elements, and the periodic table unit. We are now working through the chemical bonding unit. We will discuss how the modern theory of matter developed. We will dig into ionic and covalent bonding as well as acids and bases.



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