



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

September 10, 2021

We want to thank all of you for a wonderful first month of classes! We look forward to a year full of learning and so much fun! Please check your email for the link.

**VIRTUAL
OPEN HOUSE**

& Meet the Teacher

Wednesday,
September 15th
3:00 – 3:30 PM

Join us on Zoom!!

**PINNACLE
PREP SCHOOL**
Accelerated Learning



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 Racing Rockets are up to lots of discoveries. They have been learning about our surroundings and learning what makes our environment special. We have enjoyed the summer heat and getting to play outside with our friends. We are hoping with the change in season we will feel the change in temperature. Students are having fun with the new set of vocabulary words that we learn every week. They enjoy all the descriptions and activities in helping them understand these words. During the week, the students get to listen out for these vocabulary words to call them out while we have reading time. Some of our students are getting opportunities to spell and write out sentences to help them learn the vocabulary. Our class has different circle times, and they always enjoy moving and counting to 100. The 100 chart is held up and all the students want to pick out their favorite number. At the end of the week, in order to make sure they know the vocabular.

We do a fun activity of playing with Playdough, coloring, painting, or a fun craft to get hands-on knowledge. Ask your child to tell you their favorite number or activity they like best.



ELA- Writing

Mrs. Chavez

I am so excited to be part of Pinnacle Prep and look forward to getting to know each of you. I have had a couple of weeks to get to know my students and have enjoyed every minute of it. In my class, we will be concentrating on English with a heavy emphasis in writing and my lesson structure promotes student-driven work. Many of my activities involve class collaboration, allowing students to assist each other in their learning. We will be working on the writing process each week. The writing topics for this week are all about me and from here on out, each student will get to select a topic from my topic bank. I look forward to reading their wonderful essays!



ELA & Math

Mrs. Hill

Pandas:

Our Pandas have gotten off to an AMAZING start! Spelling packets will begin every Monday, and they MUST be turned in on Friday morning. 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 begin going home this week! Additionally, SOON we will begin one daily page of language practice in the Abeka books....Please know 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. Saving the best for last, we are well underway in our novel study, *The One and Only Ivan!* We will be doing all reading and 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 looking forward to a WONDERFUL year with my precious pandas!

Lions (ELA):

My Lions are absolutely LOVELY! Spelling packets will begin every Monday, and they MUST be turned in on Friday morning. 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 begin going home this week! Additionally, SOON we will begin two daily page of language practice in the Abeka books....Please know 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. Saving the best for last, we are well underway in our novel study, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane!* We will be doing all reading and 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 already loving the Lions' strong work ethic and positive attitudes!

Giraffes:

The Giraffes are off to a great beginning! Spelling packets will begin every Monday, and they MUST be turned in on Friday morning. 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 begin going home this week! Additionally, we will be working on phonics, handwriting, and language skills daily in their Abeka books at school. Finally, we will spend half of our class time reading and doing literary activities— We just completed *Chrysanthemum*, by Keven Henkel, and we will continue using his marvelous works for this quarter...next up: *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*...Great job so far by all Giraffes!

Lions (Math):

I am so blessed to have my former Zebras return as mighty Lions this year! We are using *Sadlier Oxford, Progress in Mathematics*, both grades 4 and 5, depending on which level is more instructionally appropriate for your child at the time. Additionally, I supplement fun resources and games, as well as doing IXL and Prodigy to reinforce concepts. The students are also expected to complete two pages of his/her Abeka books as homework (they may use extra class time on homework, too!) I will inform students a week before all tests, and they will complete a review to use for studying. Lions are already ROCKING IT!



Math

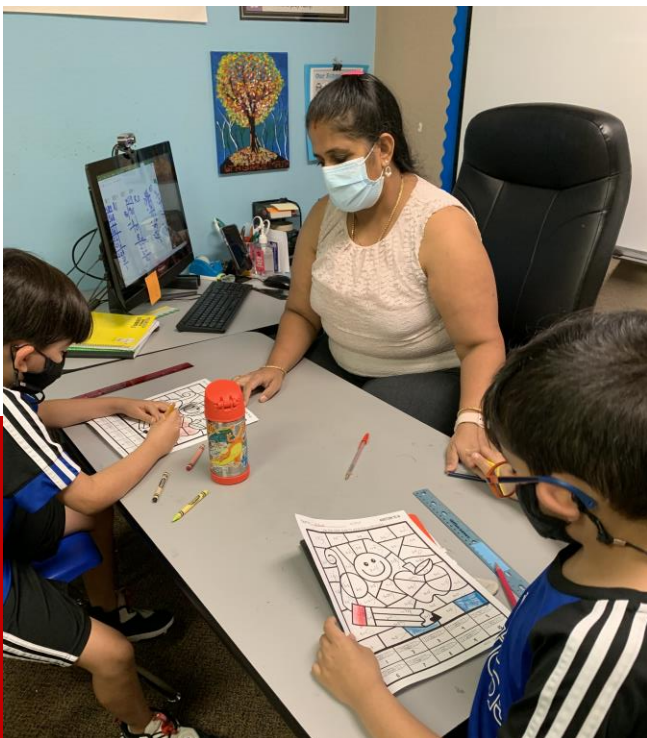
Ms. Jaya

Giraffes: It was a wonderful start for the Giraffes this year. They started the year by learning to complete the missing numbers in a number chart and completing a given pattern. They also learnt to compare and order numbers from least to greatest and vice versa. They are now working on figuring out even and odd numbers and also practicing addition and subtraction math facts every day. Next, they will start to learn about recognizing the place value and writing a given number in standard, expanded and word form.

Pandas: Pandas had a wonderful start by learning place value up to thousands place. They learnt to write the numbers in standard, expanded and word form. Pandas also learnt to fill the missing number in the number chart, compare and order number from least to greatest and vice versa. Pandas are now learning adding with three addends. They will continue to learn adding with regrouping

Lions: Lions started this wonderful year by learning place value up to billions and decimals, estimating sums, differences, products and quotients, multiply two- and three-digit numbers, short and long division. Lions will continue to work on solving problems with money, order of operations, and problem-solving strategies. Some of the lions did a wonderful job with dividing numbers and are now working on fractions - in that they will learn to write fractions along with estimating, comparing, and ordering fractions.

Tigers: It was a great start this year. Tigers worked on place value, estimation, decimals, expressions, and variables along with exponents, scientific notation and solving problems using integers. They will continue working on integers, and then move on to coordinate planes, simplifying variable expressions, and solving equations using adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. Some of the tigers will continue to work on integers, in which they will learn to compare integers, add, subtract, multiply and divide integers, solve integer problems using order of operations. Some of the tigers are working on polynomials, in which they learn on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing polynomials and then move on to learn quadratic equations, exponential growth - decay and sequences.



Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

Welcome back for another exciting year. I'm thrilled to be back in the physical world here at Pinnacle Prep. For those new to our school let me start by sharing a bit about my background and core educational philosophy. I spent 28 years in Texas education both in the classroom and as a school Principal prior to joining Pinnacle where it is the start of my third year. I'm here to teach humans, not subjects. In all I seek to help every learner discover their power and develop excellence to succeed in any role life places before them. Ask your child to share our core class values (the 6 BE's) and you'll understand my beliefs concerning success. I look forward to learning how your child thinks, determining which skills require perfecting, and working beside them to create tools which will build success in any endeavor.

As parents you are your children's first and most important teachers. I am an extension of your desire for learning, so it's important to understand the learning goals and activities in place at school for your child. Allow me to share some of my key practices for all classes.

- We are using Interactive Student Notebooks (ISN's) as a method of recording and organizing key concepts. They take the form of reflective written journals as well as important notes for content. Occasionally I will have students bring their ISN's home for you to review. Ask them questions about what you read there.
- We will write every day and will be learning to analyze our own work product critically. This will be accomplished through peer writing workshops, class discussions, debates, and public speaking. We will be learning and perfecting these as the year progresses, but the core principle for all is reflective self-analysis as vital for quality work.
- We will be learning specific communication skills from small groups to public speaking, and learning to be purposeful in sending and receiving messages for improved accuracy.
- The Lions will be studying ancient world cultures from the beginnings of civilization till the Renaissance. The Tigers will be studying American History from our founding till the industrial age of the 20th century.

- In both classes we will write reflective and persuasive essays, and deliver presentations about historical events, causes, important figures, and their relation to the world today.

For the Tigers in ELA

- We will practice grammar both in class interactively and by utilizing the IXL Learning online system for diagnosing/practicing specific needs according to each learner.
- We will utilize the Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop to increase depth of words in our writing toolbox, employing a combination of in class and homework activities throughout each week.
- We will read classic and contemporary literature in the form of novels, short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfictional prose. Students will analyze and respond to each in writing, public speaking, debate, and theatrical performance.

As the year progresses we will incorporate social, governmental, economic, and historical studies into our curriculum. I use the classic term *Humanities* to describe the instructional focus because history, literature, and art all interplay to give meaning to our experiences. The Tigers will be starting the novel *Johnny Tremain* this week by Esther Forbes. The novel explores the life and challenges of a young teenage apprentice as he runs right into the fire of the American revolution. This historical fiction will dovetail into our study in History in the coming weeks.

I look forward to your children's discovery of these and a variety of other topics as we grow together throughout the new year. As a quick final note, I ask for your patience as I get to know your child's strengths, teach my basic routines and expectations, and create the best learning environment to meet their needs. Great structures start with solid foundations, for which time is essential to construct. Thank you in advance for your support, and thanks for sharing your amazing child with us here at Pinnacle Prep school.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

Students are starting the year by making science models. Scientists often make models to help them understand objects, phenomena, and ideas they cannot observe directly. Models can be simple or complicated. They may model many aspects of the object or only one or two.

We will be using many models this year to help anchor learning. Please ask your student(s) to share their models and explain as much about them as they remember.

As we enter September, students will be focusing on many areas corresponding to their textbook. Topics will include the properties of water, the water cycle, atoms, chemical reactions, and cell theory.

Throughout the month, help your student identify models you have in your home. Discuss with your child how accurate and/or complete the models may be.

In order to do our activities and experiments, we will need some materials that you may have around the house. I will send an email or a note home with your student when these items are identified/needed. If you are able to share, that is great.

We are looking forward to a great year of science exploration.



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