



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

December 1, 2022

A Night at the Theater

As we wrap our first half of the school year, we're thankful and proud of the progress our students have made so far. We are so excited for you to see all of our plays at our yearly Night at the Theater and to showcase our projects during Parent-Teacher Conferences.



Dates to remember:

- December 8th:** A Night at the Theater
- **December 14th:** Parent-teacher Conferences
- **December 19th-January 3rd:** Winter Break



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!

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

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

ELA

Mrs. Hill

Penguins:

Congratulations on a wonderful first semester in Kindergarten! I'm very excited that all students are **READING** and mastering their sight words! Keep up the great job, and I'll be advancing word lists to those who are ready for First Grade Sight Words! Please continue to read **EVERYDAY** over the break to keep their newfound skills fresh and avoid regressing while we are not in school...

PLEASE SEND IN BY FRIDAY, DEC. 2:

Superhero costume (with a cape) and any animal mask for their head or face...We are doing **DRESS REHEARSALS** next week because Theatre Night is Thursday, Dec. 8th! All the kiddos have been working so hard, and we can't wait to perform for you! Furthermore, I am looking forward to conferencing with all of you on Wednesday, Dec. 14– I have lots of amazing work to share!

Pandas, Giraffes, & Lions:

For the next two weeks, please continue to read 20 minutes M-Th. and record on their reading log.

We only have one more spelling test next week, and then we are done with spelling for the year! We will be focusing on completing one reading comprehension activity each day, and then visiting holiday work stations that reinforce the grammar concepts we have learned so far this year.

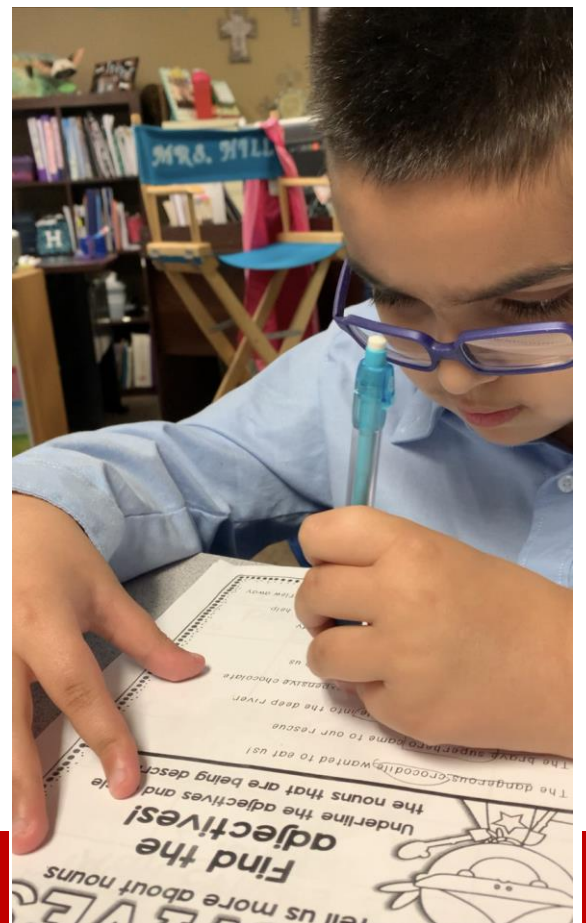
Please remember to come to Theatre Night on Dec. 8th! All the kiddos have been working so hard, and we can't wait to perform for you! Furthermore, I am looking forward to conferencing with all of you on Wednesday, Dec. 14– I have lots of amazing work to share!

Please have the following books for our next novel study when the students return in January:

Pandas—The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo;

Giraffes—The One and Only Ivan by Kathrine Applegate;

Lions—The Giver by Lois Lowry;



Math

Ms. Jaya

Penguins:

Penguins worked on writing and recognizing numbers from 1 to 50, skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. We will continue to work on recognizing and writing missing numbers in the given patterns, recognize, and differentiate between even and odd numbers. Compare and order numbers from least to greatest and greatest to least. Some of the penguins are working on addition facts and subtracting facts as well.

Giraffes:

Giraffes completed a unit on adding and subtracting larger numbers with and without regrouping. Students also worked on solving story/word problems and problems solving applications. They are now working on a unit on fractions in which kids learn to recognize and write fractions, compare fractions using fraction bars, adding, and subtracting fractions with like denominators. We will continue to practice addition and subtraction facts.

Pandas:

Pandas are working on multiplying 3-digit by 1 digit numbers, multiplying with regrouping, one- and two-digit quotients, 3-digit by 1 digit division (Long division). They also worked on fractions in which kids will learn to write, compare, and order fractions, find equivalent fractions, find part of a set, reduce fractions, add, and subtract fractions, mixed numbers, problem solving strategies. After completing the unit on fraction, we will start a unit on Geometry in which they will learn to find the area, perimeter, and volume of given polygons. We will continue to work on multiplication and division concepts.

Lions:

Lions successfully completed adding and subtracting fractions, mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators, estimating sums and differences, problem solving applications and strategies. They are now working on multiplying and dividing fractions. Some of the lions are now working on geometry in which they will learn to measure and draw angles, identify different types of polygons, congruent and similar figures, finding the area and perimeter of different polygons, area and circumference of circles, lines of symmetry. Some of them completed a unit on measurements are now working on ratio, proportion, and percentages, in which they will learn to relate fractions, decimals and percent's, convert them, find percent of a number and problem-solving strategies.

Tigers:

Tigers worked on factors, fractions, and exponents with focus on prime factorization, G.C.F, L.C.M, rules of exponents, negative and zero exponents, and scientific notations. They are now working on ratio and probability in which they will learn to write and solve proportions, similar and congruent figures, similarity and measurements, scale drawings, probability, and odds. Some of the tigers successfully completed a chapter on measurements and are now working on variables, expressions, and integers in which they will learn to write and solve expressions with variables, powers and exponents, order of operations, compare and order integers, do basic arithmetic operations using integers and plot points on a co-ordinate plane. Students also worked on finding the surface area and volumes of prisms, cylinders, pyramids, and cones and are now working on data analysis and probability, in which they will study drawing different types of graphs and interpreting the data using graphs.

Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

Wow. I don't know if it is the strange phenomenon of the space time continuum that as we get older time passes faster, but here we are about to hit the halfway mark of the school year. It has been a fun fast ride and I am thankful for all the challenges and blessings of 2022. As is the Pinnacle Prep school tradition, we have swiveled our focus into theater preparation for the Winter plays. We began learning some of the theater basics leading into Thanksgiving break. Now that we are back, play production activities will take front and center. This is the beauty of taking a whole language approach to the genres of literature. Language serves life in every dimension, and appreciation of the word in drama helps learners make solid connections to new ideas, themes, emotion, and let's be honest—acting like someone else is a blast for all.

Lions:

Just before Thanksgiving we had finished our last history unit for the first part of the year by examining the influences on the lands of North America by Native Americans. Students finished that study through a major research project exploring a specific tribe, so I hope you will look over their dioramas during parent teacher conference day. When we return from winter break the Lions will delve deeply into European exploration of the New World, the motives for such, and the challenges which had to be managed. Currently we have shifted gears and are devoted fully to play preparation. All students should have their lines memorized at this time; your help to ensure they are studying lines 30 minutes to an hour each night would

be appreciated. Our play is called *The Internet is so Distracting—Oh Look! A Kitten*. If you think the title is strange, just wait till you see how your children change the way you see web surfing forever.

Tigers:

As with the Lions, all students should be close to fully memorizing lines as we shift focus to our play preparation full time. Their play is called *13 Ways to Screw Up your College Interview*. It is never too early to begin planning for the best college experience, and this play is a lesson on what one should *never* do—unless you want to present a hilarious look at today's students thinking about higher learning. Again, I would appreciate your help to ensure they are studying lines 30 minutes to an hour each night. The **performances** for **both plays** will be the evening of **Thursday December 8th**.

I'm looking forward to a great finish to 2022, with an exciting 2023 just around the corner. We all continue to grow through life's challenges, but the commitment of your children to keep pushing forward is going to set the stage for a great new year. Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep School.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

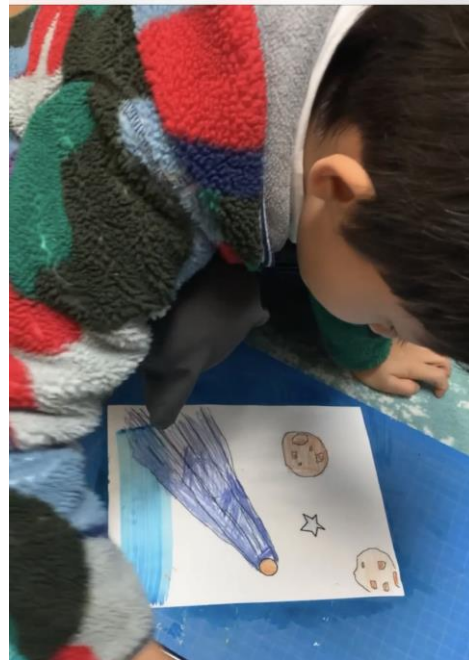
All our science classes spent some of October and all of November studying the solar system and its cycles. All classes studied our Moon as well as those on other planets. In addition, we reviewed the waxing and waning phases of the Moon.

Penguins and Giraffes studied the different parts that make up the solar system. We enjoyed learning about comets making "Candy Comet Models" using what we learned. Our class also examined the constellations in the night sky and made a constellation night light to take home. The class project will be about space travel to our Moon and its exploration.

Pandas also learned about the rotation of planets and how Earth's rotation gives us night and day. They discovered that the tilt of the Earth's axis and revolution around our Sun is the reason for our seasons. The December projects for our Pandas will focus on solar system objects.

Lions and Tigers learned about how far the planets and stars are from Earth using astronomical units and light-years as units of distance. Our older students also studied beyond our solar system. We discussed how stars are classified and how they are born, develop and finally die or turn into something else. We went over galaxies and how they differ. Lions and Tigers will focus their research on the burning questions of our Universe.

Our research projects and models will be displayed during the Parent- Teacher conferences in December.



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