



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

February 1, 2022

Hello February!

Even though February is the shortest month of the year... we have so much to learn at Pinnacle Prep! Beyond Valentine's Day, we will continue to celebrate friendship and choosing kindness.



No Classes on:

Friday, February 11th and Monday, February 14th.



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.

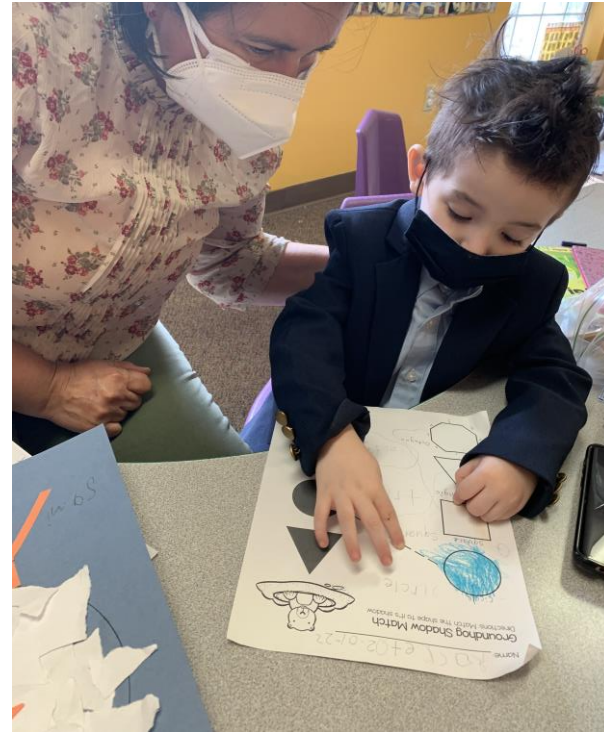
- If you have quick questions, feel free to send a remind message.

Ms. Laura

Penguins

Mrs. Laura's Rockets are enjoying the blustery days that make winter cold and our nights longer. The students will learn about the Earth's position to the sun. They will explore the world and all the beautiful things that live in it. We will be learning about of school mascot, the owl! Our creative kids will be molding and making owls for our art project. They have been doing a great job with their phonics and learning to read. I couldn't be happier to hear all our vowels and consonant sounds echoed back at me. Please continue to read to your kiddos every night. In math, we will continue to use our number line to add and make sure we continue reviewing our numbers 1-100 by writing them down. We will also learn to use more than, less than, and equal symbols (<,>=). This month we are also focusing on money. They enjoy getting to hold coins and are starting to be able to distinguish them. We are learning about the value of each coin, its size, and its color. We will also learn about the US Presidents on our coins to commemorate President's Day on February 22nd.

Stay cozy,
Mrs. Laura Venegas



ELA- Writing

Mrs. Chavez

Hello there, Pinnacle Parents!

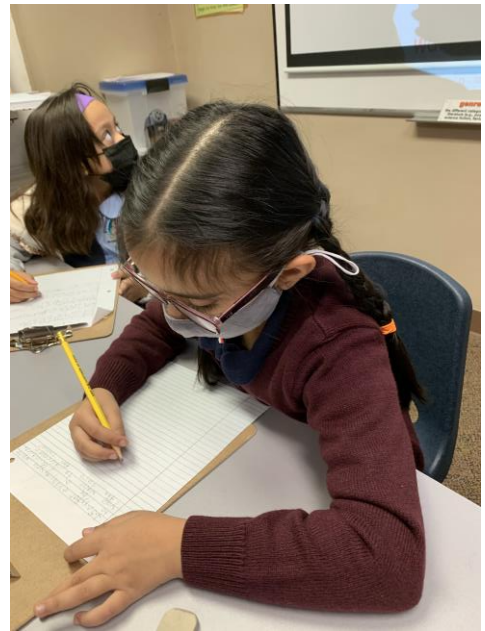
Well, we made it through January with no insurrection and no ice!! Now that's progress, folks, at least for this day and age. Academically speaking, Ms. Susy's little whirlwinds continue to knock her out! They are knee deep into the novel *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Once again, we are diving deep into character analysis, vocabulary, and summary composition. The kids are having fun learning all about Tom and Huck's hilarious antics and providing quite a few of their own in class discussions. They will finish the book by taking a comprehensive test consisting of 25 multiple choice questions, 10 fill in the blanks, and one essay question. Keep up the phenomenal work guys!! I am so proud of you!!

Until next time, here's a chuckle for your thoughts:

"Arguing with fools is like playing chess with a pigeon...No matter how good you are, the bird is going to poop on the board and strut around like it won anyway."

Quote for January:

"Happiness is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it."



ELA & Math

Mrs. Hill

Pandas:

Our Pandas have hit the ground running in January! I can see notable advancements in several Pandas' reading—Yippee! Thank you for continuing to keep reading a priority at home. Our plan for February will follow the same routine that is in place...Please remember:

- Reading Log (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initialed DAILY by an adult... This is your child's responsibility!
- Treasure Chest will be every Friday from now on...ONLY for those students who have completed reading, spelling, Abeka, and Ivan work ON TIME.
- Spelling Tests are on 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!
- We are on the final stretch of our novel study, *The One and Only Ivan*! I hope to finish it by the end of February!

Giraffes:

During January, our Giraffes celebrated MLK Jr. and learned all about his life and accomplishments! I am proudly displaying their projects on the outside wall! I have noticed some impressive advancements in reading and writing with our Giraffes! Thank you for your support at home! Here's what we have going on in February...

- We are beginning a unit about the WINTER OLYMPICS!!! I'm so excited to learn about each event with my Giraffes, and I hope that you can have fun as a family watching it on TV!
- 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!

Lions (Math):

In January, we completed a mid-year assessment and I'm very pleased with the progress in their mathematical thinking. In February, we will begin our unit on FRACTIONS...You can count on lots of critical thinking, real-world applications, and word problems!

Lions (ELA):

This second semester has begun with a rocky start...due to lots of absences, going back/forth from in-person learning to online (and understandably so—Thank you for keeping your child home if they are not well!), we are behind schedule...But that's OK because I have modified my lesson plans and made several adjustments so that we can finally finish MJET, and not sacrifice the learning objectives.

- We have finished the lapbook portion of MJET.
- I changed the writing project to ONE paper focusing on SYMBOLISM. The students **SHOULD HAVE** completed the 5-paragraph rough draft (Introduction, 3 body, and conclusion) in class with me.
- We will also begin our new novel study on Monday, January 31....*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis...please make sure your child has this book by Monday!

Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education at home!



Math

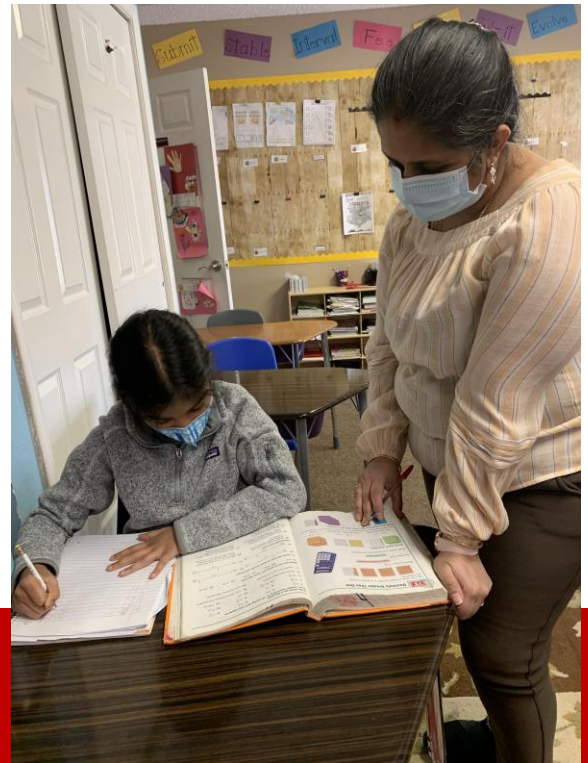
Ms. Jaya

Tigers: Tigers worked on probability, permutations and combinations. They are now working on Geometry, in which kids are working on angles of triangles and quadrilaterals, angles of polygons, circles, congruent and similar figures. Some of the tigers completed working on solving linear equations in which they learnt single and multi- step equations and inequalities using different operations. Few of the students will worked on metric measurements in which they learnt to relate and compare different types of metric units compute different time zones and problem-solving applications. They are now working on decimals, in which kids will learn to solve different operations on decimals. Some of the tigers are working on Matrices, in which they will learn to add, subtract multiply and divide using matrices.

Giraffes: Giraffes did a wonderful job learning fractions, in which they learnt to identify and learn fractions. We will be working on Measurements in which kids will learn measuring length using cms, and inches), capacity and volume. They are working on learning metric units conversions. Kids will learn converting between cups, pints and quarts, ounces and pounds, grams and kilograms.

Lions: Lions will be working on Geometry in which they will learn points, lines, ray, and line segment, angles parallel and perpendicular lines. They will also work on circles and different types of polygons. Difference between similar and congruent figures and transformations. Some of the lions are working on decimals, in which they will be learning to solve decimal problems using different math operations.

Pandas: Pandas will be working on Measurements in which kids will learn measuring length to the nearest (cms, and inches), capacity (ounces and pounds), and volume. They are working on learning metric units conversions. Kids will learn converting between (cups, pints and quarts) (ounces and pounds), (grams and kilograms). Kids are also working on Gallon Man and Times tables.



Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

February is a month where we find important historical reminders for the country. Two of America's most influential leaders are remembered on President's Day and the month is set aside to provide special focus on the achievements of black Americans in advancing our republic. We will be exploring these as we continue our social studies work in class. In January we laid the foundation for societies and types of governments, now each class will branch in exploring different areas of world and American history.

Lions:

Our study of ancient Greece is going to the next level as we examine the significant political influences that shaped Western civilization. The great philosophical legacy of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle with the great military conflict between Greece and Persia all shape the world that exists today. Interspersed in this history is a study of the very first public speakers and the emergence of rhetoric as a discipline. Very soon the class will start a project that takes them across ancient Sicily as they learn and employ the basics of public speaking. As our school year progresses, we will add to this understanding the great cultures of Eastern Asia and the Middle East to provide full historical context.

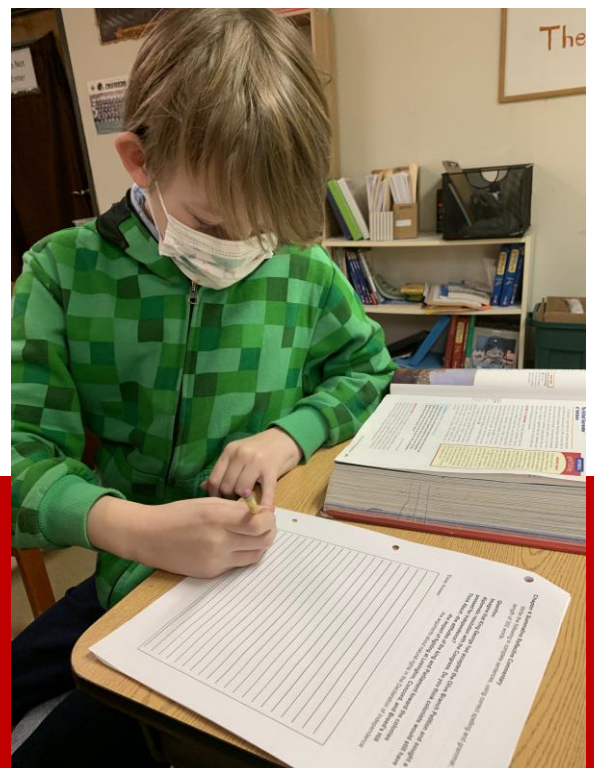
Tigers:

We have spoken and debated as a regular part of instruction, now in ELAR we are writing specifically for the purpose of speaking. In the last few weeks, we have examined and exercised the elements of communication and are now preparing our very first formal speech

to inform. The ability to speak clearly and convincingly is often the difference maker for success. Understanding the needs, we all share is a critical lesson for analyzing audiences and crafting the effective messages. Additionally, we will be starting our next novel, *The Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, very soon.

In History We are looking at the development of the original colonies into the United States, having just completed our study of the causes and events of the American Revolution. Study of the early nation will also bring an analysis of the U.S. constitution and the balance of power that drive our political actions today. We have had some very invigorating conversations in class, and I'm looking forward to our next debates as students will hold their own constitutional convention to see if they can improve over the founders.

We hope all are doing well as we continue forward in an exciting 2022. Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

All Pinnacle Prep School students (except PreK) spent much of January learning coding in science class. We will continue introducing code projects over the remainder of the school year, adding some robotics as well.

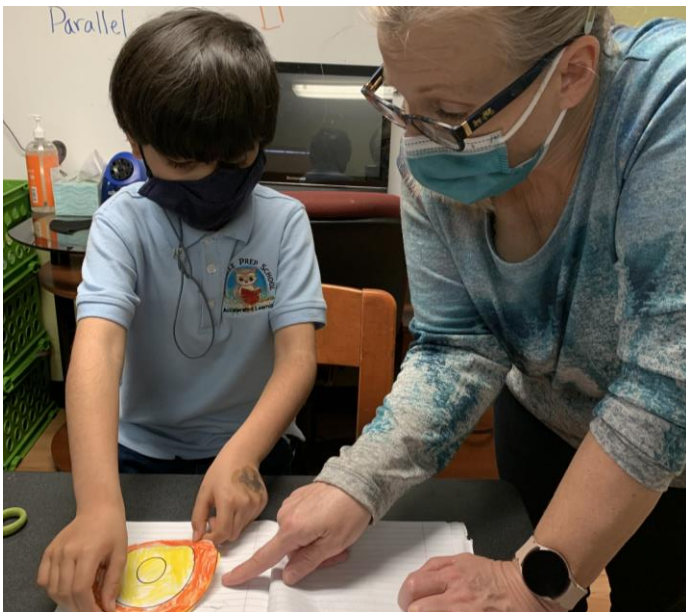
There are many reasons students should learn to code. Most of these justifications have nothing to do with a future occupation. Coding teaches problem-solving, computational thinking, attention to detail, executive functioning, and teamwork. "As a result, kids build their self-confidence, discover the excitement of learning a new skill and experience the thrill of building something from scratch. These are all valuable skills for any future career and for life in general." (26 Reasons Why Kids Should Learn to Code)

Having logical thinking skills encourages kids to think for themselves, question assumptions, develop their own theories, and test theories against known facts. These thinking skills are transferable to all situations, especially science.

References:

26 Reasons Why Kids Should Learn to Code | CodeWizardsHQ. <https://codewizardshq.com/kids-learn-to-code/>

Computer Science, Computational Thinking, and Coding Defined. <https://equip.learning.com/computer-science-computational-thinking-coding>



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